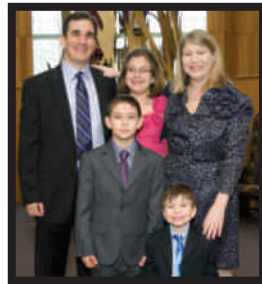


Tara is Adoption ARC's founder. She also served as Adoption ARC's executive director from 1994-2009. She began her career as an attorney with the City of Philadelphia Law Department, where she handled hundreds of child abuse and neglect cases and many termination of

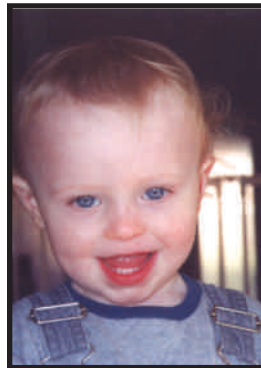
parental rights hearings. Later, she worked for a private, nonprofit adoption agency in Philadelphia, encountering the range of issues she now confronts at Adoption ARC, while specializing in termination-of-parental-rights hearings and adoption finalizations.

Ms. Gutterman is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association. In 2008, she was awarded the Congressional "Angel in Adoption Award" as nominated by her senator. She is licensed to practice law in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Merle is Adoption ARC's interim Executive Director. She has worked informally with Adoption ARC since its inception in March 1994. Merle even designed the first Adoption ARC brochures and continues to help design the newsletters and other marketing materials. Merle received her Master of Education degree in Counseling Psychology in 2007 from Temple University and her Master of Science degree in Technical and Science Communication from Drexel University in 1996.



In 2005, Merle returned to graduate school for Counseling Psychology. Merle interned at Calcutta House, a residential facility in North Philadelphia for people who are homeless and have HIV. Merle provided one-on-one and group counseling to the residents. In 2007, Merle worked for a social service agency in Manhattan called Project Renewal. She provided vocational counseling for people with severe mental health disorders. In September 2008, Merle began working full-time for Adoption ARC as a birth parent counselor and administrative supervisor. While at Adoption ARC, she was able to combine her counseling and administrative skills together to grow with the agency. In late 2009, she was promoted to Executive Director. Merle is a member of the American Counseling Association.



### History

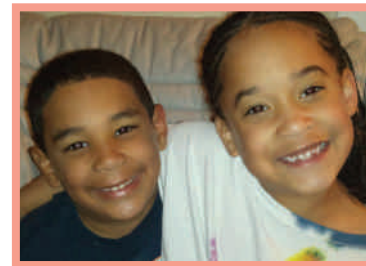
Adoption Arc was born in March, 1994 in response to the growing number of babies born in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware who need permanent homes. Families from Pennsylvania, New Jersey Delaware, the United States, Canada, and abroad are eager and able to accept these children permanently into their homes.

### Licenses

The agency is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, the New Jersey Licensing Bureau and the State of Delaware to provide adoption, foster care, and child welfare services to the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware communities and beyond.

### Mission

Adoption ARC's goal is to service birth families, children and adoptive families by providing a safe, permanent home regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or disabling conditions. Adoption ARC emphasizes an absolute regard for the highest caliber of legal and ethical standards to accomplish its mission.



4701 Pine Street, #J-7, Philadelphia, PA 19143  
1 (800) 884-4004 (215) 748-1441  
www.adoptionarc.com





## Statistics

To date, Adoption ARC

- placed more than 850 children into safe, stable homes.
- serviced more than 2500 birth families.
- assisted a great deal of kinship and community placements in our efforts to promote our mission.
- continues to work with area clinics, social workers, and agencies.



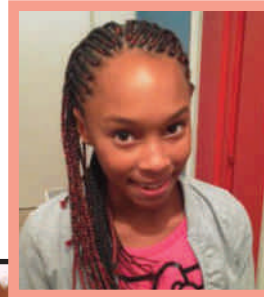
## Subsidy Success

While it did not make newspaper headlines, Adoption ARC made case law again in 1999 with a matter of first impression. For the first time in Philadelphia County history, the court ordered the County to certify special needs children placed through private agencies as "eligible" for adoption subsidy. Legal services were performed by Former Executive Director, Tara E. Gutterman, Esquire. It is our hope that this will facilitate new statutory amendments, making it easier for all of our special needs children to gain the benefits which they deserve.

## Accomplishments

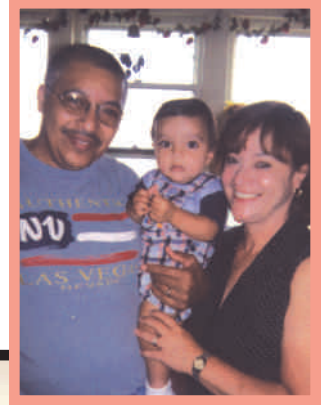
### Baby Mitch and Baby Jasmine!

Politically, Adoption ARC has been instrumental in changing policy in the Philadelphia area regarding abandoned infants. Two infants were placed in ARC's custody by The Court of Common Pleas in March, 1996 and April, 1996. In May 1996, ARC hosted an area meeting of child advocates, adoption agencies, and the ACLU to address issues such as subsidies for special needs children. ARC also holds Adoption Information Sessions both for groups and one-on-one. Some of our adoptive families attend the sessions and speak about their adoption experiences.



## Who is eligible to Adopt?

Anyone – single, married, divorced, nontraditional families – anyone of any race, color, or religion who has a valid home study as well as child abuse and criminal clearances. You must have love in your heart for a child who needs a permanent, safe home.

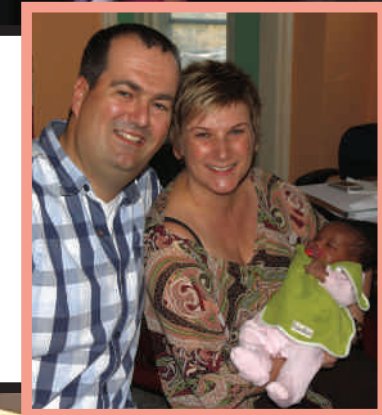


## How long is the waiting list?

Adoption ARC does not maintain a waiting list. The personality of the child is matched with that of the family. It is conceivable that you may welcome a child into your home very shortly after the home study is completed.

## What is an open adoption?

Adoption ARC believes that birth families, children, and adoptive families deserve to have ongoing relationships. Contact is encouraged, but not pushed. It has to be the right relationship for all parties involved.



## What is home study?

A home study is like a biography written about you and your family by a licensed agency social worker. No child may be placed for adoption in the United States without a valid home study.

## What happens after placement?

Post-placement visits. Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware mandate post placement home visits by a licensed agency social worker. Adoption ARC can provide post-placement visits for you, if desired, and if you are in Pennsylvania, New Jersey or Delaware.

