

## Adoption: A Loving Choice

*Adoption is an important option to consider when dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. It involves a loving commitment to a child if you cannot parent at this time. Following is some important information to help guide you in making this decision.*

### ***Adoption has changed a lot over the years...***

- Women are encouraged to make decisions about their child's future, including choosing adoptive parents for their child and the type of adoption they want, among other decisions.
- Adoptive families are carefully screened and prepared for parenthood. Women can learn about the adoptive family they choose for their child, and meet them if they like.
- If desired, you can hear about how their baby is doing after adoption through pictures and letters, or in person. We can facilitate open adoption, which allows for contact between the birth mother, her baby, and the adoptive family.
- Depending on the circumstances, birth fathers can take an active role in adoption planning.

### ***Some legal facts you should know...***

1. In the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, both parents need to agree to an adoption plan for the child.
2. A birth mother can still make an adoption plan for the baby if she does not know who the father is.
3. Pregnant women and birth fathers under age 18 need a parent's consent to place their child for adoption.

*Meeting with an adoption professional is the best way to become completely informed about adoption planning. This is a free service, and it does not commit you to adoption planning. For more information, contact Adoption Options at 401-331-5437, or toll-free at 1-800-337-6513.*