

## **WONDERING WHICH ADOPTION RESOURCE WILL BEST FIT YOUR NEEDS?**

### **Abrazo Is Not Likely To Be the Right Program for Those Who:**

- ✓ Want to have "their own child"...
- ✓ Have not accepted their infertility and painfully avoid facing reminders of this diagnosis at all costs, believing that adopting a child is going to be the quickest solution to resolving their sense of loss...
- ✓ Need a child to love them and fill their empty spaces...
- ✓ See adoption as "second best"...
- ✓ Have inflexible placement preferences and are seeking only to adopt the perfect "Gerber baby"...
- ✓ Fear involvement with birthparents and see it as something to engage in only long enough to make a placement happen, then ended as soon as possible...
- ✓ Need their adopted child to look just like them...
- ✓ Spent all their savings on infertility treatment and now want to cut corners or costs to do a "cheap adoption"...
- ✓ Plan to hide their identity or locale, fearing that even birthparents who are responsible enough to plan a child's brightest future shouldn't be trusted past placement...
- ✓ Want to control or manipulate the process themselves and view agency's commitment to the rights of all participants as disloyal or adversarial...
- ✓ Fear and resent the birthparents' need to know how the child is doing after placement, seeing it as a sign that the birthparents are failing to "let go" properly...
- ✓ Are uncomfortable thinking of adoption as a lifelong journey and prefer to view it simply as an means to an end...
- ✓ Plan to not discuss the adoption story and birthfamily info with their child for as long as possible or until he or she is "of age", storing letters, photos and gifts sent by the birthfamily in a safety deposit box until that time...
- ✓ Intend to hide the fact that they've adopted to others outside the family, in an effort to purge the past...
- ✓ Are seeking to work with a traditional agency of caseworkers who will cater to the adopting family's needs during a 2-7 year waiting period, pressure birthparents to relinquish, allow the adoptive family's needs to define the birthparents' options, and cover costs via a flat fee, sliding scale or exorbitant charges...

### **Abrazo's Program Is Most Likely To Be Just Perfect for Those Who:**

- ✓ Want to be parents...
- ✓ Have come to terms with their infertility, have grieved appropriately, sought help in resolving the painful emotional effects of this diagnosis and are ready to move ahead...
- ✓ Want to love a child who needs them and to fulfill that child's every need...
- ✓ See adoption as one more great opportunity for building a family...
- ✓ Are willing to expand their placement preferences to also consider children of various racial backgrounds, ages, those with siblings, or with special needs ...
- ✓ Genuinely embrace open adoption and intend to welcome the presence of the birth family in their lives and that of their child, before and after placement occurs...
- ✓ Need their adopted child to look just like himself or herself...
- ✓ Recognize that adoption is a lifetime investment and are willing to commit the funds necessary to do it right...
- ✓ Understanding the importance of honesty, are willing to share identifying info like last names and addresses, or to consider doing so given the right birthparent match...
- ✓ Want the agency to mediate fairly on behalf of all parties and to make sure the birthparents' needs are all provided for, as allowed by law...
- ✓ Appreciate and value birthparent interest in the child over the years to come, seeing it as an expression of the love which made placement possible and as a blessing which affirms and supports the adopted child...
- ✓ Recognize that placement is only the beginning and become an active part of the adoption community, always seeking to learn more...
- ✓ Begin sharing the adoption story with their adopted child from day one, so that the child is always raised with loving, age-appropriate information about his or her birthfamily and placement, with access as appropriate, so the adoption need never be a secret...
- ✓ See adoption as a legacy of which to be proud and educate their family and friends so that the child never needs to feel shame about his or her origins...
- ✓ Are seeking to work with an energetic, professional staff who treat birthparents with compassion and adoptive families with respect, educating both about their rights, choices and alternatives, and facilitating legally secure placements at reasonable costs, generally within 6-12 months...