

Children's Aid Societies are seeking diverse families looking to adopt



Three Children's Aid Societies, Toronto, Toronto Catholic and Peel, are partnering on a targeted outreach program to the African, African-Canadian and Caribbean community looking for potential adoptive parents for the black and black bi-racial children who are waiting for loving homes. There is an urgent need for adoptive families from these communities.

The outreach project includes a series of articles and profiles of children waiting for adoption which will appear in this newspaper over the next 12 months. As well, staff from these agencies will approach churches with large African, African-Canadian and Caribbean members who wish to create or add to their family through adoption. "These communities have a long cultural practice of looking after children in their community," says Judith Wong, Adoption Recruiter at Peel Children's Aid. "We want to build on that tradition and compassion".

This outreach is a joint project of Peel, Toronto and Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Societies. We are looking for black and black bi-racial families who are interested in adoption. Please contact your local children's aid society if you are interested or visit their websites: www.peelcas.org, www.ccas.toronto.on.ca, www.TorontoCAS.ca

The reality is that there are hundreds of children in the care of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies waiting to be adopted. Adoption is a legal process that gives children a new family when their birth family is unable to care for them. Each year, children who become crown wards are legally free to be adopted by loving and caring families. Some of those children are infants, sibling groups, school aged or teens.

"The key to a successful adoption is finding the right match. It is our aim to match families and children from similar racial and ethnic backgrounds," adds Wong. "In addition to finding the right cultural match, there are other considerations when exploring adoption. Some of our older children waiting to be adopted have had painful experiences and need time to adjust to a new home. Other children may have special needs, developmental or physical challenges. While each child is unique, all can benefit from becoming part of a warm and loving family".

The gift of adoption is not only a benefit to a child; it is a wonderful way to create, grow and bring diversity to a family. "We had a home and wanted to share it with a child who needed the love and support we could provide," says Andrea who recently adopted a young girl named Aaliyah.