

The History of Adoptions From The Heart®

1984

March- The Adoption Agency was started in the founder and current Executive Director, Maxine Chalker's home.

1985

May- Agency became licensed in Pennsylvania. The first placement was done by Open Adoption placement, which was the first time an East Coast agency had a birth mother select and meet an adoptive family.

1986

February- Two social workers were hired.

March- First office was opened in Ardmore, PA.

August- First international adoption was from Guyana, South America.

October- Three more part-time employees were hired.

1987

January- Office was moved to larger location in Ardmore, PA.

August- Lancaster branch office was staffed and begun in the social worker's home.

September- Agency became licensed in Delaware, leading to an office opening in Wilmington.

1988

- New Jersey office was opened in Haddonfield, NJ and full licensing was secured.

- Part-time social worker was hired in New Jersey. Agency was only licensed as an out-of-state agency.

- Office rented in Lancaster, PA.

1989

February- Office was opened in Bucks County, PA. After seven months this office was closed as it was too close to Ardmore.

- Adoption assistance program began to assist private attorneys with private adoptions.

1990

- The agency began videotaping adoptive families in the domestic program to provide a more personal approach and to assist birth parents in the selection process.

1991

- 441 children were placed in loving homes since opening in 1984.



1992

-China adoption program opens.

July- Agency received license to do adoptions in New York State.

1993

June- Guatemala adoption program opens.

-AFTH creates its first newsletter.

1994

January- The Adoption Agency changed its name to Adoptions From The Heart.

July- The Adoption Help Line Network was formed by Maxine Chalker. The network included infant-placing nonprofit adoption agencies from the area.

1995

November- Office opened in District Manager's home in Pittsburgh, PA.

- Vietnam adoption program opens.

1996

November 1996- Office building in Cherry Hill is purchased.

- AFTH offers its first pre-adoptive educational course for families.

1997

June- Purchased office building in Wynnewood, PA.

- AFTH sent gift certificates for food, clothing and toys during the holiday season to birth mothers with children at home.

- The agency held its first Chinese New Year party for families who have adopted through or are in process of adopting through the China program.



1998

February- AFTH becomes a member of the Joint Council on International Children's Services.
April- Chesapeake, VA office was opened in a social worker's home, and full licensing was secured.
May- West Virginia office opened in Morgantown, WV.
-West Virginia office receives license.

1999

April- Name of corporation was changed to Adoptions From The Heart, Inc.
July- Harrisburg rented their first office although services had been provided there for many years.
July- Office opened in Lehigh Valley, PA.
November- Adoptions From The Heart and logo trademarked.
May- India adoption program opens.

2000

July- Purchased Lancaster, PA office building.
March- Ukraine adoption program opens.
November- AFTH celebrates 15 years of building beautiful families at their gala dinner dance. The event was held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia. NBC News Anchor Renee Chenault was the Mistress of Ceremonies at the Gala.

2001

-Lithuania adoption program opened.
-Opened an office in Harrisburg, PA

2002

-Kazakhstan adoption program opened.

2003

April- Purchased Allentown office building.
August- Opened an office in Hazlet, NJ. Staffed with two full-time social workers.
- West Virginia office moved to Beaver, WV.

2004

-Opened office in Northville, NY.
February- Office in Chesapeake, VA is rented and fully staffed. Consultants are hired all over the state.
March- Donations were sent to India to help support the Preet Mandir Orphanage.
-Playground equipment was purchased for the Go Vap orphanage in Vietnam.
-Purchased larger office space for the Hazlet office.

2005

- Donations were sent to China for their Tomorrow Plan.
- Adoptions From The Heart celebrates 20 years of Building Beautiful Families.
- Agency became licensed in Lithuania.

2006

- Agency Reopened the Vietnam Program
- Created the first Building Beautiful Families Calendar featuring AFTH children

2007

- Angelina Jolie's adopted her son Pax from Adoptions From The Heart's Vietnam Program.

2008

- Adoptions From The Heart received a full Connecticut license and added a new office in Glastonbury, Connecticut by merging with ARC of Connecticut.
- AFTH closed the Hazlet, NJ office and merged the Harrisburg and Lancaster offices to form the Central PA Office located in Lancaster, PA.
June - AFTH launched its new Heartbeats:Assisted Reproduction Program.



Adoptions From The Heart®

(800) 355-5500 or visit: www.afth.org

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