



You are cordially invited to attend a  
***SWAN/IL MATCHING RECEPTION***

Are you looking for a child to add to your family?

The purpose of a matching reception is to allow prospective adoptive families to meet and interact with the caseworkers who work directly with Pennsylvania's waiting children. Families can learn more about the children in Pennsylvania in need of permanency by seeing photos, posters and multimedia presentations about them and by talking directly to their caseworkers. Please remember to discuss with your caseworker any changes that may be needed to the special needs or characteristics sections in your Resource Family Application Registration/Update Form (CY 131) and any changes to waiting child characteristics you may consider for your family.

This event will be held during the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network/  
 Independent Living Winter Statewide Meeting.

<b>WHO IS INVITED?</b>	Adoptive Families, Child and Family Caseworkers
<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday, January 18, 2017
<b>TIME</b>	6-8:30 p.m.
<b>LOCATION</b>	Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN)/Independent Living (IL) Winter Statewide Meeting Matching Room The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center 215 Innovation Boulevard State College, PA 16803-6603 1-800-233-7505
<b>RSVP</b>	Send the completed registration form on the next page <b>by January 4, 2017</b> to Ms. Charlotte Wilson-Manley, 471 JPL Wick Drive, P.O. Box 4560, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or by email to <a href="mailto:cwilson-manley@diakon-swan.org">cwilson-manley@diakon-swan.org</a>
<b>QUESTIONS?</b>	Contact Ms. Jen Casner-Hockenberry, PAE family coordinator, at 1-800-227-0225, ext. 6431 or <a href="mailto:jcasner-hockenberry@diakon-swan.org">jcasner-hockenberry@diakon-swan.org</a> . OR Ms. Bobbi Whary, at 1-800-227-0225, ext. 1223 or <a href="mailto:bwhary@diakon-swan.org">bwhary@diakon-swan.org</a>



**This form is for family registration only. For planning purposes please RSVP using the instructions on the previous page. Walk-in registrations are welcome.**

<b>Names of family members attending:</b>					
<b>Family address:</b>					
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>		<b>Zip:</b>	
<b>Daytime Phone:</b>				<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Agency Name:</b> (working with family)			<b>Total # of family members attending*:</b>		
<p><b>*We respectfully ask that families make their own child care arrangements for this event to maximize the space available.</b></p>					

*If you no longer wish to be on the mailing list for matching events, contact your agency worker or the SWAN Helpline ([SWANHelpline@diakon-swan.org](mailto:SWANHelpline@diakon-swan.org)) and ask to be removed from our mailing list.*

## **SWAN/IL MATCHING RECEPTION: A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES**

### **Who Attends a Matching Reception?**

Prospective adoptive families, county children and youth workers and SWAN affiliate agency workers, as well as staff from the Department of Human Services (DHS); SWAN; the SWAN Helpline; the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE) and the SWAN prime contractor, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries in partnership with Family Design Resources.

### **What Is the Purpose Of a Matching Reception?**

The purpose of a matching reception is to allow prospective adoptive families to meet and interact with the workers who work directly with Pennsylvania's waiting children. This is an opportunity for prospective adoptive families to speak to workers about children who are available, whether or not a specific child would be suitable for them and any other concerns or questions they may have about adopting a waiting Pennsylvania child.

### **Are Prospective Adoptive Families Required to Attend the Matching Reception?**

No, families are under no obligation to attend. The matching reception is just another method offered to help prospective adoptive families find a child. No one is required to attend.

### **Where Can Families Find Help During the Matching Reception?**

Staff from county children and youth agencies and SWAN affiliate agencies will be present at their agency displays to answer any questions families may have about Pennsylvania's waiting children. In addition, staff from SWAN will be present (wearing shirts with the SWAN logo) at the event to provide any assistance required. If you need assistance during the matching reception, please look for staff, and they will be glad to help you!

### ***How Do We Identify the Children Who Interest Us?***

Children whose stories are presented at the matching reception are typically assigned PAE ID numbers. Please make note of the child's first name and PAE ID number, the agency working with the child, and the caseworker's name so staff can assist you easily in obtaining additional information about specific children during and after the event.

### ***Where Can Families Find Assistance After the Matching Reception?***

If you want to obtain more information about a child presented at the matching reception, you can contact the county agency with custody of the child or the affiliate agency working with the child. If you do not have their contact information, or need of additional information or services, you should contact the SWAN Helpline at 1-800-585-SWAN. We will be happy to help you.

