

Holy Family Adoptive Parents (HFAP)

This group supports its member families and educates the public about the joys of adoption. Through the "Buddy System", they lend support to those waiting to adopt. HFAP provides opportunities for adoptees and adoptive parents to socialize by hosting many events throughout the year.

The 200 Associates

This group holds no fund-raisers and elects no officers. Each individual member, charity group or parish makes an annual contribution to support the agency's free counseling to birth parents. HFS hosts a Membership Tea in the Los Angeles area once a year.

The Adoption Guild of Southern Orange County

This enthusiastic group of women holds several events throughout the year. Their famous Roy Emerson Tennis Tournament is the largest doubles tournament in the nation. Proceeds support HFS' adoption and foster care programs.

The Angelique Guild

A supportive fund-raising organization that includes many adoptive mothers and daughters as members. The Angelique Guild's "angels" hold an annual fashion show which is very successful. All proceeds go to benefit HFS.

Friends of the Family

This is the newest support group at HFS coordinated by Mary Bruno. The volunteers will provide staffing for the 200 Associates Tea and any other events for HFS. In addition, the group will provide items needed by our families and children.

Fees

Birth parents receive pregnancy counseling, referrals, adoption planning, and follow-up counseling at no charge.



Adoptive parents fees are set on an annual basis.

Funding

Holy Family Services is supported through Foundations, grants, United Way, individual and corporate contributions, HFAP, auxiliaries and guilds.

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ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

Promoting
quality family
opportunities for
children without
regard to race,
religion, sex or
ethnic origin,
through education,
counseling and
continuing support
activities.



Services

HFS is a state licensed, nondenominational, nonprofit 501(c)3 agency serving birth parents with unplanned pregnancies and prospective adoptive parents who reside in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Since 1949, HFS has provided a supportive environment for birth parents, offering free options counseling, resources and information to help them decide their future and that of their child. If required, HFS provides temporary foster care of the child by the agency's certified foster families.

If choosing adoption, birth parents are reassured by the fact that all HFS' prospective adoptive families have an approved home study before a child is placed into their home.

Monthly adoption orientations allow prospective adoptive parents to learn about infant adoption. Those interested in older child adoptions may attend a Foster/Adopt orientation.

Birth Parent Counseling

A supportive environment is offered in which expectant women, their partners and families can – without pressure – explore the options of an unplanned pregnancy. Through free professional counseling, they are enabled to decide to parent or place their child. English and Spanish-speaking counselors are available.

Certified Foster Care

When birth parents are unsure about their adoption plan, HFS foster families provide a stable temporary environment for the infant. HFS certified foster homes meet strict criteria and care exclusively for children entrusted to Holy Family Services. Foster families receive training, support, remuneration, and heartfelt gratitude for their loving work.

Foster Adopt

HFS provides adoption of children of all ages currently within California's foster care system. These are children whose parental rights are in the process of being, or have been terminated. Because of the special needs of these children, prospective adoptive parents receive critical training before a child is placed into their home.

“Special Needs” Children

Special needs children are those classified by the State as older, a member of a minority group or mixed race, part of a sibling group or medically, physically or psychologically disabled. They may also be affected by parental drug and/or alcohol dependency. The State of California's Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) provides financial aid to help adoptive parents meet the needs of these special children.

Orientations & Workshops

Infant adoption orientations are held monthly; older child adoption information meetings are provided regularly. Pre-adoption workshops and training cover adoption and parenting issues prior to the home study. Workshops include birth and adoptive parents who share their personal experiences.

Adoption Options

Birth parents considering adoption receive intensive one-on-one counseling during which they explore their various alternatives. Birth and adoptive parents learn about the adoption process which includes these options:

- ▶ **Open Adoption**
Birth parents select and may meet adoptive parents. Together they decide the openness of their relationship after placement. This may range from no contact at all to exchanging letters/photos or occasional visits.
- ▶ **Identified Adoption**
When birth and prospective adoptive parents have a prior relationship and come to the agency together, HFS can provide the required birth parent counseling and the adoptive family home study. Upon birth of the baby, HFS will obtain the relinquishment and provide post-placement services until court finalization of the adoption.
- ▶ **Traditional (Closed) Adoption**
When birth parents prefer no contact with the adoptive parents, HFS will select an appropriate family for the child. Non-identifying information is provided to birth parents after placement.
- ▶ **Independent (Attorney) Adoption**
Birth and adoptive parents working with an attorney, may receive counseling services after agreeing to open adoption. Birth parents are counseled at the expense of the adoptive parents.

Adoptive Parent Requirements

Applicants must be at least 21, in reasonably good health, fiscally sound and if married, married for one year. Single men and women apply with the knowledge that birth parents choosing adoption for their infants often choose a two-parent home for their child. The wait depends on the children available and the adoptive parents' openness to birth parents' requests for their child's adoption plan.

Search & Reunion

Assistance is provided to adult adoptees and birth parents seeking information about their HFS adoption experience.