



St. Elizabeth Foundation

Supporting Adoption in Louisiana Since 1988



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Director's Message



Friends,

In this very special month of November when adoption is celebrated across our country, National Adoption Month, we once again celebrated our birth mothers whose decision to make an adoption plan for their babies, gives the gift of life, love, and a forever family. We held a Birthmother Picnic on November 8th at LSU's Hilltop Arboretum, where our founders, staff, and birth mothers had a chance to come together, enjoy good food, view the gardens, and celebrate the gift of life.

Since the beginning of 2020, we have been very busy. Eight infants were placed with eager adoptive parents. Along with the rest of the world, Louisiana and our communities were affected by the novel coronavirus. The team at St. Elizabeth has persevered and continued to serve the needs of our birth mothers and adoptive parents in a safe and timely manner. We expect to remain very busy in 2021!

We will be working diligently to fulfill our mission to provide an alternative to abortion or parenting when unprepared. Everything we do, our service, our social occasions and our educational opportunities are designed to enhance the mission! Thank you all, dear friends of St. Elizabeth Foundation, for your constant support. Each and every year we need it more!

- Teri James Casso



The Book Nook

ABOUT "THE STORY OF MY OPEN ADOPTION"

Leap into a warm-hearted tale about a little squirrel who was adopted at birth! Join Sammy as Mom and Dad Rabbit bring him to meet his first family. With its whimsical illustrations and appealing rhymes, this storybook is perfect to read aloud to children age 3-5. Open adoption can be complex as well as joyful. Sammy's story opens the door for kids to talk honestly about their experiences and feelings.

Observing National Adoption Month

November is recognized as National Adoption Month.

Activities and celebrations all around the country take place to honor the adoption option. St. Elizabeth Foundation chooses to pay tribute to birth parents! These courageous women and men make adoption dreams come true and are an important part of a child's identity. This year we celebrated at the Birthmother Picnic.

If you have a closed adoption, consider starting an annual tradition to honor your child's birth mother. You could light a candle or have a bouquet at dinner, say a special prayer before bed, make a donation to an organization in her honor, or just spend an evening talking about the respect your family has for her.

For families who have a more open relationship, you could send a special National Adoption Month pictures and letter package. For many women, the holidays are the hardest part of the year because it holds so many reminders of family togetherness. National Adoption Month and the holidays could be the perfect time to communicate with your child's birth parents!



A Snapshot of 2020

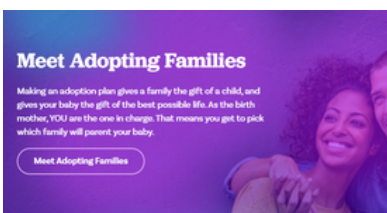


- The entire staff at St. Elizabeth participated in a training on poverty, provided by Hope Ministries, as a chance to learn how to better serve those in our community.
- St. Elizabeth Foundation gave a presentation to National Child and Family Services and participated as an exhibitor in the Louisiana Association of Drug and Specialty Courts Conference and Together We Can Conference. Each of these events allowed for an opportunity to share our adoption story and network with attorneys, judges, child welfare experts and caseworkers as well as the parents of adopted children.

- St. Elizabeth Foundation and one of our precious families were featured in an article in "The Advocate". We told our story of how adoptions are continuing to take place in the midst of the pandemic. You can still view it on "The Advocate" website, www.theadvocate.com.
- In addition, the coronavirus forced us to cancel our annual gala. However, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated gala committee and Gala Chair, we quickly launched our very first virtual auction and fundraiser. The generosity of our supporters and communities helped to make this event a huge success!



- St. Elizabeth Foundation launched a brand new website this year! We are so proud to have several new features including adopting family profiles and a blog. We hope the new content and layout will further our mission of spreading awareness of the modern adoption option. Visit our website at www.stelizabethfoundation.org.
- Most importantly, 8 adoption placements occurred, countless options counseling sessions were provided, and multiple visits/reunions between birth families and adoptive families were facilitated through St. Elizabeth Foundation!



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