

# **Conference Speakers**

## **Richard Barth**

Richard P. Barth, MSW, Ph.D., is the Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland. He has also served as a chaired professor at UC Berkeley and University of North Carolina. He has authored many books, chapters and articles. His works have led to many awards, including the following: 1986 winner of the Frank Breul Prize for Excellence in Child Welfare Scholarship from the University of Chicago, 1990 and 2006 Fulbright Scholar, 1998 recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Research from the National Association of Social Workers, 2005 winner of the Flynn Prize for Research and 2007 winner of the Peter Forsythe Award from the American Public Human Services Association.

Dr. Barth has directed more than 40 studies and, most recently, served as principal Investigator of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, the first national study of child welfare services in the U.S. Dr. Barth has acted as a lecturer and consultant to the Swedish Board of Health and Social Services; the U.S. Children's Bureau; the states of California, Washington, North Carolina, Connecticut, Minnesota; and many universities. During his career, he has testified before Congressional and state government sub-committees about the processes and outcomes of child welfare services.

Dr. Barth has held positions on many editorial boards including *Social Work*, *Research on Social Work Practice*, *Adoption Quarterly*, *Social Service Review*, *Social Work in Education* and the *International Journal of Social Welfare*. He has also held positions on the boards of numerous other child-serving agencies, including on the Board of the Society for Social Work Research from 2002-2006.

## **Kate Cleary**

Kate Cleary has a 35-year history of involvement and activism in child welfare with an emphasis on adoption. Ms. Cleary served as President of the American Adoption Congress for 10 years. She has also held a position as one of four advisors to the National Counsel of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and the Uniform Adoption Act; three Presidential Task Forces on child welfare; 22 State Task Forces on adoption law revisions; the Child Welfare League of America Adoption Standard Committee and the Child Welfare League of America Adoption Policy Committee; and as an advisor to the California Adoption Initiative and co-chair of their Open Adoption Work Group.

In 1996, Ms. Cleary accepted the position of Executive Director of the California Adoption Alliance (soon to be renamed Children's League of California). The organization focused on the development and implementation of children's public policy for the State of California. In 1997, Ms. Cleary served as the Executive Director of The Adoption Network of Catholic Charities. Under her leadership, the agency increased adoptions over 200% in a one-year period. In late 1998, the City and County of San Francisco, Department of Human Services, Family and Children's Division recruited Ms. Cleary to design and implement a Family Assessment Center for their child welfare system. Ms. Cleary is currently Executive Director of Consortium for Children, an organization she founded. She is a former foster child and adoptee.

## **Stella Gilgur-Cook**

Stella Gilgur-Cook, LMSW, is a homestudy social worker and clinical supervisor at Spence-Chapin. She earned her Masters in Social Work at New York University. Ms. Gilgur-Cook was a residential caseworker at the Key Program in Massachusetts, a psychiatric social worker at New York's Mt. Sinai Hospital in the pediatric inpatient unit outpatient clinic, a school social worker at

Queens' Second Opportunity School for high-risk youth and an intervention social worker for Children's Aid Society in Harlem, NY. Ms. Gilgur-Cook has also previously presented at Joint Council in 2007, on the topic of *Joy, Grief, Loss and Love in Adoptive Families*, which focused on all members of the adoption triad, members of the adoption constellation and social workers who are so intimately joined with a family's adoption process.

### **Dixie van der Flier Davis**

Dr. Dixie van der Flier Davis founded The Adoption Exchange with a challenge grant of merely \$20,000 in 1983. With headquarters in Denver, the organization now maintains offices in UT, NM, NV and MO. Every year, its Education Center trains over 7,000 families and professionals in all 50 states and abroad.

The Adoption Exchange has collaborated with public and private adoption placement agencies across the country to facilitate more than 5,400 adoptions of American special needs children. Adoptive families worldwide and member states of OK, UT, CO, WY, NV, MO, NM and SD utilize The Adoption Exchange's broad range of services to recruit and sustain families for children in foster care. The organization was also one of the first U.S. agencies to begin working with institutionalized children and child welfare colleagues in Romania in 1990.

It boasts one of the longest lasting media partnerships—25 years running *Wednesday's Child* weekly on the same major TV network news station. It now runs *Wednesday's Child* on three major network stations and two Spanish speaking stations.

Dr. Davis has made even further contributions to the field in the following ways:

- Current President, Board of the national *Adoption Exchange Association*
- One of the originating partners and the Principal Investigator of The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids, a national adoption recruitment and training initiative of the federal government
- Pioneered the development of a network of collaborating organizations to serve military families and Americans living abroad
- Honorary member of National Association of State Adoption Programs
- Member of Lt. Governor Jane Norton's 2005 Committee to Promote Adoption (Colorado)
- Founding member and Past President of *Voice for Adoption*, a national advocacy organization
- Served on numerous expert work groups and national advisory committees of Departments of Justice and Health & Human Services and on national coalitions to set standards and improve implementation of interstate placement of children
- Speaker and published writer on ethics, technology, and other issues in adoption
- Recipient of the 2007 Child Advocate of the Year Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children
- Authored *Adoption: Stories of Lives Transformed*, which won the 2008 EVVY award, the IPPY award, and was on the best seller list the first week of May, 2008
- Recipient of an Adoption Excellence Award for Individual Contributions, presented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008

### **Jennifer Isaac**

Jennifer Isaac is the founder and director of From HIV to Home, working to connect HIV+ orphans with adoptive families. She has four children, the youngest of whom is HIV+ and was adopted from Ethiopia. The need to see families educated and equipped for the unique needs of adoptable children with medical needs, particularly those living with HIV, was highlighted from her personal journey through two medical needs adoptions. Ms. Isaac lives in Colorado with her husband, an elementary school teacher, and her four children.

### **Rhonda Jarema**

Rhonda Jarema has a Bachelor of Language, Arts and Sciences degree with an emphasis in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan and a Master's Degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University. She has worked in various areas of child and adult mental health for over 25 years. For the past 13 years, she has worked in the field of international adoptions as a social worker. For the past 10 years, she has been the Director of Family Support Services for Nightlight Christian Adoptions. In addition to her caseload—working with families who either have or plan to adopt school aged children, Ms. Jarema coordinates the education program, teaches classes, leads support groups and counsels families. She is also the Hague Coordinator for Nightlight Christian Adoptions, as well as a Council on Accreditation Lead Evaluator. Ms. Jarema is the mother of four adult children who were adopted internationally.

### **Janice Goldwater**

Janice Goldwater is the Founder and Executive Director of Adoptions Together, a Maryland, DC and Virginia licensed child placement agency that finds adoptive parents for children nationwide. A social worker by trade, Ms. Goldwater founded the agency in 1990, in response to gaps in the child welfare system. The agency provides adoption opportunities and support to all children in need and then strengthens families through educational programs and mental health services as children mature. Adoptions Together serves children who are born in its community and children growing up in orphanages overseas, as well as those growing up in the U.S. public foster care system. Each year, hundreds of adoptive families utilize post-adoption/permanency support services and professionals receive training on a variety of issues that impact the lives of adoptees and their families through the agency's post-permanency programs.

Ms. Goldwater is married, the mother of four children and resides in Silver Spring, Maryland. She received her Masters Degree in Social Work in 1980 from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. Her career began in community mental health and switched to child welfare in the early eighties. Since that time, Ms. Goldwater has dedicated herself to creating and implementing innovative programs that find permanent homes for children and provide mental health and educational services to keep families strong as children mature

### **Dana E. Johnson**

Dana Ernest Johnson, MD, Ph.D. graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1975. He completed his pediatric internship, residency training and his fellowship in neonatal (newborn intensive care) at the University of Minnesota, where he also received his Ph.D. in Anatomy in 1983. Currently, he is the Professor of Pediatrics, member and former Director of the Division of Neonatology and a member of the faculty in the Center for Global Pediatrics at the University of Maryland.

In 1986, Dr. Johnson founded the International Adoption Clinic. It has since become the largest adoption-related medical program in the world. Over the past 22 years, information gathered through this clinic on the medical status of over 25,000 children placed for adoption from dozens of countries and a wide variety of living conditions have helped establish the field of adoption medicine. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the short- and long-term effects of early childhood deprivation on child health and development. Ongoing research projects include the use of orphanage intervention programs to ameliorate the negative effects of long-term institutionalization, the effects of an institutional vs. foster care environment on growth and development, the long-term outcome of international adoptees in the United States and the phenomenon of post-arrival "catch-up" growth in stunted post-institutionalized adoptees.

Dr. Johnson serves on the Editorial Board of *Adoption Quarterly* and *Adoptive Families Magazine*, is a Senior Research Fellow in the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and has authored over 200 journal articles, book chapters and abstracts. He has received the

Distinguished Service Award from the Joint Council on International Children's Services and the Harry Holt Award from Holt International.

### **Salome LaMarche**

Salome LaMarche holds a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer, she served as a Community Health Promoter in the Dominican Republic. She gained management experience in a variety of social service settings such as homeless shelters, financial assistance programs and maternity homes prior to joining Families Thru International Adoption (FTIA) in 2003. At FTIA, Ms. LaMarche has managed the China Program through the changes of guidelines and the Guatemala Program through the traumatic transition to the Hague Implementation. She now serves as Director of Programs for FTIA, where she provides oversight for all of FTIA's International Adoption Programs.

### **Carolyn Lindsey**

Carolyn Lindsey, J.D., is the Director of Member Services at TRACE International, Inc., a nonprofit membership association that pools resources to provide practical and cost-effective anti-bribery compliance solutions for multinational companies and their commercial intermediaries. In addition to her responsibilities at TRACE, Ms. Lindsey is an adjunct professor of law at the George Washington University School of Law. She is a graduate of the George Washington University School of Law and Hollins College.

Prior to joining TRACE, Ms. Lindsey was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Powell Goldstein LLP, where she focused her practice on international regulatory issues. She advised clients on complying with the U.S. Foreign Practices Act ("FCPA") and other international anti-corruption initiatives such as the OECD anti-corruption convention and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. As part of her practice, she drafted corporate policies and procedures, conducted due diligence on clients' overseas intermediaries, conducted FCPA and anti-corruption training and assisted clients with FCPA investigations.

### **Selena Liu**

Selena Liu, M.Div., currently works for Spence-Chapin as the Network Program Coordinator for the International Adoption Department. Previously, she led children's adoption support groups in California for the Olive Crest Foster Family and Adoption Agency and the Kinship Center. As co-Founder of Adoption Village, she also conducted private adoption consulting sessions with children and families using art processes. While working as a staff and parent trainer, in addition to providing intensive parenting preparation, she developed workshops on such topics as *Talking to Children About Adoption*, *Teaching Your Children How to Talk about Adoption*, *Parenting the Sexualized Child in Foster Care*, *Identity Issues for the Adoptee* and *Adopting the Older Child*.

### **Colleen S. McLain**

Colleen McLain, LCSW-C, LICSW, has been working in the field of adoption for over twenty years. She has worked for both small and large agencies in Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington D.C. In her professional experience, Ms. McLain has done domestic and international adoptions, and has worked with all members of the adoption circle. She currently serves as the Regional Director for the East Coast office of Children's Home Society & Family Services. In this position, she has dealt first-hand with many of the challenges of merging agencies. For example, Children's Home Society & Family Services merged with Adoption Service Information Agency in October of 2005, a little more than a year prior to Ms. McLain joining the staff.

Ms. McLain has a Masters of Social Work from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In addition to her professional experience, she has served on the board of a nationally accredited childcare center and is active in an organization that supports women in developing countries. Ms. McLain is the parent of two children, one through adoption from China.

### **Debbie Mansfield**

Debbie Mansfield is the current Program Manager for Wide Horizons for Children. In this position, she supervises staff in the administration of adoptive programs for Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Colombia and has had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala, Ethiopia, Philippines, and South Korea. She has also developed and opened a new program in Kazakhstan. Previous to working at Wide Horizons, Ms. Mansfield was the program Hub Director for American Councils and Program Coordinator for Wide Horizons. Ms. Mansfield received her bachelors in International Relations and Soviet and East European Studies from Tufts University, masters in Russian Literature and Language from the University of New York, and also has a certificate in Russian Language and literature from the Chemical Technology Institute in Kazan, Russia.

### **Jennifer Dole Massie**

Jennifer Dole Massie, MSW, is the Florida Regional Director and Haiti Program Coordinator for Lifelink International Adoption. At Lifelink, she has been uniting orphaned children around the globe with U.S. families since 1994. Her work has taken her to China, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Guatemala and Haiti, where she has witnessed the plight of orphaned children and other children at risk. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor's in Biology from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ms. Massie is the past president of the Florida Association of Licensed Adoption Agencies and served as a Board Member of the Florida Adoption Information Center. She is a professional consultant to *Mei Magazine*. As a member of the international professional women's service organization, Zonta International, Ms. Massie has become involved in the plight of victims of human trafficking. She is Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the non-profit Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc. She has organized educational forums on the issue of Human Trafficking and has led trainings on the issues at both local and state levels. Due to her work on this issue, Ms. Massie was named 2006 and 2008 Zontian of the Year by her local Sarasota club. She is active in her faith community and has served in a number of board and leadership positions. A native of the Sarasota/Bradenton area, Ms. Massie resides in Sarasota with her husband, Bill, and her 15-year-old daughter, Annice.

### **Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao**

Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao is the Founder and CEO of the Center for Family Connections (CFFC) in Cambridge, MA and in New York. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pavao has developed models for treatment and training using systemic, intergenerational, developmental framework for her "brief-long-term therapy" model. She has done extensive training and consultation, both nationally and internationally, on issues concerning adoption, complex families and child welfare. Dr. Pavao, an adoptee, is the author of *The Family of Adoption*, Beacon Press 1998 and 2005.

### **Adam Pertman**

Adam Pertman is the Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and is also the Associate Editor of *Adoption Quarterly*. He is the author of *Adoption Nation* and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his writing about adoption in *The Boston Globe*, where he was a senior reporter and editor for 22 years before turning his career toward adoption. Mr. Pertman's

other honors include: the Angel in Adoption award from the U.S. Congress; the Special Friend of Children Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists; the Friend of Adoption Award from the ODS Adoption Community of New England; the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law's first award for contributing to public understanding about adoption and permanency placement issues; the American Adoption Congress' first award; and the Year 2000 Journalism Award from Holt International Children's Services. Mr. Pertman's commentaries have run in major print and broadcast media nationwide. He has been a guest on many radio and television programs, including Oprah and the Today Show and has delivered scores of keynote speeches and other presentations, both nationally and internationally.

### **Lauren Reicher-Gordon**

Lauren Reicher-Gordon, Director of Family Visit Programs, directs Kidsave's Family Visit Programs, including program development, budgeting, staffing, policy and compliance. She also serves as support and liaison to all program participants, including volunteers, affiliated agency personnel, social workers and staff. In this capacity, she oversees the Los Angeles Weekend Miracles Program. Ms. Reicher-Gordon has thirty years of experience, including 11 years of service on the Community Council/School Governance for Overland Avenue School, where she developed strategies to improve student achievement. She also functioned as Fundraising Chairperson for Overland Avenue School enrichment programs and was VP of Merchandising for Judy's Merchandising Corporation for seven of her fifteen-year buying career.

### **Timothy Rhodes**

Reverend Timothy Rhodes has served as the President & CEO of Lifelink Corporation since 2007, and been heavily involved in its leadership since 1991. Lifelink is a faith-based human services ministry providing a lifelong continuum of care for children, families and seniors. Rev. Rhodes has also served as the pastor of two Illinois Churches, as well as a Board Member for Caring Communities. He obtained his Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

### **Cindy Scheller**

Cindy Scheller is a licensed clinical social worker in the states of Indiana and Kansas. She is currently the Director of Social Work Services for Families Thru International Adoption. Ms. Scheller has provided home study and post-adoption services for over eight years. Her work experience includes school social work and emergency mental health evaluations. In addition to the services she provides to clients, Ms. Scheller provides valuable input in regards to staff management and motivation. She measures the emotional temperature of the staff, which helps the executive team to determine a course of action during difficult times.

### **Jayne Schmidt**

Jayne Schmidt, MSSW, is the Hague Accreditation Project Manager at the Council on Accreditation, the nation's leading accreditor of social services. Ms. Schmidt is responsible for implementing and overseeing COA's Hague Accreditation and Approval Process. She also worked on the development of COA's 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Accreditation Standards for child welfare services. Ms. Schmidt is a graduate of Lafayette College and holds a MSW in social policy from Columbia University in New York.

### **Jaclyn Skalnik**

Jaclyn Skalnik, MSW, serves Bethany Christian Services as a Masters Level Social Worker in the International Services Department. Ms. Skalnik's contributions include: Intercountry Adoption Coordinator for China, China Social Service Project Manager, Korea Post Adoption & Search

Coordinator, Staff Training/Parent Training Committee Member, Hague Team Member and TQM/PQI committee member.

Ms. Skalnik consults as a social worker for the Ties Adoptive Family Homeland Tours, where she prepares and travels with families with children from around the world. Ms. Skalnik also contributes to Council on Accreditation as a volunteer Hague Evaluator and has presented at National Conferences for Bethany Christian Services, World of Diversity-University of Lincoln at Nebraska, St. Norbert College Adoption Conference, Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, KAAN, North American Council on Adopted Children (NACAC), China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) Foster Care Training, BLAS Root Seeking Department, Holt Heritage Camps, Colorado Heritage Camps and various adoptive family support groups such as Families with Children from China (FCCO), Latin American Adoptive Families (LAAF), Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoptions (FRUA) and Korean Connections.

### **Abbie Smith**

Abbie Smith, LCSW has worked as the Director of the Waiting Child Program at Holt International Children's Services for the past four years. She holds a post graduate certificate in "Working with Adoptive Families" from Portland State University and is the adoptive mother of an 18-year-old daughter. Prior to joining Holt, Ms. Smith worked for Oregon Health and Science University in the Child Development Center, where she worked with families of children with special health care needs. In this position, she developed and provided educational/support groups for the siblings of the children receiving treatment from the University and, when needed, provided individual counseling for siblings as well. Ms. Smith also has experience working with children with severe emotional issues in a day-treatment setting, as well as providing school-based therapy and traditional outpatient therapy.

### **Daniel J. Smith**

Daniel Smith, MBA, has over 20 years of leadership experience, including seven years of non-profit financial management experience. Beginning June 2006, he has held the position of the Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services for Children's Home Society & Family Services. Mr. Smith oversees the agency's financial and business planning functions, human resources, building services, organizational effectiveness, information services and the CHSFS East Coast office. Mr. Smith has international finance experience, and was previously the finance director of an international mission organization in Tanzania. Prior to serving overseas, he had a successful corporate management career.

### **Judy Stigger**

Judy Stigger, LCSW, is the Director of International Adoption for The Cradle, with focus on the Russia program. A licensed clinical social worker, Ms. Stigger provides counseling/therapy for adopted teens and adoptive and birth families in domestic as well as international adoption programs. She is also the National Association of Social Workers Inc. (NASW) content expert for and creator of [www.AdoptionLearningPartners.org](http://www.AdoptionLearningPartners.org) and authored a book entitled *Coping with Infertility*, along with various other chapters and articles.

Ms. Stigger has presented at numerous national and area seminars. She serves on the Editorial Advisory Boards of the *Adoptive Families* Magazine, the board of an organization for adopted adults, and was former president of Joint Council on International Children's Services' Board of Directors. In 2000, she received a Congressional "*Angel in Adoption*" award.

Ms. Stigger and her husband are the adoptive parents of two adult special needs and transracially placed children. They are currently the grandparents of three granddaughters, including one placed through an open adoption.

## **Peg Studaker**

Peg Studaker, MSW, has been with Children's Home Society & Family Services (CHSFS) since 1986. She first worked in the Waiting American Child Program with kids who were state wards of Minnesota. In this position, she worked with families in both individual and group settings with a main focus on the preparation of older children for adoption. In 1997, she transferred to her current role of supervising the Waiting International Child Program. While Ms. Studaker continues to run many of the pre- and post-adoption training sessions for CHSFS, she also works with the waiting children in Ethiopia and Korea. In the Ethiopian Program specifically, she works very closely with the country staff around social work issues and with the media crew regarding the DVD's and Life books that each adoptive family receives.