



Are you looking for a child to add to your family?
 You are cordially invited to attend a
SWAN/IL MATCHING RECEPTION

The purpose of a matching reception is to allow prospective adoptive families to meet and interact with the caseworkers who work directly with Pennsylvania’s waiting children. Families can learn more about the children in Pennsylvania in need of permanency by seeing photos, posters and multimedia presentations about them and by talking directly to their caseworkers. Prior to attending the event, remember to discuss with your caseworker any changes that may be necessary to the special needs or characteristics sections in your Resource Family Application Registration/Update Form (CY 131) or to the waiting child characteristics you may consider for your family.

This event will be held during the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network/Independent Living Winter Statewide Meeting.

WHO IS INVITED?	Adoptive Families, Child and Family Caseworkers
DATE	Wednesday, January 22, 2020
TIME	6–8:30 pm
LOCATION	Winter Statewide Meeting Matching Room The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center 215 Innovation Boulevard State College, PA 16803-6603 1.800.233.7505
RSVP	We encourage pre-registration by January 15, 2020 , however walk-in registrations are also welcome. To register, families should complete and return the form below to: Conferencing, 471 JPL Wick Drive, P.O. Box 4560, Harrisburg, PA 17111, OR register online at www.diakon-swan.org ; click on Events , then on 2020 SWAN/IL MATCHING RECEPTION and follow the prompts.
QUESTIONS?	Contact the SWAN Helpline at 1.800.585.SWAN or by email at swanhelpline@diakon-swan.org

THIS FORM IS FOR FAMILY REGISTRATION ONLY

Names of Attending Family Members:						
Family address:						
City:			State:	Zip:		
Daytime phone:			Email:			
Agency name: (working with family)			Total # of family members attending *:			
Is this your first PA Statewide Matching Event?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			

* We respectfully ask that families make their own child care arrangements to maximize the space available.

If you no longer wish to be on the mailing list for matching events, contact your agency worker or the SWAN Helpline (SWANHelpline@diakon-swan.org) and ask to be removed from our mailing list.



SWAN/IL MATCHING RECEPTION: A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Who attends a matching reception?

Prospective adoptive families, county children and youth workers and SWAN affiliate agency workers, as well as staff from the Department of Human Services (DHS); SWAN; the SWAN Helpline; the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE) and the SWAN prime contractor, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, in partnership with Family Design Resources.

What is the purpose of a matching reception?

The purpose of a matching reception is to allow prospective adoptive families to meet and interact with the people working directly with Pennsylvania's waiting children. This is an opportunity for prospective adoptive families to speak to workers about children who are available, whether or not a specific child would be suitable for them and additional questions they may have about adopting a waiting Pennsylvania child.

Are prospective adoptive families required to attend the matching reception?

No, families are under no obligation to attend. The matching reception is just another method offered to prospective adoptive families to find a child. No one is required to attend.

Will there be waiting children at the Matching Reception?

No, children available for adoption will not be at the event. This event is intended solely for prospective adoptive families to interact with the county and affiliate workers who work directly with Pennsylvania's waiting children, not with the waiting children themselves.

Where can families find help during the matching reception?

Staff from county children and youth agencies and SWAN affiliate agencies will be present at their agency displays to answer any questions families may have about Pennsylvania's waiting children. Additionally, staff from SWAN will be present (wearing black shirts bearing the SWAN logo) to provide assistance prior to and during the matching reception.

How do we identify the children who interest us?

Children are typically assigned PAE ID numbers which you can share with your family worker who can follow-up with the child's worker. This year we will also have an electronic method that you can use to denote your interest in particular children. The advantage to this is that it provides built-in follow-up from SWAN. Further details will be provided at the event by staff, including members of the SWAN Helpline.

Where can families find assistance after the matching reception?

After the event is over, if you want to obtain more information about a child presented at the matching reception, you should work with your family worker who can contact the county agency with custody of the child or the affiliate agency working with the child. If you do not have their contact information, or are in need of additional information or services, you should contact the SWAN Helpline at 1.800.585.SWAN, who will be happy to help you.