

Fall 2011

Jewish Family Services: helping you meet life's challenges

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Jewish Family Services  
6718 Patterson Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23226  
804.282.5644  
www.Jfsrichmond.org



## November is National Adoption Month



Families, adoption advocates, policymakers, judges and adoption professionals will come together and celebrate adoption during the month of November. National Adoption Day, November 19, 2011, is a national day of celebration of adoptive families and an opportunity for courts to open their doors and finalize the adoptions of children from foster care.

While all adoptions are celebrated during the month of November, there is a particular focus on the 107,000 children and youth in foster care who still need permanency. [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org) has information about adopting children from foster care.

### Adoption Books

"Hospitious Adoption" by James Gritter builds on his other books about open adoption. This book focuses on promoting hospitality in an environment of goodwill, respect, and openness in adoption.

The following is an excerpt from Chapter 5, **Hospitality's Sweetest Fruit: Feeling at Home with Each Other**: *"The hospitable home is naturally inclusive. Gracious adoptive families say an enthusiastic "Yes!" to the fullness of their children, and they are humble about the extent of their influence. They set up a big tent that makes room for and honors many contributors, and gracious birthfamilies do the same thing. Building on the bedrock of an unconditional acceptance and a steadfast commitment, the heartfelt message of these hospitious parents is that differences are welcome, we don't have to be identical to belong to each other. Our commonalities are sweet, but our differences enrich our repertoire of possibilities and expand our connection to the community around us. The hospitable home welcomes and celebrates the wholeness of the adoptive person. Embraced as an insider by a robust and diverse cast of influential characters, the adoptive person is positioned to feel authentically at home in the world. This peace of mind and soul is the sumptuous fruit of genuine, hospitious acceptance."*



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## Community Resources

Baby care classes for adoptive parents-to-be will be offered through CJW Hospital beginning in November. For more information, please visit [www.cjwmedical.com](http://www.cjwmedical.com) and/or contact either: Cristal Lake-Sanders at (804) 399-0676 or via e-mail at [lakesandersLPC@verizon.net](mailto:lakesandersLPC@verizon.net) Or Michelle Sharma at (804) 461-0200 or via e-mail at [chell\\_a\\_rn@yahoo.com](mailto:chell_a_rn@yahoo.com)

The **Mary Ainsworth Attachment Clinic** is planning to conduct an education and support group in Richmond for parents of adopted children who were maltreated and/or have attachment issues. While this class usually costs over \$1,000.00 they have grant funding to offer the class to adopting/adoptive parents. Dates for the Richmond class are not yet available, but if you feel it is an appropriate class and are interested in more information, please contact Kate Whelan, at the Child Parent Attachment Clinic, 434-984-2711. For more details you may visit their website at [www.attachmentclinic.org](http://www.attachmentclinic.org)



## Adoption Social Had Lots of Treats, No Tricks!

Our families and children had a ball at the Adoption Potluck Social held October 23 at JFS. The children were dressed in their festive Halloween best and everyone enjoyed the beautiful fall day. The socials are a great way for adoptive and waiting families to get to know each other, swap stories, and share insights.



## International Adoption Update

New regulations for China adoptions went into effect October 1, 2011. Here are a few of the changes:

- Home study assessments must be done by a Hague or COA accredited agency. JFS is COA accredited.
- The training hours required during the home study process is now 12 hours.
- Post-placement visits have been increased to six (1 month, 6 months, 12 months, 2 years, 3 years, and 5 years after the adoption).

## Adoption Websites

[www.birthproject.wordpress.com](http://www.birthproject.wordpress.com)  
[www.birthingmombuds.com](http://www.birthingmombuds.com)  
[www.openadoptionssupport.com](http://www.openadoptionssupport.com)



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## Successful • Adoption Workshop



CARE MANAGEMENT

COUNSELING

HOMECARE

VOLUNTEERING

JFS will hold a free adoption workshop open to anyone interested in adoption. The workshop will cover homestudies, various ways to adopt, legal questions, post placement services and more.

**Date:** November 16, 2011  
**Time:** 6:00p.m. to 7:30p.m.  
**Place:** JFS, 6718 Patterson Avenue, Richmond, VA  
**Call:** 804-282-5644 to register

Presenters: Jessica Carty of Adoption with Love by JFS and Colleen M. Quinn Esq. of The Adoption & Surrogacy Law Center at Locke, Partin, DeBoer and Quinn.

JFS is a forward-thinking health and social service agency dedicated to helping people achieve their full potential, regardless of age, race, religion or circumstances. Serving the Greater Richmond Community since 1849, JFS continues to excel in innovative programming and professional service delivery. Programs include home health care, counseling, care management, adoption, bill paying, in-home services for children and families, and special needs services.