

CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

P. O. BOX 215
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402

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November 5, 1968

JOSEPH I. NICHOLSON, ACSW
DIRECTOR

Director
Spence Chapin
#6 East 94th Street
New York, New York 10028

Dear Sir:

We are writing to request any information or help you might be able to give in regard to adoption of hard to place children. We have an increasing problem each year of trying to place older children, children of minority races and those who are physically handicapped, mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed.

We have heard that your agency has been very successful in placing some of the type children mentioned and we would like to know about the approach you used. How were you able to bring this need to the attention of the public?

Any suggestions or information you can offer us will be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Linda H. Waters

(Mrs.) Linda H. Waters, ACSW
Child Welfare Worker

Joseph I. Nicholson, ACSW
Director

LHW/mrw

November 13, 1968

Mr. Joseph I. Nicholson, Director
Chatham Co. Dept. of Family and Children Services
P. O. Box 215
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Attention: Mrs. Linda H. Waters, Child Welfare Worker

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

This is in reply to your recent letter requesting information regarding our program for the adoptive placement of children for whom it is difficult to find adoptive families.

Although it is true that we have been perhaps more successful, than other agencies in the Greater New York area, in placing a larger number of children in this category through the years, we do not feel that it is enough.

About ten years ago, we found that mass media and local clearances were relatively ineffective. Philosophically, we were opposed to the public advertising and we particularly opposed putting pictures of children available for adoption in the newspapers. We felt that all of this seemed to devalue the children and to show them up as having a problem when, really, the problem was ours.

We changed our way of working with all adoptive couples, screening in couples on the basis of their ego strengths and the kinds of children they could accept, considering all the while the kinds and numbers of children available. In this way, couples were no longer screened out on the basis of natural children, vague sterility situations, length of marriage, etc.. We also stepped up our service so couples would not have to wait long and anxiously to ascertain their acceptance.

Mr. Joseph I. Nicholson

November 13, 1968

The new way of working caught on in the community and more couples came to adopt. We also agreed to place a child in the "hard to place category" anywhere there is a family, nationally or abroad.

In addition to the above, we began a long term foster care program for Negro infants and other children for whom we could not find adoptive couples. We screened in families for them in the same way we served our adoptive couples and placed infants as young as possible in these homes. Since this program began six years ago, 264 minority children have been placed in adoption, about 1/3 having been adopted by foster parents. However, foster parents themselves seem to refer so many other couples to us, for adoption or for foster care which may lead to adoption.

This is our program and we hope this information will be helpful to you and your agency.

We will be happy to have you visit with us at any time. If you have other questions, we will try our best to answer them.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Jane D. Edwards
Executive Director

JDE/vh

CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

P. O. BOX 215
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402

BOARD

November 19, 1968

JOSEPH I. NICHOLSON, ACSW
DIRECTOR

MR. ELLIOTT B. SIMMONS, JR., CHAIRMAN
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JUDGE MARVIN LESSER

Mrs. Jane D. Edwards
Executive Director
The Spence-Chapin Adoption Service
6 East 94th Street
New York, New York 10028

Dear Mrs. Edwards:

Please accept our thanks for your reply to our recent letter about adoption. We will consider your information in our future planning regarding our adoptions program.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Linda H. Waters, ACSW
Child Welfare Worker

Joseph I. Nicholson, ACSW
Director

LHW/mrw