



The Gift of Adoption

November is National Adoption Month – a time to not only bring awareness to adoption, but also celebrate the families who have grown through adoption. It is important for children to have a permanent family connection they can rely upon to build lifelong networks of support and community. Every child benefits from a sense of belonging and sustained relationships.

Currently in the United States there are 109,000 children and teens with goals of adoption who are at risk of aging out of foster care without a permanent, legal family

connection. In Pennsylvania, there are 14,000 children in foster care and 3,000 children awaiting adoption. More can and must be done to connect these children with adoptive families.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Consider becoming a foster or an adoptive family! Adoptive parents are needed to provide love and support to help each child reach their full potential in a safe and stable home. The Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) is a great resource for starting the process of becoming an adoptive family. Visit [Become an Adoptive Parent | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) to find out more about adoption in Pennsylvania.

If becoming a foster or adoptive family is not realistic right now, you can still support foster

and adoptive families in your community meet their tangible needs. Everyone can do something to assist these families, from providing a crib and clothing or preparing a meal. One organization that connects volunteers with foster and adoptive families to help meet their needs is **Keystone Family Alliance**. You can also connect directly with the local Children and Youth Services in your county to find out ways of supporting these children and families.

Everyone can do something during National Adoption Month. What is your "something?"



#GIVING TUESDAY

You can donate through our website at pafsa.org/donate.

On **December 3**, PFSA is proud to participate in **#GivingTuesday**. This day of giving invites you to give back and create change in your community.

Together, we can continue to make a difference by keeping PA safe for all children! Your support on #GivingTuesday, and every day, helps allow us to fulfill our mission to **#ProtectPAKids**.

Follow along with us!



PA Family Support Alliance
@ProtectPAKids



PFSA
@pafamilysupportalliance



PA Family Support Alliance
@pa-family-support-alliance



PA Family Support Alliance
@PAFamilySupport





Call for Nominations!

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, PFSA will honor several individuals from across the Commonwealth with a **PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids** award, bestowed upon recipients for exceptional contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

We want to recognize the professionals, volunteers, and everyday heroes among us who keep our children safe.

PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids award winners are shining examples of people working in Pennsylvania to prevent child abuse and neglect. These awards are an opportunity to honor champions for children across the state who work tirelessly, often without fanfare or recognition, to improve the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

PFSA welcomes nominations for this honor from schools, government agencies, community organizations, private practitioners, churches, and other concerned individuals and groups. We look forward to recognizing each individual in April as a Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids.

Please note, the nomination deadline for this award is November 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. Fill out this form to submit a nomination today!

Know someone who deserves to be recognized?

Fill out **this form** to submit your nomination today!





Welcome to Our New CBCAP Network Member Agencies!

PFSa welcomes a new member of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network: **YWCA Lancaster**. PFSa is proud to partner and collaborate with diverse, dedicated, and committed organizations that advance the important work of preventing child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your commitment and dedication!

To find out more about **CBCAP Network** benefits or to learn more about becoming a CBCAP Network member, **visit our website**.



Visit Our Online Store

PFSa has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents and professionals in an effort to protect children. Visit pafsa.org/store to browse.



Read Our Blog

Our blog is the best way to get timely information on ways to help stop child abuse, recent staff developments, and prevention strategies. Read more at pafsa.org/blog.

UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators of the Families in Recovery (FiR) program will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

All organizations interested in implementing the Families in Recovery program are required to enter an agreement contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. FiR contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures.

Dates: January 28 & 29, 2025 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: Email Justin Donofrio, Prevention Services Manager, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. Certificates are provided to the participants, and, upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

Cost: Free

Register [here](#) for a virtual session.

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Sign up [here](#) to take any time.

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

Dates: January 22 & 23, 2025 (*virtual*)
April 23 & 24, 2025 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer, entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at hevans@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.



Save THE Date!

April 2, 2025

Flag Planting 9:00 a.m.
3rd & State Street | Harrisburg

Awards Ceremony 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Main Rotunda | Harrisburg

