

## Youth In Transition



We began offering YIT in January 2016. YIT mentoring services are designed to help at-risk youth ages 14-23 improve readiness for independence. This program currently serves Midland and Saginaw Counties. Participating youth are paired with an adult mentor based on common interests and overall

compatibility. Youth and Mentor are expected to meet at least twice a month and spend a combined total of at least four hours together every month for at least 12 months.

## Learn Evaluate Achieve & Play



In 2010, with the help of the Midland Area Community Foundation, we began offering a new summer program to youth. The LEAP summer program exists to provide academic enrichment

opportunities and seeks to positively impact middle school youth who have been in foster care or have been adopted by providing them with opportunities to learn in a college setting from mentors with strong records of personal and/or academic achievement.

Additionally, it provides experiential learning opportunities for the youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Students work to improve core academic skills such as reading, writing and critical thinking. LEAP Forward, a new school-year program, provides these youth with follow-up lessons on topics discussed during the LEAP Summer Program.

## Contact Us

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## Mission Statement

To improve the lives  
of the children and  
families we serve.

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## Programs Provided by AOICWO



# Organizational History

Adoption Option Inc. was incorporated in the State of Michigan as a non-profit agency in 2003. In April of 2004, this agency received its license from the State of Michigan to serve as a child placing agency. It authorized our agency to provide several interrelated services connected to Adoption, Foster Licensing and Foster Care.

In 2012 we began offering Family Preservation services to benefit the community. We now offer several Family Preservation programs aimed at helping children to safely return home to their family. These programs include: PACT, PULSE, and AIH. We also offer two additional programs for youth called the Learn Evaluate Achieve and Play (LEAP) program and Youth in Transition (YIT).

Although we are the only private non-profit licensed child-placing agency in Midland, Michigan, our central location permits us to serve families and collaborate with agencies throughout the Mid-Michigan area in counties such as Midland, Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Saginaw and Shiawassee.



## Adoption



Adoption services include completing adoption home studies for those interested in adoption, matching them with children, ongoing training and education, as well as post-adoption services and referrals. We have completed over 350 adoptions for children in the foster care system.

# Foster Home Licensing



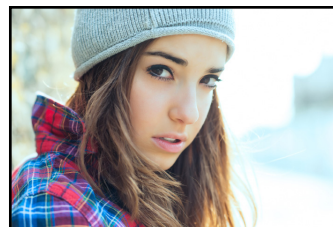
Foster home licensing is a service available to individuals, couples, and families who are interested in providing temporary or permanent care to foster children. In order to provide care, we work with the family to complete a foster home licensing homestudy. This is a comprehensive evaluation of not only the applicant and family members, but also the actual home as well. This evaluation assesses whether the family and home meet legal requirements. We have licensed over 130 homes for a diverse array of families.



## Foster Care



Foster care is a service we have provided for many years. Services involve advocating for the child to help ensure that the child's health, education, safety and welfare needs are met. A foster care worker meets with the child, the parents and the foster family monthly. They also supervise and transport children and parents to visits, appear at court hearings, provide referrals for additional services and offer support to the child, birth parents, and foster family.



# Parents and Children Together



We began offering PACT services in October 2012. This program provides supervised visitation between birth parents and their children who are placed in Foster Care. Our worker coordinates visitation and provides transportation for the parents and children; if needed, they can also provide court testimony.

## Advanced In Home

The Advanced-In-Home Parent Education also known as the AIH program provides individualized parent education in the home. The In-Home worker works together with the family to create a Service Plan for weekly sessions and one parent-child session per month.

Sessions may address but are not limited to:

- parenting skills education
- life/home management skills
- parent / child interaction skills
- Family, individual, and/or marital instruction (anger mgmt communication skills, improving self-esteem and stress mgmt)

Parent Education is provided using the Nurturing Parenting Program developed by Dr. Stephen Bavolek. The program was developed to be used for the prevention/treatment of child abuse and neglect.



## Parents Using Life Skills Education

We began offering PULSE services in October 2015. This program provides intensive, individualized parent education focusing on the parent-child interaction. Once the parents' strengths and needs are assessed our worker helps them develop skills needed to provide a healthier home environment.

