



# The Forever Connection

December 2015

## Bonnie's Message

As we approach the holiday season, it seems remarkable that 2015 is coming to a close.

November was Adoption Awareness month and a great time to reflect on the beautiful complexity of adoption. Bittersweet is such an appropriate word to describe adoption; the greatest joy for adoptive parents happens when a birthparent makes the greatest sacrifice imaginable. It was 10 years ago that my husband and I received the call from AO that changed our lives forever.

[Read More](#)

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## Conceiving Dreams Dinner ~ A Celebration of Adoption

Once again the Conceiving Dreams Dinner was a great success! We would like to thank the 300 people who joined us in celebrating adoption on November 6, 2015. It was an evening of memorable stories, intense trivia, and loads of fun!

Thank you to the Conceiving Dreams Organizing Committee and the very generous sponsors and those who donated to the rainbow and live auctions! Please click on the link: [Thank you to all who supported the event!](#)

We are always looking for member feedback on the event. Whether you attended this year, previous years or have never attended please take a few minutes to complete this survey.

**[SURVEY](#)**

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## New Arrivals

Today I kissed an Angel, we knew it from the start.



The first time our Angel smiled at us, we gave away our hearts.

## [Arrival Announcements](#)

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### Support Groups

Adoption Options will be facilitating a group for waiting families on Thursday February 4th at 7:00 pm. We know that the waiting can be a difficult time for many families and we would like to help you through this part of your adoption journey. We hope the group will provide an opportunity for waiting families to connect with one another to provide support, encouragement and new friendships. If you would like to attend please register by clicking on the link [Waiting Families Group](#).

If you are in the Morden/Winkler area and would like more information on the Family Builders Adoption Support Group please contact :  
Yvonne Stoesz 204-822-9316 [ystoesz@mymts.net](mailto:ystoesz@mymts.net)

Walking with someone who understands makes the journey a little easier.

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### Confessions of an Adoptive Parent

Negative pregnancy test results are hard. Waiting for a match and a placement is hard. But can I confess, without fear of reproach, that parenting is hard, too? Some days, really hard? When you are focused on maintaining hope on a rocky and uncertain road to parenthood, it is difficult to contemplate the challenges of day-to-day parenting. [Read more.](#)

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### Fur Is Only Fur Deep



Jai Jai is a curious little panda cub who lives at the Beary Nice Orphanage. He dreams of having a superhero father and a furever family. Will his dreams come true? Come along with Jai Jai as he discovers that fur is only fur deep.

Julia Schettler is a Winnipeg writer and speaker and an advocate for adoption and inclusiveness. She believes that every child deserves a family. Julia and her husband have a blended, transracial family of ten children. Four of their sons

were adopted from China.

Visit Julia at [www.juliaschettler.com](http://www.juliaschettler.com)

We have two "Fur is Only Fur Deep" available in AO's library.

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## Our Journey to Get ``In the Box``

To say that 2015 has been a whirlwind year for us would be an understatement. We finally made the leap to begin our adoption journey with AO, and take the steps necessary to move from being a family of two, to a family of three. Our journey began in March by attending an information session, after 11 years of finding one reason or another to postpone our start. We had fallen into the trap of believing we needed to first "have the bigger house", "grow our careers" etc. It was a series of one thing after the next. Finally, we realized that none of that mattered. What mattered most was that we could provide a stable, loving home for our future child. [Read More](#)

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## Emails from AO

The newsletter will now be sent two times per year - June & December.

Specific event emails such as AGM, Family Fun Day, Conceiving Dreams Dinner etc, will be send out as required.

The Agency Statistics will be now be available twice a year. Complete 2015 Statistics will be included in the AGM email (February). January - June 2016 Statistics will be included in the June newsletter.

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## Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah & Happy Holidays!

We wish you and your families all the best this Holiday Season!

The office will be closed on December 24, 25, 28,31 and January 1st.

