



ADOPTION

from the

HEART



OUR MISSION:

As a visible expression of God's loving community and consistent with the example of Jesus Christ, Caritas Family Solutions provides direct services to persons of all backgrounds with social and emotional needs across the continuum of life.

NEWSLETTER

SUPERMAN: ONE SUPER ADOPTION STORY NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH



As we celebrate Adoption Awareness Month, we chose to highlight someone who, like many of us, is a Superhero.

Whether you're a fan of the original storyline or have followed newer concepts such as Smallville and Man of Steel, one fact remains: **Superman was Adopted.**

In many versions of this beloved tale, John and Martha Kent stumble upon a rocket that had just fallen to Earth, and find a baby. The couple soon after adopt the baby and name him Clark Kent. His parents raise him with a strong moral compass and encourage him to use his superhuman powers for the good of humanity. While Clark (aka Superman) struggles to find his identity on Earth, his parents continue to be his biggest fans, providing him with a solid support system.

The story, although sprinkled with adventure, drama and imagination, is not all too different than the storyline in many of our lives. We all possess at least one superpower, we all strive to find our

place on Earth, and we all do our best to surround ourselves with loving and supportive people.

In addition, Superman is an excellent example of how, given the right family, any child can excel to unbelievable heights. The Kents took what made their son different and showed him how to better humanity.

We are all Superheroes, but only a lucky few have the additional privilege of being adopted: What an amazing similarity to have!

Take a moment to highlight the Superheroes in your own life, and don't forget to include yourself.

NOVEMBER 2014

Inside this issue:

Story of Superman	1
Waiting Families	2
Workers & Services	3
What's in a Name?	4



Superman
Was Adopted

WAITING FAMILIES



We are proud to introduce Russ, Cathy and Benjamin. Both parents grew up with siblings and strongly agree that they want their children to experience the benefits of sibling relationships. They add that Benjamin, who is also adopted, would be a wonderful and loving big brother.

Russ is employed as a Veterinarian and Cathy is a High School Chemistry Teacher and Volleyball Coach.

When asked what they could offer an adopted child: "We feel that we can offer unconditional love, good Christian values, and the ability to pursue whatever goals he or she may desire."

Please meet Jeff, Ashley and Carter. This family spends time traveling, riding four-wheelers and going to baseball games.

Jeff is a Jr. High School Teacher and Basketball Coach and Ashley is an Occupational Therapist, as well as the Nursery Director for their church.

Jeff and Ashley say: "Not a day goes by that Carter doesn't ask Jesus to bring him a 'baby brother and sister' a prayer which Ashley says makes her Dream Big!"



Dan, Jody and Leah are big fans of Disney! They love going on Disney Cruises and traveling to Disney World.

Dan is a Radiation Therapist and Jody works from home as a Sales Consultant. Jody loves being able to stay at home to raise their children.

The family lives on 7 acres in a quiet, country, ranch-style home. The grassy area around the yard is great for learning to ride a bike!

THE WORK WE DO

Our program is referred to as *Adoption From the Heart*, because we are passionate about the quality of services we provide to our clients. We provide domestic adoption services, birthparent counseling, and international home studies and post placement monitoring. We also provide home study services for embryo and independent adoptions.

We serve a diverse community made of individuals and families of all faiths. We travel to serve 42 counties of Southern Illinois. Our office locations include Belleville, Carterville, and Mt. Vernon.

An essential element of our program is assistance to those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. We provide information and support to birthparents whether they choose to parent or place their child for adoption. Birthparent counseling is free, services are confidential, and 24 hour support is available.

We advocate for open adoption. There are different levels of openness. Most importantly, it is a life-long process involving an on-going exchange of information between the adoptive family and the birthparents. The focus is on the best interest of the child.

Adoption services include adoptive parent licensing, home studies for domestic and international adoptions, adoption training, networking and matching, assistance at the time of placement, counseling, post-placement visits, and monitoring.

No effort is too small when it comes to making a difference in the life a child. Consider sharing your adoption story, volunteer to assist with community outreach, or donate newborn items for our pregnancy care program.

Visit our website for more information:
www.cartiasfamilysolutions.org

The Members of the Caritas Family Solutions Adoption Team



Denise Brown

Superpower: Multi-tasking as a worker and program director
Strength: knowledgeable in a variety of areas
Weakness: Starbucks



Nina Koen

Superpower: Offer support and helping families be brought together through adoption
Strength: Being there for others
Weakness: Cute Puppies



Kady Darr

Superpower: Supporting women to make decisions best for them
Strength: Compassionate
Weakness: Chocolate



Valari Veteto

Superpower: Provide Support to the adoption team
Strength: Willingness to learn and help others
Weakness: Being a new employee



**8601 West Main Street
Suite 201
Belleville, IL 62223**
618-394-5900

**10286 Fleming Road
Carterville, IL 62918**
618-985-2000



CARITAS FAMILY SOLUTIONS: OUR NEW NAME AND BRAND PROMISE

We have begun a journey as an independent non-profit after almost 65 years of operating as an agency of the Catholic Church. To establish a clearer path for this journey, we have chosen a name that speaks to our virtues, aspirations and the work we do every day: **Caritas Family Solutions**. The name itself helps us tell the world who we are and what we are about.

Caritas Family Solutions guides families, individuals, parents and caregivers who are helping the vulnerable and creating a loving, stable environment for those in need. Each day we are helping people live healthy lives by meeting the social and emotional needs of persons of all backgrounds. We are a premier network of quality services with a spirited, dedicated, professional staff who serve others as Jesus did with respect and dignity at every stage of life.

