



*adoption & permanency education month*

# EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

*Please note that all sessions are in EST.*

## **Opening Keynote** | Wednesday, November 1st at 12 PM

Join our Executive Director, Dianne Mathes, who will welcome you to the launch of Education & Adoption Awareness Month 2023. She will talk about the importance of the month, some highlights to look forward to, and our overall theme – Surrounding Yourself with Support: Stories, Resources & Expertise.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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## **What is Adoption?** | Thursday, November 2nd at 12 PM

Join Dianne Mathes and various ACO staff members as they present the ACO's What is Adoption? video and an overview of our programs. Bring your questions!

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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## **Supporting Adoptees & Birth Parents** | Tuesday, November 7th at 7:30 PM

Wendy Rowney & Karen Lynn, members of ACO's Education Advisory Committee, along with other members of our community partner, ASK (Adoption Support Kinship – see <https://www.askaboutreunion.org/>), will participate in a conversation about the importance of support and community for adoptees and birth and original families as they navigate search and reunion and the lifelong journey of adoption.

*Recommended Audience: Adoptees, birth parents, and professionals.*

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## **Adoption Disclosure & Search & Reunion** | Thursday, November 9th at 7:30 PM

Wendy Rowney & Karen Lynn, members of ACO's Education Advisory Committee, will interview Marilyn Churley about her book Shameless: The Fight for Adoption Disclosure Records & the Search for her son.

*Recommended Audience: For birth parents, adoptees & professionals.*

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## **Openness & Openheartedness in Adoption** | Thursday, November 14th at 7:30 PM

Back by popular demand, author & adoptive mother, Lori Holden will be joined by Angela Tucker, adoptee, podcaster, speaker to expand upon Lori's presentation to us last year about Open-heartedness in adoption and permanency.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

**7 Core Issues for Children & Teens | Wednesday, November 15th at 12 PM**

Allison Davis Maxon will join us once again this year to talk about her new 7 Core Issues Workbook for Children & Teens. This trauma-informed resource can be used by professionals and parents to help young people understand their adoption and permanency journeys.

*Recommended Audience: Young people, parents & professionals.*

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**Youth Day | Thursday, November 16th (on-going throughout the day)**

Children and youth involved in the ACO's Kids Hangout sessions and Youth network will present their perspectives on adoption and permanency in a variety of ways. You won't want to miss this day!

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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**Professional Day | Friday, November 17th from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM**

A training day for professionals working with families and people impacted by adoption and permanency journeys.

*For child welfare, mental health and other professionals working with adoption & permanency galaxy members.*

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**Stories by Adoptees | Tuesday, November 21st at 7:30 PM**

Join Wendy Rowney, a member of the ACO's Education Advisory Committee, as she moderates a discussion with Cindy Stewart, Wendy Hayes, Jay Lomax & Haley Radke who have all shared some of their experiences as an adopted person through books, poetry, videos and podcasts. Hear their thoughts about storytelling and why and how they decided to share their stories.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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**Stories for Children | Wednesday, November 22nd at 12 PM**

Join Sylvia Gibbons as she talks to Lynn Deiulis, Sofie Stergianis & Terra Bovingdon each of whom has written books for children about adoption. Hear how their experiences as an adoptee & child welfare worker, an adoptive parent & adoption professional, and an adoption & permanency therapist lead them to writing and publishing books for children who have been touched by adoption.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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**Living with FASD | Thursday, November 23rd at 7:30 PM**

Join Karen Moore and Shelby, FASD Youth Advocate as they present a workshop on living with FASD.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

**Discover the Autism Spectrum and Adoptive Parenting** | Monday, November 27th at 7:30 PM

Could you provide a permanent home for a child or youth living with Autism? Learn more at our expert-led presentation where you can gain insights, learn about parenting strategies, and discover how to provide a nurturing home for child who is impacted by Autism and needs a permanent home.

*Recommended Audience: Pre-adoptive families.*

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**The Secrecy Podcast** | Tuesday, November 28th at 7:30 PM

Join Wendy Rowney, Karen Lynn, Cindy Stewart, Dawn Tracz, Travis Oke & Dianne Mathes who created a podcast about secrecy in adoption. Hear from them about their experiences and why they came together to do this.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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**ACO's Community Partners Panel** | Wednesday, November 29th at 12 PM

Join the ACO & its community partners as we talk together about the resources and supports available to those on adoption and permanency journeys.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

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**Closing Keynote** | Thursday, November at 12 PM.

Dianne Mathes, the ACO's Executive Director, will close the month and talk about the importance of reflection and listening, and talking together about adoption and permanency journeys. She will also share some great resources and preview some exciting next steps in story-telling and connections.

*Recommended Audience: All.*

