

*The Adoption Chronicles Project*  
Overview and Opportunities

12.9.2024

# *adoptionchronicles* | BACKGROUND

THE ADOPTION CHRONICLES PROJECT IS COMMITTED TO GATHERING STORIES FROM THE EPOCH OF ADOPTION WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1920 AND 2020 - WHILE THERE IS STILL OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY THE ADOPTION EXPERIENCE.

The early 1920s marked the beginning of a new era of adoption, one that emphasized the safety and well-being of adopted children. Child welfare agencies were organized to conduct background checks on prospective adoptive parents and in-depth home studies became the norm. During this epoch, the act of adopting a child became regarded as a privilege rather than a right. Eventually, birth parents were given the opportunity to take part in the process of selecting the family that would adopt their child and a greater emphasis was placed on maintaining connections, whenever feasible, the child's genetic extended family network.

These positive changes spawned decades of reunions and ongoing relationships between adopted children and their birth families. Over time, millions of lives were touched as all members of the adoption triad experienced their own unique journey.

The Adoption Chronicles Project was envisioned as a way to record first-hand accounts of adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents during this epoch. The project will chronicle and showcase stories and experiences through the written word, photos and videos – before the memory of these experiences are lost due to the passing of time.

# adoption *chronicles* | BACKGROUND

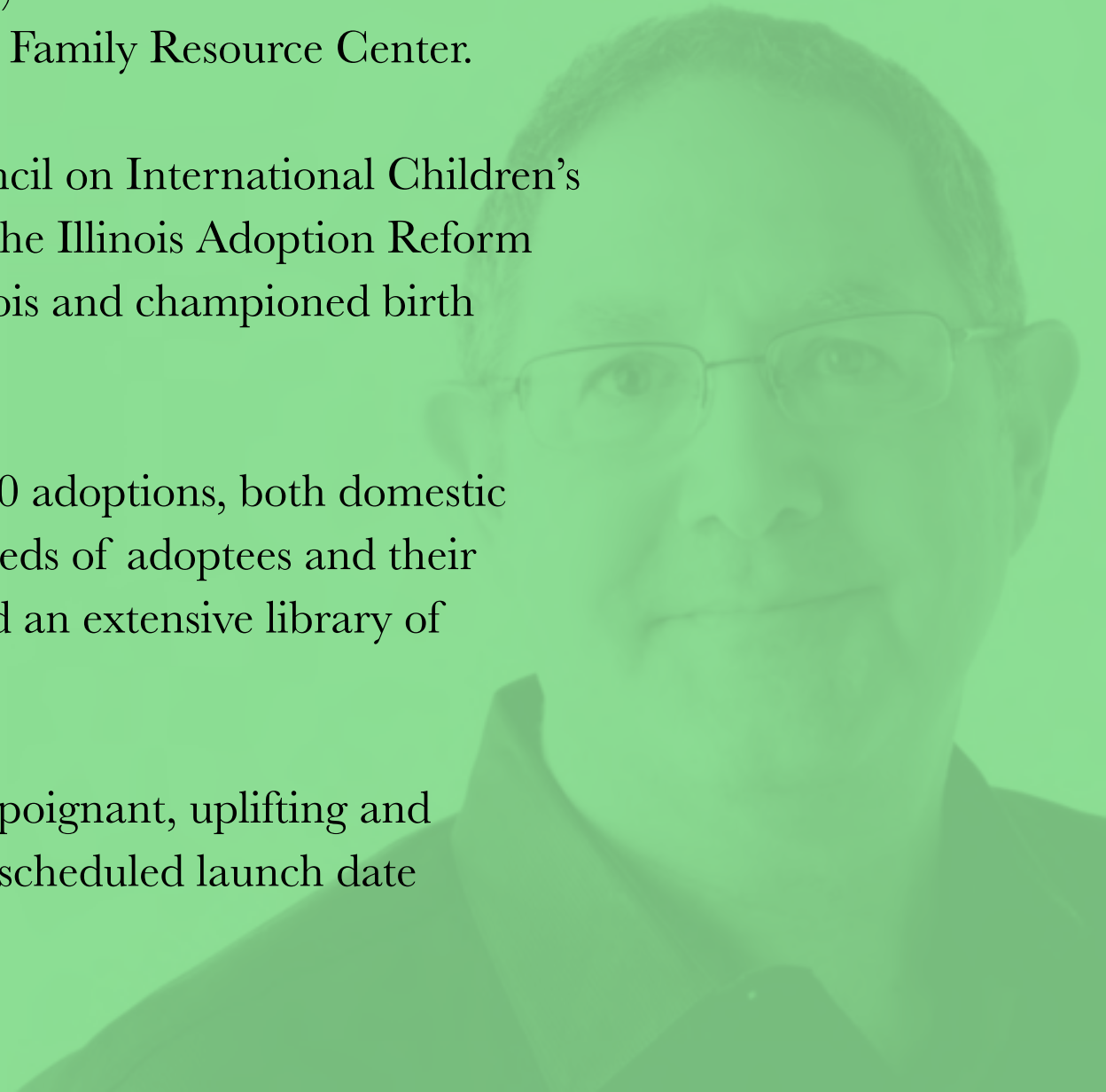
## ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Richard Pearlman was a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and also the founder and former executive director of the Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center.

He was a member of the board of directors of The Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS), and played a pivotal role in helping to draft the Illinois Adoption Reform Act, which ended the commercial practice of adoption in Illinois and championed birth parents' rights.

Having participated (directly and indirectly) in more than 4,500 adoptions, both domestic and international, Richard has maintained contact with hundreds of adoptees and their families – as well as professionals in the field – and has amassed an extensive library of adoption stories and experiences that spans generations.

Now retired, Richard has undertaken this effort to share these poignant, uplifting and sometimes difficult stories on a multi-channel platform, with a scheduled launch date of early 2025.



# adoption *chronicles* | P U R P O S E

The goal of this project is to educate the public about the experience of adoption spanning the period from 1920 until 2020.

We will document individual stories through the use of photographs, personal accounts, creative writing, interviews, art work, and a reiteration of philosophical statements about the phenomena of adoption during this epoch.

The platform will include:



Website



Book Series



Social Media



adoption *chronicles*

A U D I E N C E

*Adoptees*



*Birth parents*



*Adoptive parents*



*Extended family members*



*Adoption professionals*



# adoption*chronicles* | P L A T F O R M

WEBSITE: [www.adoptionchronicles.com](http://www.adoptionchronicles.com)

A robust, optimized, professionally designed and managed website featuring:

- Curated stories from Richard's library
- Personal accounts shared via video, audio or written text
- Brief history of adoption from 1920 to 2020
- A submission portal to gather stories from the public



# adoption *chronicles* | P L A T F O R M

BOOK VOLUME SERIES: *The Adoption Chronicles Journals*

A collection of beautifully designed, self-published paperback books featuring:

- Curated stories from Richard's library
- Personal photographs, memorabilia and news stories

To be sold on various platforms.



## SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Adoption Chronicles Project social media presence to promote:

- The website
- The books
- Featured stories





# adoption *chronicles* | B U D G E T

## WEBSITE \$30K (10-12 STORIES/PAGES)

- Design and copy
- Image library
- Programming and QA
- Hosting
- Moderating and maintenance

## SOCIAL PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT \$10K

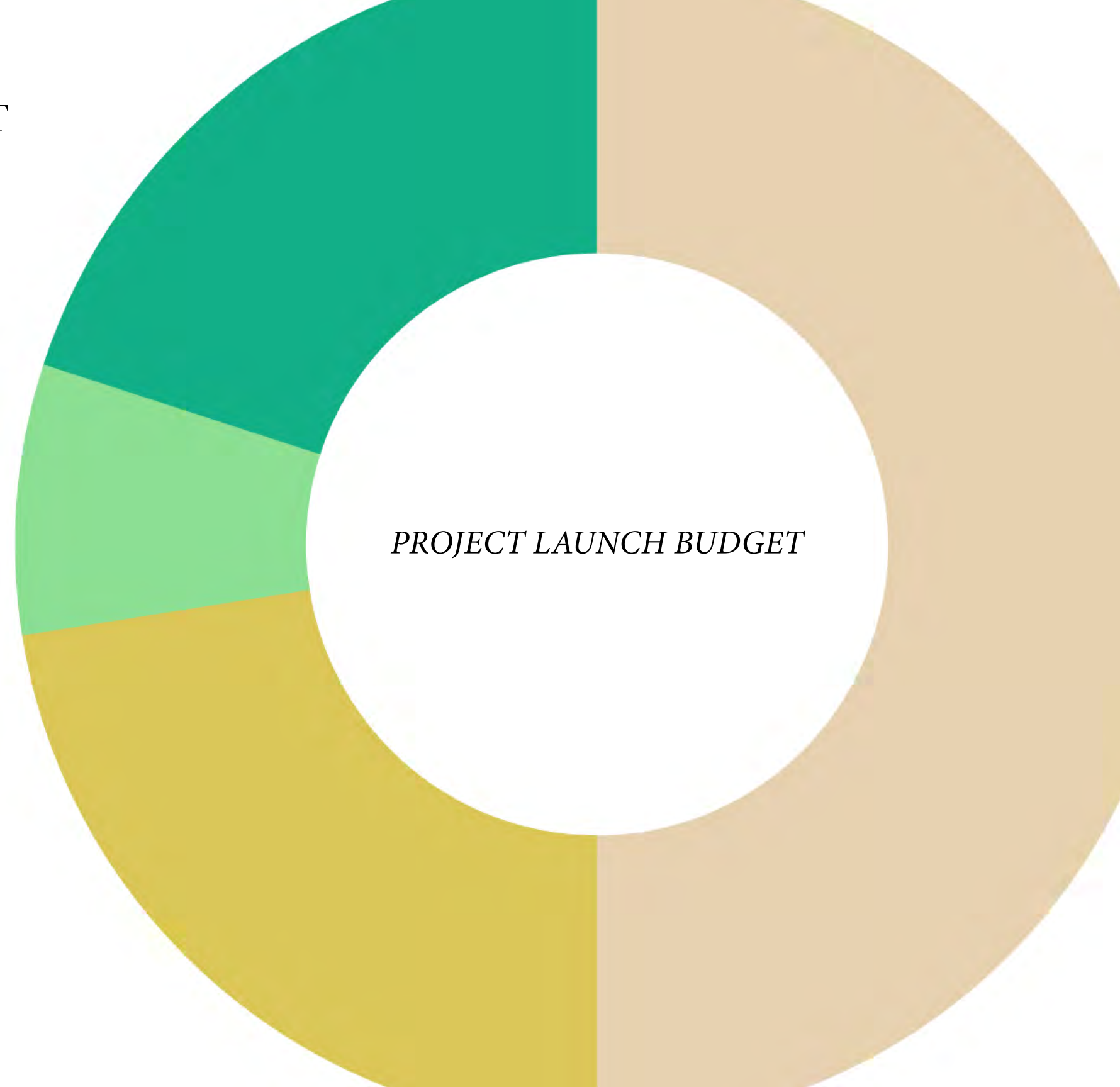
- Initial set up
- Engagement management

## BOOK SERIES (VOL. ONE) \$10K

- Design and copy
- Image creation
- Publishing

## BRANDING, MARKETING AND PR \$25K

- Brand design and standards
- Press releases
- Sponsorships



WE ARE SEEKING \$75,000 TO LAUNCH THE PROJECT AND FOR OUR FIRST YEAR OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

Partnership levels:

ANGEL  
*\$10,000 to \$50,000*

GOLD  
*Above \$5,000*

SILVER  
*\$1,000 to \$5,000*

BRONZE  
*\$100*

FRIEND OF  
THE PROJECT  
*\$5 to \$100*

adoption *chronicles* | LAUNCH TEAM

RICHARD PEARLMAN  
*Founder*



MARTHA PORTER FISZER  
*Content & Project Management*



BRANDON POPE  
*Creative Director*



THERESA FERGUSON  
*Marketing & PR*



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# adoption *chronicles* | S T R U C T U R E

Adoption Chronicles Project is a not-for-profit charity incorporated in the state of Illinois.

A board of directors has been assembled for the ongoing management of the program including representation from:

- Adoption agencies and/or affiliated organizations
- Parties who understand family law and adoption law
- Marketing
- Finance
- Birth parents, adoptive parents, adult adoptees and their extended families

All proceeds received through the sale of books and in-kind donations will go toward ongoing program management.

Adoption Chronicles Project Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Services as a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Service Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Contributions to Adoption Chronicles Project Inc., are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. The organization is considered a Public Charity and is governed by a volunteer board of directors.



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## *Mission*

To shine a light on the experience of adoption during the period from 1920 to 2020, and to celebrate how adoption touched millions of lives during this time.



THANK YOU



RICHARD PEARLMAN  
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