

# Full Circle Adoptions Newsletter

1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476

39 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

225 Commercial Street, Suite 300, Portland, ME 04101

Website: [www.fullcircleadoptions.com](http://www.fullcircleadoptions.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fullcircleadoptions>

Twitter: @FullCircleAdopt

Email: [team@fullcircleadoptions.org](mailto:team@fullcircleadoptions.org)

Phone: (800) 452-3678 Text: (413) 427-8701 Fax: (413) 584-1624



## Dear Friends and Families of Full Circle Adoptions,

Hello everyone! It has been a busy past few months for Full Circle, and we would love to keep you all updated on what we have been up to and let you know about some of our upcoming events. Feel free to refer family and friends to [our agency](#) for a free orientation.

Looking ahead, our director, Marla Allisan, JD, LICSW, will be presenting on domestic infant adoption at the Fenway Community Health Center on Wednesday evening, October 19, 2016. If you would like to learn more about domestic infant adoption, particularly as it pertains to the LGBTQI community, please call the Fenway Community Health Center at 617-927-6243 to register.

On November 5, 2016, Marla will be presenting with her close colleague, Betsy Hochberg, LICSW, at the Resolve Conference in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The conference will take place at the Best Western Conference Center and the entire FCA Team will be at the conference to talk about the agency and hand out orientation information. Visit the [RESOLVE New England website](#), to check the schedule and register!

Full Circle Adoptions is also fortunate enough to be involved in a few upcoming fundraisers, along with the several fundraising opportunities in which we have already participated.



Coming up, the “Not Your Average Joe’s” Arlington location will be doing a fundraiser with FCA. Every Tuesday in December – their busiest month of the year, they will be collaborating with our organization to benefit children and families. Anyone who mentions FCA when paying their bill on Tuesdays at Average Joe’s in Arlington will be helping FCA in the process, as 15% of their total bill will be donated to us!

We just completed a fundraiser with Broadside Books in Northampton, MA, where we received a percentage of the proceeds from every presale book about adoption that was sold.

In April, we raised nearly \$1,000 for Full Circle and the American Cancer Society, as Marla rode her bike all throughout Boston. Marla originally planned to ride in the Big Apple for the TD 5-Boro Bike Ride, but, unfortunately, due to bad weather,



Meredith, FCA Director, and Sara, FCA Office Manager, at our previous Talbots event, Look out for our next one in Boston in the Fall/Winter!

was unable to make it out to New York for the ride. Instead, she and FCA Board President, Barbara Arrighi biked the 10 miles of the Minuteman Bikeway!

Our second fundraiser, [Valley Gives](#), ended up being even more successful than our bike ride fundraiser. May 3, 2016 was Valley Gives Day, a day throughout the Pioneer Valley where various organizations and the community dedicate the day to fundraising. We raised thousands of dollars in just that one day! WOW! We want to take a moment and sincerely thank everyone who pitched in and donated. We were blessed with a phenomenal turnout and your generosity means the world to us. We are looking forward to Valley Gives Day 2017!

Finally, we would also like to give a special thanks to Hans & Ellie Spiegel (grandparents of two boys adopted through Full Circle Adoptions) for donating \$1,000 to the agency. Thank you so much for your contribution!

Aside from our fundraising efforts, Full Circle has been busy doing many other things these past few months.

In June, Full Circle held a get together in Arlington for the families who adopted children through us. It was extremely exciting and rewarding to see the families Full Circle has helped unite. To all of you who could be there, it was great to see you and your beautiful smiles! To those of you who couldn't make it, we hope to reconnect with you soon!



**Executive Director Marla Allisan at the Arlington office for a group reunion with Full Circle Families.**

Marla presented on a panel at the Lavender Law conference and gave one of the law presentations on the importance of post-adoption communication agreements in today's adoption cases, specifically with regard to cases involving LGBT families. Her presentation was a hit and she was very excited to not only attend the conference, but to be able to share some of her 27+ years of adoption experience.

Finally, as some of you may know, our director, Marla Allisan JD, LICSW, was given the opportunity to work at Harvard Law School this coming fall! As we wish Marla good luck on her new journey, our case manager of 16 years, Meredith Davies, has taken over as the Director of Full Circle Adoptions. Though Marla is working at Harvard, she is still serving as the FCA Senior Agency Advisor and still has a major hand on the pulse of the agency. This is an exciting change for everyone and we are looking forward to the coming months!

**FCA's Executive Director, Marla Allisan, and Board President, Barbara Arrighi, biking along Boston's Minuteman Bikeway**



On August 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Marla traveled south, to Washington D.C., for the annual [Lavender Law Conference](#) and Career Fair, which is put on by the LGBT Bar Organization. The Lavender Law Conference is a weekend full of workshops, guest speakers, and career advising, designed for family law practitioners, transgender advocates, corporate counsel, and those interested in pursuing a career in the judiciary field. It is a conference where LGBT students can network and learn more about law, government, and non-profit agencies.



**The FCA Team (from Left to Right: Meredith, Marla, and Sara) outside the Northampton office.**



# Life Comes “Full Circle”

## From Full Circle Adopted Infant to Full Circle Intern

Hello! My name is Kianna Romano, and I was adopted through Full Circle Adoptions seventeen years ago. Because of FCA I was able to be adopted from a teen mother in Idaho into my loving family in Massachusetts. My adoption has shaped the type of person I am and the person I want to be. I am incredibly grateful for my birthparents decision to put me up for adoption. I cannot imagine how difficult it was for them to place me with another family. At the same time, I am blessed to be a part of my adoptive family, who has raised me with incredible love, support, and opportunities.

Traveling and helping others has played a major role in my life since I was young. When I was 13, I began traveling to developing countries on community service trips. My first trip to Haiti was the most influential trip I have ever taken. I worked in clinical facilities, aided small isolated villages, and provide care to the elderly. However, the most important part of this trip occurred in the orphanages. In the orphanages, I once held an abandoned baby who was sick with a rare and deadly disease. Although I was only with him for an hour, he had a major impact on my life.

I remember that while I was holding him he kept looking at me with his big brown eyes; simple acts of love and care like this were rare for him and I could see how appreciative he was. When I put him back into his crib all I could hear was his crying. At that moment I realized how much I wanted to help children because so many of them never have a chance to thrive; I want to help in any way possible, just like how FCA helped my family and me.

Later, I returned to Haiti, focused on working with orphans; next, I flew to Nepal to work on an Earthquake disaster relief program; and, most recently, I went to Costa Rica and worked in an orphanage with newborns and infants. These trips made me realize I wanted to pursue a career in adoption. Whether they are international or domestic, I want to help provide children with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. I want to take part in changing their lives.

This realization motivated me to find an opportunity where I could continue helping children and families, alike, closer to home. Since pursuing an internship at Full Circle Adoptions I have been able to learn what it's like to work at an adoption agency.

I have loved my experience interning with FCA and am excited to say that I have come “Full Circle” because of them. I went from being adopted, to working for the same people who placed me with the people who have enabled me explore the world, offered me opportunities, and who have enriched my life – my forever family. So, thanks FCA! Thank you for helping my parents adopt me and thank you for the opportunity to help other children and adoptive families as an intern.

*~Kianna Romano*



Summer 2016 Intern, Kianna Romano, and her mother Dr. Lisa Nash joined the FCA Team, 17 years after her adoption, for a lovely reunion at the Northampton office.

**Please contact Full Circle Adoptions with any questions or to update us of a change of address, contact number, or email address.**

**Full Circle Adoptions**  
**39 Main St., Northampton, MA 01060**  
**Phone: (800) 452-3678**  
**Email: [team@fullcircleadoptions.org](mailto:team@fullcircleadoptions.org)**