

HAND IN HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS  
January, 2010

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

*We pray that this is a good year for children who wait for permanent families.*

COUNTRY UPDATES

**China** – The China Center of Adoption Affairs has most recently matched families with log-in dates of April 3, 2006. (We can report on where the China Center of Adoption Affairs is at in terms of their most recent matches, but we cannot accurately predict if that timeline will hold true for future families. Our long history in helping with China adoptions has shown the timelines to fluctuate greatly and often unpredictably. However, if you keep watching this newsletter, you can see if there is any speedup or slowdown in the process from month to month.)

**China/Special Needs** - We can assist with adoption of children from China who have special needs. This process is an expedited one open to families already in process in China or families yet to apply. *See the related articles about six children with special needs for whom we need to find families and about one family's own experience with a special needs adoption.*

**Guatemala** – See the article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding an update on Guatemalan adoptions from the US State Department.

**Haiti** –Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. People are literally starving to death (every hour, one child in Haiti dies of starvation) and living in conditions unfathomable to us. Roughly one-third of Haitian children are chronically malnourished. Less than 10 percent of the Haitian population has access to electricity. There is no government infrastructure and very little hope. There are one million orphans in Haiti, but only 200 to 300 are adopted each year by Americans. Could you adopt one of these needy children?

**Pakistan** – Hand In Hand is currently working to license and register our program for Christian children in Pakistan. We are working toward opening a care facility staffed with nurses and a social worker who will work with the children and relinquishing families. Setting up under a mission group, our facility will be named Abundant Hope Children's Home and will house up to 20 children in need of adoptive homes. Donations to assist with this program should be sent to MaryLee Lane, Hand In Hand, 9520 S.W. 9th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34476 and marked Pakistan Donation.

**Philippines** –There continues to be a moratorium on applications for children up to two years of age. Applications for children over two are still being accepted. *See the two accompanying articles regarding new children for Special Home Finding and the start of recruiting new families for the 2010 Summer Hosting Program.*

**Russia** – Families are needed for children between 18 months old and ten years old.

NEWS ON GUATEMALA FROM THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

“On November 20, 2009 the Department of State received a letter from the Guatemalan National Council on Adoptions (CNA) – the Guatemalan Central Authority -- announcing its intention to launch a limited two-year pilot program that will allow for the adoption of a small number of older children, groups of siblings, and children with special needs. The CNA invited the Central Authorities of Hague Convention partner countries to express interest in participating in this program, in which no more than four countries will be chosen to participate among countries that express interest. The program is designed to re-open Guatemala's intercountry adoptions while ensuring compliance with the Hague Convention. The CNA has so far provided little detail about how the pilot program would function.

The Department of State, after consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), sent an expression of interest in the pilot program to the CNA...

We responded positively because of our strong interest in assisting Guatemala to reform its adoption system. This expression of interest on the part of the United States does not mean that new adoptions from Guatemala will start any time soon, and prospective parents should not make any plans

to start new adoptions in Guatemala at this time. Our expression of interest does not in any way signal that DOS has found Guatemala's intercountry adoption procedures in compliance with the Hague Convention on Adoption. There is no pilot program yet, only a statement of intent from the CNA to start one. Although the United States has expressed interest in learning more about the proposed pilot program, we cannot commit to participating until we know more about the details of the program. We do not know if the CNA will accept the United States as one of the participants. We also cannot predict how the pilot program will affect grandfathered cases currently being processed by the Guatemalan government.

We will keep you updated on how the Guatemalan pilot program develops and whether the United States will be a participant."

### 2010 PHILIPPINE SUMMER HOSTING PROGRAM

We are now recruiting families to participate in this summer's hosting program for children from the Philippines who are between 7 and 14 years old. The children will stay in your home for one month. At the end of that period, they have to return to the Philippines. If you feel a connection was made, you can apply specifically to adopt that child. Families must complete a home study before the children arrive. Host families either make a tax-deductible donation to enable the child to participate in the program (airfare, passport, visa and insurance costs) or solicit donations from church, family and friends. Dozens of older children wait for their own permanent families. Could you give one a chance to find a family? Contact any Hand In Hand office for more details.

***A TESTIMONIAL FROM A PREVIOUS HOST FAMILY:*** "We hosted a 9-year old Philippine girl during the 2008 summer program. We had previously adopted 2 other older Philippine children, both through different programs. In each of our previous experiences, the most difficult aspect of the experience is not meeting the child until you actually go and pick them up. The summer hosting program gave us an opportunity to get to know this child prior to making a commitment to adopt. Further, it allowed her to experience the stability of family life much earlier than she might have through a straight adoption matching program. By becoming acquainted with her last summer, our other children were more engaged in the adoption process that followed. It made the year-long adoption process more exciting for our children, due to their overall expectation of being reunited with her. It is our view that when adopting an older child the summer hosting program is the best avenue to ensure a good family fit."

### BEYOND CONSEQUENCES - ON-LINE CLASS

*(Many of our families and social workers have found the Beyond Consequences materials to be very helpful for addressing behavior and attachment issues with adopted children. Here is information recently provided about a new on-line class.)*

I know you want to help your children be their best. My online 10-week support & training course is a most cost-effective way for you to learn how. These classes are a way to get the support you need without the expense or stress of traveling and leaving home. The online trainings are LIVE! With the use of technology, they are very interactive, informative, and fun! These classes are great for dads, moms, grandparents, case workers, therapists, and anyone else involved in the life of children with difficult behaviors. If you want the opportunity to join us at no charge, I invite you to come and check it out. My assistant during the course is Certified Instructor Andrea Tannouri; she'll be conducting the "Overview, How To & FAQ class" class **Wednesday, January 6th**. A grandfather who took the most recent class said: "The course was life changing. A child with attachment disorder does not follow the norms. After listening to so much "bad advice", from well meaning people, I am glad that I have found a method that gives me back hope. I was at the end of my rope when Beyond Consequences sent me a life line. " [Read more testimonials from past participants on my blog.](#) During this webinar, Andrea will be awarding one family complimentary attendance for the entire 10-week Online parenting course (a \$197 value). You need to be present to be eligible! Space is limited, [register](#) for this "test drive" class now! Even if you can't make the time listed there (click "show in my time zone" when you get there), sign up and you'll receive the link to the recording. See the following for information about how to sign up for the entire course: [www.beyondconsequencesonline.com](http://www.beyondconsequencesonline.com)

I thoroughly enjoy teaching these classes, so I hope you'll stop in for a peek. Here is the link: <https://heathertforbes.infusionsoft.com/link/7e474540/c3500>

#### A TESTIMONIAL FOR ADOPTING A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A Hand In Hand family who recently adopted from China sent us this note and gave us permission to publish it: "We brought home the most wonderful child in July of this year! We never thought we would be up to adopt a "special needs" child; however, here we are with three boys (7, 4, and 2 years old) that keep us extremely busy! You wouldn't know it without studying us closely, but our youngest was born without a left leg. The world of prosthetics is so amazing and has come so far - we were fortunate enough to have him fitted with his first leg in September - just two months after arriving home from China. My husband and I comment to each other all of the time that we don't even think of Noah as "special needs" and I find myself continually forgetting that he was born without a leg. He has truly been a blessing for our family and an inspiration to many around us!"

*Please consider adopting a child with special needs. Many of these children have a need which will severely affect their future if they stay in an orphanage in their home country but which can be readily addressed here in the US, just like Noah's family has found.*

#### CHILDREN WHO NEED FAMILIES

The following children are in need of families. They can be "pre-matched" to families who have not yet started a home study but who are then committed to processing their home study and dossier as quickly as possible. We have complete medical, photo and case history information on each child. Please contact us immediately if you are interested. (Prospective parents must meet the eligibility requirements for adopting from China.)

**FC** – boy born June 2006 – double auditory canals of atresia, and cleft palate - although has deformity on ears, we still can call him "handsome boy", he is kind, introverted and has a ready smile, he will smile whenever he sees the familiar persons. Although he was diagnosed as double auditory canals of atresia, he can still hear some sound of the outside world, and this doesn't affect his love of music at all, he likes watching TV, especially listening to the music, he can imitate some amused actions from TV and makes the caretakers and other small friends burst their sides with laughter.

**FWT** – boy born January 2006 – Diagnosis: congenital underdevelopment of right hand (wrist, palm and bones of fingers of right hand absence) - On Aug.22 2006 he was fostered in a foster family, and soon adapted the family life. He likes to act like a spoiled child in foster mother's arms.

**SY** – boy born June 2005 – congenital elbow joints, hip joints, dislocation deformity, not operated yet; congenital both feet TEV – had diorthosis on 12/2/06 – the result was not good. can imitate drawing vertical lines, crosses, play in kneeling position, catch a ball thrown to him in kneeling position, do simple dancing motion ( upper half-body), put on and off simple clothes, unbutton the clothes, have meals by spoon, like climbing motion. active, energetic, extroverted kid with strong memorize and fond of thinking, talking, smiling, playing games with kids, listening music, watching cartoon, such as Teletubbies, Ultraman. He would laugh aloud when happy. He is full of love. He would share his toy with other kids when they are crying and imitate adult's hushing the crying child.

**FGY** – boy born April, 2003 – deformity of both feet, deformed left ankle joint which causes a limp –has had a surgery - has normal intellectual development, likes to play with peers, is shy when staying with adults, talks lightly, dare not express his own thought and advice, has a ready smile when playing with others, sometimes can sing songs to relax his mood, has good receptive ability, can learn what adults teach him in time. Although he has deformed left ankle joint, he can walk easily, can not jump with both feet or hop or run fast.

**GJF** – boy born May, 2005 – post operative bilateral cleft lip and palate – he is smart, but he doesn't like getting along with others. He is obstinate and timid sometimes. He is fond of listening to music and has a ready smile. He underwent an operation of cleft lip and palate prosthesis on Oct 17, 2006. The operation was successful and the cut recovered well. **LR**- girl born January 2006 – chondropathy – her lower limbs are weak - she is able to crawl, use thumbs deftly, hold a pen with full hand and scribble,

turn over pages of a book twice, cover a box with its cap, bang 2 blocks together, normal motor development of both hands; she could imitate words, introverted, kind of timid, be not to speak aloud with others, respond to others' asking for her objects, love to be cuddled by a caregiver, be cooperative when put on clothes, speak a sentence of 3-5 words, point to eyes, ears, mouth, nose and hands with her fingers and get along well with caregivers and other children; normal language skills, she knows her name, turns when called; distinguishes strangers and acquaintances; responds to adults' facial expressions; counts 1-3, knows "big" and "small", knows red and white colors, knows the functions of common goods, normal intellectual development.

**ZCH – boy born June 2004 – diagnosed with congenital nerve deafness**, has hearing aids; has normal intellectual development. Motor development: he can walk alone and go up and down stairs without help. He can hold a pen and imitate drawing vertical irregular picture. Adaptability: he understands big and small, pick out toys from toys box; and build 4 blocks, knows to cover the cap of bottle. Language and sociality: he knows acquaintance and is not afraid of stranger; likes to accompany with other acquaintance; he knows to imitate "mother", "nanny" and can take off and put on clothes. He can wash his hands by himself and is an active boy; may be a candidate for cochlear implant.

#### BOOK REVIEW:

Parenting Your Internationally Adopted Child: From Your First Hours Together Through the Teen Years

by Patty Cogen, M.A., Ed.D.

*(A Hand In Hand parent submitted this book review.)*

I couldn't imagine parenting without this book. It really helped us. I didn't know what to do when my daughter seemed to prefer playing with some random dad at the park over me. Furthermore, what to do when she joined other parent-child pairs like she expected to be included. We didn't know what to do when our daughter got so frustrated, hurt or sad that she laughed and laughed. We didn't know why getting dressed in the morning took so long and felt like a dramatic thing every single time. We didn't know what to do when she used her 'freak out mode' and became stiff as a board, curled up on the couch and sucked her thumb, or seemed to be so excited and energetic that she couldn't even hear her name or bring control to her actions at all.

After playing the games in this book with my daughter, my husband and I both saw a change so immediate and dramatic that we thought it was a joke. There was no way some random author in Seattle could know exactly what our daughter was doing. But it works. We are really, really thankful this resource came our way.

#### UPCOMING HAND IN HAND EVENTS IN INDIANA

Saturday Classes: Day 3 – Saturday, January 23, 2010; Day 4 – Saturday, February 20, 2010. Classes run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Day 2 – Saturday, April 17, 2010. *The classes do not have to be taken in any certain order. Contact our office if you are not certain whether you have attended all the classes you need.*

Class for Repeat Families: The next class for families working on a second or subsequent adoption will be held in March, 2010.

#### MORE CHILDREN WHO NEED FAMILIES

*(We have more complete information and photos on the following children.*

*Adoptive families must meet the requirements of the Philippines.)*

Jeffrey is an Asian boy born December, 2005 and diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay. He walks up and down the stairs with support and would crawl when left alone. He can stoop or squat to pick up an object and returns to standing position without falling. Jeffrey still use palmar grip in using the pencil to scribble. He also has problems in his expressive language and uses gesture and signs to communicate his needs and wants. Jeffrey can express his emotions and enjoys playing with other children. He can drink from a cup with assistance and feed himself with bite-sized foods.

Judy is an Asian girl born December, 2003 who is playful, cheerful and active. Her birthmother had mental delays. The child can walk alone but stumbles if she tries to run. She smiles when somebody talks to her, enjoys being cuddled and cries when she is not given attention. She drinks milk and eats her share and asks for more if she is not contented. She still needs close supervision in attending to her personal needs. She responds when her name is called but still unable to say her name and age. She has just started to utter the word "mama" and uses varied sounds to call the attention of her caregivers.

Rammy is an Asian boy born July, 2007 who was diagnosed by a child neurologist to have Mild Global Developmental Delay with Microcephaly and Cerebral Palsy, Spastic Diplegia. He is suspected of having hearing loss. At present, he loves being played and he squeals when he is happy. He always smiles and enjoys the presence of other children. Rammy is able to pull to standing position, and almost tries to walk with support from both hands. He crawls very well and can sit by himself. He does a lot of vocalizing but no single words yet. He has good eye contact, social smile and responds appropriately to people around him.

Daniel is an Asian boy born March, 1999 Daniel is an active and playful child. He does his household chores dutifully but has to be reminded of his assignments. He is described as a jolly person who always throws jokes to others. He performs at a Slow Learner level. He shows adequate comprehension, though his general understanding of information and vocabulary is limited to common objects he has been exposed and taught. He has a strong need for maternal care. He has a caring attitude for younger children.

Razel is an Asian boy born May 2000 who has Attention Deficit Disorder. He is in the Low Average category of intelligence, attends public elementary school and gets average grades. He gets very good marks on seat works and is very proud to share it to the staff of the center. Razel is responsible with his school materials and can perform simple household chores. He could initiate a group dance and present well in programs in the center. He also attends properly to his hygiene and grooming. Razel can communicate well in their local dialect, in Tagalog, and in English.

Emilio is an Asian boy born June, 1998. In the past he underwent treatment for depressed mood. At present, Emilio showed remarkable improvement in his behavior. He is more disciplined and respectful to others. He has established good relationship with other children and interacts in group activities. Emilio can groom himself independently and can perform simple household chores in the dormitory. He attends Sunday mass and plays any church musical instrument. He is enrolled in school and is a beginner in reading but shows perseverance and motivation to study well and be promoted to higher level or be back to formal schooling.

Daisy Mae is a girl born May, 2001 who diagnosed to have congenital soft cleft palate, two small cysts on the left occipital area of the head, Cerebral Palsy- Spastic Diplegia, cognitive speech delay, behavioral disorder; and overall Global delay. She is a sociable and affectionate girl and always has an enchanting smile for everyone. She is generally independent in self-care, washing, and drying of her hands but requires minimal assistance in the toilet. She receives physical therapy and has improved in her gross motor skills. She can stand independently with an aid of a stable object and can walk approximately 30-40 steps independently although a little unstable as she walks on her toes as a result of tightness on her heel cords and the weakness of her ankle dorsiflexor. She is recommended to continue using ankle foot orthoses to assist her weak muscles.

#### YOU CAN HELP

As a non-profit agency, we are the voice for homeless and abandoned children of the world. Through these difficult economic times and natural disasters hitting so many countries, the voices of the children continue to cry out. They beg for their very existence, the most basic of needs, and we, as the most blessed nation and peoples on earth, need to respond. Please answer their cries. Send your tax deductible donations to Hand In Hand, c/o MaryLee Lane, Founder and Director, 9520 S.W. 9th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34476. If there is a particular orphanage or country that you would like your donations sent to, please indicate in the memo section on your check. Blessings, peace and thanks to all of you for your generous help. You will be blessed as you have blessed others!

**HAND IN HAND IS A HAGUE-ACCREDITED ADOPTION AGENCY**

Since February 29, 2008 Hand In Hand has had full accreditation by the US Department of State to perform adoptions under the Hague Convention. This means we are able to assist families with adoptions from any other country that is a party to the Hague Convention. The purpose of the Hague Convention is to safeguard the rights of children being adopted as well as the rights of the adoptive parents. Being accredited means we have met such standards as education of adoptive parents, professional qualifications and training of staff, ethical practices, maintenance of records, services after an adoption, etc.