nurture.
inspire.
empower.
Since being founded in 1998 by Kathleen Dugan, an extraordinary woman and mother of 4 biological and 8 adopted children, C.A.S.E. has grown to become a local, national and international resource for adoptive, kinship and foster families and the professionals who support them.
Partnerships

C.A.S.E. collaborates and partners with many local and national organizations, agencies, educational institutions and individuals to serve the adoption, kinship and foster care community. Visit our “Partnerships” page online for a full list of our valued partners.

Jockey Being Family® of Jockey International, Inc.
C.A.S.E. partners with Jockey Being Family to provide our Strengthening Your Family monthly webinar series, Training for Adoption Competency (TAC), and backpacks filled with toys and educational resources to thousands of children who have been adopted and their families nationwide.

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
C.A.S.E. partners with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to provide the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (WWK) program, focusing exclusively on moving North America’s longest-waiting children who are most at risk of aging out of foster care into adoptive families. In 2019 C.A.S.E.’s two WWK recruiters successfully placed 6 children in Maryland with their forever families. The Foundation also supports the expansion of Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) Training sites across the country.

Spaulding Partnership Program
C.A.S.E. partners with Spaulding for Children, North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), ChildTrauma Academy and the University of Washington on two national initiatives to develop state-of-the-art, culturally appropriate training for foster and adoptive parents and guardians. These initiatives are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau:

- Critical Ongoing Resource Family Education (CORE TEEN) for parents of teens experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges.
- National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC) to prepare, train and develop foster, adoptive and kinship parents to parent children exposed to trauma.
Mental Health Services for Children & Families

Families formed through adoption, kinship and foster care often face unique emotional, developmental and behavioral challenges that may stem from pre- and post-adoption experiences. With early intervention, families can address and overcome these challenges. C.A.S.E.’s therapists have been trained under our own accredited, nationally recognized Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) program and have the skills, insight and experience to help families navigate the many obstacles that affect lifelong adoption journeys.

How We Help
C.A.S.E. combines best practices and innovation to provide specialized individual and family therapy, psychiatric services and support groups, addressing mental health issues associated with separation, loss, grief, attachment and identity. C.A.S.E. clinicians use a trauma-informed approach and a wide range of therapeutic tools to help individuals and families to overcome a variety of challenges.

Counseling and Psychiatric Services
C.A.S.E. provides counseling and consultation in person from our seven office locations as well as through our secure, convenient tele-mental health service for individuals and families in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, DC, and New York.

Who We Serve
- Child/teen adoptees and their families
- Adult adopted persons
- Birth parents
- Kinship families
- Prospective and waiting adoptive parents
- Youth in foster care and their families

Post-Adoption Case Management Services

This initiative, funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services and in partnership with Catholic Charities and Lutheran Family Services, offers post-adoption direct services and support for Virginia’s families.

“You’re frustrated, and in despair and you’ll try anything...then, you come to a place like C.A.S.E. and all of the sudden it changes how you interact with your child.”

– Adoptive Parent
Education and Training

C.A.S.E. offers a wealth of educational trainings and resources for parents and professionals.

For Professionals

Our nationally recognized web- and classroom-based training programs for mental health professionals and child welfare personnel build skills in adoption competency and allow professionals to more effectively support individuals and families in the adoption, kinship and foster community.

Training for Adoption Competency (TAC)

TAC is the premier national program to train mental health clinicians in adoption-competent skills. The 72-hour curriculum for post-master's clinicians includes classroom and clinical case consultation. TAC is rated by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare as a Promising Practice in Child Welfare Workforce Development and Support programs with high child welfare relevance. Over 1,700 clinicians nationwide have completed the curriculum since 2009.

Adoptive families can connect with TAC-trained adoption-competent mental health professionals by browsing C.A.S.E.'s online national directory.

National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI)

C.A.S.E. developed two, state of the art, standardized web-based trainings to enhance the capacity of child welfare and mental health professionals to better understand and address the mental health and needs of children and youth in foster, adoptive and kinship families. The NTI trainings are available free on the CapLEARN online training center. C.A.S.E. is working with state and tribal systems to integrate NTI into their training array for free access by child welfare and mental health professionals. Directory of host sites for NTI trainings.

For Families and Professionals

Workshops, Webinars and Publications

C.A.S.E. offers a wide array of in-demand webinars and a monthly live stream Strengthening Your Family webinar series for parents and professionals with 600 FREE registrations available each month due to support from Jockey Being Family.

W.I.S.E. Up!

Since its creation in 2003, W.I.S.E. Up! has grown into a nationally and internationally acclaimed program that has helped thousands of children who are adopted and their parents. W.I.S.E. Up! creates a safe place for children to express their feelings about being adopted and provides them with the confidence and the tools to answer tough questions. W=walk away I=it's personal S=share something about your story E=educate others

Visit C.A.S.E.’s online store for award-winning publications, webinars and merchandise.
“For one of our children, we were the fourth home that he lived in before he was 2 years old. He couldn’t talk. He couldn’t communicate. Now he laughs and is so happy. What an incredible reminder of how far we can go as a family by working together.”

– Jessica and Timothy Richmond, Adoptive and Foster Parents

Mission
Improving the lives of children who have been adopted or are in foster care and their families through counseling, lifelong education, and a growing national network of trained professionals.
Our Impact

C.A.S.E. has developed a national reputation for excellence in meeting the needs of the adoption, kinship and foster care community by providing early intervention, educational resources and ongoing support that significantly impacts the lives, stability and permanency of families.

With seven offices across the metro regions of Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD and the Capital Region of New York, we have become the leading regional provider of pre- and post-adoption support, serving 6,384 counseling clients to date.

“C.A.S.E. has helped us, as adoptive parents, to understand and relate better to our children.”
— Adoptive Parent

7 C.A.S.E offices | 14 W.I.S.E. Up! partners
3 National Organizations
18 Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) partners
23 National Training Initiative (NTI) partners

54 training partners in 26 states and Canada

149 children received resources through post-adoption case management services.

639 clients served through counseling events*
*in 2019

4,647 new adoptive families received C.A.S.E. publications through the Jockey Being Family® Backpack program.*
*in 2019

4,799 people registered from 48 states & 8 countries, for C.A.S.E. live webinars.*
*in 2019

6,530 clients served through counseling events*
*in 2019

Over 10,000 professionals trained through TAC, NTI and customized workshops;
1,535 parents and 184 children were trained through customized workshops in 2019 alone.

“C.A.S.E. has helped us, as adoptive parents, to understand and relate better to our children.”
— Adoptive Parent