

# Choice Words

Loving Choice Adoption and Parenting Services

A program of Community Services of Stark County, Inc.

## Meet Our New Assessors!!!!



Melissa M. Moore  
Adoption Assessor

Loving Choice welcomed two new assessors within the past year. Both are well trained in working with families and children, as well as navigating the world of adoption. Here are their introductions in their own words!!!

"My name is Melissa Moore and I moved to Ohio in 2005 with my husband. Since then, I have attained my Master's degree from Walsh University in Counseling and Human Development, and began work as an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant at Community

Services in 2008. After working in the early childhood field, I joined the staff at Community Services full time and split my time between mental health counseling and consulting in area preschools. And now I have added Adoption to my plate!! I fully enjoy what I do every day, as each day brings a new surprise to it."

"My name is Pamela Patton. I graduated with a Masters in Social Work from Ohio State University in 1987. The majority of my social work career has been in medical social work, as I have worked in the hospital, hospice and home care. I received my previous experience with adoptions while working as a hospital social worker. I have been married for 26 years, and have two step-children and one granddaughter. I have lived in Tuscarawas County all my life. I love to hike, garden, and travel."



Pamela Patton  
Adoption Assessor

## While You Are Waiting..... (new tips each quarter!!)

- ◆ Join or look into Support Groups or Parenting Groups
- ◆ Continue "dating;" it is essential that you spend time together to cement your relationship before becoming parents
- ◆ Experiment with cooking new or ethnic meals
- ◆ Take up scrap booking or another hobby to document the time spent waiting for your child
- ◆ Begin a journal
- ◆ Research parenting techniques, discipline strategies
- ◆ Clean out closets, empty rooms, attics, basements

### LC Stats

- **Currently working with a few birthmothers**
- **Had two families join our program, one of which is a 2nd timer!!!**
- **Two recent placements, and a finalization coming soon!!**

### Did You Know?

- **Loving Choice has signage on area Stark County transportation SARTA buses!!! Look for one near you!!**
- **Loving Choice has a website: [www.lovingchoice.org](http://www.lovingchoice.org)**
- **Loving Choice is on Facebook!**
- **Community Services website: [www.since1919.org](http://www.since1919.org)**



## Resources, Books, Websites

At Loving Choice, we are hoping to be as helpful, as considerate, and as respectful of your needs as a waiting family as we possibly can. We understand how taxing the wait can be emotionally, and we offer our support in helping you through the waiting period from application through finalization.

That being said, there are resources we know of, are aware of, and may have access to, that may be of interest to our waiting families. And, as time is a limited commodity these days, some of the assessors may have unique input about these resources.

In this section, we hope to bring you book titles, websites, groups or meetings, that will assist you as you wait for your child. And, when possible, whether through assessor review or a review from a waiting family (hint, hint), we will offer reviews and recommendations on the resources. For now, these should get you started!!

Adopt US Kids  
<http://adoptuskids.org/>

The Essential Adoption Handbook  
by Colleen Alexander-Roberts

## What's Going on at Community Services of Stark County?

Did you know that Community Services of Stark County has been involved with adoptions since 1919? And that our agency began with adoption services as one of its cornerstone programs?

If not, now is the time to learn more about the agency in which you have placed your hopes in completing your family. Community Services offers a wide variety of programs (mental health, housing programs, employment assistance, psychological assessments, etc.) for the community, including Loving Choice Adoption Services.

As a cornerstone program, we have a wealth of experience with adoption, working with birthmothers, and finding the right match for you and your family. Our assessors are trained to gauge the commitment of a birthparent, and to get detailed information for adoptive families. Our assessors can accurately assess the needs of the birthparent and how it will affect their decisions. So sit back, relax, and let us do the work for you! We are trained to support the waiting families, as well as birthparents, so you can rest assured that everyone is satisfied with their decisions.



## International Adoptions at Loving Choice

Loving Choice is an approved provider for Holt International as well as several other international agencies. We provide home study services, post placement services, and support for international adoptions. Over the years we have welcomed children from Ghana, China, Liberia, India and many other countries. Look for more information next issue!



## Ask Your Assessor.....

As assessors and professionals working in the adoption field, we often get questions from waiting families. And sometimes, that question gets asked by many different families.....so to improve communication, and offer some advice, we will have a question and answer section in each quarterly issue!!

To submit questions, you may submit via mail (addressed to Melissa Moore), through the website, or email Melissa Moore, at [mmoore@csstark.org](mailto:mmoore@csstark.org). Contact information and address is located at the bottom of the newsletter.

Looking forward to your questions!!!!

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