

Special Needs Adoption Program



History of Spence-Chapin's Special Needs Adoption Program

In 1995, the Special Needs Adoption Program was created to serve families of children born with special needs. Over the last 25 years, we have found loving and supportive adoptive families for over 500 infants and young children with a wide range of significant medical needs. These families are prepared and eager to parent and help these most vulnerable children develop to their full potential.

In 2011, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand acknowledged the efforts of this program by honoring it with a Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute *Angels in Adoption Award*, which recognizes the extraordinary efforts of organizations and individuals whose contributions to adoption have an impact on a national scale.

We have a strong understanding of the needs of these children and the qualities needed by adoptive parents to successfully care for them.

The Birth Parents

Expectant parents who are given an unanticipated diagnosis, or who experience a complication during pregnancy or after birth and are unsure about parenting may not be aware of all their options. Spence-Chapin is available to help families consider and explore all permanency options for their infant or child. Our social workers will meet with parents in a confidential and convenient location in New York, New Jersey, Arizona, or virtually. Spence-Chapin's services are confidential and we can work with any client regardless of age or immigration status.

The Children

The infants and children we serve have a variety of special needs, from significant developmental delays to serious medical and congenital conditions. The conditions usually require therapeutic and/ or medical interventions during the child's entire life. These conditions can include:

- Genetic Disorders
- Brain Anomalies
- Neurological Disorders
- Excessive Drug and/or Alcohol Exposure
- Cardiac & Pulmonary Disorders •Shortened Life Span
- Rare Syndromes
- Significant Risk of Psychiatric Disorders

Children may be eligible for early intervention services, Social Security Disability, Adoption Subsidy, and Medicaid.

The Adoptive Parents

Adoptive parents live across the country and often have experience caring for or parenting a child with medical needs. Their wish is to provide a loving home for an infant or child who is medically fragile or terminally ill. Adoptive families are carefully screened and receive specialized training to ensure they are well equipped to be excellent parents to the child they adopt.

There are no professional service fees to birth or adoptive families. The only fees incurred by adoptive families are for getting a home study and finalizing the adoption.

800-321-LOVE (5683)
helpline@spence-chapin.org
www.sc-options.org



Spence-Chapin
YOUR JOURNEY. OUR PURPOSE.