



Central California Adoption Services
Infant of Prague

ADOPTION CONNECTION

Summer 2018



Change is in the Air

Sylvia Coyle, Executive Director

What does 65 years of service to children and families in our community look like? Over 1,600 loving and lasting families have been brought together through our organization. More than 10,000 clients have turned to us for counseling in their time of need.

In our 65 years we have gone through some changes, but our focus has always been to help in times of crisis and build loving families through adoption.

We are extremely proud of the work we have done in this time. We have changed lives and supported the brave decisions mothers make to offer their child a better life.

But 65 years doesn't pass without the need for improvement and fine-tuning, and I am happy to share some exciting new changes with you in this newsletter.

First, you may have noticed that the name of our organization is slightly different. We have modified our logo to make Central California Adoption Services more prominent. The reason for this board decision is explained further in the newsletter.

Along with this change, our website has a fresh new look and has been strategically engineered to rank higher in search results to increase the number of visitors who find us.

We are working to create expanded counseling programs through a sister corporation, Adoption Resource Foundation. The Foundation will expand our ability to provide much-needed resources to all persons touched by adoption.

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SUPPORT US WHEN YOU SHOP

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"65 years doesn't pass without the need for improvement and fine-tuning..."

And last, but not least, after more than 20 years in our Palm and Bullard location, we have moved our offices to a new site on Shaw Avenue.

The new location provides a more efficient use of space, is easier for our clients to find and furthers our goal of being good stewards of the money we receive through services and donations.

I'm proud of how our organization has evolved over time to provide state of the art open adoption services and counseling to women at their greatest time of need, and my staff, board and I are very excited about our future.

I am so fortunate to have been able to lead this organization for the last year and a half in fulfilling a mission that I am passionate about. Our belief that every child deserves the best will always remain at the heart of everything we do. That is one thing that will never change.

Sylvia Coyle
Executive Director

Our Staff

We have had a few staff changes since our last newsletter.

[Sylvia Coyle](#) was named Executive Director in February 2017. She worked as an attorney in private practice and the nonprofit sector for 28 years, prior to joining the agency.

[Rachel Garcia-Walker, MSW](#) has been promoted to supervisor of Social Work and recently celebrated her second year with the agency.

[Victoria Novielli, MSW](#) will be celebrating her second anniversary with us this fall.

[Roxanne Rivas, MSW](#) joined us in March.

[Jennifer Mann, MSW](#) has come out of retirement to help us with a particular focus on counseling.

[Susan Harbin, MFT](#) will be guiding us as we form new counseling programs for our Adoption Resource Foundation.

[Gloria Ridenour - Office Manager](#) just celebrated her 11th anniversary with us.

[Joni Heckman Bookkeeper/Project Coordinator](#) will be celebrating six years with us in January.



Central California Adoption Services
Infant of Prague

New Name, Same Mission

In 1953, our agency was founded by priests and lay people affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Fresno who named the organization after a popular devotion to the Infant Christ Child of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Since the devotion stressed special blessings for children and families, at the time it seemed an appropriate name for an agency that has always been dedicated to serving the needs of children by building healthy families through adoption.

For many years, the agency operated as a member of Catholic Charities, but in 1997 Infant of Prague Central California Adoption Services became a full-service, nonprofit, secular licensed adoption agency.

Over the years clients and members of the community have expressed confusion about our name; do we only serve Catholic women and families, do we only place babies from Czechoslovakia? As many of you may know, our agency has always been licensed only for domestic adoption and when we separated from Catholic Charities in the 1980s, we became a secular nonprofit. So, while our name is near and dear to us, our board of directors thought now was a good opportunity to clarify our status through a slight name change. After 65 years we weren't ready to abandon our roots, so we maintain the name Infant of Prague to honor proudly our history and legacy.

Along with the new name, comes a slight change to our logo. But what remains constant is our commitment to supporting women in crisis, serving the needs of children and building healthy families through education, supportive counseling, and healthy, modern adoption practices.

65th**Anniversary Celebration****A TOAST TO THE CHILDREN****Friday, October 5 6 - 9 p.m.****The Falls Event Center, Fresno****For tickets www.eventbrite.com (search for Toast to the Children)**

65 years...now that's cause for celebration!

Make plans to join us for A Toast to the Children on Friday, October 5th at the Falls Event Center in Fresno. Enjoy a wine and beer tasting, delicious hors d' oeuvres, live music by Hella Fitzgerald and so much more.

Tickets are \$65 – just one dollar for every year we have been helping women and building strong, healthy families.

To learn more about how you can help support this event, please see the enclosed sponsorship form on page 4. In addition to sponsorships, we are also seeking gift cards and items for our surprise box offerings.

Tickets are available now at our office or online at www.eventbrite.com. Mark your calendar for the first Friday in October to join in on the fun.

All children deserve a loving family and the best opportunities available to them. Please consider supporting us in our efforts and help us continue our good work for the next 65 years.

SUPPORT US WHEN YOU SHOP

More and more of us are shopping online for gifts, clothing and basic household items. But did you know that with just a few clicks a portion of your sale can be donated to Central California Adoption Services – Infant of Prague?

We currently work with two organizations that will donate a percentage of your purchases if you designate our organization as your charity of choice. It's an easy way to help us build happy and healthy families without costing you a cent more.

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. But when you shop on this site, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our organization.

Simply visit www.smile.amazon.com and from the drop-down menu select Infant of Prague as your charity. Whenever you shop online, start at smile.amazon.com to make your purchases. You might find it helpful to bookmark the website so whenever you need to make a purchase you can be sure that your dollars will also be supporting our mission of serving children and families.

E-Scrip and Benefit

Another way to support our adoption services while shopping locally and online is through E-Scrip. Just sign up for the free service at www.escrip.com and choose Infant of Prague as your charity. Whenever you shop and dine with registered cards you earn money for our organization. It's that simple.

There is also a handy smartphone app called Benefit that allows you to shop and earn. With Benefit, you can buy and redeem gift cards with your mobile phone and a portion of your purchase will be donated to our agency. There is no cost to you or us.

Just download the Benefit app at escrip.com. One of the great features of this app is that you can buy e-cards in the exact amount of your purchase (above the minimum – which is many cases is just \$10). To make it work for you and us, once your account is established, simply wait for the cashier to give you your total – purchase your card in the exact amount on the spot and show it to the cashier. Benefit will high five you letting you know how much you just donated to our agency at no cost to you!

Toast to the Children

FRI / 10.5.18 / 6 PM

THE FALLS EVENT CENTER

All sponsors will be recognized at the event

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 - Private Reserve Twenty (20) complimentary tickets Logo at event Logo on event advertisements | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 - Vintner's Collection Ten (10) complimentary tickets Logo at event Logo on event advertisements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 - Winemaker's Select Eight (8) complimentary tickets Name placement at event | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - Cellar Master's Choice Four (4) complimentary tickets Name placement at event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - Connoisseur Two (2) complimentary tickets | |

ADDITIONAL TICKETS AND DONATIONS

Additional Tickets (\$65 each) \$ _____

Silent Auction Donation \$ _____

General Donation \$ _____

I would like to set up a Monthly Reoccurring Donation, please contact me _____

I would like to volunteer, please contact me _____

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Dr. First _____ Last _____

Business/ Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please keep this donation anonymous

PAYMENT METHOD

Check enclosed (Please make check payable to IPAS)

Credit Card Number: _____ CVV: _____ Exp _____

PayPal through IPAS website: www.infantofprague.org/donation

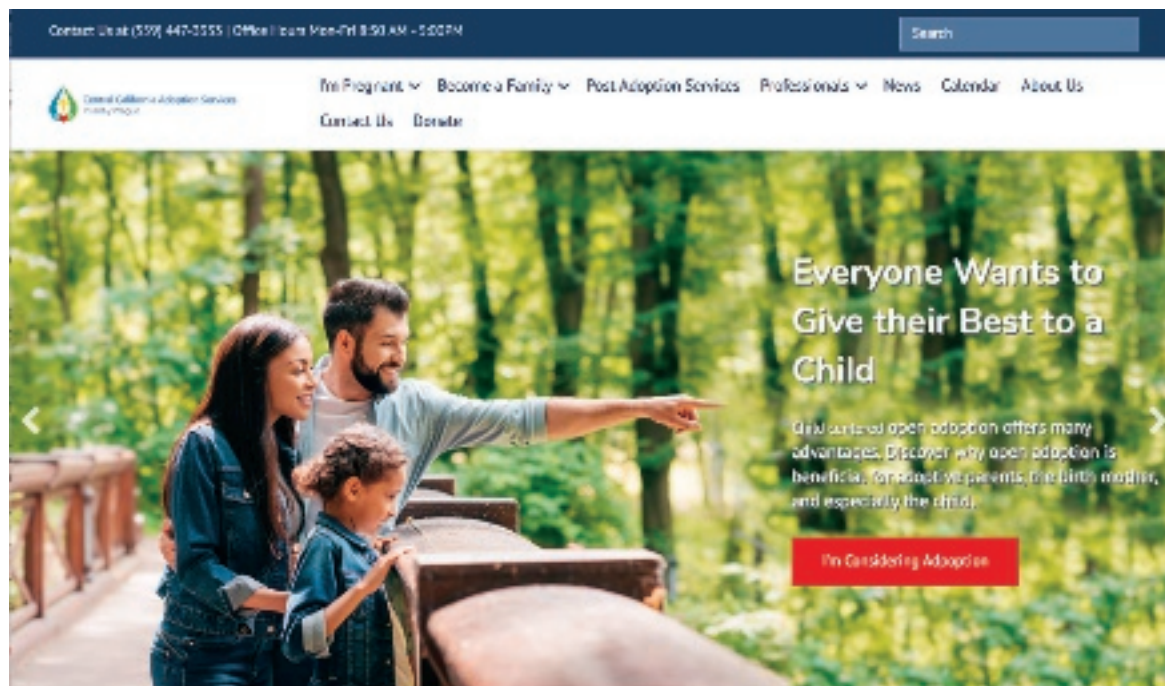
For more information on a "Toast to the Children" or sponsorships, please call
559.447.3333



Central California Adoption Services
Infant of Prague

2350 W. Shaw Ave., Suite 142
Fresno, CA 93711-3412





Check Out Our New and Improved Website

We are excited to announce our recently relaunched website. After weeks of planning, research and learning how to offer a better online experience for our birth parents, adoptive parents, referral sources and community, we are really pleased with the results.

The new site provides easy navigation to help visitors quickly find the information they need. It also offers a fresh and clean design with new photography and is fully optimized for mobile devices, making it easy to navigate on phones and tablets.

Behind the scenes, we have worked with a web developer who is skilled in Search Engine Optimization (SEO), so the website will have greater exposure and increase our visibility on Google and other major search engines.

Going forward, we will continue to add fresh content that is relevant, interesting and informative for all visitors wanting to learn more about our services. We hope you will visit our new website and let us know what you think. You can still find us at the same URL address: www.infantofprague.org.

Adoption Resource Foundation: Our New Nonprofit A New Nonprofit to Support People Touched by Adoption

Adoption-related issues may arise for birthparents, adopted children and adoptive parents and families at any time and at any age. Even when adoption is a positive experience, members of the adoption triad can struggle with grief, loss and other issues.

Central California Adoption Services – Infant of Prague prides itself in being the only agency in our region to offer lifelong counseling services to adoptees, and we are happy to announce that we are preparing to launch our Adoption Resource Foundation which will expand the services we can provide.

The Adoption Resource Foundation will offer post-adoption support services to anybody touched by adoption to help them work through adoption-related challenges to ensure everyone in the family is happy, healthy and well-adjusted.

Adoption is a lifelong process that shapes children and their families, and each situation is complex and unique. Our trained and experienced therapists are available to help.

We are also asking any of our Ambassadors to contact us if they would like to share their insights as we expand our counseling services.



Central California Adoption Services
Infant of Prague

2350 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 142
Fresno, California 93711

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 1047

We've Moved

After more than 20 years at our Palm and Bullard location, we have moved to a new location on West Shaw Avenue near Van Ness Extension.

The new location provides more efficient space, will be easier for our clients to find and fits better within our budget. We hope you will drop by to say “hello.”

Central California Adoption Services – Infant of Prague
2350 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 142
Fresno, California 93711
(559) 447-3333

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On call for providers and birthmothers 24/7