

You're pregnant and
it was unplanned.

You needn't feel alone...

Parenting or adoption...
we support your decision.
Catholic Social Services
is here to help you consider
what path to choose.

Contact Information

Address 4925 Packard, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1521
For information 734.971.9781 ext. 321
Visit us on the web www.csswashtenaw.org/adoption
e-mail adoption@csswashtenaw.org

Open Adoption... What is it? Why should you care?

The key word describing open adoptions is empowerment. As a birth parent, you are empowered because you choose your child's future family from a pool of applicants. Adoptive families are empowered knowing that they have the approval and support of the birth parents. Lastly, the children involved grow up knowing they are valued by all the adults in their lives.

Open Adoption is...

- Birth parents choosing, meeting and developing a lifelong relationship with the adoptive family
- Adoptive and birth parents creating a mutually agreeable plan to communicate regarding the child
- Mutual respect for all involved in the adoption circle
- On-going education and resources for birth and adoptive families

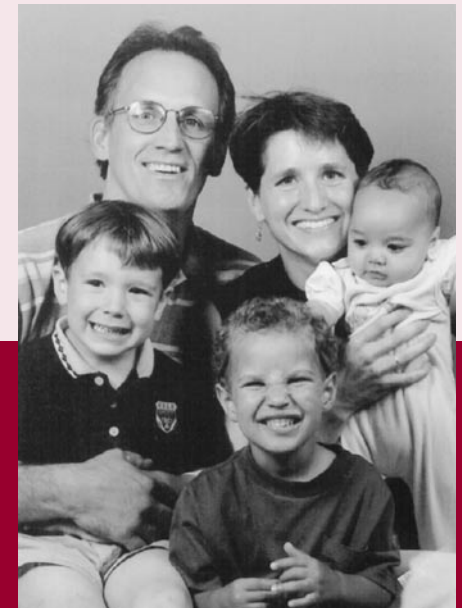
Open Adoption is not...

- Shared parenting. Birth parents relinquish legal parental rights
- Confusing or muddled. The roles are clearly defined for both the adoptive and birth families

Adoption is Lifelong...

Adoption is a journey affecting birth parents, adoptive parents and adoptees alike. Catholic Social Services understands the unique challenges for each member of the adoption circle and provides ongoing support for all involved.

- As a birth parent, you will learn to appreciate the reality of choosing an adoption plan and working through your conflicted emotions
- Adoptive parents are prepared to embrace their new role parenting a child with his or her own distinct heritage
- At any time of their lives, all members of the adoption circle may come to Catholic Social Services for counseling, support groups, workshops, and social events
- Catholic Social Services provides the means to network with other birth parents, adoptive families and children in similar circumstances



Catholic Social Services will assist you in exploring the options of becoming a parent, or if interested, pursuing an adoption plan. All services, from counseling to referrals to long-term support, are offered at no charge.

Services for Pregnant Women

- Counseling for women, men and family members
- Information about parenting options or adoption planning
- Service referrals to meet medical, financial, education, nutrition, legal, and housing needs
- Identify and help build a support network

If you decide to parent, CSS will...

- Link you to outside resources such as parenting classes
- Provide referrals to programs designed to assist you at home

If you decide to pursue an adoption plan, CSS will...

- Provide information about adoption as a lifelong process
- Support you in choosing and meeting the adoptive family
- Assist you in redefining your role with the child
- Encourage you to name, feed and hold your child in the hospital
- Encourage you to bring your baby home after birth for several days if so desired
- Foster the belief that children have the right to have their birth parent(s) involved in their lives forever

Our Mission

Building on the values of Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County responds to community needs, respects the dignity of all individuals and families in all their diversity, and works to improve their quality of life.

What Does This Mean?

Serving all ages, all faiths and all walks of life with programs dedicated to...

- ❖ Services for Families With Children Ages Birth to Five Years
- ❖ Services to Improve the Quality of Life for Older Adults
- ❖ Services to Intervene and Prevent Abuse and Neglect
- ❖ Services Providing Counseling and Support for Individuals and Families

Special Recognitions

Endorsed by the Council on Accreditation

Washtenaw County Bar Association

Martin Luther King, Jr. I Have a Dream Award

N.E.W. Center Excellence in Management Award



Pregnant?

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Explore the Options of Parenting & Adoption



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OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

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