

## Adoption Exchange Association

AEA's Every Child Deserves a Family project promotes best practices in foster care adoption and presents children who are waiting to be adopted and families who are hoping to adopt. Through this exchange of information, AEA facilitates adoptive placements across states and jurisdictions to improve the lives of children growing up in foster care.

### The Need!

More than 100,000 children are waiting to be adopted in the U.S. foster care system. Collaborate: AEA's National Matching Catalogue and AEA's Member of the Month news/learning sessions offer a valuable service to adoption professionals who are struggling to match children with adoptive families.

The National Matching Catalogue promotes children who are waiting to be adopted and families who are hoping to adopt. Some of the longest waiting children in foster care are highlighted in the catalogue. 73% of children featured in the catalogue are teenagers. 43% are children of color. Several are members of sibling groups hoping to be adopted together.

Collaborate brings greater awareness of specific children who are waiting to be adopted but are unable to be presented publicly. The national publication is shared with AEA members who are invited to share the many wonderful qualities of these children with potential families to create adoption matches.

### Goals:

1. Disclose information on children waiting to be adopted in the foster care system who cannot be publicly presented.
2. Facilitate an exchange of useful information to help professionals match children with families.
3. Provide opportunities for peers to share best practices in foster care adoption.