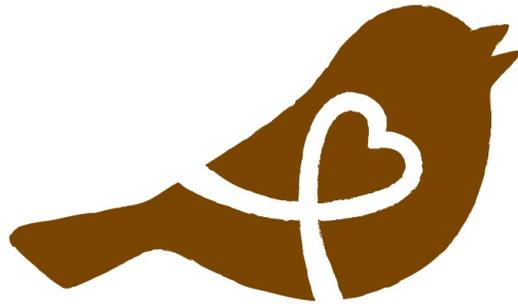


The Sparrow Fund

2012 Annual Report



the sparrow fund

Year in Review

As much as 2011 was an amazing first year for The Sparrow Fund, 2012 was even better. An 80% increase in grants approved to fund medical reviews of referrals, two fantastic training events, and the planning and preparations for our first couples' retreat scheduled for February 2013.

Training Events

Our desire is to equip families in the adventure of adoption. That equipping does not end once they have their referral reviewed by a medical professional, equipping is required at the very beginning stage of families considering adoption, and it never ends. If we only provided medical review grants, we would not be preparing families for the full adventure, only the starting point. As a result, in 2012, we equipped families more fully via conferences. We partnered with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to sponsor two such events:

May 5th – Adoption: From the Classroom to the Playground

Approximately 90 attendees heard compelling research about the effects of traumatic infancy on the brain and learning. They received help to understand what is “normal,” developmental milestones to look for, and how to notice red flags. Parents learned how to advocate for their children to get the help they may need in the classroom. With a panel discussion with parents and adoptees as well as discussion questions in small groups at lunch, parents left with practical steps to help their children as well as connection and encouragement for their families going forward.

September 29th – Adoption: Connecting While Correcting

Keynote speaker Cheryl Nitz, ACSW LCSW, founder and director of the Attachment and Bonding Center of Pennsylvania, guided just under 100 parents through the why's and how's of correction for our children from the “terrible twos” to the “terrible teens.”

Both events were successful beyond our expectations. We received very good reviews of the content and presentation and parents walked away feeling encouraged and equipped to handle unique issues that come along with adoption.

Together Called

Planning and preparation is well underway for our first couples' retreat in February 2013. Together Called was born out of a desire to serve both husband and wife and give them an opportunity to get away for a weekend to connect with one another and be encouraged and revived in their call to be adoptive parents. This faith-based retreat is designed to remind, encourage, and equip parents to view their families as an unique and special calling God has given them.

Continuing Education

In July 2012, we had the opportunity to send two of our board members to Texas to participate in the Empowered to Connect Train the Trainer course to equip them to teach the Empowered to Connect Parent Training. The model developed by Michael and Amy Monroe is based on the Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) model developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and her colleagues at the TCU Institute of Child Development. It will serve as a valuable asset for The Sparrow Fund as we continue to offer training in the future.

Fundraising

While we have been blessed by some very generous supporters, we have continued to use our May fundraising sales event and sales from The Nest Etsy store to fund the majority of our programs.

May Online Sales Event

We hosted our second annual sales event and enlisted 50 online businesses (up from 33 last year) to donate 10% of their sales in the month of May to The Sparrow Fund. These businesses received online promotion via the We Are Grafted In website and a board member’s blog. It was a great opportunity to support these businesses and make some great connections. In the end, the May event raised just over \$6,000, which included a generous \$1,000 matching gift from an adoption blogger.

The Nest

We continue to partner with Mary who lives in Kenya. Mary is an amazing woman and has been through quite a bit in her life. Widowed twice from civil wars, nine biological children, takes care of seven orphans, and leads a group of women to make products to sell and support their families. Those products include paper bead jewelry, stuffed animals, and bags that are sold through [The Nest on Etsy](#). It continues to be an incredible opportunity to tangibly help widows and orphans in Kenya and, with their blessing and joy, also support The Sparrow Fund.

Support of Fundraising Families

In 2012, we rolled out a program to support families working to raise funds to help cover the cost of their adoption. They have the opportunity to buy jewelry from The Nest at a wholesale, sell it at a set price, and keep all of the profit to put into their adoptions. If they do not sell it all, they have the opportunity to return it for a refund within a 90-day time frame. In 2012, we had 10 families participate in the program, allowing them to raise over \$3,000 for their adoptions.

Impact in 2012

	2012	2011	% Change
Applications Received	29	12	142%
Applications Approved	18	10	80%
Number of Different Service Providers Used by Families	9	4	125%
Number of children reviewed	24	12	100%
Number of unique donors	85	49	73%

Financial Information for 2012

Starting Cash Holdings	\$7,228.47
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Money In	\$ Amount	Percentage
Donations	\$18,294.63	45.0%
Training Registrations *	\$22,345.00	54.9%
Interest	\$34.18	.1%
Total	\$40,673.81	100.0%

Money Out	\$ Amount	Percentage
Grants to Families	\$10,015.00	51.0%
Training Costs*	\$6,624.07	33.8%
Fees (from financial transactions)	\$739.10	3.8%
Administration Costs	\$1,186.07	6.0%
Education and Travel	\$1,054.05	5.4%
Total	\$19,618.29	100.0%

*We collected registration money in late 2012 for a couple's retreat that will occur in February 2013, which is when the remainder of the money will be used for the training costs.

Financial Details From The Nest	\$ Amount
Gross Sales	\$14,153.18
Fees (from financial transactions)	\$382.03
Support Sent to Kenya	\$4,250.00
Expenses	\$3,327.87
Amount to The Sparrow Fund	\$6,174.43

Current Cash Holdings	\$34,447.27
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We are very pleased with our progress towards the goal of using 90% of expenses to be applied to grants and the programs of The Sparrow Fund. In 2011, we hit 73%; in 2012, we increased that to 84.8%.

For more information



visit us at:

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