



# AABA NEWSLETTER

Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

February/March  
2010

## The Whole Life Adoption

### A Relationship of Promise

There are two kinds of relationships in life. One type of connection is genetic -such as the one we share with our birth parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and our own birth children. No matter what happens, that tie always exists. Nothing can erase the permanency of the biological relationship.

The other is a union that begins with a promise. Marriage is such a union. Adoption is another. The adoption tie, established by the promise to act as a permanent family to a child born to another, mirrors that of a biological family in many ways. However, within that promise are dynamics that set it apart.

Excited adoptive parents often enter the relationship of promise with little perception of or adequate preparation for the unique challenges resident within adoption. Some of these issues follow all members of the adoption union, the parents and the child, throughout life. When issues that normally occur within the framework of adoption arise unexpectedly, parents can experience a wide range of unsettling reactions: guilt, a sense of failure, inadequacy, fear, or helplessness.

There are critical times in the life of most adoptive families when any one of a number of adoption-related matters may surface. Without sensitive handling, these fragile concerns become painful, possible even threatening the foundation of the adoption promise.

- First, to acquaint prospective and new adoptive parents with the issues surrounding the early steps of the journey.
- Second, to validate the concerns of adoptive families in the middle of the child-rearing years who find themselves wondering if what they are experiencing is normal and how best to solve unexpected pressures and problems.
- Third, to offer direction to parents facing the crucial transitional years of adolescence and young adulthood.

It is hoped that this effort will encourage families to take the journey into adoption with excitement and anticipation, bolstered by the knowledge and understanding that will create a happy, nurturing family environment.

### Choosing to Love a Stranger

Adoptive parents enter adoption with five major challenges unique to preparing for this experience.

- First, they may have to mourn the loss of their dream-their ability to conceive children, their status as birth parents, and their birth child.
- Second, they are unlikely to have role models for guiding them through the process.

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• Helping Families Stay Together

**Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates** depends solely upon yearly support from the community. We are proud to recognize the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their support through Grants and Donations.



**Lend a helping hand**

Complete list of donators can be found at:  
[www.akattachment.org](http://www.akattachment.org)



### **Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates**

is eligible under AS 43.23.062 to receive charitable contributions as designated by PFD applicants on the 2010 electronic Permanent Fund Divided applications. Program: (Pick. Click. Give. )

Please help with our mission

**PICK. CLICK. GIVE** to:

**Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates**



#### **2010**

**Ultimate Diamond Circle:** (\$25,000 and above)

**Diamond Circle:**(\$10,000 to \$24,999)

**Sapphire Circle:**(\$6,000 to \$9,999)

**Ruby Circle:** (\$2,500 to \$5,999)

**Emerald Circle:**(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc

Susan Denton/BP matching

**Platinum Circle:**(\$500 to \$999)

**Gold Circle:**(\$150 to \$499)

Mat-Su Health Foundation

Diversified Tires

**Silver Circle:**(\$50 to \$149)

Karen Howes

**Bronze Circle:**(\$25 to \$49)

**Aluminum Circle:**(\$1 to \$24)

#### **In-kind Circle:**

##### **Volunteers**

Eleanor Oakley,

Jim Wardman

Dianne Ferguson,

Wanda Thomas

Karen Howes,

Laura Wagner

Brittany Blawn,

Rosemary Burnett

##### **Special Thanks to**

*Mr. Howes* for donating his time.

*Karen Howes* for donating an extra 5% of her sales from the Pampered Chef Fundraisers.

And thanks to all the Board Members and volunteers.

And thanks to:

Bingo Mania for using our



**“The New One-day Workshop:  
“Attachment Disorder Workshop: ”**

**Upcoming Workshop**

**June 5, 2010**

**Held at:**

**Central Mat-Su Fire Department**

**Training Room 1**

**101 West Swanson Avenue**

**Wasilla, Alaska**

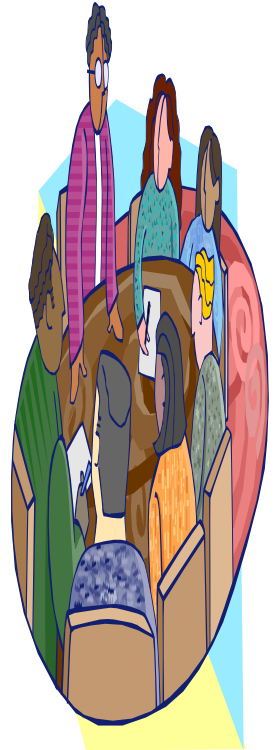
**9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Continental Breakfast and Sign-in 8:30 am**

**Pre-Registration Required !!!!!**

**907-376-0366**

**[www.akattachment.org](http://www.akattachment.org)**



Workshops  
Are a fun way to  
learn!



## Resources and Links

TATTAC Bernadine Janzen, MS, LPC;  
[bsj@laguna.com.mx](mailto:bsj@laguna.com.mx)

Attachment Disorder Network for parents;  
[www.radzebra.org](http://www.radzebra.org)

Alaska Parent Line; 1-800-643-5437

Alaska Center for Resource Families;  
[www.acrf.org](http://www.acrf.org)

Alaska Children's Trust;  
[www.alaskachildrenstrust.org](http://www.alaskachildrenstrust.org)

Families & Professionals resources for the  
first three years of life;  
[www.threetozero.org](http://www.threetozero.org)

American Family Advocacy Center;  
[www.profane-justice.org](http://www.profane-justice.org)

For Grandparents raising grandkids;  
[grands@voaak.org](mailto:grands@voaak.org) 1-888-522-9866

RAVEN Respite Parent Support Group, sub-  
scribe at; [www.subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:www.subscribe@yahoo.com)  
(To sign up for Online support group: call 907-  
357-6263 or Email: [princessbuter-  
cupp@yahoo.com](mailto:princessbuter-cupp@yahoo.com)) you will receive easy in-  
structions on how to get on the site.

RAVEN Respite Support Melissa Jessup;  
[zeusl@mtaonline.net](mailto:zeusl@mtaonline.net)

Court Appointed Special Advocates;  
[www.alaskacasa.org](http://www.alaskacasa.org)

Attachment Disorder support group;  
[www.adsg.org](http://www.adsg.org)

Child Welfare Information Gateway;  
[www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

RAD Kid Organization; [www.radkid.org](http://www.radkid.org)

## Visit the AABA

web-site  
for  
information on  
upcoming  
workshops.

[www.akattach  
ment.org](http://www.akattach<br/>ment.org)

“RAVEN  
Respite Striving to make a  
Difference for families in the



**(Continued from Page 1 ) The whole life adoption**

- Third, they must realize that their hope for a family will be dictated by the input of strangers.
- Fourth, pre-adoptive parents have no timetable by which to plan their future.
- Fifth, parental rights are not fully granted for at least six months into the relationship.

Parents will face a lifetime of dilemmas that are characteristic only of the adoptive family relationship.

1. "How do we build a nurturing relationship?" do we acknowledge or deny the difference?
2. "How do we build a nurturing relationship?" When and how do we begin to communicate the difference to our adopted child?
3. "What do we need to know about our child, and what should we do with what we know?" How do we get important facts about our child's past? When do we communicate those facts?
4. "How do we feel about our child's birth family?" How do we reconcile our child's beginnings with our own value system, and how do we relate this to the child without a negative attitude?

## **When the Child Comes Home**

### **Attachment: How to develop the Crucial Bond**

*One of the most difficult things for adoptive parents to accept is the fact that nothing can change their adopted child's genes, early life experiences, or ties to another family.....Only by allowing a child this heritage from the birth family and incorporation it into the current family, can that child really belong to the adoptive family*

*Bourguignon*

Attachment to a significant person is one of the most important achievements for an infant, because it creates a rich treasury of skills for socialization. Healthy attachments also stimulate intellectual development and identity formation.

Attachment occurs as a child initiates a need and the parents consistently respond. The child eventually learns that he can trust his environment.

Children who never had the opportunity to form an attachment , due to circumstances in their birth home or surrounding their separation from their birth mother, may exhibit some of the following behavioral symptoms:

- **Withdrawal and rejecting behavior**
- **Hoarding or gorging food**
- **Aggressive behavior**
- **Lying and stealing**
- **Poor eye contact**
- **Delayed conscience development**

Indiscriminate affection

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## R.T.C. Spot Light

## Shadow Mountain Behavioral Health



Shadow Mountain Behavioral Health System

6262 S. Sheridan Rd.

Tulsa, OK 74133

Phone: 918-492-8200

Fax: 918-492-2849



“Each day, as brighter day”

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These behavioral signs may indicate that a child is in desperate need of attaching to a significant person—a parent. Studies have shown that as a child attaches, many of these behaviors will diminish or even disappear.

### **Barriers to Adjustment: Strategies to Ease the Transition**

*Adoptive parents who bridge the adjustment barriers understand two things.*

*First, their child has had a tremendous loss—loss of both parents, Genealogical ties, cultural heritage, to cite a few.*

*Second, that child may emotionally revisit those losses at crossroads On their journey through childhood into young adulthood.*

#### *Family Ties*

Preparing for a child to come into the home requires two steps by adoptive parents:(1) Learn as much about the child’s past history and family as possible; (2) recognize the potential barriers that may slow the adjustment of the adoptive relationship for all family members. These barriers include:

- From the child: unfinished business, separation and loss, lack of preparation, and cultural differences.
- From the parents: unmet needs and unmatched expectations, marital problems, reordered family system, and incomplete resolution of loss in their own lives.

This article is written from the book “The Whole Life Adoption Book” By Jayne E. Schooler (c)1993

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**Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates: Workshops**

**“June 5, 2010”**

**Held at: Central Mat-Su Fire Department, Training Room I**

**101 West Swanson Ave. Wasilla, Alaska**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Register Early Call; Phone: 907-376-0366 Fax: 907-376-0966**

**online registration @ [www.akattachment.org](http://www.akattachment.org)**

**(will not work with web based email addresses, such as hotmail, g-mail, yahoo)**

**Stone Soup Group-Trainings -call Stone Soup Group 561-3701 or contact Cheri Scott—cheris@stonesoupgroup.org**

**Epilepsy: Vagus Nerve Stimulation**

**Presented by: Jennifer Stitzel of Cyberonics, Inc**

**WHEN: Tuesday, February 9th 2010: 9:00am - 11:00 am**

**WHERE: BP Energy Center (900 E. Benson Blvd.- Anchorage)**

**Space is limited! You MUST be registered to attend this workshop. Register online at: <http://bit.ly/BPEPVNS>**

**Special Education Mediation, Collaboration, and Communication Workshop**

**Presented by: \*Bob Deitrick and \*\*Dave Thomas from Alaska Special Education Mediation Services**

**WHEN: Thursday, February 11th, 2010: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**WHERE: Stone Soup Group (307 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage)**

**Space is limited! You MUST be registered to attend this workshop. Register online at: <http://bit.ly/FEBMED>**

**ASPIRE Introductory Training on Special Education for Students and Parents in the Anchorage Area**

**Presented by: Christie Reinhardt from Stone Soup Group**

**WHEN: Thursday, February 15th, 2010: 10:00 am – Noon**

**WHERE: Stone Soup Group (307 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage)**

**This training is specifically meant for families new to special education, and focuses on Alaska and Anchorage**

**Space is limited! You MUST be registered to attend this workshop. Register online at: <http://bit.ly/ASPIRE215>**

**Bill Pfunder, TRAINING COORDINATOR, Stone Soup Group, (907) 561- 3701, 1-877 -786 -7327**

**Participants who do not have internet access may call Bill at (907) 561-3701 to register.**

**Upcoming Resource Family Training: December 2009-June 2010**

**Licensed Foster Homes are required to have 15 hours of training per licensing year for a two parent home and 10 hours for a single parent home. Please register for any of the following events by contacting Betsy at the Alaska Center for Resource Families Mat-Su office at 376-4678.**

**Core Training:**

**Relative Core- 3 Thurs classes April 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 PM. Must attend all 3 for a total of 9 hrs**

**Adopting through the Office of Children's Services:**

**Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-9:00 PM**

**On-Site ACRF Training and Support:**

**Fri Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Video Day, 6 films on Parenting, 9:00-3:00. May attend any part of the day.**

**Tues Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hard to Hold: Attachment Difficulties, noon-1:00 (also telephonic)**

**Fri Mar 19<sup>th</sup> Video Day, 6 films on Attachment, 9:00-3:00. May attend any part of they day.**

**Thurs Mar 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00-9:00 PM & Sat Mar 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00-5:00, Strengthening Families thru Adoption, 11 hours**

**Classes meet in the ACRF office, 5050 Dunbar Sr., Ste. A2 off the Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Brentwood Plaza unless otherwise noted. Call Betsy 376-4678 or [bwoodin@nwresource.org](mailto:bwoodin@nwresource.org) mandatory pre-registration.**

**Rural Teleconference Training and Support:**

**Wed Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, Reactive Attachment Disorder, 7:00-8:00 PM**

**Tues Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hard to Hold: Attachment Difficulties, noon-1:00**

**Wed Mar 10<sup>th</sup>, The New OCS Family Contact Standards, (Aileen Mcinnis) 7:00-8:00 PM Tues Apr 6<sup>th</sup>, ASD, noon-1:00**

**The monthly Rural Teleconference is intended for anyone living outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Wasilla or Palmer although we can allow others to participate. Families may participate by dialing 1-888-626-7441 and when asked enter the code: 9939775#. If you phone in before the group leader you will hear music, please stay on the line. For more information contact [bwoodin@nwresource.org](mailto:bwoodin@nwresource.org) or call our toll-free number 1-800-478-7307.**



## “Pampered Chef Fund Raisers”

**Pampered Chef Consultant– Karen Howes**

**You may order on-line at [www.pamperedchef.biz/karenh](http://www.pamperedchef.biz/karenh) anytime or request a catalog from Karen, at 357-1045/315-1425 or email request to [karenh@gci.net](mailto:karenh@gci.net).**

### **CASA**

“Make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected foster child. Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world.” for more information [contact: The Mat-Su Valley CASA Program 746-0547 /alaskacasa.org](http://contact: The Mat-Su Valley CASA Program 746-0547 /alaskacasa.org)

**Lending Library** Located at: 619 S. Knik Goose-Bay Road, Suite J, Wasilla, AK 99654

Open: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Monday though Friday

Please come in and browse, check some books out, to read at home at your leisure, then either bring them back or mail them in. Please call Laura at 907-376-0366 with any questions.



## **A Word from our CEO/President**

**Thank you for supporting AABA.....**

**“Bingo Mania” supports “non-profits” by using their gaming permits.**

**(Non-profits are Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates & Big Lake Lions Club)**

**Open: Monday: Closed**

**Tuesday: Closed**

**Wednesday: one session starts @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Thursday: one session starts @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday: two sessions starting @ 6:30 & 10:30**

**Saturday: two sessions starting @ 6:30 & 10:30**

**Sunday: one session starting @ 6:30**

**6445 E. Blue Lupine Drive Wasilla, Alaska 99654, Phone: 907-376-4816**

**Located on Parks next to Alaska Sales and Service.**

**“Free Dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Friday’s”**



## Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

City Center Business Park  
619 S. Knik Goose-Bay Road, Ste J  
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: 907-376-0366

Fax: 907-376-0966

E-mail: [eleanor@akattachment.org](mailto:eleanor@akattachment.org)



AABA

Web Site

[www.akattachment.org](http://www.akattachment.org)

### About Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

AABA is a non-profit organization that provides education, training, support and advocacy for kinship, adoptive and foster families who care for children with emotional disorders, such as Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), and professionals who work with this population of children.

AABA's area of Focus: **PREVENTION** of abuse/neglect

**PLACEMENT** information

**TRAINING** in Attachment

**COMMUNITY** Resource information

### WHAT drives AABA?

AABA is passionate about traumatized children.

AABA has first hand experience with Attachment Disorder children and knows the special care and treatment needed to help these children learn love and trust.

Left untreated, children with Attachment Disorder and other emotional disorders are often times shipped to out-of-state Residential Treatment Centers (RTC's), and are likely to become emotionally disturbed adults, unemployable, likely to be involved in drugs, alcohol or other illegal activities.

Attachment Disorder children place a huge impact in dollars, stress, crime, and livability in the Mat-Su Borough and throughout Alaska.

### WHY should you care?

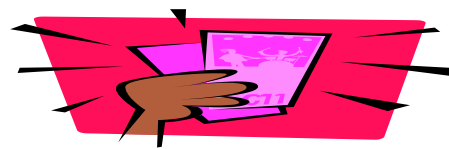
Because this is a preventable disorder and will take the community working together! AND, "**BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR HOME!**"



The Bingo Mania is a light yellow building away from all the hustle and bustle of the bowling alley. A much more pleasant and serene atmosphere. There is a Bingo Mania Deli for all the hungry Bingo people. Bring a friend and help celebrate this new kind of Bingo establishment. Bingo Mania is located at 6445 e. Blue Lupine Dr. Wasilla. 907-376-4816, On the frontage Rd by Alaska Sales & Service.



## NEW PULL TAB STORE!!!!



## “PULL TABS MANIA”

Mile 49 Parks Hwy

Meadow Lakes

Opened 11:00am to 9:00pm

(helping the non-profits)