



What's Missing?

Helping Single Adoptive & Foster
Parents Provide Everything That's
Needed

2011 Tapestry Adoption & Foster Care Conference



Don't Have: A Permanent Home For Foster Children

What YOU can provide:

- A place to call their own
- Someone to care for them
- Responsible, loving parent
- Attention



Don't Have: Either a Mom or a Dad

- You will play both roles
- Recruit family/close friends to play that role
- For some children, no opportunity to bond with parent of the opposite sex
- Build healthy relationships with adults of opposite sex at church/friends
- Take advantage of church activities for single parents
- Big Bro/Big Sis programs



Don't Have: Example of Relationship in Home Between Spouses

- Expose them to married couples with children – let them see the interaction
- Let them stay with family for a long weekend to see the dynamics of a couple with children



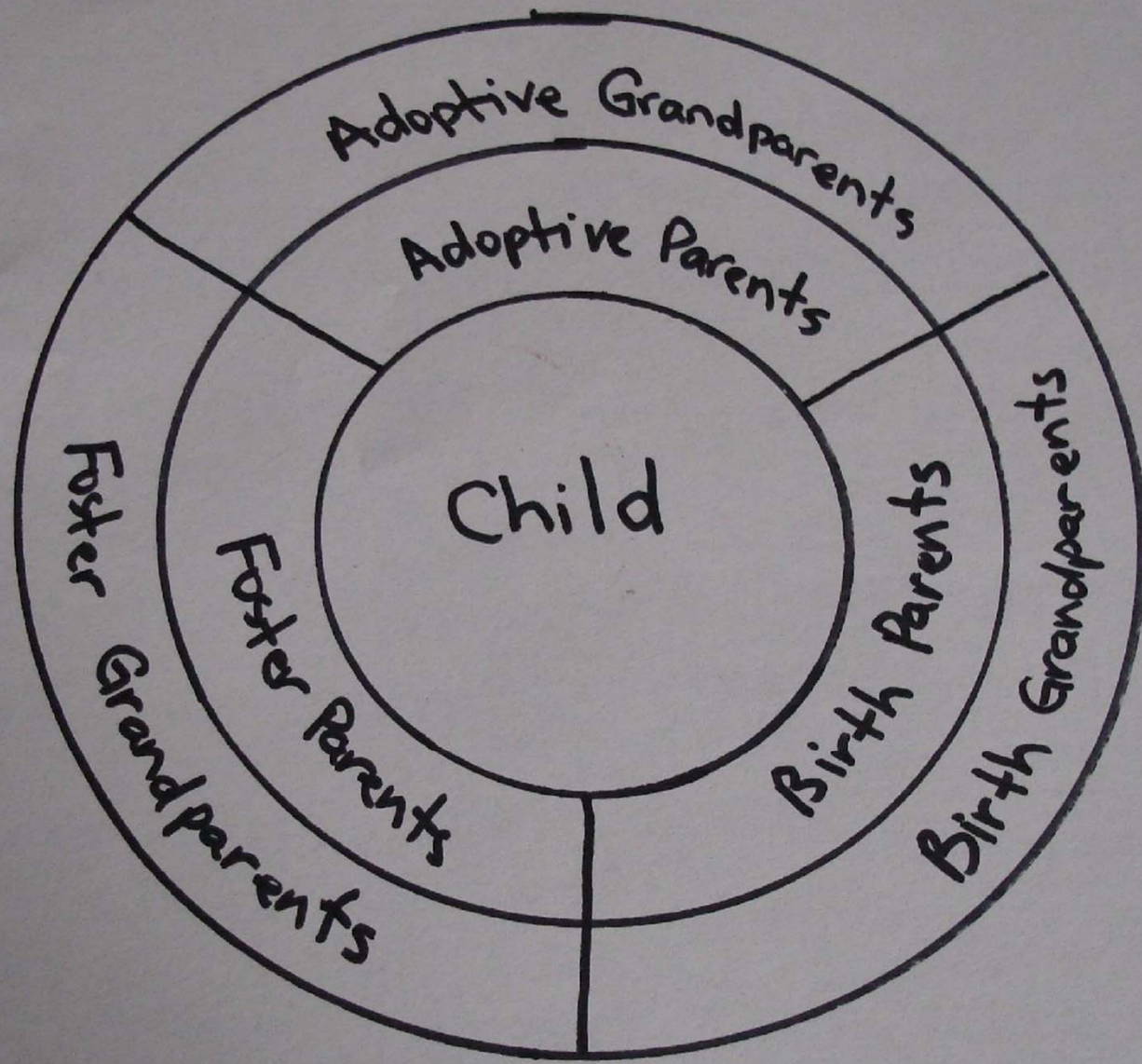
Don't Have: Individual Time with parents

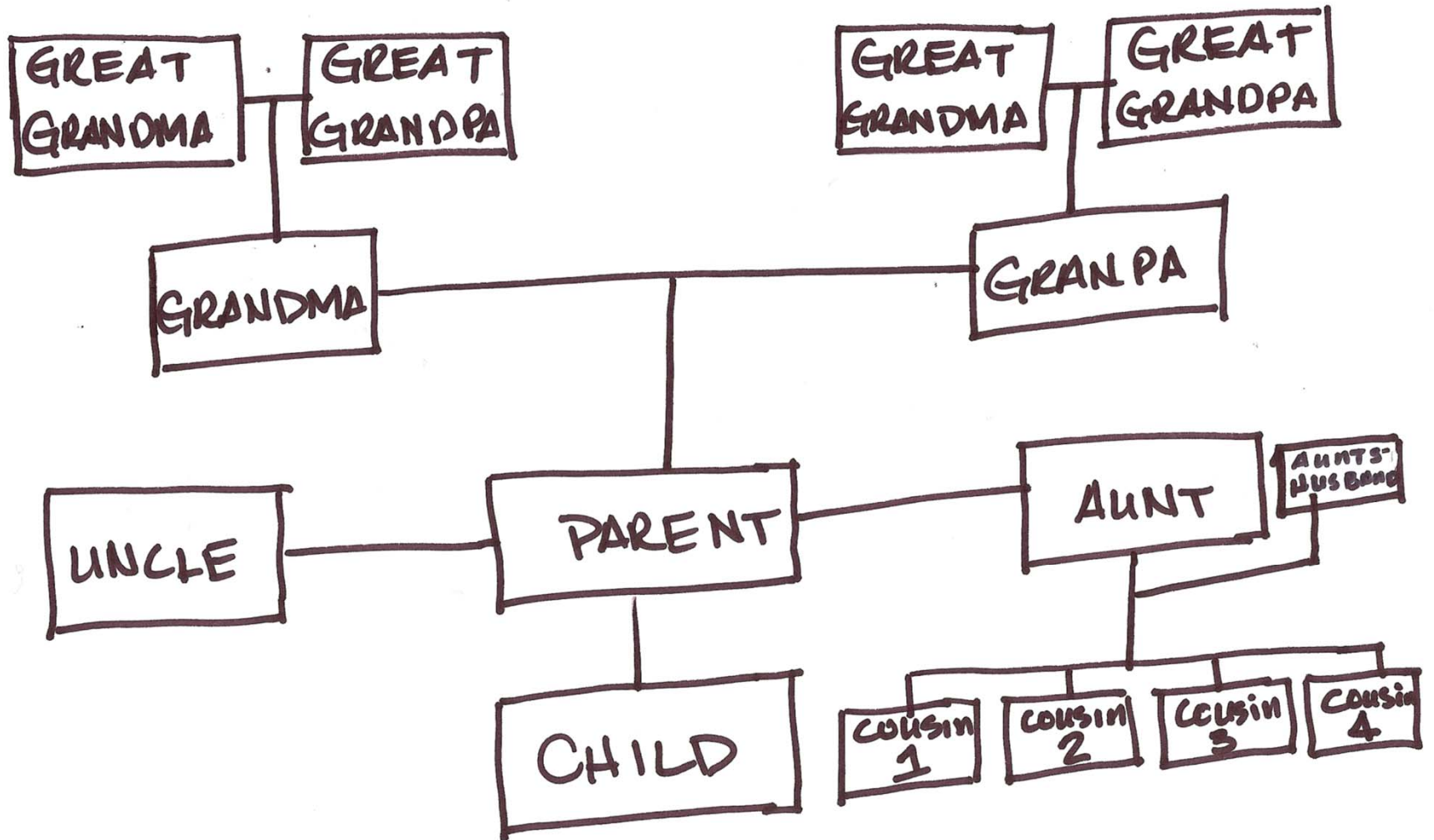
- All they do, they will do with you
- No “Mom” or “Dad” things – it’s all with you
- No “other” parent to turn to when they feel the need

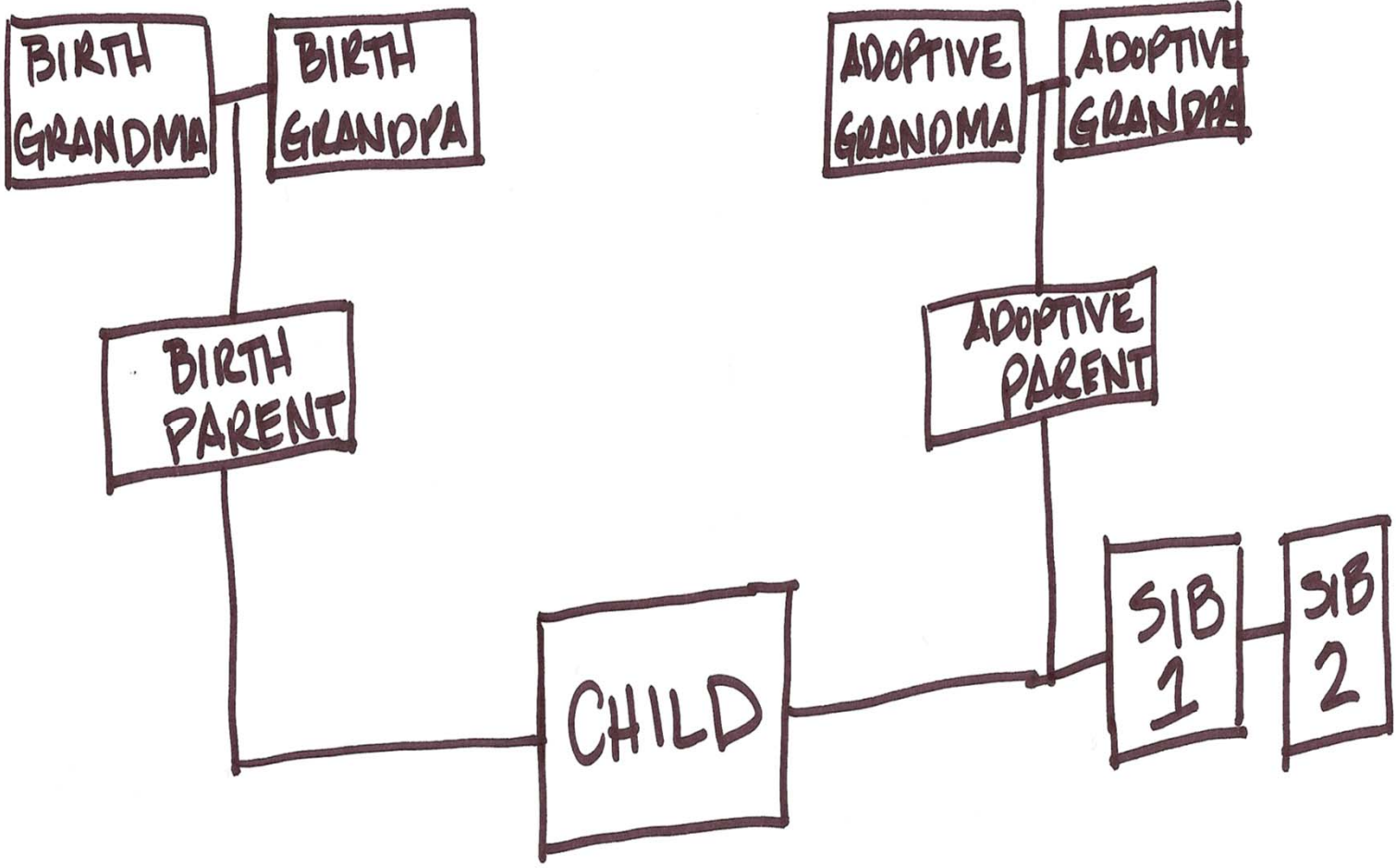


Don't Have: A Clear Sense of Self on a Family Tree

- Either Mom or Dad side is non-existent
- Might be embarrassed or uncomfortable to friends and class theirs look differently
- No set "rules" for Family Trees, be creative









What Do Single Parents Not Have?

Partner to Tag-Team

- Be prepared/have a plan
- Get mentor (of the same sex as child) involved
- Have others to help your child and hold him/her accountable (family, close friends, mentors)
- Have someone you trust to lend an ear, support you and give a different perspective of a situation



Our Children's Stories May Be Different...

But they can still have a lot of the same things, it may just look differently...

Most importantly, they have...



YOU