



Adoptive Families Association of B.C. Advocacy Award of Excellence

Whatever their age, children need the stability of a family and a home that is distinctly theirs, yet most youth in care in British Columbia age out of care without having a permanent family to call their own. According to the Association, only 28 of the 560 teens eligible for adoption in 2007 were adopted.

With the slogan *'Too old for adoption? Never.'* the Adoptive Families Association of B.C. engaged the experts –teens themselves – in a compelling campaign to raise awareness of the hundreds of teens in B.C. who hope to be adopted.

An advisory group of young people helped the Association produce promotional material including a video in which youth in care and adopted youth speak of the benefits of adoption. The advisory group became a speak-out group in which the teens told their personal stories.

The youth involved in the campaign gained valuable life skills and the confidence to have their voices heard. The campaign itself raised awareness among prospective parents of the many older children in need of a family of their own.

The Association keeps the spotlight on teen adoptions with a program for parents considering adopting an older child and its Focus on Adoption magazine regularly profiles teens waiting for adoption as well as stories about teen adoptions.

Teen adoption is woven through all the Association's service areas and brings the faces and voices of youth to professionals and to the public.

Quotes from Nomination Letters

"The Youth Engagement project exceeded expectations and I have no doubt that AFABC will find a way to keep the opinions and voices of the youth front and centre."

"The AFABC's work in youth advocacy is creating opportunity to build community, team work and camaraderie amongst the teens involved as well as teaching valuable skills."

"AFABC is a pioneer in the field of adoption. The organization's steadfast commitment to raising awareness of youth who need family permanency is a testament to that. It's innovative, important and long overdue."