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## **For Immediate Release: OhioGuidestone Offers Adoption Support Group in Lorain County**

*(February 2016, Lorain, Ohio)* We are pleased to announce that OhioGuidestone is offering a new support group, Connections, in Lorain County for adoptive parents and their children. This group will allow parents of adoptive children to find support for the specific challenges they face; and allow adoptive children to meet other youth with similar backgrounds and get encouragement from our therapists who specialize in adoption mental health. The groups meet at the same time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at OhioGuidestone's Lorain County office located at 2173 North Ridge Road, Suite E., in Lorain, Ohio.

"Today, adoption looks much different than it has in the past," says Joanna Gioia, *OhioGuidestone Director of Lorain County Services*. "More and more, children are being adopted or raised by Grandparents, family members, or are in foster care awaiting adoption. We recognized a need in Lorain County to support families experiencing these challenges, and we are pleased to partner with the Lorain County Mental Health Board to offer the Connections support groups to our community."

Through the Connections support groups, OhioGuidestone provides a safe space for non-traditional families and their children to come together and receive support from each other; to help them better understand their own experiences; to gain valuable positive social interaction; and to provide education to families about unique issues with adoption.

For more information about the Connections Support Group, please contact Joanna Gioia, *Director, Lorain County*, at 440.260.6108 or [Joanna.Gioia@ohioguidestone.org](mailto:Joanna.Gioia@ohioguidestone.org).