

HAND IN HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

May, 2011

IS YOUR TAX REFUND BEING DELAYED?

Here is information from Creating a Family we would like to pass on to anyone affected:

As you probably know, the delay in receiving the adoption tax credit is one of the hottest topics amongst adoptive parents right now. Creating a Family, the adoption and infertility support nonprofit and radio show, has been inundated with requests to look into what is happening with this refund. We have published our findings, along with suggestions on what to do if your refund is being delayed and a survey to gather additional information at <http://bit.ly/haAkzB> (the long form of this URL is <http://www.creatingafamily.org/blog/adoption-domestic-adoption-international-adoption-embryo-adoption-foster-care-adoption/delays-receiving-adoption-tax-creditwhat/>)

Please share this information with your adoptive families.

Thanks.

Dawn Davenport - Creating a Family - www.CreatingaFamily.org

COUNTRY UPDATES

China – The China Center of Adoption Affairs has most recently matched families with log-in dates of June 19, 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 hihiadopt@frontier.com and submit an updated Type of Child form so that our staff in China can know which child may be a possibility for you.*

China/Special Needs – We can now assist families with adoption of children with special needs from China in two ways, including being matched from the Shared List or being matched to a child who has been designated “Special Focus” because he or she has waited over a month to be matched. (See the list of some waiting children in this newsletter.)

China and Single Applicants – As of March 15, 2011 it is now possible for single females to adopt a child through China’s Special Focus program. The specific requirements the applicant has to meet can be found on the US State Department website at:

http://adoption.state.gov/country_information/country_specific_alerts_notices.php?alert_notice_type=notices&alert_notice_file=china_1

Persons interested in this option can contact any Hand In Hand office for information on which Special Focus children are currently waiting for families. Brief information on the children is also posted on Hand In Hand’s Facebook page.

China – Two children - It is now possible for a married couple to adopt two children from China at once or successively in the same year if at least one of them is a Special Focus child. In most cases the same dossier can be used (with a few additions) so the costs can be reduced for the second case.

Haiti - Adoptions are progressing in Haiti, and Hand In Hand is excited to have several families matched with children through this program. The adoption process in Haiti now requires that adoptive parents make two trips to Port-au-Prince in order to complete the adoption. After the dossier is approved by IBESR (the government department responsible for approving international adoptions), one or both adoptive parents must travel for one trip of four or five business days to appear in both lower and higher courts (these court hearings will take place in the same week). Then, one or both adoptive parents must travel again after immigration has been approved in order to bring the child home to the United States.

Philippines – The Philippines has issued a temporary moratorium on applications from families wanting young, healthy children. Their goal is to place children with the already approved

applicants before opening their doors for more applications. (The moratorium does not apply to children over 9 years old or those with special needs.)

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 also the children listed in this newsletter.)

Russia – Families are needed for children between 18 months old and ten years old. We are also excited about a special program we have in Russia where we can assist in the placement of children with Down Syndrome. If this interests you, please contact us for more information.

CELEBRATE YOUR MOTHER THIS MOTHER'S DAY!

There are over 143 million children worldwide who don't have a Mom to celebrate this Mother's day. What better time to support children who need families than Mother's Day?

Please honor your mother and all the gifts she has given you by making a donation to Hand In Hand. Help us to continue uniting children around the world with loving mothers.

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 you include the name and address of your mother or the special person you would like to honor, we would be happy to acknowledge your gift by sending a letter.

Your gift helps children around the world find a loving home and a parent(s) to whom they can wish a Happy Mother's Day.

May you have a Blessed Mother's Day!

CAN YOU HOST A PHILIPPINE SOCIAL WORKER?

We are looking for one or more families in the Fort Wayne, Indiana area who are willing to host a Philippine social worker in their home for one week (or more) this summer (mid-July to mid-August). The social worker will be accompanying children who participate in our Summer Hosting Program and will need a home(s) to stay in during the one-month program. Please contact hihiadopt@frontier.com if you are able to help.

WIN A FREE KINDLE IN A CONTEST AT ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MAGAZINE

Want to share your favorite adoption books with others *and* win a free Kindle? Help the editors of AdoptiveFamiliesCircle and *Adoptive Families* compile our Fifth Annual Best Adoption Books List. Leave a comment at susan@adoptivefamilies.com and nominate your favorite titles in the following categories: most moving adoption memoirs, all-time greatest children's books about adoption, and adoption-friendly parenting guides you consider must-reads. You can nominate as many books as you'd like in each category, but be sure to tell us why you selected each one! We'll randomly select one respondent to win a Kindle. Contest closes May 25.

LET'S HAVE A PICNIC

Indiana - Saturday, June 18, 2011- 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.

Colorado - Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11th for our annual Hand In Hand International Adoption Picnic! We will be picnicking in Fort Collins. More details to follow.

SIXTH GRADER MAKES THE NEWSPAPER

(We love to get word of the accomplishments of children adopted through Hand In Hand. Here is one we received this week.)

“Karin, we haven’t been in contact for a while. I thought I would let you know how Jonh Lowy is doing. Attached is a little article that was in our local paper. Each school chooses one student each week for student of the week and Lowy was chosen for his school. He was very proud and so are we. Nathele Beadell”

JONH LOWY BEADELL- 6th Grade – Parents: Brian and Nathele Beadell – Jonh Lowy Beadell is an important member of our Cedar House team. He is welcoming and caring to all and has a genuine concern for others. He seems to have no reservations in giving of himself and accepting others. Jonh is the one who befriends new students as if it is his personal duty. When working in small groups, he always pulls his weight and contributes to the success of the team. Jonh has a strong work ethic and is willing to fix mistakes and do his very best. He has a joyful heart that makes us smile. Cedar House is proud to have Jonh on our team.

PHILIPPINE CHILDREN FOR SPECIAL HOME FIND

We’ve received information on several new children needing families, as follows. Let us know if you want to see photos and more information on any of these children.

Boy 7415 (08-0975) - DOB: June 7, 1998 - The child has good relationship with the other children in the center. He has initiative and is responsible in doing his assigned chores at their dormitory. He is also reported to be independent in terms of attending to his personal needs. He is on the third grade level in school.

Girl 7598 (09-0150) - DOB: August 7, 2006 - The child has global developmental delay. Hearing test suggests that she has moderate hearing loss on the right ear and severe hearing loss on the left ear. The child also has congenital cataract and microcornea on both eyes.

Girl 7763 (09-0315) - DOB: June 8, 2007 - Child was diagnosed having global developmental delay secondary to microcephaly, cerebral palsy spastic quadriplegia, moderate hypertonus right and left, cortical blindness and mild hearing loss.

Girl 7565 (09-0117) - DOB: September 21, 2005 - Child has seizure disorder which is controlled with medication. She was also assessed having developmental language disorder- mild, expressive and receptive. She attends kinder school. She is reported to be a happy child with lots of energy.

Boy 6994 (08-464) - DOB: April 12, 2001 - The child was rescued from an abusive situation. He has limited abstract and logical reasoning. His tests suggests that he is in the slow learner category implying dependence on others for assistance to learn what most other children his age learn independently.

Brothers 7244 (08-0804) & 7245 (08-0805) - DOB: February 7, 1999/October 3, 2000 - The children were surrendered by their mother. They adjusted well to the lifestyle and environment of the center. They have good relationship with each other and to their co-wards and the staff of the center.

Boy 6786 (07-256) - DOB: July 5, 2005 - Child is reported to be physically active and sociable. He actively joins activities with the other children in his foster family’s neighborhood, is talkative and loves to ask questions. He can also initiate conversation with other people. At his age, he can already attend to his personal needs with minimal supervision from his foster parents.

Boy 6354 (06-278) - DOB: February 12, 2000 - Child is physically healthy and active. He loves the outdoors and actively involves himself in activities done at the center. His past experiences of witnessing the death of his father and their mother’s decision to surrender them to the child caring institution has caused him deep emotional wounds.

Boy 8257 (10-0374) – DOB: February 4, 2008 - The child was assessed to have Bilateral Corneal Opacity which has to be operated for possible corneal transplant by the time he reaches eight or nine years old. He was also observed to have head lag and spasticity of the lower legs.

Girl 8383 (11-0075) DOB: January 2, 2001 - The child was diagnosed with astigmatism and medial rectus palsy of the left eye. At seven years old, she started wearing prescription glasses. She is described as an assertive girl. She communicates her wants and needs. She has an average intellectual functioning.

Boy 7967 (10-0085) - DOB: May 25, 2002 – The child has cognitive delays, probably because of the lack of intellectual stimulation, his low tolerance for frustration, and possible developmental delay. At present, he is a Grade 1 pupil.

Boy 8377 (11-0069) - DOB: August 5, 1998 - The child is currently a Grade 2 pupil. He has high self-concept and superior emotional intelligence. He has a smooth relationship with his co-residents. He is responsible in his assigned tasks and assists the younger children with their chores. He enjoys playing basketball and badminton.

HEART OF THE MATTER SEMINARS OFFERS TWO NEW E-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sensory Integration at Home - Tuesday, May 3rd @ 10 am CDT

Explore symptoms of sensory integration and what they might look like in children of different ages and in different degrees of severity. Discuss the role of occupational therapy and what to expect during the assessment process. Most importantly, learn ways to promote a rich sensory diet at home that will promote healthy development regardless of whether the child experiences diagnosable sensory integration dysfunction or not. This one hour webinar is for parents and professionals and costs \$25.00. Register at info@heartofthematterseminars.com.

When Mom (or Dad) is Mad: Managing Anger - Thursday, May 12th @ 7 pm CDT

Join Heart of the Matter's presenters Julie Drew and Katie Prigel Sharp as they chat with Heather Forbes from Beyond Consequences about one facet of parenting that is often mentioned, but not really explored – parental anger. Look beyond the obvious "why" and get to strategies and solutions for managing the feelings and actions in both the short term and long term. This is a complimentary webinar. *Join us for FREE, but be sure to register at info@heartofthematterseminars.com*

SPECIAL FOCUS CHILDREN

These are children from China who are waiting for families:

Boy 226B is an eight-year-old boy with post-operative cleft lip and palate

Boy 226C is three and has deformities of his limbs. He cannot walk, but can scoot on his bottom; he likes to draw.

Boy 226D is 7 ½ and has had corrective surgery on club feet

Boy 226E is 7 ½ and is missing his left hand, but he is quite capable, smart and friendly

Child 10C is a six-year-old boy with funnel chest

Child R is an almost 10-year-old girl with post-operative cleft lip and palate

Boy 119A – this 2 ½ -year-old boy has deformities of both lower legs as well as missing toes on one foot. He is handsome, obedient, fond of climbing up and down on his bedrails, loves to watch TV or play games with his favorite caretaker, likes music and playing with cars.

Child 12B is an almost four-year old boy with esotropia of both eyes (crossed eyes) and postoperative hemangioma at the back of his neck

Child 12C is an almost two-year-old boy with postoperative cleft lip, cleft palate, and growth developmental delay

We have photos and case studies on each child. Contact us at hihiadopt@frontier.com to see more about one of these children. We have three months to try to find each child a family. Once a family identifies a child they would like to adopt, they have six months to submit a dossier if one is not already in China. A family may be working on two adoptions in China at the same time, if at least one of them includes a Special Focus child.

ARE THERE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES IN YOUR FAMILY?

Are you in the midst of an adoption with Hand In Hand? Are there new circumstances in your family? Any of these would qualify: Change in Marital Status, Change of Residence, Adoption of another Child, Birth of another Child, Addition of another Adult to the Household, Change in History of Arrest or Abuse, etc. If so, please let us know at once. We are required to notify both Immigration and the foreign country of these changes and a home study update will need to be submitted. We don't want to put anyone in the position of receiving the proposed match of a child that they will not be able to accept because of the lack of disclosure about a change such as these mentioned here. If you are in doubt about whether an event or circumstance warrants a home study update, just give us a call and we can discuss it.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved since you first connected with Hand In Hand, please send us your new contact information, including address, phone numbers, and email addresses. Even if you are not currently in the midst of an adoption, we don't want to fall out of touch with you!

NEW TRAINING MEETS CHINA'S NEW REQUIREMENTS

If you are an out-of-state family currently working on a dossier for adoption from China, you are now required to have at least 12 hours of Hague-compliant adoption education. If your home study agency does not provide this for you, one option you have is the following new course from Heart of the Matter Seminars: "We've assembled the research, consulted with adoption agencies, talked with experienced adoptive parents and tailored a 12 hour educational program specific for those adopting from China. See the details at www.heartofthematterseminars.com."

SEEKING ADULT ADOPTEE INPUT FOR A NEW BOOK

Aloha, Hand in Hand: I'm writing to you as the Vice President of Korean Adoptees of Hawai'i who is currently working with my mom on a book on adult transnational adoptees and their American Parents. We are writing to ask for your assistance in spreading the word about an adoption research project that explores the relationship between adult transnational adoptees and their adoptive parents. This project looks specifically at the manner in which adult transnational adoptees and their parents have negotiated the complex and often thorny issues related to adoptive, racial, and ethnic/cultural identity. The research project has two complementary components:

- The first component consists of a pair of on-line surveys that compare the responses of adult transnational adoptees and their adoptive parents across a variety of measures. We hope to obtain a large response for this survey, and would therefore appreciate your assistance in letting people know about it. The surveys can be accessed directly using the following web links:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/Stories_Adult_Adoptee

https://www.surveymonkey.com/Stories_Adoptive_Parent

- The second component consists of in-depth interviews with adoptee-parent pairs; that is, each interview set will include not only an adult transnational adoptee but also his/her adoptive parents.

To follow us on our Webpage, go to: <http://transnational-adoptee-parent-study.webs.com/>

To follow us on Facebook, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/Stories.Adoptee.Parent>

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely, Charlie de Morais Teixeira, 66942 Kamakahala Street, Waiialua, HI 96791

charlieritts@gmail.com (808) 391-0774

TWO PHILIPPINE CULTURE CAMPS

Camp Mabuhay Indiana 2011

Mabuhay, Friends! The eighth annual Camp Mabuhay Indiana will be held on June 11, 2011 at Kokomo Zion United Methodist Church. The Camp Mabuhay Board, which consists of camp parents and various Filipino friends including members of the Barangay Club, Philippine Nurses Association, Philippine Association of Medical Technologists and Philippine Association of Respiratory Therapists, has been making preparations for a fun day at camp. Our theme this year is "Wow Bohol!" The cost for camp this year is \$15.00 per child (17 and under) and \$20.00 per adult (18 and older). This fee includes a breakfast snack, activities of the day, lunch, and a souvenir t-shirt. Contact the Indiana Hand In Hand office for a registration form.

Camp Mabuhay Maryland/Virginia 2011

We are in our 16th year in partnership with Mabuhay, Inc. in Washington DC. This event is for any families with Filipino children or even families that are waiting for placement from the Philippines. This year, Camp Mabuhay will be held August 5-7th. Our theme this year is going to be: "A Day in the Life of a Filipino Kid" which will focus on the everyday life in the Philippines. We will learn about a typical school day, after school activities, street/recess games, and how children help with farming and other industry, among many other aspects of everyday life. Mabuhay! Eric and Jen Ledford, 2011 Camp Coordinators, (410) 341-3978 campmabuhay@yahoo.com

MOTHERLAND TOUR TO THE PHILIPPINES

Any adoptees, families, grandparents, who would like to take a trip of a lifetime to the country of their birth or child's birth, we'd love to have you contact marylee@hihiadopt.org and express your desire.

The last few years have seen a few travelers, but not enough for a large enough group to keep the costs low. We are starting now to take names and make reservations early for anyone that would like to participate in this fun, exciting, heart touching trip in the summer of 2012. Reservations will close as of October 30, 2011, so be sure to let MaryLee know soon if you have any interest!

UPCOMING HAND IN HAND EVENTS IN INDIANA

Free Orientation on Adoption: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7PM – St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 210 N. Orange St., Albion, IN 46701. RSVP at 260-636-3566 or hihiadopt@frontier.com.

Hand In Hand Adoptive Parents Training Classes: Day 2 – Saturday, May 14, 2011; Day 3 – Saturday July 9, 2011; Day 4 – Saturday, August 13, 2011. All classes are at the Hand In Hand office and are from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Contact us if you are unsure of which classes you still need to attend.

RAINBOW KIDS

Hand In Hand is now on Rainbow Kids. This provides us an opportunity to use their extensive networking to help find families for waiting children. Check them out at www.rainbowkids.com and sign up to receive their free on-line newsletters.

YOU CAN BENEFIT BY REFERRING A FAMILY TO HAND IN HAND

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.

HAND IN HAND ON FACEBOOK

Search for Hand In Hand International Adoptions or visit the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hand-In-Hand-International-Adoptions/126410800748612>

Please "like" our page and suggest it to your Facebook friends so that we can spread the word about the many waiting children.

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.