



FINDING COMMUNITY IN THE JOURNEY



**NORTHEAST
ADOPTION & CHILD
WELFARE SUMMIT**

LANCASTER OFFICE

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MORNING (Choose one)

SPECIAL NEEDS ADVOCACY

Special needs can mean so many things especially in the context of adoption - ranging from medical special needs to special needs due to trauma. Older children, especially, who are adopted have special needs which significantly impact the way they need to be parented.

Ashley Sabo *Ashley Sabo is the Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic Orphan Care Coalition, a Delaware non-profit that connects churches with children in need of families. She earned her undergrad in Marketing from the University of Delaware and two Masters degrees including an MBA. She and her husband of 10 years live in Delaware with their 3 beautiful daughters - one of whom is adopted and one who has special needs. She has a passion for advocacy and helping children receive the care, education and support they deserve.*

SINGLE PARENT ADOPTION

Single adoptive parents (or those praying about or in process to be), this breakout session is the place to connect with others who understand your specific journey and the unique challenges single parent adoption brings. Single adoptive mom Autumn Kerr will share some helpful things she's learned on her journey, as well as offer time for participants to ask questions, share ideas and encourage one another.

Autumn Kerr *Autumn Kerr is the Executive Director of Visiting Orphans and an adoptive mom. Autumn adopted her son from Ethiopia in 2012 and has learned that being a single mom presents its own set of adoption parenting challenges. She is very passionate about reaching out to other singles who are considering adoption or are in process as well as connecting with those who have already adopted as a single. She has a blog where she writes about her journey as a single adoptive parent and strives to be real and honest in hopes that it can encourage others who are on a similar journey. Her blog: www.mysingleadoption.blogspot.com*

HELPING CHILDREN WITH FEEDING CHALLENGES

Feeding problems are common in children, especially children with special needs. This session will review some of the more common feeding problems found in children and discuss various interventions that can be used in the home.

Dr. Keith Williams, PhD *Dr. Williams is the Director of the Feeding Program at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. He is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Penn State College of Medicine. He has over 25 years of experience working with children with feeding problems and has over 50 publications in this area including his newest book, Broccoli Boot Camp.*

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

DIVE DEEPER WITH GEORGE

This session is to be more of an intimate time with an open discussion, Q & A and extra music.

George Dennehy *George is capturing attention all over the world for his unique talents. Although he was born without arms, George sings and plays music from his heart using his feet. Because he has overcome so many challenges in his own life, George believes that every individual has a purpose and absolutely anything is possible. He has taught himself guitar, electric bass, and basic piano. Regardless of the setting, people in his audience are inspired and deeply touched and often come to realize that their own goals are very much within reach.*

COMMITTING TO THE LONG HAUL

This session will walk participants through the challenges and common struggles faced by parents caring for children who have experienced trauma and provide tips for expanding parenting strategies and empathy while exploring personal parenting philosophy.

Jamie Minick and Rebecca Rozema, LCSW, ACSW *Rebecca Rozema LCSW, ACSW is the National ADOPTS Program Director for Bethany Christian Services. She has worked in the social work field for 15+ years in the areas of domestic violence, therapy, and family preservation. She is the mother of 5 active boys (2 of who her family has been fostering for over a year). She has a Master's degree in social work from Grand Valley State University, and a Bachelor's degree in social work from Calvin College.*

Jamie Minick - Jamie Minick is Licensed Professional Counselor, who has worked for the past 17 years in child welfare and community mental health. Jamie Minick has been a member of the Bethany Christian Services Team since 2011 and is the Assistant Branch Director for Central Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Jamie Minick has provided therapeutic services to children experiencing involvement with juvenile justice, residential treatment services, foster care, adoption, and outpatient counseling services.

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

All human life has inherent value as God's image-bearers. Gain a richer perspective on the value of human life as we explore God's intent in creation, our design, and our purpose in His story.

Katie Boatwright, MS *Katie Boatwright is Vice President of Operations at Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services (SVPS). Katie leads the client services team as they minister to clients in Lancaster and Lebanon counties. SVPS is a life-affirming ministry that serves women, men, and teens in need of education and support related to pregnancy and parenting. All services are free and confidential.*

THE JOURNEY FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOPE

This presentation will share information and knowledge regarding the state of homelessness on families-children and youth. Statistics will be shared that illuminate the needs and issues impacting the population. The use of case studies will be shared. The presenter will hope to share the presentation with an individual who has experienced homelessness and is finding their way along with their family on this journey towards hope. Suggestions and strategies will be shared regarding how professionals can help now to build an increased sense of community for a population very much in need with the goal of aiding in building a brighter and more secure future.

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

Karen M. Hudson, MSW, Bridget Biddle, and Kameelah Davis *Karen M. Hudson, MSW, LSW, is a professional social worker and a part-time faculty lecturer of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. She has over thirty years of service and she is known to be a strong advocate dedicated to eliminating health disparities affecting children and families experiencing homelessness. She enthusiastically and purposefully builds community partnerships that promote the health and well-being of this deserving population. Also recognized for being a mentor to families experiencing homelessness as well as a teacher to health care providers in training, Karen serves full-time as the Program Leader of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Homeless Health Initiative (CHOP/HHI), an award-winning, volunteer health outreach program that provides access to free health services and health education to families and staff in homeless shelters. The program enhances healthcare professionals' knowledge of and exposure to homelessness and its impact on children's lives and their health, and provides local and national advocacy on behalf of this most vulnerable population.*

KEEPING THE VERTICAL CONNECTION, DISCIPLING THE HEART OF A CHILD

King David discovered that when the Lord was his shepherd, He restored his soul (Psalm 23:3) Under great pressure David could still truthfully declare that his soul found rest in God (Psalm 62:1) Jesus, who exactly represented God on earth, promised that under His yoke we will find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:29) This session will remind and equip parents and leaders to engage with God in order to strengthen their inner beings. God does not intend for us to accomplish His calling without His empowering. He expects to be our source and knows that in our own strength we are limited. Therefore we are going to talk about how to avoid running on empty, how we strengthen ourselves in the Lord, and the key habits that empower transformation in this area. You are too busy not to come to this session.

Susan Hillis and Beth Templeton, Founders of Hope at Home *Dr. Hillis has been a believer for 40 years, married to a godly servant for 38, a mother for 30, a US government federal official for 20, and a university professor for 10 years. She is the mother of 11 children, 8 of whom were adopted from Russia after the tragic death of her first-born son on the day before his tenth birthday. It is her deep joy and privilege to have received untold personal blessings from the living God. She has worked and ministered in countries in South America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. She participates widely as an invited speaker at scientific and Christian conferences. She has published more than 80 articles in scientific medical journals and is considered one of the leading infectious diseases experts on the HIV risk among vulnerable youth around the world. Dr. Hillis is a recent recipient of the Outstanding Service Medal as a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service. During her married life she has worn many hats, including stay-at-home mom, graduate student, missionary, government official, nurse, scientist, and university professor. She has experienced infertility, caring for a son with a fatal heart condition, loss of her son through a fatal biking accident, and 8 international adoptions of older children from Russian orphanages. She, her husband, and their 10 children recently lost their home in the 2009 Atlanta floods, which were declared a presidential disaster. Her experience suggests that God's goodness is bigger than all the storms of life.*

Beth Templeton is the mother of 7 children. In 2000 she and her husband Stephen brought home 2 siblings from Russia, and went back 18 months later to bring home 2 more children from the same orphanage. Co-founder of Hope at Home, Beth has a passion for communicating the joy, peace, and victory available to us as adoptive parents.

SAME FAMILY, DIFFERENT STORIES

Parenting siblings through birth, fostering, or adoption requires that a parent weave different stories into one family. This breakout session will focus on the particular dynamics present for the typically developing children already present in the family prior to adoption. What are some of the main themes of their experience within an adoptive family? Ultimately, we will be exploring strategies for managing these differences as our children grow and change. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

Kimberly Reist, BSW, MA *Kimberly Reist (BSW, MA) is currently a post adoption social worker for Bethany Christian Services of Central PA. As a biological sibling in an adoptive family, Kimberly brings personal and professional experience in regards to the world of adoption support and family systems. Kimberly enjoys facilitating support groups for biological siblings of adoptees, connecting families to resources, and journeying with adoptive parents and children through her role with Bethany Christian Services.*

DISCERNING WARNING SIGNS OF ADOPTION DISRUPTION OR DISSOLUTION: A SUMMARY OF CASES REVIEWED (PROFESSIONALS)

Training for child welfare professionals **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Kris Faasse and Sarah Bobo *Sarah Horton Bobo is the National Director of Post Adoption Support and Education at Bethany Christian Services. Sarah has a master's degree in family studies and has spent most of her career advocating for improved systems of care for parents and children. Prior to joining Bethany, Sarah worked both for county and state government programs and specialized in prevention, identification and support for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol. In her current role she is focused on supporting the delivery of post adoption services through Bethany branches across the United States. She is passionate about building post adoption resources for all individuals touched by adoption.*

POWER OF PLAY- AT HOME, IN THERAPY (PROFESSIONALS)

Re-experience play's ability to enhance relaxation and self-expression while learning how to bond with children in the home environment. Participants will learn the basics of child-centered play therapy, and leave with an action plan for increasing play with children of all ages at home. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Anita Pilkerton-Plumb, MSW, LCSW *Anita is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Lancaster, PA. She has been in private practice for fifteen years. Specializing in play therapy as well as individual, couples and family counseling for people ages 3-103, Anita works with clients using empowerment, client-centered, and systems approaches. In addition to counseling, Anita is an adjunct professor of social work at Millersville University and a trainer for non-profit and parent groups.*

Anita is a dynamic presenter, talking to children, parents, and helping professionals about positive communication, relationships, puberty and sexual health, empowerment for children and teens, media and body image, eating disorders, self-injury, and child abuse prevention. She has presented for the Child Welfare League of America and the National Association of Social Workers, as well as local and regional organizations.

Anita is an active volunteer with the School District of Lancaster, the Lancaster Refugee Center, the LGBT Community Center Coalition. Previously, Anita was active on the boards of Student Health OUTreach of Lancaster County (SHOUT), Keystone Art & Culture Center and the Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Anita studied Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State University and completed her Masters in Social Work at Temple University.

FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

Discussion on how to overcoming power struggles. Share Blizzard Therapy method.

Bishop Aaron Blake *Bishop Aaron Charles Blake Sr. is the proud husband of Mary O. Blake, whom he has been happily wedded to for forty-two years. He is the proud father of eight wonderful children, three daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren.*

Bishop Blake brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the ministry. In 2000, he was a bi-vocational pastor serving as a

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

guidance counselor at Brownwood High School. One student named Melvin needed a place to call home and asked Bishop Blake for help. Having raised six children already, he and his wife, Mary, were experienced empty nesters. They opened their home, and life changed. A year later, the Blakes had six, new foster sons who all played on the Brownwood High football team. Mary said she couldn't cook dinner fast enough.

The Blake's experience and leadership ignited a call within Greater Faith Community Church to care for US orphans. Over the next decade, this faithful church of less than 200 members became family to scores of children previously living in the foster care system. As the movement grew stronger, other ministry leaders and state leaders took note.

The Bishop and Mary launched Harvest Family Life Ministry in 2003. They have been successful in their campaign for children to carry their message into seven states including Hawaii teaching and training state staff and church leaders the faith-based concepts of marring church and state in the quest equip the church to meet the needs of children from prevention to permanency. Through this model of teaching and recruitment, they have helped find homes for many children throughout Texas and other states.

The last two years Bishop Blake has chaired The Advisory Committee on Promoting Adoption of Minority Children (ACPAMC), a church/state partnership committed to providing family for Texas children in need. Last week, Aaron was selected to receive the national CWLA Community Partnership Award for his "great support of and work with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services." This collaboration is quickly becoming a model adopted in other states like Michigan and Hawaii.

"One of the answers to changing the outcomes of thousands of children is the church. The heartbeat of God is to care for widows (broken families) and orphans," explains Blake.

Bishop Aaron C. Blake is a servant with many visions and accomplishments, who trusts in God to lead and guide him as he leads others to discover their Harvest. Look up! Your Harvest Awaits!

MENTORING: CHANGING GENERATIONS BY CHANGING A LIFE

Every year, over 20,000 youth age out of foster care without permanency or a long term support system. These youth struggle to successfully transition to adulthood. Learn how mentorship can make a difference.

Angel Elicker *Angel has worked in the child welfare system for 19 years in various roles. The common thread has been her heart for teenagers. She is dedicated to helping the teenagers and young adults reach their full potential and to achieve happiness.*

UNCOMMON COMMONALITIES - STRATEGIES TO MANAGE DIVERSITY IN FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Parenting diverse populations by increasing empathy, understanding and commonalities.

Deanna Slamans, M.Ed. *Deanna Slamans is the author of Faith's Pursuit: Understanding God's Faithfulness in Suffering. Deanna grew up impoverished with mentally ill parents and later attended Milton Hershey School, a boarding school for children in need. It was there that God began to show her His wonderful love and grace to heal her broken heart. Deanna's journey through healing after setbacks is inspiring to hear and to be a part of. Deanna returned with her husband to become houseparents at the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA and, for over 14 years they helped to raise 100 middle and high school boys. She is currently writing curriculum for Character Development and Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) at the school. Deanna is presently and working to publish a second book, called The House That Chocolate Built: Parenting at the Sweetest Boarding School on Earth. In it she shares her life experiences while growing up at the school, as well as inspirational stories from raising 100 boys who were in her care during her career as a houseparent. Visit her Web site as www.deannaslammans.com.*

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

“YOU’RE NOT MY MOM!” TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR BIRTH PARENTS

A session dedicated to the importance of talking to children about their birth parents, and helping them cope with this loss. The session will utilize Ambiguous Loss theory to identify losses within the adoption triad and provide a framework to the group discussion. Participants will be provided with practical insights through stories, personal reflections and professional experiences. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Jason Lehman, MA, CFLE, NCC and Sara Lehman *Jason and Sara Lehman have seven children and over 12 years professional and personal experience with foster care and adoption. As adoptive parents Jason and Sara have both provided support and training to resource parents and have a strong desire to see families share their story and connect through difficult times.*

MY NEIGHBOR IS A REFUGEE

From receiving to giving back, in this session, Madap will share his experience as a refugee himself to his current role as a resettlement director. Individuals and organizations will learn ways to participate in helping refugees transition the the American system.

Madap Sharma *Madap Sharma is a former refugee from the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. He fled his home country in 1992 to escape the cultural and ethnic cleansing policy of one nation one people perpetrated by the Drukpa regime. Madap experienced life's oddities as a refugee in Nepal for 19 years and his struggle for education and for the education of children in Nepal has been quite a story. He pursued higher education while living as a refugee, became an educator, founded an English school primarily for educating girls and contributed for English Education in Nepal. He was the recipient of one of the highest national honors conferred unto him by the State head of Nepal. Upon resettling to the United States in early 2010, Madap worked as ESL faculty in Maryland, Virginia and later in Philadelphia. He worked with Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and also founded an ethnic community organization in Philadelphia. Currently, he serves as refugee resettlement director for Bethany Christian Services in Lancaster, PA. He has been a vocal voice for refugees and has spoken from colleges to Capitol Hill advocating on behalf of refugees. His story as a former refugee and his current role as the refugee resettlement director is a long saga of hope amid hardship, a story of possibility amid predicaments and a testament that no problems are permanent.*

GROWING IN GRIEF

This presentation explores the most current theoretical perspectives on loss and grief, emphasizing that loss cannot only engender grief but growth. The webinar describes the phenomena of post-traumatic growth, noting research on the concept as well as strategies professionals can use in assisting grieving individuals. The presentation would be useful to a range of professionals who counsel persons who are bereaved including psychologists, counselors, clergy, social workers, nurses and other health care workers, as well as educators, teachers and school-based personnel. In addition, it would benefit individuals who offer education on loss, grief, dying or death. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Dr. Kenneth Doka, Professor, The Graduate School, The College of New Rochelle; Senior Consultant, The Hospice Foundation of America *Dr. Kenneth J. Doka is a Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America. A prolific author, Dr. Doka has authored or edited over 30 books and over 100 articles and book chapters. Dr. Doka is editor of both Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying and Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement.*

Dr. Doka was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 1993. In 1995, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and served as chair from 1997-1999.

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

ADEC presented him with an Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education in 1998. In 2000 Scott and White presented him an award for Outstanding Contributions to Thanatology and Hospice. His Alma Mater Concordia College presented him with their first Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a recipient of the Caring Hands Award as well as the Dr. Robert Fulton CDEB Founder's Award. In 2006, Dr. Doka was grandfathered in as a Mental Health Counselor under NY State's first licensure of counselors.

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS: THE DAY MOMMY WENT TO JAIL

Incarceration and its effect on children

Jennifer Strassenburgh, BFA In December 2014, the Lancaster County Commissioners approved a two year pilot program supporting a Family Advocate to work with children who have a parent in prison. The Family Services Advocate, Jennifer Strassenburgh, is employed by Compass Mark, a nonprofit with a focus on guiding children, teens and adults in Lancaster County to lead stronger, more fulfilling lives. The Family Services Advocate assists children and their caregivers connect to community resources and maintain a healthy connection to their incarcerated parent.

TRUST BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION (TBRI)

The focus of the workshop is to empower caregivers and human service professionals to recognize and respond to fear states and how to proactively intervene utilizing the TBRI Model. TBRI is a trauma-informed intervention grounded in attachment and neuropsychological theory that seeks to improve outcomes for vulnerable children by (1) helping caregivers see the needs of children who have experienced relational trauma and (2) helping caregivers do what is necessary to meet those needs. Although behavioral change is a surface goal, effective intervention must address the underlying trauma. TBRI consists of three principles that facilitate felt-safety, self-regulation, and connection: Empowering, Connecting, and Correcting. This evidence-based program has been implemented in the context of the child welfare system, pre and post-adoption services, orphanages, and residential facilities. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Amanda Howard, PhD and Amy Lynch Mandy Hiles Howard is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Samford University. She came to Samford after serving as the Assistant Director of the TCU Institute of Child Development. Mandy's professional interest broadly falls under the category of applied developmental psychology. Her work integrates theory, research and practice in a concentrated effort to increase understanding of the interpersonal processes underlying mental health and quality of life for youth in the child welfare system. Her research has generated a great deal of political and public policy interest, leading to several invited engagements including meetings with the Australian Prime Minister and the Texas Commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Service. During the summer, she volunteers at a therapeutic summer camp for children with a history of trauma. Mandy and her husband, John, have two sons, Elias and Silas. As a family, they enjoy camping, hiking and living 'unplugged' whenever possible.

Dr. Amy Lynch is the Coordinator of the International Adoption Health Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Additionally, Dr. Lynch is an assistant professor in the School of Public Health in the Occupational Therapy Department at Temple University. She completed her MS in Occupational Therapy at Tufts University and her PhD at University of Delaware with a focus on biomechanics, movement studies, and infant development. She has been practicing with the pediatric population her entire career. Dr. Lynch has clinical expertise in children who have experienced neglect, abuse, and institutionalization; children with autism, as well as children with sensory integration problems, feeding/ oral motor dysphagia, brain injury, and cerebral palsy. She is certified in the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT) and Infant Massage. She has completed the 8-week training in Neurodevelopmental Treatment. Dr. Lynch has traveled to Romania and Russia, providing training at the county, institution, and foster family levels. Dr. Lynch. Post doctoral training has included intensive training and completion to be an Educator of Trust Based Relational Intervention (Dr. Karyn Purvis, Texas Christian University) and in process of certification of the NMT measure

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

(Bruce Perry, Child Trauma Academy). Dr. Lynch was the Manager of the OT Department at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 5 years. She has presented regionally, nationally, and internationally in topics including but not limited to: trauma, early adversity, attachment, feeding, sensory integration, NDT, international/domestic adoption and foster care, international adoption medicine, and developmental care.

REASONS FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE

Identify behaviors and criteria reflective of residential treatment needs; levels of care and staffing; scope of program and services; interaction with and between team members, including but not limited to the family, case worker, direct care staff and clinicians

Andre Cooper, MS Andre Cooper is the Chief Executive Officer of The Children's Home in Catonsville, Maryland. As a resident of Baltimore County (Perry Hall), he and his wife Carla enjoy being parents of their two daughters and a son, ages 30, 22, and 27 respectively (and grandson. Andre holds a Master of Science Degree in Education and Administration from the former Coppin State College, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, from Towson University. Most of his professional career has been maintained in the area of child welfare, and mental health. He has a passion for the preservation of families, as well as continuing education. Much of this passion is exemplified through his personal and professional interests which include leadership, teaching, and mentoring. Accordingly, Andre is on the adjunct faculty at Towson Univ. where he teaches Family Studies (liberal arts), and also taught Management classes at the Community College of Baltimore County. Currently he serves as a member on the following advisory committees Ailey Camp Baltimore, Glenmount Elementary Middle School, CWLA Leadership and Succession Planning, and The Catonsville Mental Health Collaborative. He is a member of the class of 1996 Greater Baltimore Leadership program, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. since 1982. He's formerly served on the Towson University Alumni Board of Directors' as well as The American Association of Children's Residential Centers; he's served on the boards of Partnership for Learning, Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), and Maryland Association for Families and Youth (MARFY). He is an active member of the Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries. Andre takes an extreme interest as a mentor and colleague, in developing young professionals entering the fields of human services and education. Andre's personal hobbies include writing, traveling, and operating his past time business "From Start to Finish" via personal shopping, painting and interior design.

FUNDING YOUR ADOPTION: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP

Equipping families & churches to overcome one of the biggest barriers in adoption: money. Making sense of the cost of adoption as well as creatively bringing solutions to the funding hurdle. In addition, this session will highlight some incredible stories of God's blessing and provision in response to the financial challenge of adoption.

Rich Metcalfe Since late 2010, I have served as Program Director for Lifesong for Orphans. I've been married to my beautiful wife Becky for more than 22 years and have 6 amazing children. Prior to joining the Lifesong team, our family served as a missionaries in England for 11 years.

I am thankful for the opportunity to connect with churches and individuals with the Father's heart for the orphan and the need around the world. There is so much to be done, and the Lord has chosen the Church to be His vessel in meeting the need.

TROUBLESHOOTING: BUILDING RELATIONSHIP WHEN THEY KEEP GETTING IN TROUBLE-SESSION 1

We want our children to know they are dearly loved and that we are "for" them. But how do we do that when she's driving us crazy with backtalk and bedtime hassles? Or he's hitting his sister and hiding lima beans under his pillow? Aargh!

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

We want good things for our kids, so it's frustrating when they choose poorly. How do we discern the best response? When should we simply advise? When do we give them a choice? Do consequences have a place? When do they need to "make it right"? And how do we convey hope in the midst of these challenges?

At this 2-part workshop, we will start first with affirming that, although we all certainly have room to grow, "You Are What Your Child Needs". At his/her very core, your child needs and desires a relationship with you- although sometimes they don't know it yet! J On that foundation, the path to effective discipline becomes clearer.

Come join us as we talk about irksome and troublesome behaviors, the messages we want to send our kids, and tools to help our kids grow in maturity and become all God created them to be.

The first session will cover principles, tools and tips for application. Participants will submit specific behaviors that they would like to be addressed using those tools in an interactive workshop format in the second session.

1 CLINICAL CEC

Cheryl Nitz, LCSW, ACSW *Cheryl Nitz, ACSW, LCSW has worked in the field of adoption and foster care for over 30 years. In 1997, she began specializing in working with families impacted by adoption, trauma, and attachment challenges and is now a therapist and the Director of the Attachment & Bonding Center of PA where she and her staff are committed to joining with parents to help their children find hope and healing through the love and security their families provide. In addition to her professional experience, Cheryl often says her best education has come from being a parent with her husband to their four kids (two of whom came to the family through adoption) and grandparent to four. She presents as a fellow sojourner - sharing with other adoptive parents joys and challenges and lessons learned both in the trenches at the Nitz home and from the families with whom she has had the privilege of working.*

TEAMING TOGETHER FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE - A TWO PART SERIES

Learn how mental health professionals, occupational therapists and parents can work together, providing trauma-informed care to assist with improved functioning in children and adolescents. The specific focus will be on the role early trauma plays in the development of children and how this can affect sensory processing. Information will be presented to include identifying early trauma experiences and how disruptions in the attachment process affect thoughts, emotions, beliefs, regulation and other day to day aspects of functioning. Information will also be presented regarding how to identify sensory processing disorder and strategies for improved functioning within a team approach will be presented. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Cheryl Walters, MS and Chris Achenbach, M.Ed, OTR/L *Cheryl Walters, M.S. is a Licensed Psychologist since 1985. She obtained Certification as a Theraplay Therapist in 1998 and she is a Registered Clinician with ATTACH. Cheryl has been employed at Bethany Christian Services since July 2013, providing outpatient psychotherapy, parent and professional educational groups, parent consultations and trainings for parents and professionals, as well as serving in the role of consulting psychologist for attachment and trauma issues for clinical services.*

Christine Achenbach, M.Ed., OTR/L is the academic field work coordinator in the Elizabethtown College Occupational Therapy Program. She has clinical experience with multiple diagnoses and populations over her 30 year career. Chris is certified to administer and interpret the Sensory Integration and Practice Test which focuses on Sensory Processing Disorder. Chris has partnered with Bethany Christian Services over the past 5 years for research, education, and training.

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

SHAPE THE SKY/ SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

This training will help professionals, parents, youth pastors, and/or family members learn more about social media safety for tweens and teens. Basic information about commonly used social media apps among tweens and teens will be discussed as well as the safety concerns for each of the apps. Information about illegal and some maladaptive behaviors will be included. Information about how to teach tweens and teens to use social media/technology wisely will be presented.

Donya Galen, BA Psychology *Donya Galen, BA works part time at Bethany Christian Services Lancaster Office in the Foster Care/Adoption Department and the Training Department. She has 22 years experience working various roles within the PA Foster care system (Private Provider agencies). She is married and has 2 girls, who are ages 15 & 12.*

SEEING THE CHILD THROUGH THE TRAUMA LENS

Foster and adopted children may have experienced trauma from neglect, abuse, and separation from their birth parents. Early trauma may compromise a child's physical, emotional, relational, and cognitive development. This session is intended to create a Trauma Lens Paradigm Shift for parents and professionals to use as they interact in a healing manner with the children, where the children's behaviors come from, and new ways to respond. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Faye Hall & Jeff Merkert *Jeff and Faye began partnership in 2000 while working forty hours a week on a challenging case of an adolescent with Reactive Attachment Disorder. They journeyed into mental health together. The adolescent's home became the laboratory for making research practical-developing healing interventions. After two years of intense research, development, and writing, the team began training others. Faye has a deep understanding of the families' experiences due to her adopted son. Through strong advocacy and collaboration with Rachel Kuhr at Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Faye and Jeff began Healing Hearts: Attachment and trauma resolution family based program in 2010. Contents from their book, Healing Traumatized Children, is the curriculum for their service. Dr. Daniel Hughes has supervised the team since it's inception, offering his expertise in attachment, trauma, and neurology to the treatment of their clients. Their book, Healing Traumatized Children, co-authored with Dr. John Biever, was published in October 2015.*

THE TRAUMA-INFORMED CLASSROOM: SOLUTIONS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Part 1: Many children, who may be doing well early on, can suddenly demonstrate negative and out-of-control behaviors once they start their academic careers. School environments present a tremendous challenge to many of our children due to the increase in social interactions and the demands placed on their focus, concentration, and performance. These children become easily over-stimulated and overwhelmed. This session will explore ways to help children impacted by trauma in the classroom from kindergarten to high school.

Part 2: Continuing from the first session, the presenter will give more "what to do in the moment" solutions for children struggling in the academic environment. Practical and easy to implement solutions will be given to help these students reach academic success and unleash their natural love for learning, while simultaneously improving their social and emotional intelligence in the classroom. Application of the science of trauma will be the main goal throughout this presentation, with examples of how to write an IEP to better serve this population of students.

Heather Forbes, LCSW *Heather T. Forbes, LCSW is the owner of the Beyond Consequences Institute. Forbes has worked in the field of trauma and healing since 1999. She is an internationally published author and speaker on the topics of raising children with difficult and severe behaviors, the impact of trauma on the developing child, adoptive motherhood, and self-development.*

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

Coming from a family of educators, Forbes has a heart for children in the classroom and for finding ways to teach the child that seems “unteachable.” Her signature style is to bridge the gap between scientific research and real-life application to equip parents, educators, and therapists with practical and effective tools. Much of her experience and insight on understanding trauma, disruptive behaviors, and adoption-related issues comes from her direct mothering experience of her two adopted children and mentorship of a severely trauma-impacted young adult.

HOW TO BE THE FOSTER PARENT GOD CALLS US TO BE, THE SYSTEM WANTS US TO BE, AND THE KIDS NEED US TO BE!

You’ve answered God’s call to care for domestic orphans by taking in children from your local foster care system. You want to be everything to this child that God calls you to be, and you want to be everything that the child needs you to be. You also answer to a government system that places certain demands on you as well. What happens when you feel conflicted in your role as a foster parent? What do you do when government requires one thing of you, and God’s word seems to call for another? In this workshop we will explore how to be the foster parent that God calls you to be, the child needs you to be, and the system wants you to be.

Sharen Ford, BA, MEd, PhD and Johnston Moore, Executive Director, Home Forever *Sharen Ford, Ph.D., is a nationally-recognized child welfare consultant and the retired Manager for Permanency Services for the Colorado Department of Human Services in the Division of Child Welfare Services. She retires with 30 years of comprehensive work history with the department. She oversaw six programmatic areas including the Foster Care and Adoption Program and supervised a team of professional staff. Dr. Ford is the former President of the National Association of State Adoption Programs (NASAP) and the Association of Administrators for the Interstate Compact on Adoption Medical Assistance (AAICAMA). She currently serves as the Program Director for Adoption and Orphan Care at Focus on the Family and is as committed as ever to raising awareness regarding the need for every child to have a permanent family.*

John has been married to Terri since 1988. They have seven children, all of whom were adopted through the Los Angeles County foster care system. John is a strong believer in, and vocal advocate for, permanency and justice for children, having witnessed the impact both have had on his children. John enjoyed a career in Hollywood in film/tv production and as a screenwriter before becoming fully immersed in adoption and foster care ministry, first through his employment at Hope for Orphans, and now through Home Forever. One of the writers of the feature movie CAMP, John continues to write, mainly on issues related to adoption and foster care. John and his family (and church) were featured on CBS’s A Home for the Holidays in December 2012, John and his sons appeared on the Dr. Phil Show in October 2012, and John appeared on the series “Raising Whitley” (Oprah Winfrey Network) in March 2014. They reside outside of Richmond, VA.

STORY KEEPING

We have a responsibility as parents to both guard and celebrate our children’s stories. We are also the best ones to train them to be their own story keepers, teaching them to use wisdom in handling hard questions from both children and adults and giving them tools that both protect and respect themselves and others. In this presentation, parents will be encouraged in their story keeping and trained in a few practical ways to empower their children in the same.

Mark Raudenbush, Founder and Director of The Sparrow Fund, and Kelly Raudenbush, MA in Counseling, Therapist at Attachment & Bonding Center of PA *Mark Raudenbush founded The Sparrow Fund in 2011, having been changed by the adoption of their youngest child and desiring to serve adoptive families. Along with his wife Kelly, Mark has been trained to teach the Empowered to Connect material based on Karyn Purvis’ research and methods for children from hard places (TBRI). Additionally, after a 19-year career in the finance industry, Mark quit his job in 2013 to go on*

MORNING (Continued, choose one)

full-time staff with a large nonprofit serving students in Asia. Together, they consider it a joy to serve as a team and pour into both mothers and fathers who are eager to do the right thing for their families. Kelly and Mark have been married since 1998 and have 3 biological children and 1 daughter who was adopted as a toddler from China in 2010.

Kelly Raudenbush founded The Sparrow Fund along with her husband Mark in 2011. She works alongside Mark in his full-time purposeful work in China and works part time as a therapist at the Attachment & Bonding Center of PA. Kelly has a particular interest in (a) encouraging parents who are struggling to attach with their children, (b) helping parents walk with their children in understanding their own stories, (c) helping couples continue to pursue each other and grow together while they parent their children as a team, and (d) training and supporting orphanage staff in China to build relationships with children and each other.

AFTERNOON (Choose one)

POVERTY AND ITS ROOTS

Without a job, parents trapped in poverty can feel that they have no choice but to give their children the chance for a better life with another family. Part of caring for children must involve caring for parents by fighting poverty at its root through job creation, savings services, and entrepreneurship.

Peter Greer, President and CEO, HOPE International *Peter Greer is President and CEO of HOPE International, a global Christ-centered microenterprise development organization serving throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Before beginning his role at HOPE, Peter worked as a microfinance practitioner in Cambodia, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda and earned a master's degree from Harvard University. He has co-authored eight books, including *The Spiritual Danger of Doing Good*, *Mission Drift*, *40/40 Vision*, and *The Giver and the Gift*. Peter and his wife, Laurel, live in Lancaster, PA, with their three children.*

GUIDING AND TEACHING CHILDREN IN CARE—PRACTICAL DISCIPLINE STRATEGIES

This presentation is designed for foster parents, educators, social workers, and ministry leaders to discuss practical guidelines for effective and nurturing discipline that meets the specific needs of children in foster care. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Rachel Ashcraft, OTR/L, Foster Parent, President Foster the Future Alabama *Rachel Ashcraft is an occupational therapist and foster mom. She is passionate about decreasing the inequality gap in therapy and community services that children in foster care access. Out of that passion she founded Foster the Future Alabama, a non-profit organization directed toward meeting specific therapy needs for children in or previously in foster care.*

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

In this talk we will review the impact of alcohol exposure during pregnancy on the developing fetus and the prevalence of this problem. The different diagnostic criteria for disorders falling under the diagnostic heading of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including FAS, PFAS, ARND, ARBD, will be discussed. In particular, the neurocognitive and behavioral manifestations of FASD will be described in detail. Finally, we will review strategies and evidence-based behavioral/educational programs for managing the issues seen in FASD.

Susan Friedman *Attending physician at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia since 1987, Medical Director of the CHOP International Adoption Health Program, Attending Physician in the CHOP Neonatal Follow Up Program and the CHOP Fostering Health Program, and former Medical Director of the HUP Well Baby Nursery.*

CREATED TO PLAY

Play is a gift given to us by our creator to communicate, connect, and process life through both individually and in community with others. However, as adults, we often struggle to creatively play and tend to place it down on the list of "to dos" after homework is finished and the dishes have been cleaned. But perhaps play is more than our kids just killing time between scheduled activities, school, and sleep. Maybe play is a pathway into connection and understanding. In our fast paced, technologically driven world, it is important for us to enter back into the beauty of simply playing together--of listening, without judgment, to the themes of our children's hopes and struggles all played out within the safety of play. This breakout session is designed to help adults identify the value and purpose of play in the lives of our children (and ourselves) as well as help adults identify and address their own struggles with simply playing.

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

Karen Thrush, LMFT *Karen Thrush is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the Hershey, PA area. She has a decade of experience working with children and families in both the community based behavioral health and private practice settings. Karen is married to Dan and together they have two children whom have taught her more about her own struggles and inadequacies than she would like to admit; but who have also brought her more joy and understanding of God's grace and love than she could have imagined! Karen enjoys her work as a therapist and is humbled and encouraged by her clients as they pursue health in themselves and their families. Karen has particularly enjoyed working alongside Bethany Christian Services as an adopted children's support group leader in Hershey for the past 4 years.*

YESTERDAY'S TRAFFICKED CHILDREN ARE TODAY'S INDUSTRY WORKERS

If 100,000 – 300,000 American children are trafficked every year, where are they today? Do we understand how to identify them in our very own communities? It's important to be aware of what sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in Central PA look like. Knowing that the most effective recovery for victims takes place in the context of relationships and in community, we need to have a better understanding of victims and the facts about industry workers.

Tammy Stauffer *Tammy Stauffer, Executive Director of She's Somebody's Daughter. Tammy lives in Elizabethtown with her husband of 30 years. They have three adult children, and attend Hershey E-Free Church. She is currently pursuing a Biblical Counseling certificate through CCEF. Tammy became aware of sex trafficking in 2009 and began working with a ministry to develop an initiative against trafficking as it relates to the travel industry. She also worked with a group on a medical initiative in CT, and assisted with an intervention initiative through Global Sentry Group. She eventually transferred to work under another ministry to help develop an awareness initiative, connecting trafficking to pornography. This led to She's Somebody's Daughter becoming its own non-profit in 2013, an outreach and awareness organization.*

WHERE DEAD THINGS COME TO LIFE: HOW CHURCHES BECOME INDISPENSABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Doing good is not good enough. We need to rethink our strategies and scorecards for community engagement. In this session, we will look at how churches can become indispensable in their communities through 3 key shifts: From random to strategic investments; From transactional service to radical hospitality; and from decentralized missional engagement to a collective healing presence. When churches develop a reputation for meeting real needs in the community, they never have to worry about whether their voices are heard.

Wesley Furlong, MA, MTS *Wesley Furlong is the founder and director of City of Refuge (refuge.life), a network for community transformation and the director of Church Development for the EVANA Network, an evangelical Anabaptist network of churches across North America. He served as the lead pastor of Cape Christian Fellowship in Cape Coral, FL from 2008-2015 and teaching pastor from 2004-2008. In 2012, Wesley started a city initiative called Not In My City (notinmycity.org) that grew into City of Refuge. He holds an M.A. in biblical studies, an M.T.S. from Emory University in theology and is presently working toward a Ph.D. in Social Work. He and his wife Bonnie have three kids (Alexandra-14, Ellyana-11, Maddox-9) and have been active as foster parents.*

ACCEPTANCE-COMMITMENT THERAPY AND ADOPTION: LOOKING BEYOND SYMPTOMS

Acceptance-Commitment Therapy is a third wave of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy developed by Stephen

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

Hayes and made popular by Russ Harris. It seeks to help individuals validate themselves and others, accept rather than escape feelings and move toward a values-driven life rather than a life of numbing, perfectionism or catastrophizing life situations. One does this by developing what is called “psychological flexibility.” This seminar is meant to introduce the participant to the concepts and ideas of the therapy which can be learned and practiced on a daily basis to improve the quality of life of the individual and family. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Dr. Joseph Troncale, MD, DFASAM *Joe Troncale, MD is a physician who is an adoptive parent with his wife, Lisa. Dr. Troncale is the Medical Director of Retreat at Lancaster, a 160-bed addictions treatment facility. He has practiced medicine for the past 30+ years and is a national speaker on the subject of addiction and behavioral medicine.*

TRUST BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION (TBRI)

The focus of the workshop is to empower caregivers and human service professionals to recognize and respond to fear states and how to proactively intervene utilizing the TBRI Model. TBRI is a trauma-informed intervention grounded in attachment and neuropsychological theory that seeks to improve outcomes for vulnerable children by (1) helping caregivers see the needs of children who have experienced relational trauma and (2) helping caregivers do what is necessary to meet those needs. Although behavioral change is a surface goal, effective intervention must address the underlying trauma. TBRI consists of three principles that facilitate felt-safety, self-regulation, and connection: Empowering, Connecting, and Correcting. This evidence-based program has been implemented in the context of the child welfare system, pre and post-adoption services, orphanages, and residential facilities. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Amanda Howard, PhD and Amy Lynch *Mandy Hiles Howard is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Samford University. She came to Samford after serving as the Assistant Director of the TCU Institute of Child Development. Mandy's professional interest broadly falls under the category of applied developmental psychology. Her work integrates theory, research and practice in a concentrated effort to increase understanding of the interpersonal processes underlying mental health and quality of life for youth in the child welfare system. Her research has generated a great deal of political and public policy interest, leading to several invited engagements including meetings with the Australian Prime Minister and the Texas Commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Service. During the summer, she volunteers at a therapeutic summer camp for children with a history of trauma. Mandy and her husband, John, have two sons, Elias and Silas. As a family, they enjoy camping, hiking and living 'unplugged' whenever possible.*

Dr. Amy Lynch is the Coordinator of the International Adoption Health Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Additionally, Dr. Lynch is an assistant professor in the School of Public Health in the Occupational Therapy Department at Temple University. She completed her MS in Occupational Therapy at Tufts University and her PhD at University of Delaware with a focus on biomechanics, movement studies, and infant development. She has been practicing with the pediatric population her entire career. Dr. Lynch has clinical expertise in children who have experienced neglect, abuse, and institutionalization; children with autism, as well as children with sensory integration problems, feeding/ oral motor dysphagia, brain injury, and cerebral palsy. She is certified in the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT) and Infant Massage. She has completed the 8-week training in Neurodevelopmental Treatment. Dr. Lynch has traveled to Romania and Russia, providing training at the county, institution, and foster family levels. Dr. Lynch. Post doctoral training has included intensive training and completion to be an Educator of Trust Based Relational Intervention (Dr. Karyn Purvis, Texas Christian University) and in process of certification of the NMT measure (Bruce Perry, Child Trauma Academy). Dr. Lynch was the Manager of the OT Department at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 5 years. She has presented regionally, nationally, and internationally in topics including but not limited to: trauma, early adversity, attachment, feeding, sensory integration, NDT, international/domestic adoption and foster care, international adoption medicine, and developmental care.

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

REASONS FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE

Identify behaviors and criteria reflective of residential treatment needs; levels of care and staffing; scope of program and services; interaction with and between team members, including but not limited to the family, case worker, direct care staff and clinicians

Andre Cooper, MS *Andre Cooper is the Chief Executive Officer of The Children's Home in Catonsville, Maryland. As a resident of Baltimore County (Perry Hall), he and his wife Carla enjoy being parents of their two daughters and a son, ages 30, 22, and 27 respectively (and grandson. Andre holds a Master of Science Degree in Education and Administration from the former Coppin State College, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, from Towson University. Most of his professional career has been maintained in the area of child welfare, and mental health. He has a passion for the preservation of families, as well as continuing education. Much of this passion is exemplified through his personal and professional interests which include leadership, teaching, and mentoring. Accordingly, Andre is on the adjunct faculty at Towson Univ. where he teaches Family Studies (liberal arts), and also taught Management classes at the Community College of Baltimore County. Currently he serves as a member on the following advisory committees Ailey Camp Baltimore, Glenmount Elementary Middle School, CWLA Leadership and Succession Planning, and The Catonsville Mental Health Collaborative. He is a member of the class of 1996 Greater Baltimore Leadership program, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. since 1982. He's formerly served on the Towson University Alumni Board of Directors' as well as The American Association of Children's Residential Centers; he's served on the boards of Partnership for Learning, Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), and Maryland Association for Families and Youth (MARFY). He is an active member of the Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries. Andre takes an extreme interest as a mentor and colleague, in developing young professionals entering the fields of human services and education. Andre's personal hobbies include writing, traveling, and operating his past time business "From Start to Finish" via personal shopping, painting and interior design.*

FUNDING YOUR ADOPTION: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP

Equipping families & churches to overcome one of the biggest barriers in adoption: money. Making sense of the cost of adoption as well as creatively bringing solutions to the funding hurdle. In addition, this session will highlight some incredible stories of God's blessing and provision in response to the financial challenge of adoption.

Rich Metcalfe *Since late 2010, I have served as Program Director for Lifesong for Orphans. I've been married to my beautiful wife Becky for more than 22 years and have 6 amazing children. Prior to joining the Lifesong team, our family served as a missionaries in England for 11 years.*

I am thankful for the opportunity to connect with churches and individuals with the Father's heart for the orphan and the need around the world. There is so much to be done, and the Lord has chosen the Church to be His vessel in meeting the need.

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

TROUBLESHOOTING: BUILDING RELATIONSHIP WHEN THEY KEEP GETTING IN TROUBLE-SESSION 2

We want our children to know they are dearly loved and that we are “for” them. But how do we do that when she’s driving us crazy with backtalk and bedtime hassles? Or he’s hitting his sister and hiding lima beans under his pillow? Aargh!

We want good things for our kids, so it’s frustrating when they choose poorly. How do we discern the best response? When should we simply advise? When do we give them a choice? Do consequences have a place? When do they need to “make it right”? And how do we convey hope in the midst of these challenges?

At this 2-part workshop, we will start first with affirming that, although we all certainly have room to grow, “You Are What Your Child Needs” . At his/her very core, your child needs and desires a relationship with you- although sometimes they don’t know it yet! J On that foundation, the path to effective discipline becomes clearer.

Come join us as we talk about irksome and troublesome behaviors, the messages we want to send our kids, and tools to help our kids grow in maturity and become all God created them to be.

The first session will cover principles, tools and tips for application. Participants will submit specific behaviors that they would like to be addressed using those tools in an interactive workshop format in the second session.

1 CLINICAL CEC

Cheryl Nitz, LCSW, ACSW *Cheryl Nitz, ACSW, LCSW has worked in the field of adoption and foster care for over 30 years. In 1997, she began specializing in working with families impacted by adoption, trauma, and attachment challenges and is now a therapist and the Director of the Attachment & Bonding Center of PA where she and her staff are committed to joining with parents to help their children find hope and healing through the love and security their families provide. In addition to her professional experience, Cheryl often says her best education has come from being a parent with her husband to their four kids (two of whom came to the family through adoption) and grandparent to four. She presents as a fellow sojourner - sharing with other adoptive parents joys and challenges and lessons learned both in the trenches at the Nitz home and from the families with whom she has had the privilege of working.*

TEAMING TOGETHER FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE - PART 1

Learn how mental health professionals, occupational therapists and parents can work together, providing trauma-informed care to assist with improved functioning in children and adolescents. The specific focus will be on the role early trauma plays in the development of children and how this can affect sensory processing. Information will be presented to include identifying early trauma experiences and how disruptions in the attachment process affect thoughts, emotions, beliefs, regulation and other day to day aspects of functioning. Information will also be presented regarding how to identify sensory processing disorder and strategies for improved functioning within a team approach will be presented. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Cheryl Walters, MS and Chris Achenbach, M.Ed, OTR/L *Cheryl Walters, M.S. is a Licensed Psychologist since 1985. She obtained Certification as a Theraplay Therapist in 1998 and she is a Registered Clinician with ATTACH. Cheryl has been*

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

employed at Bethany Christian Services since July 2013, providing outpatient psychotherapy, parent and professional educational groups, parent consultations and trainings for parents and professionals, as well as serving in the role of consulting psychologist for attachment and trauma issues for clinical services.

Christine Achenbach, M.Ed., OTR/L is the academic field work coordinator in the Elizabethtown College Occupational Therapy Program. She has clinical experience with multiple diagnoses and populations over her 30 year career. Chris is certified to administer and interpret the Sensory Integration and Practice Test which focuses on Sensory Processing Disorder. Chris has partnered with Bethany Christian Services over the past 5 years for research, education, and training.

SHAPE THE SKY/ SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

This training will help professionals, parents, youth pastors, and/or family members learn more about social media safety for tweens and teens. Basic information about commonly used social media apps among tweens and teens will be discussed as well as the safety concerns for each of the apps. Information about illegal and some maladaptive behaviors will be included. Information about how to teach tweens and teens to use social media/technology wisely will be presented.

Donya Galen, BA Psychology *Donya Galen, BA works part time at Bethany Christian Services Lancaster Office in the Foster Care/Adoption Department and the Training Department. She has 22 years experience working various roles within the PA Foster care system (Private Provider agencies). She is married and has 2 girls, who are ages 15 & 12.*

SEEING THE CHILD THROUGH THE TRAUMA LENS

Foster and adopted children may have experienced trauma from neglect, abuse, and separation from their birth parents. Early trauma may compromise a child's physical, emotional, relational, and cognitive development. This session is intended to create a Trauma Lens Paradigm Shift for parents and professionals to use as they interact in a healing manner with the children, where the children's behaviors come from, and new ways to respond. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

Faye Hall & Jeff Merkert *Jeff and Faye began partnership in 2000 while working forty hours a week on a challenging case of an adolescent with Reactive Attachment Disorder. They journeyed into mental health together. The adolescent's home became the laboratory for making research practical-developing healing interventions. After two years of intense research, development, and writing, the team began training others. Faye has a deep understanding of the families' experiences due to her adopted son. Through strong advocacy and collaboration with Rachel Kuhr at Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Faye and Jeff began Healing Hearts: Attachment and trauma resolution family based program in 2010. Contents from their book, Healing Traumatized Children, is the curriculum for their service. Dr. Daniel Hughes has supervised the team since it's inception, offering his expertise in attachment, trauma, and neurology to the treatment of their clients. Their book, Healing Traumatized Children, co-authored with Dr. John Biever, was published in October 2015.*

THE TRAUMA-INFORMED CLASSROOM: SOLUTIONS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS - PART 2

Continuing from the first session, the presenter will give more "what to do in the moment" solutions for children struggling in the academic environment. Practical and easy to implement solutions will be given to help these students reach academic success and unleash their natural love for learning, while simultaneously improving their social and emotional intelligence in the classroom. Application of the science of trauma will be the main goal throughout this presentation, with examples of how to write an IEP to better serve this population of students. **1 CLINICAL CEC**

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

Heather Forbes, LCSW *Heather T. Forbes, LCSW is the owner of the Beyond Consequences Institute. Forbes has worked in the field of trauma and healing since 1999. She is an internationally published author and speaker on the topics of raising children with difficult and severe behaviors, the impact of trauma on the developing child, adoptive motherhood, and self-development. Coming from a family of educators, Forbes has a heart for children in the classroom and for finding ways to teach the child that seems “unteachable.” Her signature style is to bridge the gap between scientific research and real-life application to equip parents, educators, and therapists with practical and effective tools. Much of her experience and insight on understanding trauma, disruptive behaviors, and adoption-related issues comes from her direct mothering experience of her two adopted children and mentorship of a severely trauma-impacted young adult.*

7 KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR THE WISE ADOPTIVE DAD

Being an adoptive father and the husband to an adoptive mom can be hard work! Instead of feeling like Peyton Manning quarterbacking a well-run team to a Superbowl win, family life can seem more like you’re coaching the Sixers on another 16 game losing streak. And to top it off, keeping your marriage strong and vibrant can now feel like a distant third fiddle to the demands of parenting and just keeping the bills paid. This workshop is presented primarily for adoptive dads by an adoptive dad of nearly 30 years who has learned, too often the hard way, key truths for being an effective dad. This workshop will review 7 core truths that advance right thinking, which then help to focus our actions and efforts as dads and husbands towards useful, life-giving responses within our families. **1 NON-CLINICAL CEC**

Jeffrey Nitz, LCSW *Jeff has spent the past 30 years working in the field of child welfare social work with experience in foster care, residential treatment, foster care adoption, international and domestic infant adoption as well as Safe Families For Children. For the past 21 years he has served in various capacities for Bethany Christian Services, currently as the Sr. Vice-President of Adoption and Family Services where he helps to lead the U.S.-based service and marketing teams.*

Jeff has been married for over 30 years to his college sweetheart, Cheryl, and counts her as his very best friend. Together they are the parents of four adult children ages 23 to 37, two of whom are adopted. Jeff and Cheryl attend New Life Presbyterian Church in Dresher, PA where Jeff serves as an elder and together he and Cheryl are involved in marriage ministry.

EXPLORING BIRTH-PARENT CONTACT IN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

Over the course of the 20th century, domestic adoption practice shifted from one characterized almost exclusively by anonymity and secrecy toward more open arrangements. Today, birth-family contact is often discussed and maintained in domestic adoption. Despite the ubiquity of birth-parent contact in domestic practice, much less attention has been paid to the issue of contact in international adoption. This breakout will address the research related to outcomes of birth-parent contact for the adoption triad, and will explore issues related to searching, initiating, and maintaining birth parent contact globally. **1 NON-CLINICAL CEC**

Dr. Bethany Willis Hepp *Dr. Willis Hepp is an assistant professor at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland in the Department of Family Studies and Community Development. Her work focuses on family issues, including the circulation of children, migration and immigration, foster care and adoption, and human trafficking. She has worked with children, families, and professionals in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Central Asia. She worked for three years as a leadership trainer for human service professionals in the field of disabilities and four years as a parent educator, conducting in-home, one-on-one and group counseling and educational programs for families at risk.*

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN: HOSTING CHILDREN, REDEEMING PARENTS

Safe Families For Children is a movement of the church, both locally as well as globally, motivated by Biblical

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

Hospitality to serve families by “Hosting Children and Redeeming Parents.” SFFC is Volunteer Driven and Professionally Supported ministry in collaboration with Bethany Christian Services. It is a volunteer, non-coercive alternative to Foster Care, which allows parents to maintain full custody of their children while they work through their temporary crisis. The three main objectives of SFFC is to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect, Stabilize and Support the family and Reduce Isolation.

When a crisis strikes, many of us can think of several people we could call upon to support us, but some families, maybe your own neighbors, have no one to turn to, leaving them vulnerable and alone. These stressors can lead to children becoming at risk of neglect or abuse. Now, with Safe Families for Children, parents, good parents, who are experiencing a temporary crisis can ask for help while they address their needs.

You Can Make A Difference-

Our volunteer host families are motivated by my compassion and are not financially compensated. They undergo an extensive screening process, receive training and agree to host children at their discretion. SFFC is not adoption or foster care and is NOT a way to grow your family. Parents maintain full custody of their child and are encouraged to actively participate in all areas of the child’s life while hosted. Parents and host families are also encouraged to develop relationships with each other as well as other volunteers who are serving.

Want to hear more about how to get connected? Come here from our staff as well as local serving volunteers and a recent parent who was served by SFFC, about how to get involved in your community or church.

Ruby Nolt *In my role, serving as Program Supervisor, I support the Central PA staff in the implementation and overall direction of the movement in our region. In my 16 years of social work experience, I have served in both Lancaster and Dauphin County Children and Youth Agencies in a variety of roles including foster care, adoption, intake screening and Family Group Decision Making. I am grateful to have been serving in a role for the last 4 years that blends both Social Services and Ministry. I have been married to my husband Joshua for 16 years, who is a local pastor serving at Lancaster BIC Church. Together we have 3 children, Conner, Chloe and Christian. The movement of SFFC matches our philosophy of empowering the church to serve our communities in practical, loving and tangible ways.*

RACIAL SOCIALIZATION IN TRANSRACIALLY ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, AND (MOST IMPORTANTLY) HOW

Approximately 40% of families created through adoption in the United States are transracial, and most often the families are headed by white adoptive parents with racial minority youth. While questions about the competency of white parents to successfully raise well-adjusted racial minority children have been raised for decades, recent research offers some insight into factors that facilitate positive outcomes for transracially adopted youth. One of these factors is racial socialization, the transmission of information about race and ethnicity from parents to children. These parental practices serve to foster children’s racial-ethnic identity development, enhance their self-esteem, and promote their ability to cope with discrimination.

Practical questions arise.

- Why do some transracially adoptive parents engage in these behaviors and others do so to a lesser extent?
- What can transracially adoptive parents do to foster a sense of racial-ethnic pride in their minority children given they may have little access to the culture of their child?
- How do white parents prepare their children to deal with racism when they likely lack personal experience navigating a racist society because of their own privileged status?

AFTERNOON (Continued, choose one)

- What can human service professionals do to facilitate healthy racial socialization in transracially adoptive families?

This presentation begins to answer these questions by describing clinical implications of the literature and offering techniques for both transracially adoptive family members and human service professionals to promote healthy racial socialization.

Dr. Katie Hrapczynski, PhD, LCMFT *Dr. Katie Hrapczynski is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Studies and Community Development, College of Liberal Arts, at Towson University. She received her Ph.D. in Family Science and a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Hrapczynski specializes in human services and clinical interventions aimed at fostering resilience in individuals, families, and communities. Her research currently focuses on transracially adoptive families and military veterans and their families. Dr. Hrapczynski is a licensed couple and family therapist and maintains a private practice in Silver Spring, MD.*

HOPE AND HELP FOR THE WEARY MOM

For many of us adoption has been a journey not only of profound and even unexpected joys, but equally profound and unexpected challenges. How do we remain strong and filled with hope, both for our child and for ourselves, as the effects of our child's trauma threaten to overwhelm? We will look at strategies to refresh HOPE as we face our own struggles with discouragement, disappointment, and weariness. Our God is the God of all hope, an ever present help in time of need, throughout this long-haul journey that is adoption.

Beth Templeton, Co-founder Hope at Home *Beth Templeton is the mother of 7 children. In 2000 she and her husband Stephen brought home 2 siblings from Russia, and went back 18 months later to bring home 2 more children from the same orphanage. Co-founder of Hope at Home, Beth has a passion for communicating the joy, peace, and victory available to us as adoptive parents.*

THE REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT YOUTH IN CHILD WELFARE

Provide a global overview and greater understanding of the highly vulnerable refugee and migrant youth seeking protection and safety in our communities across the country.

Kimberly Haynes, MSW *Kimberly is a skilled nonprofit leader with over 15 years of refugee experience, and has been the Director for Children Services at LIRS since 2011. As Director, Kimberly's expertise includes organizational management, program development, administrative advocacy, effective negotiation skills, grants management, budget development, and strategic planning. Kimberley has deep experience in providing guidance and vision in implementation of child protection programs. Her strong interpersonal and communication skills make her exceptional at leading both the LIRS Children Services team as well as the national program network. Her proficiency in seeking funding and opportunities to grow programs has resulted in a growth from 6.9 M to 21 M in five years.*

Kimberly is an expert on issues of child welfare, unaccompanied migrant and refugee children and families, research, resettlement, and best interest assessments and determinations, and has developed and implemented family strengthening projects and refugee assistance programs with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Before joining the LIRS team, Kimberly worked as a best interest determination and child protection officer with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees through the International Rescue Committee and the International Catholic Migration Committee in Thailand, Ethiopia, and Zambia. Kimberly received her Master's of Social Work from the University of Maryland and her Bachelor's in Social Work from Texas State University.

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VICTIMS NO MORE: EMPOWERING CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

In the wake of mass incarceration, much attention has been focused on incarcerated individuals and victims of crimes. Yet, many fail to recognize the innocent children who are left behind when a parent is locked up, and the multiple ways they are also victimized as a result. Nearly 200,000 children across Pennsylvania currently have one or both parents behind bars (local, state and federal facilities), and many are vulnerable to the inter-generational cycle of poverty, crime and incarceration themselves. This workshop will provide a window into their lives (including a personal story from a former Amachi participant), identify effective strategies specifically designed to address their unique needs, and highlight an emerging grassroots campaign to raise awareness and equip constituents to institute positive change at both the community level and in the public policy arena for broader impact.

Anna Hollis *Anna E. Hollis is the Executive Director of Amachi Pittsburgh, a unique partnership of secular and faith-based organizations working together to support children and families of the incarcerated. "Who knows what God has brought us through this child?" is the English translation of "amachi"; and forms the centerpiece of the organization's mission to empower young people to overcome the challenges of parental incarceration, and reach their full potential. As a longstanding advocate for social justice, she has instituted programming that enables both youth and families to advocate for positive change. Anna has been recognized and awarded for her commitment and contributions to the community, including most recently a PNC Women of Legacy award. Her service extends to several boards and advisory committees. She is a lifetime member of the NAACP and a mother of three children.*

A WORLD WITHOUT ORPHANS

Are you or your church supporting orphaned children globally, taking short term teams to visit orphans, or looking for ways to help orphaned children in other countries? Learn about a new movement, new strategies and a new paradigm for changing the world for orphans, families, churches and communities. Learn a tested process to lead by listening to the local church. Hear from leaders with innovative ideas, and find resources to help you and your church work effectively with national leaders to see every child in a nurturing, permanent family!

Karmen Friesen, Susan Hillis & Ryan Keith *Karmen has led CoMission since 2001, networking, resourcing and equipping Christian leaders, organizations and churches globally to minister more effectively to orphaned and vulnerable children. In 2007, CoMission began to focus on equipping Russian and Ukrainian Christians for adoption and foster care, and later helped to develop the Russia Without Orphans Alliance and to support Ukraine Without Orphans. Both of these movements are engaging the Church in their own countries for family-based care. Currently, Karmen serves on the core leadership team for World Without Orphans, a movement of Christian organizations and leaders working globally to mobilize national movements like the ones in Russia and Ukraine. Karmen has also coordinated numerous conferences and led the development of online resource and event directories, in both English (www.orphancaresources.org) and Russian (www.detiriska.ru). Karmen currently lives with his family in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.*

Dr. Hillis has been a believer for 40 years, married to a godly servant for 38, a mother for 30, a US government federal official for 20, and a university professor for 10 years. She is the mother of 11 children, 8 of whom were adopted from Russia after the tragic death of her first-born son on the day before his tenth birthday. It is her deep joy and privilege to have received untold personal blessings from the living God. She has worked and ministered in countries in South America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. She participates widely as an invited speaker at scientific and Christian conferences. She has published more than 80 articles in scientific medical journals and is considered one of the leading infectious diseases experts on the HIV risk among vulnerable youth around the world. Dr. Hillis is a recent recipient of the Outstanding Service Medal as a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service. During her married life she has worn many hats, including stay-at-home mom, graduate student, missionary, government official, nurse, scientist, and university professor. She has experienced infertility, caring for a son with a fatal heart condition, loss of her son through a fatal biking accident, and 8 international adoptions of older children from Russian orphanages. She, her husband, and their 10 children

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recently lost their home in the 2009 Atlanta floods, which were declared a presidential disaster. Her experience suggests that God's goodness is bigger than all the storms of life.

Ryan and his wife, Katie, live outside Harrisburg, PA with three young children. He enjoys Dr Pepper, the Red Sox, making animal sounds, and anything with kids. He is the founder and President of Forgotten Voices, which is innovating orphan care through the local church, as well as a Praxis Labs Fellow. He earned his Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School, where he was also a Pforzheimer Fellow in the Hauser Center. Ryan is also a proud Falcon, graduating from Messiah College with a BA in Politics. You can connect with him on Twitter at @ryanmketh.

ORPHAN HOSTING: MINISTERING FOR GOOD

Orphan Hosting: Ministering for Good will introduce attendees to orphan hosting programs, from ideology, to logistics, to factors involved in successful programs. We will discuss the importance of coming together as a community to minister to these orphaned children available for adoption. Attendees will have the opportunity to dialogue about the pros and cons of orphan hosting, as well as ask questions of previous host families.

Sarah Hansen, MSW *Sarah Hansen, MSW, was born and raised in Maryland, but also spent several years of her childhood living in England. Sarah has dedicated her career to working with adoptive families, and has 12 years of adoption experience, including both domestic and international. Sarah's passion is advocating for the harder to place children, especially through coordinating hosting programs, and she shares that there is no greater feeling than matching an older child with his or her forever family. Sarah has her Bachelor of Art Degree in Sociology from The University of Notre Dame, and her Masters of Social Work from Marywood University.*

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE ON VICTIMS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

This session will focus on furthering the understanding of the impact of childhood sexual abuse has on the child victim, family's, and communities. The session will provide a framework for understanding the impacts of childhood sexual abuse, how systems impact the recovery process for children and families, an overview of potential treatment modalities, and a focus on supporting the providers who work to improve the care of children exposed to childhood sexual abuse.

Stephen DiDonato, MS, LPC and Brandy Nashold *Stephen DiDonato, MS, LPC is an Assistant Professor at Philadelphia University in their Community & Trauma Counseling Program. Stephen also coordinates training efforts within the Center for Pediatric Traumatic Stress at Nemours Children's Health System.*

Brandy Nashold, LMFT is the Primary Therapist in the Intensive Residential Treatment Program at Warwick House in Harleysville, PA.

MENTORING—RESHAPING COMMUNITIES

Mentoring can have a life-changing impact on both the mentor and the mentee. Successful mentoring relationships strengthen communities across all sectors. Whether you are currently a mentor or are looking to develop and improve your existing program, join us for a discussion on effective principles for training and supporting mentors, measuring success and involving your community.

Meredith Dahl and Charis Panktratz *Meredith Dahl is the Executive Director at Cross Connection Ministries (CCM).*

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CCM offers hope, help and support to youth and families. Meredith developed and implemented a Mentor program for youth and adults five years ago through CCM. Over the years she has seen how a Mentor program can shape and strengthen communities. Meredith is married to Jon and their family includes Damien (24), Liam (4) and Landon (1).

Charis Panktratz is the Program Director at CCM. She oversees the Mentoring Program, Cross Jr (2nd-5th grade after school program) and the Tutoring Program at CCM. Charis is married to Haley and their family includes Simon (6) and Nicholas (2). Charis believes in the power of mentoring to bring together people from different backgrounds, allowing them to positively impact each other and those around them.