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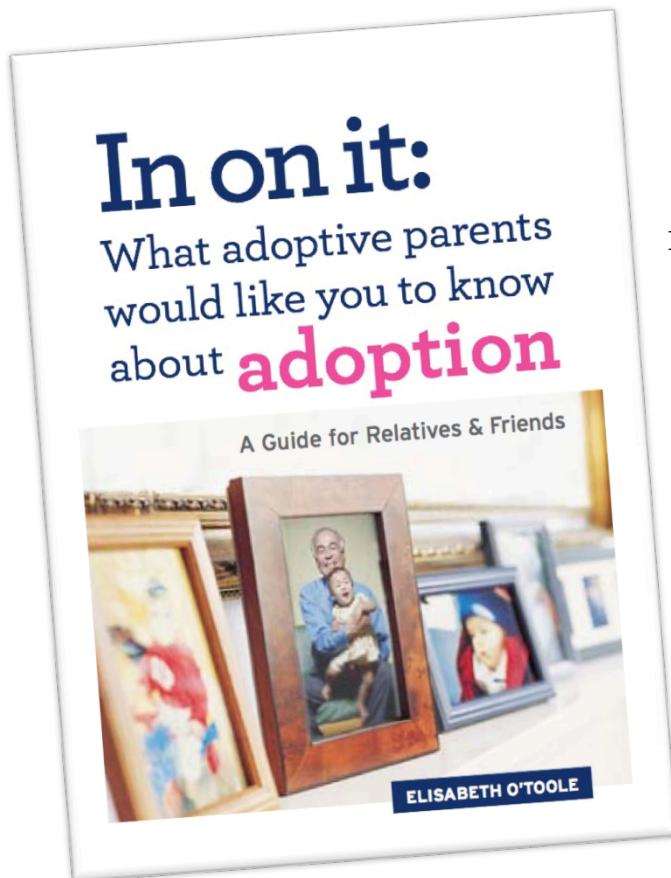
Media inquiries contact:

Laura Billings Coleman

ProBonoPress

651-280-7202

www.inonadoption.com



Practical and sensitive wisdom for anyone supporting a loved one's adoption process.

--Corrie L. Wold, *MSW, LISW*,
*Children's Home Society and
Family Services, Minneapolis*

IN ON IT is written expressly for and to a readership generally overlooked: the extended family and friends of new adoptive parents. Grandparents and neighbors anxious about what to say or do will be heartened by this fine book's conversational tone and generous spirit.

--Cheri Register, author of "*Are Those Kids Yours?*" *American Families with Children Adopted from Other Countries*

Enlarging "The Adoption Circle": New Guidebook Explores What Adoptive Parents Wish Everyone Understood About Adoption

More than 100,000 children will be adopted into U.S. families this year—new bonds that will join the more than 1.8 million American families already forged by adoption.

While expectant parents may have devoured every book on the subject during their own decision-making process, "to the family and friends of adoptive parents, that announcement can often feel like a surprise," says author Elisabeth O'Toole. "They haven't had the chance to really think about their own feelings about adoption, to anticipate what this new family will need, or to prepare themselves for the great privilege of welcoming a new child into their lives. Adoption can be a pretty steep learning curve."

That's why O'Toole, herself the mother of three adopted children, set out to write **In on It: What Adoptive Families Would Like You To Know About Adoption—A Guide for Relatives and Friends** (Fig Press, \$14.95). "This is really the book I wished I could have given to my family and friends when we started the adoption process," O'Toole says. "It's a tool that adoptive parents can use to bring the people they care about in on the adoption experience, showing them ways they can provide support during an adoption, and also anticipating their own special issues related to this new family."

An accessible and practical adoption primer, **In On It** explores the public and the private considerations that surround the adoption process—from the steps families take to toward adoption, to managing the often lengthy wait for referral, to the special privacy considerations adoptive families may have for their child's birth story. **In On It** also examines the unexpected ways adoption can affect those in the so-called "adoption circle"—grandparents who may mourn the loss of the biological grandchild they once expected, friends who have fears about the challenges of transracial adoption, relatives who worry how to navigate well-meaning neighbors who ask, "Is she your *real* niece?"

Sharing insights and anecdotes from more than 100 adoptive families, friends and relatives, adult adoptees, social workers, and other professionals O'Toole interviewed, **In On It** is an invaluable guidebook for expectant relatives, supportive friends, and everyone who wants to enlarge "the adoption circle" that supports adoptive parents and children.

About the author:

Elisabeth O'Toole is the mother of three children, each adopted from Colombia. A former teacher, nonprofit consultant, and marketing manager, O'Toole is a graduate of Northwestern University and Colorado State University. She and her husband live in St. Paul, Minnesota.