

November is Adoption Awareness Month

Whether through birth, a relative such as a grandparent, uncle, cousin, an adoptive or foster caregiver, families come together in many different ways. At Peel CAS we believe that children belong at home and will do everything we can to keep families together. We work with parents, caregivers and other organizations to build a safe, strong community. Our goal is to make the lives of children, youth and families better through their interaction with us.

From the onset, Peel CAS examines a variety of options to give children and youth a permanent home. “Ultimately we work to reunite children whether it is back to their own family, extended family, or with someone in their community,” says Bobby Hussein, child protection worker, Permanency Planning. “In some cases adoption is the answer to giving a child or youth a forever home.”

“When I think about Adoption Awareness Month I think about a line in a song by Sam Roberts – You can build a house, you can’t build a home,”

says Bobby. “So much work goes into making adoptions successful and adoptive families truly build homes for the children they adopt.”

Peel CAS is currently looking for adoptive applicants interested in children over eight years of age, children with more complex needs, and siblings. We aim to match the needs of a child with the strengths of a family as well as finding a family of similar ethnic, cultural, community and religious practices.

Did you know?

In 2016-17:

- 192 kinship families and 123 foster families committed to provide love, a home, and continued family connections for children who needed their support
- Peel CAS completed 18 adoptions, which included a number of sibling adoptions.

Every child deserves a forever home. If you are interesting in learning more, please contact Bobby at 905-363-6131 ext 3082 or check out the Fostering and Adoption section on our website www.peelcas.org.

When the stars align – building a family through adoption



Adoption was something Luca and Dave talked about from an early point in their relationship. “I knew from a young age that I wanted to build a family through adoption,” says Luca. “We continued to discuss it over the next couple of years and researched the different options available to us.”

“As a same sex couple, we felt that adopting through Peel CAS was the right fit for us to build our family,” says Dave. “We attended a number of Adoption Resource Exchanges and learned a little more each time.”

It was during a meeting with their Peel CAS worker to renew their paperwork for their home study that they first saw a picture of the little girl who would eventually become their daughter. “We felt an immediate connection to Olivia,” says Luca. “It was almost too good to be true.”

The next step was to meet Olivia in a neutral location. “I will never forget that day,” says Luca. “She was wearing these little brown boots and her hair was pulled up on her head. I was smitten immediately.”

Even Dave, the logical and practical of the two, observed an immediate connection between Luca and Olivia. “I can’t even explain it. It really did seem surreal.”

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They agreed to take time to digest and process that a match had been found. However, it wasn’t long before they decided they wanted to move forward with adopting Olivia, who had just turned two.

“At that point we were transferred to work with Olivia’s worker Julie,” says Dave. “She was a wonderful support person who was always responsive to our questions. She will definitely be on our list for cookies this Christmas!”

Olivia came to live with Luca and Dave in June and her adoption was finalized on October 18. “We had a big celebration of course,” says Luca. “She has won over the hearts of our extended family with her charm, infectious giggle and love of singing.”

Looking back, these new dads say they can’t imagine a time when Olivia wasn’t in their lives. Recently when looking at her Dad and Papa’s wedding pictures she asked “where’s Olivia?” when she didn’t see herself in the photos. “Our five year anniversary is approaching and we are planning something special just so she can be included,” says Dave.

Both Luca and Dave are open to sharing their experience with others. “We recommend that if you are even thinking that you may want to adopt, do your research and get things started,” says Dave. “It takes time, but we felt supported throughout the process.”

“For us the stars aligned,” says Luca. “And now this amazing little girl is our daughter.”



For more information, contact Peel CAS at 905.363.6131 or visit

www.peelcas.org