Since 1974, NACAC has partnered with people like you to make sure that children and youth have a place to call home and parents to love and guide them.
Together, we helped ensure that children and youth got what they need—permanent, loving families that have the support of their community.

Because we worked together...

...families were supported and empowered!

“...I could not have kept afloat without this lifetime.”

Mac Tripeny and his family participate in many of NACAC’s post-adoption support services in Minnesota. He enjoys the friendships formed with other adoptive parents he met at support groups (in-person and online), workshops, retreats, and family picnics.

When Mac participates in a support group, training, or event, he learns what has worked for others. As he and his wife struggled with their child’s very challenging behaviors, he was able to turn to his peers with questions about the types of therapies, training, and other ideas that have been helpful. At a time when he felt broken-hearted, he found encouragement from others who get what his family is going through.

The support of adoptive parents has been the catalyst for a new and hopeful direction for his family.

Mac knows that he is not alone. About NACAC’s Adoption Support Network, he says, “I could not have kept afloat without this lifetime.”

...professionals and parents had the knowledge they need to help children heal and thrive!

“...the NACAC conference has enhanced my ability to serve families with creativity, enthusiasm, and increased skill.”

Ayanna Abi-Kyles works as a post-adoption program coordinator at the Adoption Network Cleveland. She has attended four NACAC conferences and feels that each one increases her awareness of the many issues related to the adoption journey. She says, “The conference has reenergized me in my work as a professional supporting adoptive families. There are so many resources that are shared at the conference and beyond that help me feel a connection to practitioners, staff, and the families that I meet.”

The conference also bolstered Ayanna’s confidence to start a parent advisory team at the Adoption Network Cleveland. She found the support and information she received from NACAC outside the conference incredibly helpful too. She explains, “I have felt listened to, supported, and affirmed.”

...parents and youth developed leadership skills!

“...I’m so lucky NACAC has allowed me and my team to receive valuable resources. We have been able to learn and bring back information to our community.”

Elisia Manuel’s heart is in helping children in foster care. In 2014, she and her husband Tecumseh founded Three Precious Miracles in Arizona to support Native American children in care and grandparents raising grandchildren.

Through NACAC’s Community Champions Network, Elisia received intensive training in leadership and advocacy. “This opportunity has been instrumental in helping me understand trauma, how it affects children and youth, and the long-lasting impact,” she says. “I’m so lucky NACAC has allowed me and my team to receive valuable resources. We have been able to learn and bring back information to our community.”

After working with NACAC, Three Precious Miracles provided training for parents on the impact of adverse childhood experiences and the healing power of stable, safe, and nurturing relationships. With training and ongoing support from NACAC staff and other trained parent leaders, Elisia has inspired others for action, affected local decision-making, and expanded the resources in her community.

...parents’ voices were heard!

“NACAC is a lifesaver for those of us who bring children and youth with a history of trauma into our families.”

Jennifer Abi-Kyles was part of NACAC’s Advocates for Families First collaboration, through which NACAC and its partners trained parents to advocate for children and families at the national and state level. She brought experienced parents to Washington, DC to learn advocacy skills and meet with members of Congress about the fact that children need families and need support, and provided ongoing assistance to the advocates after they returned home.

Jennifer explains, “As much as my heart desired to be a champion for children and families, I didn’t have the knowledge, information, and familiarity to engage in advocacy until I participated in Advocates for Families First. The training, insight, and support gave me the confidence to work directly with government leaders, speak at the General Assembly, and start advocacy groups in my state.” She adds, “NACAC is a lifesaver for those of us who bring children and youth with a history of trauma into our families.”

Leadership Development

• NACAC trained 33 young adult leaders and their organization’s staff about how to create or enhance youth advocacy and support networks.
• We helped strengthen 10 youth networks.
• NACAC helped grow or enhance more than 50 parent support groups.
• We trained 25 parent group leaders.
• NACAC created a youth advisory team that provided valuable, first-hand knowledge to child welfare leaders.

Advocacy

• NACAC trained and supported 25 foster, adoptive, and kinship parents who advocated to ensure children had supported families in their communities.
• We tracked key legislative issues related to permanency for children and encouraged more than 10,000 people to take action on these bills.
• NACAC continued to fight for enhanced post-adoption services and a refundable adoption tax credit.

Education & Information

• NACAC shared information through 150,000+ visits to nacac.org.
• We trained 750 attendees at our annual conference in Nashville.
• We shared information with more than 10,000 parents and professionals through our print and e-newsletters.
• NACAC held 12 webinars for hundreds of parents and professionals.
• We trained thousands on key adoption issues.