

HAND IN HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS
March, 2010

PHILIPPINE MOTHERLAND TOUR 2010....LAST CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!!!
DATES: JUNE 14 THROUGH JUNE 29, 2010. Call MaryLee at 352-873-9721 or email her at: marylee@hihiadopt.org for further details.

2010 PHILLIPINE SUMMER HOSTING PROGRAM -
Families and Sponsors are Needed

We are in need of host families for these children: **Joy (11), Vanessa (14), Jay-R (11), Analyln (13), Rose (12), Maricar (10), Camille and JP (sister and brother, 14 and 11), Arnold and Adrian (brothers 15, and 12) and Ramon and Ramona (brother and sister, 9 and 8).** Call us for complete information and photos on any of them. If you participate in the host program, the child 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.

Also, if you cannot be a host/adopt parent but have a heart for these older children trying for a last-ditch effort to have a forever family, please consider being a SPONSOR for the summer program by making a donation specifically for it to Hand In Hand.

COUNTRY UPDATES

China – The China Center of Adoption Affairs has most recently matched families with log-in dates of April 11, 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 with dossiers in China or those with dossiers in process.

Guatemala – Last month we wrote about a pilot program Guatemala will be starting. Guatemala will begin this Pilot Program for the placement of older children, sibling groups, and handicapped children who they have been unable to place either in their respective biological family or an adoptive home in Guatemala. They have 250 children that fall into this category. They plan to select four countries of the world to begin this program (we know of 10 countries who have expressed their interest). From each country, only one accredited agency may participate. The US State Department was able to select two of the 25 US agencies that applied to present as options to Guatemala. They are not saying which agencies they chose, so we wait to see which countries and agencies Guatemala will choose!

Haiti –Hand In Hand International Adoptions has been working to find forever families for the children of Haiti since 1990. We remain very committed to helping the children of Haiti who need homes to find loving, permanent families of their very own. Unfortunately, due to the January 12th earthquake in Haiti, we are not able to predict when the Haitian government and courts will be able to once again process adoptions for these children, nor are we able to predict the nature of the adoption process or requirements in the future. Therefore we are not currently taking new applications for Haiti. If you want to be added to a list of people to receive updates on Haiti, please notify any Hand In Hand office.

Pakistan – New fee agreements have been developed for this program. The children to be placed will be Christian and the adoptive families must also be Christian. The orphanage, Abundant Hope, should have its license and registration completed very soon and will then be ready to accept the first children. The building that we will be renting has room for approximately 25 children. As paperwork is secured from the Statistical Office and the churches on each of the children entering the facility, relinquishments of birth parents will be taken, death certificates of parents will be secured, and case studies will be written. At that time, the children can be considered for international adoption, although we will be sending the legal documents of the children along with the I-171H to our U.S. Embassy for review to make sure that the documents are all correctly completed according to Pakistani laws and U.S. Immigration codes. Donations are still needed for the furnishings for the orphanage and the initial training of the staff who will be caring for the children.

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. **We are hoping to recruit at least ten more families for the 2010 Summer Host Program.** (*See the related article.*)

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

UPCOMING INTERNET RADIO SHOW TOPICS

The internet radio show, ***Creating a Family***, is an educational resource for adoptive families covering pre and post adoption issues. The award winning show is rated the top adoption podcast on iTunes, and previous guests have included Deborah Gray (*Attaching in Adoption*), Sherrie Eldridge (*Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*), Mary Hopkins-Best (*Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft*) Dr. Jane Aronson (international adoption doctor and founder of Worldwide Orphans Foundation), Gregory Keck (*Parenting the Hurt Child*), Karen Foli (*The Post-Adoption Blues*), Dr. Foster Cline (*Love and Logic* and *Can This Child Be Saved*), Michele Bond (with the US State Department International Adoption section), and many more.

The shows airs every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 Eastern Time and all old shows are still available for listening at the radio page of www.creatingafamily.org. The shows are booked about three months in advance. Below are the show topics for March-April. (Half the shows are infertility related and have not been included in this list.)

March 10: Panel Discussion with Adult Transracial Adoptees

March 17: Single Parenthood by Choice

April 7: Adopting out of birth order and Adopting More Than One

April 14: Living with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)

TRY THIS CHINESE LANGUAGE COURSE MADE JUST FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

"Chinese For Parents (www.chineseforparents.com) was just the course I was looking for. It was not overwhelming like many courses and gave me so much confidence to communicate effectively with our 5 year old adopted daughter from China, especially after we left our guide and we knew we were "on our own". I recommend this course to any parents preparing for travel to China to adopt a child". Sincerely, Nancy Kennebeck

I am so glad to be helping families like the Kennebeck family communicate with their **older, special-needs children!** I am also glad to announce that our program is **expanding** to reach:

1) **Families adopting infants:** Although communication with your infant in their native language may not be priority, learning about their native culture should be. Research suggests that a parent's effort in understanding their child's native culture, language, and place of birth positively reinforces their child's perception of their identity during the critical identity formation years. Our program is an excellent start to your life-long effort of learning about your child's place of birth, culture, and language.

2) **Families planning a heritage tour:** Learn Chinese together with your child as you prepare to return to their place of birth. Not only will you and your child learn practical Chinese phrases, but our program will prompt discussion between you and your child about the adoption experience. The lessons are taught from a pre-adoption perspective, which allows you to communicate to your child how you prepared to bring them home.

3) **Families looking for an interactive and enjoyable way to tell their child their adoption story:** The older your child becomes, the more difficult their questions about their adoption will be. Our program is sure to create an environment for you and your child to address sensitive issues about their adoption, but in an enjoyable way.

In an effort to reach as many families as we can, we will continue to offer a discounted price of \$60 (regular price \$80). We are also offering \$5 rebates to families who are willing to help us refer our program to other families. Email me directly (grant@chineseforparents.com) to receive the \$5 rebate. Visit us at www.chineseforparents.com.

HAITIAN SUPPORT FROM THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR

From the depths of despair one woman has risen out of her own grief for her perished relatives in the Haiti earthquake. Knowing that her strongly held faith in praying for those who died will help the spiritual side of this disaster, Nicole Weaver, a Haitian American, has turned her helplessness into action. Fluent in Creole, French, Spanish, and English, Ms. Weaver is reaching out to American families who are contemplating adoption of Haitian orphans. Knowing the vast differences of American and Haitian cultures first hand being a Haitian American herself, Weaver is offering support through her blog <http://support4usparentsofhaitianorphans.blogspot.com> as a one-stop resource to make the transition of a Haitian adoption go as smoothly as possible. American families are offered detailed information on:

- Planning and preparing Haitian meals, including where to purchase Haitian foods.
- Lessons on how to learn Creole and French.
- Suggested books on the grieving process of losing a parent/parents/siblings.
- Free translation services.

For those living in the Denver, Colorado Metropolitan area, Weaver is offering in-person food preparation and babysitting services to assist further in making an adoption transition a success. If you don't reside in the Denver Metropolitan area, Weaver is offering consultation via telephone, email, or Skype. Visit <http://support4usparentsofhaitianorphans.blogspot.com> today for more information and to be in contact with Nicole Weaver directly.

Marie and Her Friend the Sea Turtle: A Book Review

[Marie and her Friend the Sea Turtle/Maria y su amiga la Tortuga del mar/Marie et son amie la Tortue de mer: One book written in English/Spanish/French](#).

The same person offering her services to families who adopt from Haiti (see above article) has also written a children's book. She is donating a portion of proceeds from this book to Haiti relief. Following is a review of the book:

Marie is a little girl whose house is built near the bluest of oceans. Every morning, Marie likes to visit the shore to collect seashells. When she sees a large shiny object in the distance, she thinks she's found the biggest seashell she's ever seen. But it's not a seashell, it's a sea turtle. When she learns the turtle is stuck and cannot make its way back to sea, Marie must find a way to help her new friend get back to its home. The book takes an unexpected twist as Marie realizes if her parents find the turtle, they'll cut it up in pieces and make stew. When Marie's parents arrive on the beach, how will she convince them to carry the sea turtle back to the ocean instead of enjoying a fine stew? I found this part of the story shocking, since I don't consider turtle standard fare, but it's also what stands out to me most about this book—Perhaps a different take than others you might read. To me, the story is not only an introduction to caring for nature, but also an introduction to different cultures.

Written in English, Spanish and French, the book can be used to create discussions about what different cultures eat, and all the unusual delicacies available around the world. It shows that food is a big part of our culture and our world. So remember the next time you throw your nose up at the thought of turtle stew, others might be saying, "Scrumptious!"

Additional Information: Reading level: Ages 9-12; Paperback: 36 pages; Publisher: Outskirts Press (March 16, 2009)

A KEEPSAKE BOOK ABOUT ADOPTION FROM CHINA

Love Without Boundaries, a non-profit group dedicated to assisting orphans in China, is offering a discounted price of \$5.00 for a beautiful hardbound coffee table book entitled "Love's Journey 2: The Red Thread". It has over 250 color pages with stories, essays, and photos regarding children adopted from China. Anyone interested in adoption and helping orphaned children will love the book. It truly is a beautiful keepsake book. More information about the book can be found at: http://www.lovewithoutboundaries.com/loves_journey2.cfm. If you are interested in receiving these books, you can make your payment of \$5 per book securely at the donation page of our website at: <https://www.lovewithoutboundaries.com/donate.cfm>. Please indicate "LJ2 Shipping" in the Notes section. Alternatively, checks can be mailed to: LWB, P.O. Box 25016, Oklahoma City, OK 73125. Again, please be sure to indicate "LJ2 Shipping" with your payment.

CHILDREN WHO NEED FAMILIES

Sibling group of three – girl (9), boy (8), and girl (6) – these children were rescued from an abusive home and placed in a foster home. They are learning well, coping with the abuse issues, showing average intelligence and a deep desire for an adoptive family

Maricris, girl born 6/08 – born premature, she has mild cerebral palsy and some developmental delays.

Paula, girl born 12/97 – she was surrendered by her family when her grandparents became too elderly to care for her. She entered care with poor self-esteem, dissatisfaction with herself, and sadness, but through the care of the center and the school she is making great advances in confidence, being a student, and relating to staff and peers.

James, born 1/04 – he was rescued from a neglectful home and eventually placed in care. He is average in most areas of development, though he has mild delays in hearing and language, as well as possible ADHD. Therapy is helping him to overcome some of his delays.

Sibling group of five – boy (11), boy (10), girl (8), girl (7), and boy (5) – their birthmother relinquished them to provide a better life for them and to protect them from ill treatment from their father. They participate actively in prayer, Bible study, school, counseling to address past incidents, discussions about what it means to live in a family, and character building to help them rise above their past. They yearn for a Christian family to love them.

Contact the Indiana office for information about any of these children or the dozens of others we are trying to help.

SIGN UP NOW FOR “CAMP MABUHAY”

This is a one-day Filipino culture camp to be held in Kokomo, Indiana on June 12, 2010. Since 2004, parents and with Filipino volunteers from the Barangay Club of Indiana have worked together to prepare a fun-filled Filipino culture camp for families called Camp Mabuhay. Participants primarily come from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky. Although the camp is primarily designed for children of Filipino descent, all children are welcome to join in the fun. No prior knowledge of the Philippines is required of children or their parents. An interest in discovering Filipino culture is all that you need to have a great time at Camp Mabuhay Indiana, Inc. Activities for the day include: Traditional Dances, Music Activities, Language Activities, Museum, Art Projects, A Filipino Meal, Cooking Lessons, History of the Philippines, Games, Camp T-Shirt. To learn more and to register, visit www.campmabuhayin@lycos.com

UPCOMING HAND IN HAND EVENTS IN INDIANA

Saturday Classes: Day 2 – Saturday, April 17, 2010; Day 3 – Saturday, May 15, 2010; Day 4 – Saturday, June 19, 2010. Classes run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. *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 March 20, 2010. Please let us know if you will be in attendance.

JOURNEY TO ME

Journey to Me is a non-profit group dedicated to helping adopted children thrive. Among their beliefs are:

- We believe every child deserves a family.
- We believe every adopted child experiences grief, loss and fear of attachment.
- We are dedicated to providing a safe network of support for adoptive families.
- We provide educational resources to those impacted by adoption.

On March 17th they will host a WEBINAR with Dr. Gregory Keck, author of the book we reviewed in a previous newsletter, PARENTING ADOPTED ADOLESCENTS. Go to www.journeytome.com to learn more about the webinar and other services they provide, as well as to register to receive their newsletters.

**Make a Purchase from “OUR CHINESE DAUGHTERS FOUNDATION”
and benefit HAND IN HAND**

Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (OCDF) IS a non-profit organization that seeks to provide support for adoptive families. It offers a wide range of resources to potential adoptive parents including cultural and historical books about Chinese provinces and traditions, resources for adoptive families in their attempt to teach Chinese culture, and ways for adopted children to experience their heritage in fun and innovative ways. We offer the Chinese Culture Active Learning Series, Explore-A-Province in China Series, and the brand new My Life in China: The Story of Xiao Min Series. The Explore-A-Province Series has featured Anhui, Shanghai, Shandong, Fujian, Jiangsu, and Jiangxi, and would be a perfect resource for families that have adopted from those provinces. Simply mention that you found the OCDF publications through Hand In Hand and OCDF will share 20 percent of the profit. For more information on OCDF resources, please visit its publications page at www.ocdf.org/publications .

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. 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.