



# GLADNEY *Center for Adoption*

## TRANSITIONAL CARE FAMILIES

Between the time a baby is discharged from the hospital and placement day, he or she will be cared for by loving Transitional Care Families. These families are volunteers that have opened their hearts and homes to care for Gladney babies and children waiting to be adopted. They volunteer out of love for babies and the enjoyment of caring for them.

Each Transitional Care Family has created a welcoming environment in their home. Families provide all of the nursery equipment, car seats and clothes for the babies in their care (Gladney provides diapers, wipes and formula due to generous donors). Transitional Care Families go through the same screening process as adoptive families, including background and reference checks. Plus, each family must complete 20 hours of baby training classes annually.

While in Transitional Care, each baby becomes a temporary part of the Transitional Care Family. The Transitional Care Family will take each baby to the pediatrician while in care and if a longer hospital stay is necessary after delivery, the Transitional Care Family will stay with the baby in the hospital to ensure that he or she receives the best care possible. The Transitional Care Mom will also bring the baby to all of the scheduled nursery visits. Nursery visits are a special time for birth mom and baby to spend together. These visits can be part of the adoption plan, and are scheduled through the birth mother's caseworker.

As preparation for placement day, Transitional Care Moms keep notes about the baby's progress, schedule and temperament to help make the transition as smooth and easy as possible for the baby. We use the term "Proud Volunteers" to describe Transitional Care Families because of the number of photos they take to share with both birth parents and adoptive parents on placement day.



*Every step from the hospital to placement day is made more comfortable by the loving hearts and caring hands of our Transitional Care Families.*