

{ Gladney at a Glance }

THE GLADNEY STORY

Gladney opened its doors more than a century ago with one man's mission to find loving homes for children. Today the Gladney Center for Adoption is a nationwide leader in adoption services, assisting more than 36,000 birth mothers throughout its history.

A genuine commitment to client service makes Gladney an exceptional adoption agency. We recognize that the needs of birth mothers, adoptive parents and adopted children differ. Each need is addressed individually through flexible, comprehensive programs by professionals and experts in adoption.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ADOPTION

Where do you turn? Who can you trust? What are your choices? Here are some of the most common questions. As you think of others, please ask them. Gladney is here to help you now and at every step of the way.

- q:** What is adoption?
- a:** Adoption is the loving act of biological parents (birth parents) who choose a family to nurture and care for their child. Adoption finds forever homes for children, homes where emotional and financial support creates a stable, lifelong future for your child. When considering adoption, you're thinking about your child and what's best for his or her life.
- q:** What does adoption offer me?
- a:** You have many options with Gladney:
- You can live on the Gladney campus.
 - You can choose and meet the adoptive family for your child.
 - After placement, you can get photos and letters from the adoptive family.
 - Your services can be confidential.
 - You have caring counseling services.
 - You have the future you choose to have.
- q:** What does adoption offer my child?
- a:** By choosing adoption, you give your child:
- The love and security of a mother and a father who are emotionally and financially ready to be parents.
 - Counseling resources through Post-Adoption Services.
- q:** Why should I work with Gladney?
- a:** The caring, professional people at Gladney will help you find the resources and information you need to make the choice that is right for you. We offer assistance with pregnancy-related needs, including medical care and living expenses, and access to an experienced attorney to assist with your adoption. Gladney provides emotional support during your pregnancy and beyond, with services that continue to help you after delivery.
- q:** Who chooses the family for my child?
- a:** You choose the adoptive parents when you are ready. You will have the chance to review profiles from carefully screened, prospective adoptive parents. You can even meet or talk on the phone.
- q:** Am I strong enough to give away my baby?
- a:** Adoption is not about giving away your baby. Adoption is about making a plan for your child's life.
- q:** How do I know the adoptive parents will take good care of my baby?
- a:** Parents who adopt through Gladney must prove that they are emotionally and financially ready to parent. They must complete a rigorous home study process to be approved as adoptive parents. Since so many couples want to adopt, Gladney is extremely selective about the couples with whom we work. Plus, you can watch your child grow up through the photos and letters sent to you from the adoptive parents.
- q:** My mother had me at my age, and she raised me. What if she thinks I should raise my baby?
- a:** Once you know the facts about adoption, you can make the best decision. Think about the dreams that you have for yourself and your child. You and only you have the right to determine your future. Adoption is a gift of love that only you can decide to give.
- q:** Won't the government help me take care of my baby for the first few years?
- a:** In limited ways, yes, but welfare only assists with basic necessities. It does not help you buy clothing, toys, gifts and all the extras you may want and need for your child.
- q:** Will my baby grow up hating me?
- a:** Adoptive parents tell their children, even as babies, of the tremendous love their birth parents have for them. Adopted children grow up with a great deal of respect and a very special love and appreciation for their birth parents.

Just call **1.800.GLADNEY**, and a counselor will assist you. No one will judge you. We're here to listen and to help.

BIRTH MOTHER TESTIMONIALS

"My caseworker was phenomenal, as well, walking me through each step, affirming my emotions and truly caring about what I wanted out of this. Gladney provided me with other birth mothers who have walked in my shoes for me to speak with. I was excited about picking a family and knew right away the adoptive parents and their daughter were the ones. It was still a roller coaster ride of emotions because it meant I was totally and completely committed to the idea of adoption; but I had not told many people about the plan.... Some people were not as supportive, which I knew I would encounter, but I was not going to let anyone discourage me.... Right now I am happy for the family, and happy for my baby that she will have everything, especially a daddy. I am happy for myself that I can share my story without any regrets, and happy that God answered every single one of my prayers during this whole ordeal."

– Rachel, 40, placed in 2006

"Completely scared, I researched everything under the sun. I was going to be a mother whether I was ready or not. When I found Gladney, a sense of relief came over me. I could actually give this innocent child everything he needs. I decided on adoption because I love my baby and want the best for his life. I knew he would receive this from the very special family I chose. I think about him each and every day, knowing I have made the right decision."

– Amanda, 20, placed in 2007

"After meeting with my wonderful counselor, I felt a huge sense of relief and, for the first time, had hope that things were going to work out.... In my sixth month of pregnancy, I moved into Gladney. As I began to meet my roommates and all the other girls at Gladney, I started to feel comfortable and began settling in. It was so reassuring and helpful to be around other young women who faced the same struggle. I shared many laughs and tears with the girls I met, and it was an experience I will never forget."

– Marcy, placed in 1999

"I knew in my heart what I wanted for him and I found his family quickly. I quietly watched their faces as they could do nothing but stare at the tiny miracle they were about to receive. We sat together and talked for a while, and I couldn't help but see the love they had in their eyes for my child. After I saw the happiness they had while they were simply holding him, I was more than one hundred percent sure that I had done the right thing."

– Anonymous, 16, placed in 2007



Gladney Center for Adoption

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