

HAND IN HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

July, 2010

COUNTRY UPDATES

China – The China Center of Adoption Affairs has most recently matched families with log-in dates of April 26, 2006. *If your dossier is logged in for a regular match and you are getting discouraged with the wait, please know that you can consider the match of a special needs child without removing your dossier from your “place in line” at CCAA. If you know you want to do this, please contact Vickie Truelove at hiiadopt@verizon.net and submit an updated Type of Child form so that our staff in China can know which child may be a possibility for you. Once a child is referred to you, you have 48 to 72 hours to consider it and you are able to say No without negative repercussion.*

China/Special Needs - We can assist with adoption of children from China who have special needs. This process is an expedited one. Contact hiiadopt@verizon.net for more details.

Guatemala – There is no news regarding which countries Guatemala has chosen for a pilot program.

Haiti – Haiti has re-opened for applications for children who were either documented as orphans prior to the January 12, 2010 earthquake or children whose parent(s) have legally relinquished them since the quake. We have been sending new applications to Haiti and the orphanage director is excited to work with us again to place children with permanent, loving families.

Pakistan –Five prospective families have requested to be considered for the Pilot Program of adoption, once children begin entering the facility and their paperwork is complete. Currently four other families are completing their paperwork, so that if all proceeds well with the first few cases, there will be more waiting families to become the parents of these orphaned and abandoned little ones. Keep the work at Abundant Hope in your prayers. The need is truly there and the children deserve a future filled with abundant hope.

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.

Philippines Special Home Find - There are many Filipino children who are older or who have special needs or who are a part of a sibling group who need families. They are listed on a Special Home Find list and families can review the list and apply to adopt a child they think could fit well into their family. Contact the Indiana office if you want the list emailed to you. *See the related article about new additions made to this list in June.*

Russia – Families are needed for children between 18 months old and ten years old. *See the related article on the Joint Statement from Presidents Obama and Medvedev regarding Inter-country Adoption.*

CONTINUING CENTRALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION PROCESSING

Beginning July 1, 2010 Immigration processing that was usually done in your local Immigration office has now all been transferred to the National Benefits Center in Missouri. The purpose is to streamline and centralize the processing and ensure that families in all states will undergo the same requirements and processes. What will this mean for you? If you are already proceeding with an adoption under the Hague requirements, nothing, since your case is already centralized at the NBC. However, for those of you who are adopting under the I-600A/I-600 process, your file will have been moved from your local immigration office to the NBC by July 1, 2010. You will shortly receive a letter from USCIS explaining this transition. This change will involve mailing updates and extensions to different addresses than you and we used before. These addresses will be available on the USCIS website www.uscis.gov but also from any Hand In Hand office. If you have a question, just let us know.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR INDIANA OFFICE

Please note that as of July 1, 2010 the internet provider for the Indiana office of Hand In Hand will be changing from Verizon to Frontier Communications. Email sent to the Verizon address will continue to be forwarded to us until December 31, 2010. We will notify you when we are provided with a new email address. However in the meantime, you might do best to send all your communication to us through this email address: indiana@hihiadopt.org.

The Miracle Foundation seeks dental and medical professionals to travel to India in October 2010!

The Miracle Foundation is looking for Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, Dentists, and Dental Hygienists to join us for our 2nd Annual Medical Trip to India. Our 2nd Annual Medical Trip will provide these much-needed medical professionals with the opportunity to give back by sharing their expertise and talents, while also experiencing the world in a whole new way. **Who:** Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, Dentists, and Dental Hygienists **What:** Medical exams (general check-ups) and dental exams (including tooth extractions, cleanings, and sealings as required) for each of the 500+ children in our care, as well as any of the 100+ staff members who may want to participate. **When:** October 23–November 1, 2010 **Where:** Three orphanages located in the eastern states of Jharkhand and Orissa. Because this is one of the most impoverished regions of India, the medical and technological progress seen in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore is not apparent in this area, and high-quality medical attention is desperately needed. **How:** Fly into Delhi, and be met at the airport by our travel coordinator, who will then take care of all further travel details. The entire group will then fly to Ranchi and travel by car and/or train to each of our three locations. Very comfortable and clean accommodations are provided, with delicious, home-cooked vegetarian Indian cuisine. **Info:** For further information, contact our Travel Coordinator, Barbara Joubert, via phone at 512.329.8635 or email at Barbara@MiracleFoundation.org. For anyone who may want a first-hand account of what to expect, Barbara Joubert can provide direct contact information for a doctor and/or dentist who has already been on one of our medical trips. **About The Miracle Foundation:** **The Miracle Foundation**—founded in 2000—is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on the empowerment of orphans in India, one child at a time. By creating a family environment for each of the 500 orphans currently in their care, this secular organization goes beyond providing children with their basic rights. **The Miracle Foundation's** model of family-style Children's Villages guarantees that each orphan receives nutritious food; high-quality healthcare; a college-prep education (including computer literacy and English proficiency); and, most importantly, a long-term relationship with a trained Housemother who provides a stable, loving, nurturing home. The funding for the care of each child is primarily achieved through sponsorships and individual donations. To learn more about **The Miracle Foundation**, please visit our website: www.miraclefoundation.org.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ART PROJECT

On June 12, 2010, USCIS launched a National Children's Art Project. The art project is for children 5-12 years old. The theme of the project is "We Are America".

This project asks children to draw pictures that answer the question "People have come from all over the world to become Americans. Why does that make us great?" Art submissions can

be mailed or dropped off at the local office through August 16, 2010. USCIS will display submissions in offices across the country and will recognize participants during the 2010 celebration of the “September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.”

For a copy of the submission form or to obtain additional information regarding the project guidelines, please visit www.uscis.gov/childrensartproject.

**Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation
concerning Intercountry Adoption**

Published on June 24, 2010

“We are convinced that all children have the right to grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Many children throughout the world are deprived of this natural right.

Every year, tens of thousands of children find loving parents through adoptions, including international adoptions. We honor those who have the generosity to welcome adopted children, in particular from other countries, into their families.

However, tragic incidents involving children adopted between our countries caused by the adoptive parents underscore the importance of ensuring reliable protections for the rights, safety, and well-being of adopted children. We are committed to doing everything in our power to achieve this.

In this regard, we have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to conclude a legally binding bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of intercountry adoption. At our direction, experts from the United States and Russia have already been actively working on a draft, and they have informed us that they have made considerable progress in fulfilling this difficult task.

We will work together so that entry into force of this agreement as soon as possible would create an even stronger legal basis for adoption in the interests of children and families of both our countries.”

ADOPTION AS A CALLING

Many of our families report that they felt led to adoption by their religious beliefs, sermons they have heard in their church, visits they have had with missionaries, or reading they have done in their Bibles. More and more families are also reporting that adoption support groups or missions are being formed in their churches. If this is true for you, you may be interested in Together for Adoption, which is a resource ministry of The ABBA Fund. (Some of you have applied for adoption grants through The ABBA Fund.) Together for Adoption is sponsoring a national conference in Dallas, TX on October 1 and 2, 2010. Their goal is “providing gospel-centered resources to mobilize the church for global orphan care.” Learn more about Together for Adoption or this national conference at www.togetherforadoption.org.

THREE PICNIC INVITES

COLORADO - Sunday, July 18, 2010; Noon to 3p.m.; City Park, Fort Collins, Colorado (1500 W. Mulberry St; RSVP to Colorado@hihiadopt.org or by calling: 970-226-8948; Bring a dish to share, an extra seat or two if you have them, your family and friends! Water is available at the park. Lemonade, hotdogs, plates, plastic ware, and cups will be provided; Please come enjoy fun with Hand In Hand friends at Fort Collin’s City Park! We will meet at one of the covered shelters by the playground. The

picnic shelter will be marked with blue and white streamers. The shelters are “first come first served” so we will be “staking” it out from very early that morning! The park offers playgrounds, a miniature train ride for \$2.50/person, tennis courts, paddle boats on the lake (\$2.50/person), city park outdoor pool (\$6.00/person), and the nearby Ft. Collins Municipal Railway trolley (adults \$1; children 2 to 12 \$0.50; for a 30 minute ride).

INDIANA - Saturday, July 24, 2010 – 11:30 AM to 4 PM – Pownall Pavilion, Bixler Lake Park, Kendallville, Indiana -Please join us for an afternoon of fun at the lake. Bring one or more dishes to share, depending on the size of your family. Also bring your own table service. Coffee and punch will be provided. There is a \$2.00 entry fee into the park. Please bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets. Games will be provided for the children. The pavilion is near a swimming beach, so bring swimsuits, towels, and sand toys too.

MINNESOTA - The annual Minnesota Hand In Hand Summer Picnic will take place Sunday, July 25, 2010 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Como Park Picnic Pavilion in St. Paul, Minnesota. Invitations have been sent via email. We look forward to seeing all of you again!

WHO SHOULD COME? Whether you are already home with your child or still waiting for the placement of a child, please come and share the day with other adoptive families. Extended family members are also welcome to come.

CHILDREN WHO NEED FAMILIES

Our list of children who are already waiting for families exceeds 13 pages. It is so heart-rending to read their biographical information and see the expectant look in their eyes as they pose for a photo and not know that we can find a family for each one! If you don't “need” a healthy baby, but think you could provide a good home and family for a child who already waits, please consider one of these children. For most of them, we have photos and at least a paragraph of information. We would be happy to share the entire list with you, or just the information on a child or sibling group that sparks your interest.

Twin seven-year-old boys – These Caucasian brothers are healthy with only the typical “delay of psychic and speech development” that can be expected in children who are raised in an orphanage.

We have also received new referrals of several Asian children for special home find. We have photos and a few paragraphs of information on each. Contact us about any of these by reference number:

8036 – boy age 5

7956 – boy age 7

7519, 7520, and 7521 – three sisters, ages 11, 9 and 8

6785 and 6786 – two brothers, ages 7 and almost-4

6995 – boy age 10

7726 and 7727 – two brothers, ages 9 and 6

7565 – girl born 9/05

Reg XII – boy, age 13

7969 – boy born 9/98

6994 – boy born 4/01

BOOK REVIEW...WORKSHOP PREVIEW

Several years ago Hand In Hand staff members were introduced to the impressive work of B. Bryan Post in helping families address challenging behaviors in their children. Bryan had started The Post Institute, which is described as “A Love-Based Family-Centered

Approach for Helping Children with Challenging Behaviors.” Bryan’s newest book is entitled The Great Behavior Breakdown and described as follows: “Start understanding the causes and steps necessary to help end, once and for all, some of the most difficult behaviors your child exhibits today. Lying, stealing, defiance, incessant chatter...presented here are 27 of the most serious, problematic and challenging behaviors that parents face and step-by-step guidance from one of America’s foremost child behavior experts on how to deal with them.” For those who find the book informative and helpful, The Post Institute will also hold **free one-day workshops** in 30 locations around the country during the coming year. Read more about Brian’s work, order the book, or look into the workshop by visiting www.postinstitute.com .

BENEFIT BY REFERRING A FAMILY TO HAND IN HAND

We all know the importance of personal referrals when it comes to decisions like, “Which adoption agency should I choose?” We get frequent inquiries from people who say they were referred to us by another family that used Hand In Hand. As of May 1, 2010, you can be one of those families and benefit yourself. If you are already a Hand In Hand family (past or present) and you refer a family to Hand In Hand and they submit an application any time after May 1, 2010 and indicate on it that you referred them, Hand In Hand will give you a \$200 credit toward your next Hand In Hand payment for either your current adoption process or your next adoption with Hand In Hand.

CAN YOU 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. 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.