



2010 Calendar Kids Photo Contest



It's Time for ANLC's Annual Calendar Kids Photo Contest!

Participate in the 2010 Calendar Kids Photo Contest! Each child who is selected to be a "Child of the Month" will be included in our annual ANLC Calendar and will receive a Toys R' Us gift certificate and, of course, bragging rights for all of 2010!

To enter, simply mail or email us a photo. Please note:

1. All photos MUST be labeled with name, address and date of birth.
2. Please attach a short testimonial or quote you'd like for us to publish.
3. Photos must be 5x7 or 8x10.
4. Digital photos must be 300dpi or higher and in JPEG format.
5. Please obtain and submit a written release for all professional photos.
6. Photos will not be returned.

Deadline for all submissions is June 15, 2009. Be creative! Themed pictures really catch the eyes of the judges. Contact Lilian at LilianM@adoptionpro.com or call 949-499-8400 x 179 Good Luck!! We look forward to seeing your child in our 2010 Calendar!

Featured Family

“We have been married for 26 years and we have twelve biological children whose ages range from 3 to 24, and we are interested in adopting another child.” This was the call that one of our ANLC Adoption Consultants received from Glenn and Ellyn.

Glenn and Ellyn had already made this call to several other adoption organizations. Not too surprisingly, the response they got was disbelief that any couple was serious about adopting a thirteenth, yes, thirteenth! child and uncertainty about the likelihood of being able to match them with a birthmother.

At first glance, our Consultant had those same thoughts. However, after speaking with Glenn and Ellyn, all that changed, and there was absolutely no doubt in our Consultant’s mind that this couple was ready to adopt and that ANLC would be able to find a birthmother who would select them to become adoptive parents. What convinced our Consultant? What has since convinced every other person who has come into contact with Glenn and Ellyn, including the birthmother that selected them to be adoptive parents? There isn’t one defining factor, one

overwhelming reason, but it is the only conclusion that can be drawn after taking a peek into the lives of Glenn, Ellyn and their children. You can see in Glenn, Ellyn and each of the children, how much they thrive on being a part of this family, what a strong bond they have to one another and what a solid family unit they are. Seeing how beautifully the twelve children have been raised proved how blessed any child would be to be raised within Glenn and Ellyn’s household.

The picture below shows just how amazing this family is. The Texas theme modeled by the twelve older children is not a reflection of pride in their home state; it is a reflection of gratitude and recognition of the state where their thirteenth sibling, a sister, was born in. The christening dress worn by the newest addition of the family was also purchased by Ellyn in Texas, so that there will be a treasured keepsake of her place of birth to pass on to her.

ANLC would like to thank Glenn and Ellyn for allowing us to share their adoption journey. We at ANLC are truly thankful that our work allows us to be a part of such remarkable families.



What Kind of Relationship Should We Have with Our Birthmother?

There is no typical adoption relationship. You may feel a close kinship to each other, a warm friendship, an uncomfortable, or even a contentious association. You may contact each other by mail, telephone, in person, or not at all. The actual degree of closeness is not determined by the contact that an adoptive couple has with their birthmother, although that may be one of the influences. There are many open adoption relationships conducted on a limited level of contact, yet the participants feel that they knew each other. There are other open adoption relationships where the birthparents and adoptive parents see each other regularly, but have not progressed beyond being polite to one another. If your relationship is not like the ideal relationship you have heard about, do not automatically conclude there is something wrong. As long as everyone's needs are met, especially the child's, and as long as the relationship is not based on fear, distrust or anger, your choice for an open adoption relationship may be fine just as it is. Nevertheless, if you think your relationship can be more meaningful, do not be afraid to put more energy into it.

Many open adoptions are cordial, but somewhat reserved. For most people, telephone calls have become the preferred mode of communication. Even people who telephone or visit each other sometimes feel detached. They say, "We have nothing in common but the child." Adoptive parents often tend to concentrate only on reporting the child's milestones to the birthparents.

Sometimes people feel distant from each other because although they get along, one of them may not have the skills necessary to build a close relationship. Birthparents who have not faced their loss may find it

troubling to be around the adoptive family. Sometimes the adoptive parents' unresolved infertility keeps them from developing a sense of entitlement that would allow them to relax around the birthparents. Feeling threatened, they may be unusually sensitive to any signs that they are not viewed as the child's "real" parents. They may look for reasons to cut off contact with the birthparents.

People are prone to re-creating the relationships they knew in their families of origin. If relationships in families are healthy, the prospects of your open adoption relationship being meaningful are increased. Many open adoption relationships have a warmth that comes from having shared a common difficulty, allowing yourself to be vulnerable to another human being, responding to that person's vulnerability, and being committed to a common goal. The birthparents may seem like good friends of the family or an aunt and uncle. There is a caring for one another. Many people in open adoption relationships gather together on holidays, the child's birthday and for other special occasions, just as families do. However, just as not all family members are equally close, not every open adoption will produce a deep relationship.

Sometimes emotional intimacy does not develop in a relationship because there is not an equal relationship. The adoptive parents usually have more control in the relationship than the birthparents. Unless they are able to reach out to the birthparents in ways that enable the birthparents to feel they are participating in the relationship and are not simply at the mercy of the adoptive parents' goodwill, the relationship will not progress beyond courteousness.



Sometimes, however, members of the birth family do not want to understand the need to maintain a relationship with the adoptive family because they have not had enough information about open adoption. They may not want to get attached to the child because they are afraid they will be hurt if the adoptive parents cut

off contact with them. Like all relationships, your open adoption will have peaks and valleys. As you overcome each hurdle, you will learn what to expect from each other and will gain confidence in your ability to make the relationship work.

BENEFITS OF MAINTAINING AN OPEN ADOPTION RELATIONSHIP:

- Children can obtain medical, social and historical information about their families of origin.
- Children can have access to valuable information as they develop a personal identity, such as who they look like and what kinds of abilities may be genetically influenced.
- Children can learn about their ethnic or racial heritage.
- Children can channel their energy into other aspects of personal development when they do not have to struggle to obtain information about themselves as they grow up.
- Children can feel a greater sense of control because they have access to answers to their questions. Children have fewer missing pieces about who they are. They can deal with reality rather than fantasy.
- Adoptive parents may be better able to meet their children's emotional needs because they have had to work through their feelings about birthparents, by having a relationship with them. This can leave them feeling more secure in their parenting role and in their relationships with their children.
- The most important aspect of the type of relationship you have with your birthmother should be based on openness and honesty with your feelings and be in the best interest of the child.

Newest Additions to Our Family

| Name | D.O.B | Weight | Length | Name | D.O.B | Weight | Length |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hayden Elizabeth | 01/01/2009 | 8 lbs 4 oz | 19.5" | Zoey Elizabeth | 02/09/2009 | 6 lbs 10 oz | 20.5" |
| Catelyn Diane Marr | 01/02/2009 | 9 lbs 6 oz | 21" | Lillia Renee | 02/10/2009 | 7 lbs 8 oz | 18.5" |
| Maleah Morgan | 01/02/2009 | 7 lbs 8 oz | 19.5" | Nathan John | 02/11/2009 | 7 lbs 7 oz | 18.2" |
| Nathaniel Logan | 01/02/2009 | 6 lbs 6 oz | | Preston Charles | 02/14/2009 | 7 lbs 7 oz | 20.5" |
| Jack Andrew | 01/03/2009 | 6 lbs 4 oz | 19" | Oscar Robert | 02/16/2009 | 7 lbs 13 oz | 20" |
| Sean David | 01/05/2009 | 7 lbs 3 oz | 20" | Natalie Grace | 02/16/2009 | 7 lbs 4 oz | 20" |
| Jackson Lawrence | 01/05/2009 | 6 lbs 14 oz | 21" | Devon Taylor | 02/16/2009 | 7 lbs 14 oz | 20.9" |
| Jordyn Reese | 01/05/2009 | 7 lbs 12 oz | 20" | Chase M. | 02/16/2009 | 7 lbs 3 oz | 20" |
| Keller Allan | 01/06/2009 | 8 lbs | 19.75" | Samantha Rose | 02/17/2009 | 7 lbs 13 oz | 20" |
| Theodore "Teddy" | 01/07/2009 | 7 lbs 4 oz | 19" | Chase Tyler | 02/17/2009 | 7 lbs 11 oz | 19.5" |
| Samual Bryan | 01/08/2009 | 7 lbs 4 oz | 20" | Tate Edward Janes | 02/19/2009 | 7 lbs 14 oz | 20" |
| Maisie Eleanor | 01/08/2009 | 6 lbs 7 oz | 19.25" | Madison Elizabeth | 02/19/2009 | 6 lbs 14 oz | 18.5" |
| Berkley Corrine | 01/09/2009 | 5 lbs 14 oz | 18.75" | Mason Kenneth | 02/19/2009 | 5 lbs 10 oz | 17.75" |
| Chloe Madison | 01/10/2009 | 7 lbs 10 oz | 21" | Renato | 02/23/2009 | 7 lbs 6 oz | 20" |
| Silas Jerron | 01/10/2009 | 7 lbs 6 oz | 20" | Christopher Douglas | 02/23/2009 | 6 lbs 11 oz | 20" |
| Joshua David | 01/11/2009 | 6 lbs 7 oz | 19" | Colby Austin Wheeler | 02/25/2009 | 7 lbs 3 oz | 19.5" |
| Madelyn Olivia | 01/14/2009 | 3 lbs | | Michael Caleb | 02/27/2009 | 6 lbs 9.6 oz | 20" |
| Gabriella Nicole | 01/14/2009 | 3 lbs | | Samuel Joseph | 03/01/2009 | 7 lbs 12 oz | 20" |
| Oliver Sebastian | 01/14/2009 | 6 lbs 12 oz | 18" | Shelby Grace | 03/03/2009 | 6 lbs 8 oz | 20" |
| Stockton Larry Dean | 01/14/2009 | 7 lbs 5 oz | 20" | Jamison Levi | 03/03/2009 | 6 lbs 2 oz | 18.5" |
| Theodore Jackson | 01/14/2009 | 7 lbs 4 oz | 20" | Severen Alucard | 03/04/2009 | 5 lbs 3 oz | 18" |
| Reaghan Lynn | 01/16/2009 | 7 lbs 14 oz | 21" | Reagan Elise | 03/05/2009 | 7 lbs 2 oz | 20" |
| Robert Joseph | 01/18/2009 | 6 lbs 13 oz | 19" | Jayden Elijah | 03/07/2009 | 6 lbs 10 oz | 20" |
| Sabrina Kate | 01/23/2009 | 7 lbs 13 oz | 20" | Easton Henry | 03/08/2009 | 5 lbs | 17" |
| Chase Samuel | 01/25/2009 | 7 lbs 4 oz | 21" | Nolan Bradley | 03/09/2009 | 6 lbs 5 oz | 19" |
| Daphne Ann | 01/26/2009 | 7 lbs 12 oz | 19.5" | Michael Christopher | 03/13/2009 | 9 lbs 8 oz | 21" |
| Cailyn Rachelle | 01/28/2009 | 7 lbs 13 oz | 21" | Anna-Kate Elizabeth | 03/14/2009 | 8 lbs 8 oz | 21" |
| Savannah Grace Nicole | 01/28/2009 | 7 lbs 3 oz | 19.5" | Bella Rose | 03/16/2009 | 6 lbs 10 oz | 19" |
| Evan Andrew | 01/28/2009 | 8 lbs 2 oz | 21.5" | Trevor Andrew | 03/16/2009 | 7 lbs 14 oz | 19.5" |
| Allyanah Renay | 01/28/2009 | 6 lbs 3 oz | 18.5" | Emory Reese | 03/16/2009 | 8 lbs 10 oz | 19.75" |
| Mia Grace | 01/29/2009 | 8 lbs 2 oz | 21" | Ellie Rose Bluesky | 03/17/2009 | 6 lbs 12.5 oz | 20" |
| Caroline Grace | 01/29/2009 | 6 lbs 10 oz | 19.5" | Hunter Chance | 03/18/2009 | 8 lbs 1 oz | 21" |
| Brianna Morgan | 02/02/2009 | 7 lbs 10 oz | 19" | Kelsey Jean | 03/19/2009 | 7 lbs 7 oz | 20" |
| Grace Aubrey | 02/03/2009 | 6 lbs 5oz | 19" | Rachel Taylor | 03/19/2009 | 8 lbs 8 oz | 20.5" |
| Michael Reid | 02/03/2009 | 9 lbs 2 oz | 20.5" | Jackson David | 03/19/2009 | 6 lbs 14 oz | 19" |
| Kayla Marie | 02/04/2009 | 6 lbs 6 oz | 18" | Lily Katherine | 03/21/2009 | 7 lbs 1 oz | 19.5" |
| Sevren Alan | 02/04/2009 | 6 lbs 12 oz | | Niamh Theresa | 03/27/2009 | 9 lbs 5 oz | 21.75" |
| Noelle Caleigh | 02/05/2009 | 6 lbs 2 oz | 17" | | | | |

Featured Testimonial

Dear ANLC,

We would like to send a "Thank You" for making our dream of parenthood a reality. We were chosen after only eight weeks of our "Live" website completion. Not only had we been chosen when the call was received, but our birthmother was in labor ten hours away from us. Without hesitation, we trusted on faith in God and left to receive the answers to our prayer... Zachary Michael! During the drive, our Advisor prepared us, alleviated our fears and gave us so much support and encouragement. We thank God for placing her in our lives that day. Upon arrival to the hospital, our Advisor already had everything in order, even though she was in CA and we were in TX. We arrived approximately 30 minutes before our son was born. We had been notified of our birthmother's decision for a closed adoption and from the moment of birth we were able to stay in the nursery with Zachary. WOW, what a wonderful experience! What a loving, courageous soul of a birthmother to take such good care of him during pregnancy and then give him life! We cherish Zachary every minute of every day and night. We trusted in God, on faith, ANLC's expertise and are now blessed with our healthy, happy newborn son who turned 3 months old today!

Thank you again for making our adoption process so wonderful!

Sincerely,
Mike & Jennifer

Featured Testimonial

Dear ANLC,

You have been in our thoughts constantly as we go through our days and look at our new baby daughter. We are in such awe and cannot believe what a blessing she is to our family. She really completes the family and we all could not be happier. She fit right in from the first day and gets so much attention from her sisters at home.

We really appreciate everything you did to help us get to this point. We always knew we could count on you whenever we called and you are wonderful at what you do. We could really tell that you care about everyone involved in the adoption process. I know ours was a longer match than most, at 5 months, but you helped us get through it. The professionalism and caring attitude of everyone we spoke with at ANLC truly supported us and helped us to stay positive throughout the waiting period when we had been matched.

Please know that what you do and who you are is an incredible gift for both birthmothers and the adoptive parents.

We have referred ANLC to five other couples and would definitely recommend ANLC over and over again. Thank you for completing our family.

Our heartfelt thanks,
Ken and Vicky



Quarterly Reminders

Don't Delay – Our statistics show that couples whose profiles appear on more than one website get matched much quicker. Our relationship with www.CourageousChoice.com and www.AdoptionSpacebook.com allows you to have your profile seen by even more prospective birthmothers.

New Phone Number? New E-mail? — Don't forget to call or email us to update your personal information so that you will continue to get updates, information and invitations.

In the Next Issue of *Network News* – More Baby Stats, More Photos, More stories, Recap of ANLC's 2009 Annual Picnic.

For Your Convenience — An electronic copy of this and past newsletters are available on our website.

Don't Forget!

If you would like to have your testimonial published in our next Newsletter, please mail it or submit it via our website at: <http://www.adoptionnetwork.com/adoption-testimonials/adoption-testimonials-submit.shtml>

Save the Date

ANLC's Annual Picnic will be Sunday, June 28, 2009 at the Irvine Regional Park! Look for more information and directions to RSVP coming your way!



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