

KEYNOTE

Soaring Like an Eagle – This talk is inspirational in nature, validating the ups and downs of adoptive family living, but giving hope by illustrating the ultimate result of each triad member being able to go through any storm in life with heads held high. It will be based on the story of how a mother eagle builds her nest and the process she uses of bringing her eaglets to maturity.

Workshop Synopsis (Alphabetical Order)

ADD/ADHD – This workshop will give a basic overview of the diagnosis and treatment of ADD/ADHD and associated disorders.

Adoption Experiences Panel -The panel will consist of adult adoptees, parents of transracial children, and of parents blending together both adoptive and biological children. Audience participants are encouraged to ask questions and panel members will share their invaluable first-hand experiences.

Adoption Over the Life Cycle - This workshop will provide a brief overview of how adoption affects normal life before, during, and after the adoption process. It also discusses the ups and downs you may face with the adoption process and the stresses it may place on other relationships in your life.

Adoption Through a Man's Eye – The purpose of this workshop is to encourage communication and understanding between spouses so that they can work together throughout the adoption process. While it is explored from the man's viewpoint, both men and women find this workshop to be beneficial and enlightening.

Ages and Stages (Infant-10yrs.) – This session will look at these early years in a child's life, and give attendees an idea of what "normal" stages all children go through during these years. The goal is to educate parents and enable them to understand how children develop and to know if the changes are typical or perhaps adoption-related.

Ages and Stages (11-18 yrs.) – This workshop will help parents understand how children change as they go from concrete to abstract thinking. The session will address a child's recognition of loss as they go through middle and high school, and how things like their need for differentiation and movement toward independence are "normal" but can be complicated by adoption issues.

Beyond The Basics of International Adoption – This in-depth session will cover the following: the changing world of international adoption, understanding assumed risk, institution vs. foster care, common medical issues and problems with medical information from abroad, post arrival issues.

Building Hope and Courage in the Adoptee (Life of Moses) - This will present the fact that adoptees often fear being forgotten...by others, but most of all, by God. This talk will be in story form, tracing the life of Moses, an adoptee that lived in biblical times, from the womb to the tomb. It will make the scriptures come to life as each person in the adoption triad is included. Listeners will soon see that even though Moses had issues that are typical for many adoptees, he became one of the world's greatest leaders and was called a "friend of God." This talk is a shot of encouragement in the arm for adoptees and adoptive parents. This will be interactive after each point of lecture, followed by time for questions.

Domestic Adoption Basics – An informative and realistic overview of the various adoption options for anyone who is beginning the adoption process. Included in this session, will be some pointers on writing a birthparent letter.

Domestic Adoption Experiences – A panel of adoptive parents will share their experiences in building their families through domestic adoption. They will focus on issues relating to independent, open, closed, and transracial adoptions.

How to Help Adoptees Make Life-changing Choices - This talk is based on the premise that because of early-life loss, adoptees often see themselves as victims, unable to make healthy choices. What the adoptee needs is for someone to point out the options so that the right choice can be made. Three adoption truths accompanied by adoption choices will be presented in interactive form, followed by time for questions.

How to Help the Adopted Child/Adult Grieve - This section teaches parents a practical tool for helping their children grieve unresolved adoption loss. Sherrie will use her adult grief box as the basis of this talk, but then in break out sessions, participants will discuss what might be in their child's grief box.

How to Raise a Healthy Child – Dr. Scott Zahn will discuss all the basics of raising a healthy child, including: how to choose a physician for your child, immunizations, common childhood illnesses, and nutrition.

International Adoption Basics – A thorough review of international adoption pros and cons, CIS (Citizenship Immigration Service) requirements, IR3 vs. IR4 visas, country programs and requirements, and post adoption requirements.

International Adoption Panel – A panel of families who have formed their families through international adoption will share their experiences in Guatemala, China and Russia.

Legal Issues – This session explores the legal aspects of **domestic** adoptions and how Wisconsin Law affects the different types of adoptions and the attorney's role in the adoption process.

Multicultural Resources – Green Bay's Multicultural Center will highlight opportunities and programs in the area. Hear about African Drumming, Rainbow Children's Choir, Polynesian Dance, Toddler Diversity Playgroup and more. Learn about opportunities to share local cultures and how to introduce your adopted child to other cultures and diversity.

Positive Parenting – Karen Lepaianka will explore how parents can keep a positive attitude (and their sanity) while guiding their children. She will talk about how kids "push buttons" and how those buttons may be different for adoptive families.

Special Needs Adoption – Adoption Resources of Wisconsin will explain how special needs adoption works in the state of Wisconsin, what children are available, how to find out about them, and resources for families considering this type of adoption both before and after placement.

Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew - This talk is based on the book *Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*. The main thrust of this talk is to educate about the primal loss that the adoptee experiences at relinquishment, along with the repercussions. There will be a "How To" section at the end that will give parents specific ideas of how to help their children. It will be interactive in nature and will be followed by time for questions.

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Childrens Health

“Bridging the Gap” Featuring Sherrie Eldridge

March 13, 2004 St. Norbert College, DePere WI

Cost: \$35 for OURS Members per person, \$50 for Non Members per person (includes continental breakfast, keynote address, workshops, printed materials, and lunch). For Late Registrants after March 4th, and for those paying at the conference, the cost is \$40 for OURS Members and \$55 for Non Members per person. Please note that we are unable to accept payment by credit card. An ATM Machine is available at St. Norbert College.

This year, we are excited to be able to bring you our highly regarded keynote speaker:

Sherrie Eldridge is passionate about honoring, educating, and encouraging those whose lives have been touched by adoption and believes that some of life’s most precious lessons can be learned because of adoption. Transforming grief into a gift and loss into a gain are strong themes in her presentations. Known by many for her “Grief Box” tool, Sherrie teaches a practical way to process loss, and convinces listeners through her own story that grief is simply a gift in disguise. It has been written that “With amazing transparency, she equips adoptive parents with the loving tools necessary for successful adoptive parenting and empowers hurting adoptees and birth parents reach a peace about their relinquishment and adoption experiences.” She also provides keynote addresses, seminars, television and radio interviews, and trains adoption and mental health professionals nationally and internationally.

Personal experience is another asset of Sherrie’s. She was reunited with her own birthparents and has two married daughters and six grandchildren, one of whom joined the family through adoption. Sherrie is Founder and President of Jewel Among Jewels Adoption Network, Inc., an educational adoption organization with a quarterly online newsletter for everyone in the adoption triad as well as mental health and adoption professionals. Publications Sherrie has written include: two books, Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish their Parents Knew and Twenty Life-Transforming Choices Adoptees Need to Make, and a study guide to accompany her first book. She is in the process of writing a book involving the subject of teens as they relate to adoption. Sherrie lives in Indiana with her husband of 38 years. Please feel free to check her website www.adoptionjewels.org.

Adoption Agencies and Related Group/Services: The conference display and registration area features a variety of information presented by adoption agencies and related groups and services, as well as an extensive collection of adoption books and other items for sale. Participants can speak directly with agency representatives and members of OURS Through Adoption, the sponsor of the Adoption Conference. This area will remain open until 2:30 pm. Please note that we are unable to accept charge cards. Emergency number that will be in use on the day of the conference is 920-309-5053.

If you have any questions regarding this conference and registration, please contact (920) 435-2626 (920) 662-9175 or (920) 739-4125. Please send the following registration form and payment to Linda Charlier, 2607 Pecan Street, Green Bay, WI 54311. Daycare will not be provided at the conference.

Please complete form, detach and mail with fees to be received by **March 4th**.

The OURS Through Adoption conference is sponsored in part by:



Name: _____

Please check the following that apply:

E-Mail Address: _____
(for confirmation)

Current OURS Member, \$35 per person charge, \$40 if after 3/4/04

Address: _____

Non- Member, \$50 per person charge, \$55 if after 3/4/04

City, State, Zip: _____

Yes, I/we would like to join OURS Through Adoption. The annual dues are \$25 per family, which includes quarterly newsletters, family activities, and access to adoption information. By joining now, I/we can take advantage of the OURS Member conference fees.

Telephone Number: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(Make check payable to OURS Through Adoption)

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ towards OURS Through Adoption. OURS Through Adoption is a 501(c)(3) educational organization used to encourage the adoption of children, provide information to prospective families, provide cultural and social activities for our families, and to provide current adoption information. All donations are tax deductible.

Send to: Linda Charlier, Conference Registrar
2607 Pecan Street
Green Bay, WI 54311

There is a room block for the OURS Conference for March 12, 2004 at the Kress Inn 1-800-221-5070. Queen Rooms are available for \$79.00. Please reserve rooms by February 23, 2004.

CONFERENCE REFUND POLICY: If you are unable to attend, your cancellation must be received on or before March 4, 2004 for a full refund. After this date, 50% of the registration fee will be refunded.

CAMPUS MAP

www.snc.edu

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Milwaukee

Take I-43.
As you near Green Bay,
Exit on 172, (exit 180).
Watch for Webster Exit.
Take this exit.
Turn left onto Webster,
Travel for about 2 miles.
Turn right on George St.
Cross Claude Allouez bridge.
(Look left to see campus)
Once over bridge,
Make 2 quick left turns.
First left is onto 4th St.
Second left is onto Reid St.
Go ½ block.
Turn right onto 3rd St.
Campus will be on your right
Watch for Conference signs.

Taking 41

Travel on Hwy 41 to De Pere.
Watch for Main Ave exit.
Turn East onto Main Ave.
Follow Main Ave to 3rd St.
Turn right onto 3rd St.
Campus will be ahead on left.
Watch for Conference signs.

CAMPUS DIRECTIONS

Refer to Map →
Registration: Sensenbrenner Union (#18)
Workshops: Cofrin Hall (#9)
Watch for signs.

Conference Parking:
Use lots: P3, P4, P5.

If arriving late: Please go directly to Cofrin Hall (#9) [Watch for signs.]

