



STAR NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT ADOPTEE RIGHTS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

[FROM THE PRESIDENT]

WELCOME! I am pleased to have this edition of our newsletter focus on the gratitude we have for all who have supported us as we work to restore adult adopted Texan's access to their original birth certificates!

THANK YOU to the adoption agencies that have signed on to an alliance that supports the physical and mental well-being of adopted Texans throughout their lifespan!

THANK YOU to the national and state organizations that have supported our legislation and prove that those who set the standard of care for the well-being of adopted children and adults believe adopted adults should have access to their original birth certificates!

THANK YOU to our lobbyist, Kathy Grant for her *pro bono* commitment to helping our board negotiate the political challenges at the Texas Capitol!

THANK YOU to the Texas House for voting in support of the best care for Texas-born children and adults who are adopted and acknowledging the basic humanity of legislation that allows adopted adults to have access to their original birth certificates, their own vital record.

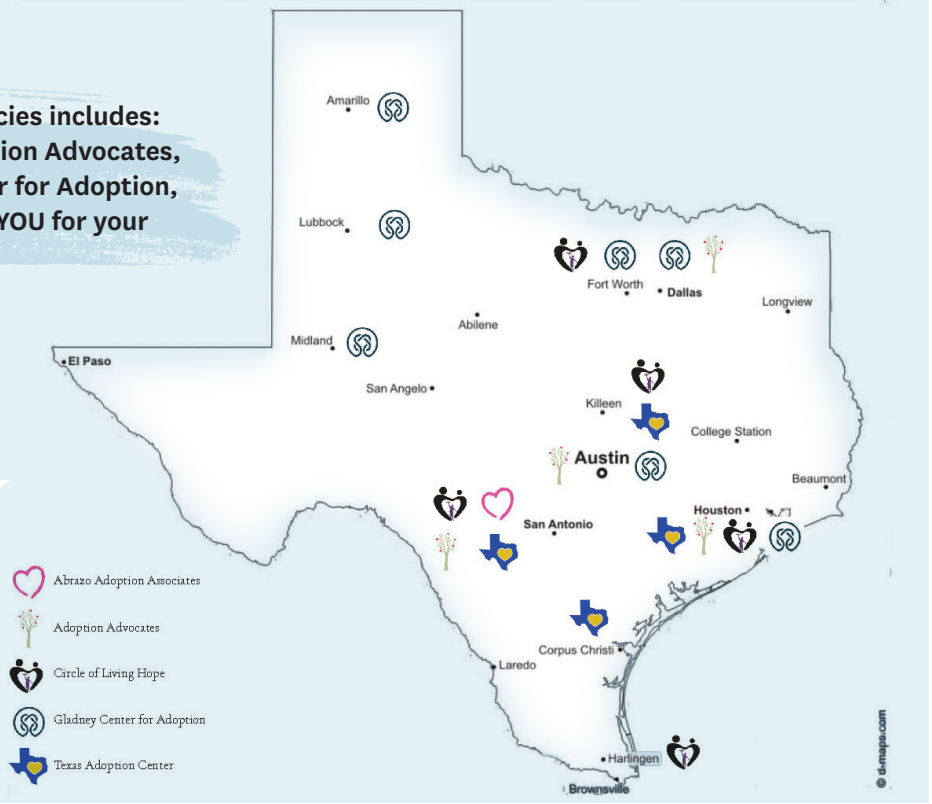
STAR could not do this work without the support of all these people who are creating a growing chorus of voices in support of truth and compassion for all involved in adoption. If you would like to join us in our efforts, please contact us at: STAR@texasadopteerights.org ★

Thank you!

Joellen Peters, Ph.D.
Board President Support Texas Adoptee Rights

The Texas Alliance of Adoption Agencies includes: Abrazos Adoption Associates, Adoption Advocates, Circle of Living Hope, Gladney Center for Adoption, and Texas Adoption Center. THANK YOU for your support!"

VITAL RECORDS ARE VITAL



VOICES OF ADOPTED TEXANS

[AMY GREGORCYK]

I was born prematurely in Ft. Worth, TX. My Biological Mom made the most selfless decision and gave me up for someone else to raise, as she could not. I had an amazing childhood with loving and caring parents and community. All I knew about my biological parents was hair color, weight, height and favorite school subjects. As a kid, that information was “cool”. As I got older, that information was not enough. What about diseases and hereditary conditions?

My desire to know about my medical history intensified when I became pregnant with my daughter in the fall of 1995. My pregnancy was difficult and my baby girl was delivered prematurely in April. By the grace of God, we had her 33 days here on earth. I went on to have 3 miscarriages. Since my daughter’s father was adopted too, we had a double whammy. Doctors asked again if we knew our medical history. The answer was always no. We had none.

I eventually got my “records” from the agency I was adopted from. Much information was deleted, but my medical record was eerily similar to my daughters. I learned that I was resuscitated several times. I learned that that my Bio-Mother had a tumor removed from her stomach at the age of 10. This is information that MY PARENTS AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT.

Unfortunately, I do not have biological children. Yet, I am so glad that recently I obtained my family medical history and reunited with biological family through DNA. I learned that I have a genetic condition, where my body will not absorb the folic acid without the help of a binder. Similar pregnancy losses run throughout my biological family. If I had this information, I could have saved the lives of my children, but painfully, I was not given that privilege.

Access to my medical records, while too late to save my children, has helped me let go of the guilt and hurt due to the losses of my babies. All adoptees should have access to their medical information! It can save lives! ★

[MISSION]

STAR is a statewide 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization composed of more than 2,000 Texas adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents dedicated to advocating for legislation that would restore access to original birth certificates (OBCs) for adult adoptees in Texas.

[IMPORTANT FACTS]

★★★
77%
of all Texans support adult adoptee’s access to their OBCs.*

★
600,000+
Texas born adult adoptees.
Vital Records are **VITAL**

** Based on a 2021 poll by Baselice & Associates*

[CONTACT]

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!
On behalf of STAR we pay special tribute to the following organizations and agencies.

