Why I Donate to RESOLVE NE

By Derek and Nadine Donahue

After months and years of trying, if all goes well, you look into their eyes and wonder what you did before they came into your life. Then you ponder the possibility that they would not be here at all, if not for the actions, advocacy, and dedication of RESOLVE New England.

Simply stated, our family would not exist today without RESOLVE New England. Their efforts have brought forth legislative mandates that require infertility coverage in three of the six New England states. They provide education and support for those experiencing infertility through seminars and conferences. In addition, they help navigate through the complicated world of insurance and if needed, they are available to support with individual advocacy and assistance with appeal letters.

Because of what RESOLVE New England has done for our family, when major events have happened in our daughters’ lives (i.e. baptisms, birthdays, etc.), we’ve often thought of how we can “pay it forward” with regard to the blessings that we have been given. This is why we have presented our family and friends the option to donate to RESOLVE New England. By asking them to donate, they honor our two girls and become part of the movement that brought them into their lives. It is our hope that these gifts will continue the RESOLVE New England mission of serving the infertility community in our area.

By Val Donahue

As far back as I can remember Derek loved children. When our first grandchild was born Derek was just a boy, and the first time he held his niece in his arms he

Autumn 2012 Issue:

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- Autumn is a Second Spring (pg 3)
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REGISTER NOW!

RESOLVE NEW ENGLAND’S 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 3, 2012

To learn more, visit us at www.resolvenewengland.org

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ADVERTISING POLICY

This quarterly newsletter accepts paid advertisements. Advertisements submitted must be emailed as PDFs and must be approved by the Editor. Please email us at admin@resolvenewengland.org for rate and size information. We limit our paid advertisements and will accept them on a first-come, first-served basis. We also accept announcements of upcoming events for inclusion in the Non-RESOLVE Programs section, and Requests for Contact ads from those conducting research studies.

The service providers advertising in this newsletter have not been screened or required to meet any specific criteria and have paid a fee to be included. Therefore advertisements for services/persons/providers should not in any way be considered endorsements or recommendations, either express or implied, by RESOLVE New England.

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We reserve the right to resize ads to fit our specifications. *Please do not include borders on business card ads.

This newsletter is published quarterly (winter, spring, summer, autumn) with a circulation of approximately 1,200.

EDITORIAL POLICY

This newsletter is primarily a vehicle for regional news, events, and articles of interest. Our readers, including professionals, are encouraged to submit comments and articles. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter 2013  November 15, 2012
Spring 2013  February 15, 2013

We welcome newsletter article submissions, especially personal experience articles, via email. Articles should be no longer than 750 words and must be approved by the Editor. Please submit to: admin@resolvenewengland.org

We reach 1,200 members and professionals quarterly.

Please call or visit us online for more information about becoming a RESOLVE New England member, or to request information about advertising in upcoming issues.

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Autumn is a Second Spring When Every Leaf is a Flower

The fall is a busy time of year for us at RNE! We are looking forward to our 19th Annual Fertility Treatment, Donor Choices & Adoption Conference to be held on November 3, 2012 in Marlborough, MA. This is the largest infertility consumer conference in the country and we have an amazing day planned. We hope you will join us, whether you have just been diagnosed with infertility, you are in the middle of treatment and want to learn more, or if you are looking at donor options, surrogacy and/or adoption as ways to build your family. The conference has 40 educational sessions given by some of the top professionals in the field to make sure you are informed about your path to parenthood. Pages 10 and 11 have the full conference schedule and you can always find more information at our website, www.resolvenewengland.org.

RNE is also thrilled to announce that ViaCord has joined our sponsor network as a new Peer Support and Topic Discussion Group Sponsor. ViaCord understands that the path to parenthood is difficult and isolating when you are facing infertility and their sponsorship ensures that our peer groups continue to grow and thrive so you can find the support you need, during every stage of your journey.

As we approach the holidays, we know it can be difficult to deal with infertility and we want you to know that you are not alone. Be sure to read the article by one of our board members about her experiences coping with the holidays on page 4 and visit our website for additional tips and tricks to help you survive the holidays.

Finally, while I reflect on the past year at RNE, I am pleased with all that RNE has accomplished. I would like to thank all of you who dedicate your time and energy to helping RNE with donations, volunteering, and supporting the work that we do! We rely heavily on your support and we have shared a few of your wonderful stories in this issue. Won’t you also consider supporting RNE? We would greatly appreciate it!

Please do not forget to register now for our 19th Annual “Paths to Parenthood” Fertility Treatment, Donor Choices and Adoption Conference on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at resolvenewengland.org/conference.

Erin Lasker
Executive Director
RESOLVE New England
COPING WITH INFERTILITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By Beth Panella, RNE Board Member

The holidays are difficult for anyone going through infertility. You may see family and friends you don’t see throughout the year and all they want to know is when you are going to have a baby. They might not know that you have been trying for years with no success. But in December 2001 things were going to be different for me. I was going to tell my family what they wanted to hear and what I dreamed of and had been trying to do for years: that I was three months pregnant. I was beyond excited, trying to figure out how I was going to spring the good news.

About a week before Christmas I went in for an ultrasound. For some reason, I asked my husband to accompany me to this particular one; maybe deep down inside I knew something was wrong. Or maybe some other being was telling me that he needed to be there. I had already been released by my reproductive endocrinologist to an obstetrician. My OB knew what I went through to get pregnant and thankfully agreed to let me have extra ultrasounds to alleviate my fears. I lived for these ultrasounds.

I could tell that the ultrasound technician was having some difficulty and she went to get someone else. After the second technician examined me, he confirmed my worse fear: at 11 weeks gestation, there was no heartbeat. My head was spinning and I couldn’t move. This couldn’t be happening; I was almost at the 12 week “safe” mark! I kept saying, “why me, why me.” It’s just not fair! I couldn’t stop crying. They called my OB who wanted to see me right away, so after what seemed like forever, my husband helped me off the table, I got dressed and he helped me walk across the street to my OB’s office. We passed some visibly pregnant women in the waiting room and the sobbing continued. My OB reassured me that there was nothing that I did to cause this miscarriage. It didn’t matter what he said. For the next few weeks I racked my brain trying to think of what I did to cause this. Was it that nasty cold I had around Thanksgiving? I’m sure that was it. It certainly wasn’t exercise since I stopped that out of fear.

My OB told me that I could either have a procedure to remove the fetus and they would be able to run some tests and possibly determine what went wrong or I could let nature take its course. I wanted to get it over with quickly, and I really wanted to know why this happened, so I opted for the procedure. So a few days before Christmas I was at the hospital having surgery to remove what I thought was going to be my baby. Afterwards I curled up in bed for days.

We went to my parents’ home on Christmas Eve. No one knew quite what to say or do. There isn’t a book on what to say to someone who just had a miscarriage, but there should be. As my parents were getting ready for church, I informed them I wouldn’t be joining them. When my father asked me why, I told him, “If you can guarantee me that there aren’t any babies in that church, then I will go.” Plus, what did I have to celebrate or be thankful for?

On Christmas day our extended family came to visit. My uncle congratulated me and my aunt hushed him and pulled him aside to tell him what happened. I guess my parents couldn’t wait to tell some of my family members that I was pregnant and apparently he didn’t get the message that I had miscarried. I could tell he felt bad about it, but all I wanted to do was go back to bed, curl up and cry some more.

After the holidays, I tried to avoid places that had kids - the mall, the grocery store - but they were everywhere. “Where are they all coming from?” I thought. “Why am I being tortured like this? What did I do to deserve this?” I avoided baby showers and friends that were pregnant. Work was the only place that I didn’t avoid, but then one day a woman I work with who just had a baby brought her in to show everyone. I was so upset that I had to leave work. As the weeks and months went on, it got a bit easier.

I’m glad I didn’t go to church that day. I’m glad I missed some baby showers and other events that may have children. My advice for anyone going through something like this is: you need to take care of yourself. If you don’t want to go to that family event where there may be kids - or worse, someone pregnant - then don’t go. Send a gift to that baby shower or kid’s birthday party. Miss the holiday party. Instead, go away with your significant other or a close friend during those times; it’s a good excuse to miss those painful events. And don’t feel guilty about it. The people that mean the most to you will understand.
What can we do to help you have a healthy baby?
Everything possible.

If you’ve been trying to become pregnant for more than a year, or are over 35 and have been trying for more than six months, we can help.

Brigham and Women’s Hospital is a leader in women’s health, ranked second by U.S. News & World Report. The Center for Infertility and Reproductive Surgery (CIRS) is part of this leading, comprehensive OB/GYN program, offering all available procedures and services to treat infertility, including in vitro fertilization, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, IVF with donor eggs, and ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection) with assisted hatching.

Our physicians are board-certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Obstetrics and Gynecology and have faculty appointments at Harvard Medical School.

Access to expert fertility treatment is more convenient than you think. Our physicians see patients at five locations throughout the greater Boston metropolitan area.

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Autumn 2012
WORDS OF COMFORT

As our New England autumn days grow colder, I am reminded of this time last year when I struggled with a devastating miscarriage. My solace came from an unexpected place: a song from the musical Little Women. The lyrics of Days of Plenty, sung by Marmee to Jo after Beth’s death, seem to reverberate with the IVF journey that many of us continue to travel - a modern day “Pilgrim’s Progress.” I hope that the words offer some comfort to you. Please know that, as we say at RESOLVE NE, “You are not alone.”
~ Beth Smith

DAYS OF PLENTY

I never dreamed of this sorrow.
I never thought I’d have reason to lament.
I hoped I’d never know heartbreak.
How I wish I could change the way things went.
I wanted nothing but goodness.
I wanted reason to prevail.
Not this bare emptiness.
I wanted days of plenty.

But I refuse to feel tragic.
I am aching for more than pain and grief.
There has got to be meaning.
Most of all when a life has been so brief.
I have got to learn something.
How can I give her any less?
I want life to go on.
I want days of plenty.

You have to believe there is reason for hope.
You have to believe that the answers will come.
You can’t let this defeat you.
I won’t let this defeat you.
You must fight to keep her there within you.

So believe that she mattered
And believe that she always will.
She will always be with you.
She’ll be part of the days you’ve yet to fill.
She will live in your bounty.
She will live as you carry on your life.
So carry on full of hope.
She’ll be there
For all your days of plenty.

DAYS OF PLENTY, from Little Women The Musical
Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, Music by Jason Howland, Book by Allan Knee
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Wherever you are on your path to parenthood, we’re here to help.

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VIDEO CONTEST - ENTER NOW!

Announcing the RESOLVE New England
“Our Path to Parenthood” Video Contest

RESOLVE New England is committed to providing support, education and advocacy to the New England infertility community. In this contest, RNE seeks video submissions featuring members, volunteers and other interested parties to share their stories of where they are on their path to parenthood and how RNE has helped them along the way.

Submitters may tell their story however they like using video as their medium. Videos must be no longer than 3 minutes, credits included. They must be uploaded to YouTube, tagged “Our Path to Parenthood,” and they will be added to RNE’s YouTube channel. You must also email your YouTube video link to Keiko Zoll, Director of Communications & Social Media, at keikozoll@resolvenewengland.org. If videos feature any music, it must be royalty free. Submitters grant RNE the right to reuse these videos for promotional purposes.

Videos will be judged by a panel of RNE staff and Board members in three areas: 1) creativity/originality; 2) emotional appeal; and 3) effectiveness as an outreach tool for RNE. Call for submissions begins September 10, 2012 and ends October 15, 2012. Winners will be announced the week of RNE’s November 3, 2012 Annual Conference. Judges will vote for their favorite video and the public may vote for their favorite “People’s Choice” video at RESOLVE New England’s Facebook page. The winning video chosen by RNE will receive a RNE Household Membership and Annual Conference Registration for two people. The “People’s Choice” video will receive a RNE Household Membership.

For more details, please visit www.resolvenewengland.org/video-contest and be sure to “Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ResolveNewEngland.

LISA FENN GORDENSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP

We are committed to ensuring that your financial circumstances are not an obstacle to accessing the comprehensive programs and services offered by RESOLVE New England.

Financial assistance from our Lisa Fenn Gordenstein Access Scholarship program is available to cover the costs of household membership AND/OR the cost to attend our full-day programs (such as the Annual Conference, or the Adoption or Donor Egg Seminars) or our half-day programs (such as Beyond Infertility Treatment).

To find out more about applying for the scholarship for our Annual Conference on Saturday, November 3, 2012, please visit our website at www.resolvenewengland.org/scholarship. Email us at admin@resolvenewengland.org or call our office at 781-890-2250 with any questions.
WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND OUR CONFERENCE

We have often been told that attending our annual conference is a “life-changing event.” Sounds like an extreme claim, doesn’t it? Yet our experience has shown that this is a common response from our conference attendees, and we’d like to suggest reasons why you are likely to feel the same way when you attend:

Many attendees have never before seen – in one place, at one time – so many people also struggling with infertility. At 8:00 a.m. on November 5th last year, attendees began to arrive at the conference center, at first in trickles and then in hordes. They all gathered in the ballroom to hear the keynote address – all 200+ strong. Dispersing to various meeting rooms, they passed each other in the hall and met in smaller groups for each workshop. They gathered together again for lunch, chatting in the buffet line and at lunch tables. In sessions on adoption, infertility treatment, donor egg and more, attendees met others like themselves who were travelers on the same journey – searching for information, hope, and a satisfying resolution to infertility. Where else could you find such strength in numbers?

Many attendees are deeply touched or usefully informed by one or more of the presenters. With 40 workshops, and presenters including reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, urologists, social workers, nurses, attorneys, psychologists, complementary medicine practitioners – all experts in the variety of family-building options – we can almost guarantee that one of them will make a lasting impression on you. Some presenters will offer factual information, with slides or overheads, which summarize years of practice in their field – compressed into a one-and-a-half hour session. Others will focus on the options for realizing your dream of a family and will touch your heart. Whatever the focus of the workshop, all the presenters share a compassionate approach and deep commitment to helping individuals and couples create a family. Be prepared to take lots of notes and ask all of your questions, and at least one “gem” will certainly come your way.

Many attendees are moved by conversations with, or hearing from, other attendees or parent panelists. At last year’s conference, we sat down for lunch at a table where two couples were deeply engaged in conversation. They were discussing IVF cycles and the ups and downs of the process. The connection they made was meaningful - talking with intense focus, smiling, and even laughing at times! RNE believes strongly in the importance of peer-to-peer support, especially the kind you receive in person. Who else but a peer can truly know and share the pains and struggles of your experience? We affirm that sharing with peers can bring a sense of being truly understood at last.

Whatever brings you to our conference, we believe you will come away identifying with at least one of these observations. That is our hope and our aim in putting on this conference for you. We want you to leave with new ideas, new insight, and new confidence about options and choices. We believe you will not be alone in finding our conference a life-changing experience.

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 15
and receive Kristen Magnacca’s book,
Love and Infertility, for FREE!

2012 RESOLVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

OVERCOMING Infertility!

with Camille T. C. Hammond, MD, MPH, CEO

Dr. Hammond is CEO of the Tinina Q. Cade Foundation. Co-founded in 2005 with her husband Jason, the foundation was named after Dr. Hammond’s mother, Dr. Tinina Cade. Dr. Cade carried the couple’s triplets following their 5 years of infertility. She delivered her grand-triplets at 55 years old, making her the oldest woman to deliver triplets at that time. The Hammonds started the Cade Foundation to support families still on the infertility journey. To date, the Cade Foundation has hosted hundreds of outreach events and provided 31 families with financial support for adoption and fertility treatment nationwide. There are currently 21 Cade Foundation babies.
### Session A - 9:15-10:30 AM

#### A-1 Infertility 101
Learn about the infertility workup and how to interpret results. Fertility medications, when to move on to IVF success rates, new treatments on the horizon and how to assess whether to pursue these options. Sandra Carson, MD, Medical Director, Center for Reproduction and Infertility, Women and Infants Hospital

#### A-2 Approaches to Improve Embryo Quality
Lack of pregnancy during IVF treatment can be due to poor or suboptimal embryo quality. An overview of several approaches to improve embryo quality will be discussed. Elizabeth Ginsburg, MD, Medical Director, IVF Program and Catherine Raczkowski, PhD, Laboratory Director, IVF Program, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

#### A-3 Adoption Options: Overview of Domestic, International & Foster Care Adoption
This session provides an overview of all types of adoption: domestic, international and foster care adoption. It includes strategies for starting the adoption process as well as an overview of resources. Joan Lettieri Clark, MD, Adoptions Explained LLC

#### A-4 Infertility to Adoption: Honoring Endings & New Beginnings
Explore the multitude of factors which can assist and complicate the decision to end medical treatment and begin the process of moving towards adoption. Emotional obstacles of making family building decisions as well as how one explores new options while coping with the experiences and losses associated with infertility. Karen Spelman, PhD, LMHC, Adoption & Beyond Counseling Services

#### A-5 Working with Birthparents
Learn how to work with birthparents, from the initial contact through the wait time, to ongoing contact after the adoption is finalized. Myths and realities related to openness are discussed. Rachel Ashby, MD and Holly Hughes, RN, Third Party Reproductive Nursing Coordinator, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

#### A-6 Preparing the Way for Egg Donation and/or Surrogacy: A Medical Overview
A medical overview of the egg donor and surrogacy process, as well as information about donor screening, coordinating the donor with the recipient and known and anonymous donors. Rachel Ashby, MD and Holly Hughes, RN, Third Party Reproductive Nursing Coordinator, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

#### A-7 Donor Sperm: The Real Story
Donor sperm information can be a viable option for couples where IVF/ICS may not be possible, as well as for single women and same-sex couples. This workshop details the donor selection and screening process, and legal considerations with use of both anonymous and known donors. Dina Colomba, PhD, Laboratory and Tissue Bank Director, New England Cryopreservation Center

#### A-8 Tips & Techniques to Maintain Your Emotional Health
In this session participants will learn how to take back control of their minds and bodies, i.e., to begin to feel the way you did before infertility. Skills acquired include physical relaxation training, nutrition, exercise recommendations as well as emotional (how to deal with the pregnancies of others, how to feel less isolated). Alice Domar, PhD, Executive Director, Domar Center for Mind/Body Health, Boston.

#### A-9 Financing Adoption, Adoption & Donor Conception
Learn the important financial issues that need to be planned for a family. Topics covered will include ongoing monthly expenses for the family, donor coordination, life and disability insurance, estate planning and insurance claims. Jennifer Adams, CFP, Aspire Health Management and Donna Martin, Coordinator, Donor Services, Dominant Carrier Program, Reproductive Science Centers of New England

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### Session B - 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

#### B-1 Navigating a Cycle: What to Expect & How to Manage
This workshop walks you through an IVF cycle learning how to plan your life around a cycle, including both the typical process and how to manage the unexpected. Vito Caroline, MD, Medical Director, Caroline Reproductive Medicine & Infertility, and Laurence Engmann, MD, Center for Advance Reproductive Services, University of Connecticut Health Center

#### B-2 Diminished Ovarian Reserve: What It Means & What Are Treatment Options?
A frequent finding in women who are undergoing treatment for infertility, this workshop explains the meaning of diminished ovarian reserve, how it is determined and what treatment options are appropriate for women with diminished ovarian reserve. Samuel Pang, MD, Medical Director, Reproductive Science Center of New England

#### B-3 Overview of Domestic Infant Adoption
This workshop offers a step-by-step guide through the domestic infant adoption process. The discussion will focus not only on the necessary concrete tasks involved, but on many of the accompanying legal, social and emotional issues in the process as well. Dale Fridovich, LICSW, BCD, Coordinator, Adoptive Parent Services, Adoption Choices

#### B-4 Adoptive Parents Panel
Adoptive parents share their stories, including how they made decisions along the way and advice they feel is important to share with others. Moderator: Laura Weintraub, LICSW, Director, Angel Adoptions

#### B-5 Choosing Egg Donation or Adoption: How Will My Child Understand the Story?
In making decisions about egg donation or adoption, intended parents often wonder how their family building story will unfold for their future child. Learn how to build a story that you will feel confident and proud to tell. We will also focus on issues of privacy, secrecy and disclosure. Ellen Glaser, LICSW, Private Practice, Co-author of Having Your Baby Through Egg Donation and author of The Long-Awaited Baby

#### B-6 Finding a Donor Through an Egg Donation Agency
Learn how to find a donor with an agency, how the process works and the costs involved. Sonia Daley, Cycle Coordinator, Prospective Families, The Donor Source

#### B-7 Egg Donation: Practice & Legal Issues
This workshop provides an overview on the legal issues associated with using an egg donor. Mike Grant, Esq., Private Practice

#### B-8 Can Our Marriage Survive Infertility?
Infertility is the most difficult crisis your marriage may ever experience. It challenges sexual spontaneity and the intimacy you once shared. Learn new ways to revitalize your relationship, talk about your feelings and constructively discuss your future options. Rick Cooper, PhD, Director, Infertility Counseling Center of Connecticut

#### B-9 Dealing with Insurance Issues While Dealing with Infertility
This workshop covers issues around insurance, the infertility appeals process, as well as how to advocate for yourself. Marymichele Delaney, Associate Director of Benefits at Wellesley College and Partner with Delaney Consulting, and Rosalee Nichols, Financial Coordinator, Massachusetts General Hospital Fertility Center

### Lunchtime Topic Tables - 12:15-1:30 PM

Looking to connect with other people struggling with infertility? Our lunchtime topic tables are for you! Domain-based topic tables will be set aside for informal discussion groups on various topics. Come and meet others who have similar experiences to you and your journey. (Lunchtime topic tables are available for those who register online.)

**Topics:**
- General Infertility
- Thinking About Adoption
- Donor Options & Surrogacy
- Emotional Health
- Complementary, Financial & Other

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### Session C - 1:30 PM

#### C-1 Why Infertility Shouldn’t Be Important or How to Get Treatment and Review the Current Treatments That Are Likely to Be Successful
Infertility is unknown, Mary Elizabeth Sa Medicine & IVF, Massachusetts General Hospital

#### C-2 When Treatment Isn’t Working
Treatment plans are constantly evaluated and modified when treatment is not successful. Treatment alternatives, protocols of treatment and what to work and expect. Kristen Wright, MD, Reproductive Sciences

#### C-3 Overview of Foster Care and Adoption
This workshop looks at the options of a care system as well as what goes into it. Adoption, Bridget Chiaruttini, LICSW, DA Services, Massachusetts Adoption Rescue Service, Sanfeti, LICSW, Wide Horizons for Children

#### C-4 Defining “Open Adoption”
The Adoption and discusses the spectrum of presenter shares the myths, realities and role for all involved parties. She gives a brief overview of becoming an adoptive parent, open-up for a Q&A for participants. Penny Adoptions From the Heart

#### C-5 The Path to Parenthood Through Surrogacy
Join this session with members of a multi-functional donor egg group as we will discuss and answer questions relating to our personal, prospective social views on surrogacy agency role. E Ann-Hardy, MD, FR Cawley, TS, ABT, Laboratory Manager, Elin Givs Scoulas, Program Director, Choices Start

#### C-6 Donor Egg & Surrogacy: Psychological Disclosure
This workshop discusses issues for men and women, secrecy vs. how and when to talk with your child a egg and surrogacy. Lynn Nichols, LCSW, Doctork, RNCC, Private Practice

#### C-7 Dealing With the Outside World & Support Group Ideas
Gain ideas, support and resources to get across interactions with co-workers during the struggle and its (Holly) Simons, PhD, LICSW, Private Practice

#### C-8 Child-Free Living: Possibility or Reality
Join this session with members of a multi-functional donor egg group as we will discuss and answer questions relating to our personal, prospective social views on surrogacy agency role. E Ann-Hardy, MD, FR Cawley, TS, ABT, Laboratory Manager, Elin Givs Scoulas, Program Director, Choices Start

#### C-9 Complementary & Alternative What Does the Scientific Evidence Say?
Join this session with members of a multi-functional donor egg group as we will discuss and answer questions relating to our personal, prospective social views on surrogacy agency role. E Ann-Hardy, MD, FR Cawley, TS, ABT, Laboratory Manager, Elin Givs Scoulas, Program Director, Choices Start
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**ONLINE NOW:**

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Breakfast, lunch and snacks are included.

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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

RESOLVE New England needs volunteers! Do you have an hour or two to give to help those experiencing infertility? We need help with:

- Fundraising
- Office Support (mailings, processing membership requests, copying/shredding, etc.)
- Marketing Support/Writing (design, graphics, writing content for newsletter & blogs, etc.)
- Hosting a Peer Group or other Program
- Grant Writing
- Technology Support

If you are interested, please email us at admin@resolvenewengland.org to give back to our wonderful community. We look forward to hearing from you!

WHY I VOLUNTEER AT THE RNE CONFERENCE

By Joanne Panella, mother of Beth Panella, RNE Board Member

I have volunteered at the RESOLVE New England annual conference for the last six years and I find it very rewarding.

I first did it because my daughter, Beth, is very involved with the organization, and I wanted to learn what it was all about. I never really knew what she went through to build her family, and each year I learn something new - the technology just blows my mind. I feel I can relate to what the conference attendees are going through since I had a miscarriage and understand that pain.

Volunteering has opened up my mind to the struggles people face while trying to build a family and the different options available to them. And I certainly feel good doing it!

RESOLVE New England appreciates the generosity of Joanne Panella and all of our volunteers for giving their time and talents in support of the New England infertility community. Your contributions make a difference!
said to me, “Mom, someday I have to have one of these.” He loved her so.

Years went by and Derek and Nadine fell in love and married. They both hoped for children. They tried everything possible to conceive on their own and yet it wasn’t happening. They filled their lives with many wonderful things: work, trips, friends and family. But always missing was what they really wanted: a child.

Then there was RESOLVE New England.

RESOLVE New England has helped so many couples that want a child so very much but cannot conceive on their own. Their expertise and support helped Derek and Nadine.

On Father’s Day 2009, as the whole family gathered together, cards were passed out to two unsuspecting, soon-to-be grandfathers. Inside were ultrasound pictures of Cecelia, born on January 12, 2010. Amelia followed on August 16, 2011.

Two wonderful baby girls, who have blessed the lives of their parents, grandparents, and extended family.

I prayed every night and asked God to please bring my son and his wife one child. Just one, I asked...and two, He gave us two!

RESOLVE New England’s advocacy, knowledge and dedication helped to make this happen. Donations to RNE by individuals and families support many couples like Derek and Nadine. I hope RNE continues its work to help change lives and build families.

RESOLVE New England wishes to thank the Donahue family and friends for their generous donations in honor of Amelia and Cecelia. By celebrating their milestones, you are helping others create their own. Thank you.
ADOPTION: WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

By Betsy Hochberg, LICSW, Director, Adoption Resources

November is National Adoption Month. The month is marked by adoption-related articles and discussions. For members of the triad (adoptees, birth families and adoptive families) it’s a time to remember our paths to creating a family. For adoption professionals, it’s a moment to take stock of the past year and think about changes and trends.

The landscape of adoption is always changing. Often it is as the result of legal changes in this country, changes in international adoption policy and procedures or social change. In the past few years these changes have been most dramatic. While some routes to adoption have slowed or closed, others have become more vibrant. The increasing move for a more open adoption process and open adoption records is a major shift in adoption practice as well.

Domestic Infant Adoption

The number of domestic infant adoptions has remained fairly steady for the past decade. The numbers most often cited are between 12,000 and 14,000 annually. However, both legal and societal changes have altered domestic infant adoption. In former generations, birth parents tended to be young women, many still in high school or college. Almost all were unmarried. As acceptance of single parenthood has increased, these women are less likely to make an adoption plan. In fact there is an increase in grandparents raising their grandchildren in this country.

Today a typical birth parent is a woman or a couple who are already parenting. Many of these birth parents are raising several children and fully understand the sacrifices that will be involved should they try to raise another baby. These birth families will often make the decision to place their child directly at birth with an adoptive family. Another trend in domestic adoption is the increase in trans-racial parenting. Most often this is the adoption of Asian or African American children by Caucasian families. As our country becomes more diverse, so do adoptive families.

Domestic Waiting Child Adoption

While private agencies and lawyers generally place infants, the state or public agencies typically place older children. These older or “waiting” children can be of any age and are currently in the custody of the state. The adoption of these children has recently increased throughout the U.S. This is due in part to a nationwide effort to move children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes. Additionally, the decrease in international adoption options has made domestic waiting child adoption a more predictable and easier route. There is support and some subsidies available for families who welcome these children into their homes.

International Adoption

In 2004 international adoptions in the U.S. reached an all-time high with 22,990 visas issued to adopted children coming to the U.S. Since 2004, each year has seen a drop in international adoptions. The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and the Child Welfare League of America reports international adoption has fallen off, reaching a low of 9,319 in 2011. In general, adoption professionals expect this number to decline further in coming years. Additionally the ages of the children available for international adoption tend to be slightly older than in the past.

Why? The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption and the subsequent Hague treaty has impacted adoption. The hope is that this international treaty will result in better care of orphaned children as well as a higher standard of practice in all adoptions. It is hoped that this will ultimately benefit children and eliminate corruption in adoption. However, in the short term this means slower processing of adoptions as countries struggle to become compliant with the treaty regulations. Some countries are closing adoptions during this transition period and others are changing the age of children available for adoption. Generally we have seen slightly older children available for international adoptions from all countries.

In-country changes are another factor affecting international adoptions. Poverty has always been the “driver” of international adoption. In poor countries there has been little possibility for any adoptions by residents. As the standard of living has improved for many countries (China, for example), in-country adoption has begun to thrive. This means fewer babies are available for international adoption. It also means that those children who are available are more likely to be harder to place. This would mean children who are older or who might have a medical issue. As the traditional “sending countries” in international adoption are less active, other countries are beginning to increase international placements. Ethiopia and several other African nations are now placing healthy children of all ages. Russia has continued to place children of all ages as well.

We can expect that the sands of adoption will continue to shift. We can assume that the Hague treaty will result in better care for orphans. Domestic adoption continues to be an excellent option for those children who cannot be raised in their biological families.
HELP SAVE THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT!

The Adoption Tax Credit has been a hallmark of family building legislation since 1997. On December 31, 2012, the Adoption Tax Credit is set to expire or “sunset.” Now is the time to make a difference for thousands of Americans: contact your legislators and urge them to renew and preserve this important and defining law.

What is the Adoption Tax Credit?

The Adoption Tax Credit, which American taxpayers can claim for eligible adoption-related expenses, has helped thousands of American families offset the high cost of adoption since the credit was established in 1997. It has made adoption a financially viable option for many parents who might not otherwise have been able to afford adoption, allowing them to provide children with loving, permanent families. With over 100,000 children in the U.S. foster care system currently eligible for adoption, and an ever increasing number of orphaned and abandoned children worldwide languishing in institutions, the continuation of the adoption tax credit is vital to providing love, safety, and permanency through adoption to as many children as possible.

What will happen on December 31, 2012 if the Adoption Tax Credit expires?

The current maximum allowable Adoption Tax Credit is $13,360, and is set to sunset on December 31, 2012. If it is allowed to expire, the law will revert to a maximum tax credit of $6,000 for parents adopting children with special needs. There will be no adoption tax credit available for all other adoptive parents.

How can I help save the Adoption Tax Credit?

Call, email or write your legislators. Arranging to meet with them while they are at their home offices in your state is also probably one of the most meaningful and powerful ways to make your voice heard. The National Council for Adoption has put together an Adoption Tax Credit Advocacy Toolkit, complete with sample phone scripts, emails and tips for visiting and speaking with your legislators. Download it here: http://bit.ly/NEzXad

Have you benefited from the Adoption Tax Credit? Share your story!

Are you an adoptive parent or know someone who is and has used the Adoption Tax Credit? We need to hear from you! Saving the Adoption Tax Credit means bringing more attention to its sunset clause by starting a national conversation. Legislators will be more likely to save this important piece of legislation if they hear compelling stories from their constituents.

If you’ve benefited from the Adoption Tax Credit and are willing to share your story with the media, please contact us at admin@resolvenewengland.org

Additional Resources:

Save the Adoption Tax Credit
http://adoptiontaxcredit.org/advocate/

National Council for Adoption
https://www.adoptioncouncil.org/policy-priorities/adoption-tax-credit.html

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
http://www.resolve.org/get-involved/save-the-adoption-tax-credit.html

Portions of this article were sourced from the National Council for Adoption website.
The past year has been very active for infertility advocacy. As we told you in our Summer 2012 newsletter, if you are someone impacted by infertility, whether personally or professionally, now is the time to have your voice heard. In this election year, women’s health issues are at the forefront of the campaigns and infertility is a major component of both party’s platforms.

**Essential Health Benefits**

National healthcare reform and The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 is moving out to the states. The federal government has announced that the essential health benefits (EHB) included in health insurance plans covered by the ACA will be determined by a benchmark plan selected by each state. The selected benchmark plan will serve as a reference plan, reflecting both the scope of services and any limits offered by a “typical employer plan” in that state.

RNE will be actively advocating for the infertility community in partnership with our professional and consumer members. Our job is to make sure that CT, MA and RI choose benchmark plans that include the existing infertility mandates! In states without mandated coverage, inclusion of a plan with infertility coverage could be possible if large employers in the state currently include infertility benefits.

RESOLVE New England (RNE) has attended meetings with major insurance companies that were urging the states to choose a benchmark plan that would include all of the mandated benefits, which is exactly what RNE would recommend. From what we have learned at these meetings along with what we have read, the insurance companies are looking to make the least disruption to existing health care, including all mandates, in each state. This is excellent news, but RNE will not sit idle and watch the New England states choose a benchmark plan without having our voices heard.

Additionally, RNE is looking at future years of the Affordable Care Act to make sure that the mandates remain in effect after the initial trial period has passed.

RNE and the infertility community will need your support to keep this vital insurance coverage for those experiencing infertility now and in the future. This autumn and winter will be an active time with respect to insurance and health care reform, so please visit our website at http://www.resolvenewengland.org/advocacy/regional/ for current updates and ways that you can help.

**New Hampshire House Bill (HB) 217**

Your voices were heard! New Hampshire House Bill 217, a bill looking to amend the homicide law to include the death of a fetus, was defeated on June 26, 2012. On behalf of RESOLVE New England, I want to thank all of our many volunteers, members and professional colleagues for raising your voices in New Hampshire. We thank you for your emails, your phone calls, your tweets and your Facebook shares; clearly grassroots advocacy works – and we couldn’t have done it without you. We have each and every one of you to thank for the defeat of House Bill 217.

RESOLVE New England remains opposed to any and all forms of legislation that may pose a direct threat or barrier to fertility treatments needed by as many as 7.3 million Americans living with infertility. We will continue to be the leading advocate for the infertility community of New England, as we have since 1974.

We may have prevailed in New Hampshire – but we know from experience we’ll have more legislative fights ahead. If we are to keep fighting to support the infertility community in New England, we need your help to keep going.

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Nancy Andrie’s children’s book (written for her daughter and families everywhere) is about a couple trying to conceive through IVF. Jiwah, the egg, falls in love with Jhwee, the sperm, in Dr. T’s swimming pool. Embryo Jhaya is created and a journey begins.

After experiencing several IVF cycles herself and finally conceiving a daughter, Andrie’s book is a tribute to Dr. Thomas Toth of Massachusetts General Hospital who helped her dream of a child become a reality.

Available for purchase on Amazon.com.

Questions: Please email Nancy at nandrie@comcast.net.
RESOLVE NEW ENGLAND INSURANCE CALL-IN HOURS

Having trouble getting insurance coverage for your doctor’s recommended infertility treatment plan? Want to understand what the Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island infertility mandates cover? Need advice on framing an appeal letter?

If so, you are not alone. To assist people with their often-complicated insurance issues, RESOLVE New England offers an Insurance Advocate Call-in Hour service.

Insurance Call-in:
October 9 & November 13 | 7:30-8:30pm

Call 781-890-2225 and speak directly with our Insurance Advocate, Marymichele Delaney. She will help answer your insurance questions live and one-on-one during this special call-in hour.

Fees: FREE to RESOLVE New England members, or join over the phone with your credit card: 781-890-2225
PEER GROUPS - GENERAL INFERTILITY & TOPICS

Please pre-register for a peer group by emailing us at admin@resolvenewengland.org with your name, the group you’re planning to attend, your phone number, email, text number or alternate way you want to receive notifications about the group. While walk-ins are welcome, anyone who pre-registers will be notified of any last-minute location changes or cancellations. In addition, changes to groups are always on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ResolveNewEngland. “Like” us on FB & you won’t miss out!

Fees: FREE for members; $5/person for non-members, cash or check only (non-members joining RNE that evening attend for free.)

GENERAL INFERTILITY DISCUSSION GROUPS:
General infertility discussion groups are open to women, men, couples & individuals who have primary infertility (no children).

- **Beverly, MA**
  - The Beverly Healing Center, 234 Cabot Street #2
  - Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30pm
  - Dates: October 11, November 8, December 13, 2012

- **Brookline, MA**
  - Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Street
  - TBA - Please contact our main office at admin@resolvenewengland.org or 781-890-2250 for dates and times.

- **Cambridge, MA**
  - Congregational United Church of Christ, 11 Garden Street, 2nd floor Choir Room
  - Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00pm
  - Dates: October 11, November 8, December 13, 2012

- **Concord, NH**
  - 160 Dover Road, Suite 5, Chichester, NH
  - Mondays, 7:00pm
  - Dates: October 1, November 5, December 3, 2012

- **East Providence, RI**
  - Church of the Epiphany, 1336 Pawtucket Avenue, basement living room
  - Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30pm
  - Dates: October 4, November 1, December 6, 2012

- **Farmington, CT**
  - UConn Health Center/Dowling South Bldg., 263 Farmington Ave, 2nd floor Education Room
  - Thursdays, 7:00pm
  - Dates: October 18, November 15, December 20, 2012

- **Longmeadow, MA**
  - First Church of Christ, 763 Longmeadow St. (Buxton Room)
  - Mondays, 7:00pm
  - Dates: October 1, November 5, December 3, 2012

- **Plymouth, MA**
  - Nolan Insurance Agency, 79 Samoset St
  - Tuesdays, 6:30pm
  - Dates: October 2, November 6, December 4, 2012

- **Portland, ME**
  - *PLEASE NOTE LOCATION HAS CHANGED: 22 Free Street, Portland, ME
  - Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:30pm
  - Dates: October 15, November 19, December 17, 2012

- **Waltham, MA**
  - RESOLVE New England Office, 395 Totten Pond Rd., Suite 403
  - Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00pm
  - Dates: October 2, November 6, December 4, 2012

- **Westborough, MA**
  - St. Luke’s Parish, 1 Ruggles Street, Parish Center, Classroom #25*, 1st Flr
  - Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:00pm
  - *Room subject to change; room change is posted by the entrance to the parish.
  - Dates: October 9, November 13, December 11, 2012

TOPIC DISCUSSION GROUPS: These informal discussion groups focus on a particular topic, led by a volunteer with experience in that subject. These groups provide opportunities to meet others who share a similar struggle and to learn about helpful resources. Groups are held approximately every six weeks in the RESOLVE New England office in Waltham, MA, except as noted. For detailed descriptions of each Topic Group, check our website at www.resolvenewengland.org/topicgroups.

- **Pregnancy Loss**
  - Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- **Secondary Infertility**
  - Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- **Adoption**
  - Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
  - Dates: Oct. 4, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, 2012

- **Donor Egg**
  - Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- **Pregnancy After Infertility**
  - Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

- **Donor Egg Parents & Children (offsite)**
  - Call 781-890-2250 for address, dates, and times.
RESOLVE NEW ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

It’s easy to become a member of RESOLVE New England. Go to our website and click on “Be Involved.”

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RESOLVE New England provides compassionate and informed support, education, and advocacy to people in New England who are experiencing infertility and seeking to build a family. Join those who know what it’s like to wish for a baby. You are not alone.

**Chapter Telephone** — Call us at 781-890-2250 for information and support from our Member Services Coordinator.

**Quarterly Newsletter** — This publication includes information about our programs & services plus articles of interest.

**Insurance Call-in Hours** — Call us at 781-890-2225 for one-on-one assistance by phone with your insurance problems. Check our website or this newsletter for scheduled hours.

**Educational Programs** — Members enjoy reduced fees for various monthly presentations by experts in the fields of infertility, donor conception, and adoption. Day-long seminars providing an in-depth look at one topic are also offered.

**Monthly Peer Discussion Groups** — Open forums providing information and support to people interested in learning more about infertility and RESOLVE New England. Groups focusing on specific topics are held in our Waltham office.

**Discounts** — Members can attend all Peer Discussion Groups free of charge and receive substantial discounts on all of our programs and literature.

**Annual Conference** — Members receive a discounted fee for this day-long educational event with over 40 workshops focusing on infertility treatment, emotional issues, donor conception, and adoption.

**Directory of Services** — A resource book of infertility, mental health, donor conception, and adoption services, published annually.

**Advocacy** — RESOLVE New England advocates for protection of the Massachusetts insurance mandate, implementation of mandates in New England states without a mandate, and continued legislative and insurance reform.

**Member-to-Member Connection** — Members are matched with member volunteers who share similar experiences or who have a specific area of expertise.

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We welcome professionals working in infertility, adoption, donor conception, and related fields to become professional members of RESOLVE New England, the only organization providing direct services to people experiencing infertility in New England. RESOLVE New England offers its professional members a number of benefits in addition to those available to our household consumer members, including:

- Option to advertise/list in our annual printed directory
- Option to exhibit/advertise at our annual conference
- Option to write articles / advertise in quarterly newsletters
- Discounted pricing to events
- Leadership/volunteer/presentation opportunities
- Indirect benefits: advocacy for preservation of infertility insurance mandates and introduction of new mandates; media efforts on infertility issues
- Basic alphabetical listing in our online professional directory

AS ALWAYS, by purchasing your new or renewed membership through us, **all proceeds stay local** and help us provide services to those experiencing infertility in the New England area.

**DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS**

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Share your experience, support, and most of all, HOPE.

*Please contact us by email or phone if you are interested in sharing your story.*

admin@resolvenewengland.org
781-890-2250

We are always looking for new ways to provide benefits and services to our members, both household and professional. If you have any suggestions on how we can better provide for our members, or if there is a feature or benefit you’d like to see, please let us know. And as always, thank you for your support of RESOLVE NEW ENGLAND!

www.resolvenewengland.org

Autumn 2012