

HAND IN HAND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

OCTOBER, 2011 NEWSLETTER

COUNTRY UPDATES

China – The China Center of Adoption Affairs has most recently matched families with log-in dates of July 28, 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 three ways, including being matched from the Shared List, being matched to a child who has been designated “Special Focus” because he or she has waited over a month to be matched, or by adopting a child from Guizhou Province where Hand In Hand has a direct relationship to help match waiting children.

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

[alert_notice_type=notices&alert_notice_file=china_1](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.

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.

TOYS FOR “DIFFERENTLY-ABLED” KIDS

We’re happily passing along a suggestion from our Colorado office:

Hi Vickie, I received a Toys R Us catalog in the mail the other day that is really neat. It is specifically designed for children with special needs! The catalog gives information on how the

toy can help children with various needs develop. As it ends up, they have a website. I thought it might be neat to include for our families for their Christmas shopping in one of our newsletters. Here it is: [Toys R Us Toy Guide for differently-abled kids](#) Best regards, Kim

TREMENDOUS ADOPTION BOOK SALE

When my husband and I began our first adoption process in 1984 we met a terrific speaker/advocate/author at an adoption conference. Pat Johnston went on to open her own publishing company "Perspectives Press", devoted solely to books on adoption and infertility. At the end of this year Pat will be retiring and closing her company. But she has a lot of stock to sell and has discounted it drastically. Feel free to email her at patjohnston@perspectivespress.com and tell her we referred you. She can describe any book she has available and will likely give you at least a 50% discount on it. Some of the titles include: Brothers and Sisters in Adoption, Borya and the Burps, Sam's Sister, Adopting, Attaching in Adoption, Adoption is a Family Affair, A Child's Journey Through Adoption. And the list goes on! There are books for parents and books for children.

ATTEND A FREE "ADOPTION CELEBRATION"

For many years, Melissa Montana, General Manager of STAR 88.3 Christian radio station in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has put on a free adoption event at a church in the Fort Wayne area. The evening includes live musical entertainment, moving testimonies from adoptive families, a slide show of photos of adopted children, a display area of tables manned by adoption agencies or other groups that support adoptive and foster families, refreshments, and the chance to meet hundreds of other people affected by adoption. This year's event is Saturday November 5, 2011 at 1 PM at Sunrise Church, 10125 Illinois Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Hand In Hand will be represented. We hope to see you there!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PHILIPPINE HOSTING PROGRAM

Maraming Salamat (thank you very much!) to these families and individuals who helped with this year's hosting program with older children from the Philippines!

Greg and Darlene Brown

Michael and Rosemary Imrick

Ben and Kerri Kirby

Tom and Karen Fenker

Tim and Kathy Blomeke

Denise Kneubuhler

Aleta Brown

Ryan and Tracy Smith

Ray and Lilian Ernsberger

Joe and Janice Langston

Michael and Theresa Annable

Michelle Smith

Rick and Lisa Welfle

This is a program endorsed by the Philippine government and they always express their appreciation to Hand In Hand for coordinating it, since it allows older Philippine children the opportunity to spend a month with an American family with the hopeful outcome of finding an adoptive family for each child. **We will have another program next summer. Contact us soon if you are interested in hosting a child!**

PARENTING A CHILD "FROM A HARD PLACE"

Our Colorado office has passed along this information:

In looking up some items for an upcoming training, I happened upon these video clips by the folks at Texas Christian University. Earlier this year I attended a two day conference with Dr. Purvis and purchased a couple of DVDs to give Rob and me insight into parenting our children. We're still working our way through them.

These 16 video clips really provide a great overview of what it means to parent a child from a "hard place" - which, according to Dr. Purvis and Dr. Cross's definition, would include any child who was adopted.

Here's the link to the list of clips: <http://www.child.tcu.edu/video.asp> I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

ADOPTION IN THE MEDIA

For many years we have recommended Adoptive Families magazine to our adoptive families because of the wide-ranging articles and supports for adoptive families, both during the time they are adopting a child, and later as they are raising that child. They also have excellent archives for finding information on most any adoption-related topic you can think of. You can find it at www.adoptivefamilies.com. Here is the latest email news report from them:

Are you on the lookout for adoption mentions in the news and media? So are the members of AdoptiveFamiliesCircle! Below are links to conversations happening right now about the latest adoption stories. Read our views and share your own. Plus, are there any we missed? Share links to news articles, video clips, and more in the [Adoption News Group](#).

- [The Impact of Media on Our Kids](#)
- [Glee's Adoption Angle](#)
- [A Halloween Fundraiser We Like](#)
- [Best Adoption-Friendly Workplaces](#)
- [Are Modern Family, Parenthood Insensitive?](#)

PHILIPPINE CHILDREN FOR SPECIAL HOME FIND

We've received information on several new children needing families. Our list of waiting children is now 20 pages long (that's one brief description per child and small font!) Email us if you want to receive a copy of the list. Or look for it on our website. Then if you see children who interest you we can send you photos and more complete information. Here is just one child from the list. Perhaps he or some other child on the list is waiting for YOUR family!

DOB/Sex: July 18, 2002/Male

The child was declared legally available for adoption. The child grew up with a couple whom he considered as his parents. The couple has no information on the birthparents of the child as he was referred from one relative to another. Efforts were exerted to locate the birthparents but were futile.

The child was assessed to below average cognitive ability. He shows mild to moderate feelings of inferiority in academic performance mainly in reading and reading comprehension. In school, the child is observed to have difficulty in reading. To address this, the child has a specifically designed intervention program implemented by his school teacher, tutor, and house parents. Improvements were noted in the child. He can now read English and Filipino words. He is improving with constant practice.

At home, he acts as the leader for the other children. He always volunteers in the center's activities. He relates well with the other children but sometimes has misunderstandings with children he is not quite close with. When not in good terms with another child, he tells his houseparent or cry in one corner. He feels motivated when praised and encouraged. He attends church every Sunday and

likes to hear Bible stories before going to sleep. He dreams of becoming a soldier someday.

COULD YOUR CHILD HAVE LEAD POISONING?

The Center for Disease Control has shared new information with adoption agencies about the risk of lead exposure to children adopted from foreign countries. They report, "The risk for lead exposure is higher in many countries from which children are adopted than in the United States. Sources of lead exposure vary by country... There is no safe level of lead in the body. Often, symptoms are not obvious, so lead poisoning frequently goes unrecognized. At low levels, blood lead can cause health problems or behavioral or learning issues." To have your child checked for lead, contact your pediatrician or your state or local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Contact information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/programs.htm>.

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!

ARE YOU SPOILING YOUR CHILD...

BY HOW YOU MEET HER NEEDS AFTER ADOPTION?

If you have attended Hand In Hand adoption pre-education classes, you will remember we told you that some of the behaviors you will need to incorporate into your routine for helping your newly adopted child bond and attach may look like "spoiling" from the point of view of family members, friends, or even strangers who have never adopted a child. The folks at *Heart of the Matter Seminars* answer this question in their blog. Find out what they say by going to their website www.heartofthematterseminars.com and clicking on their blog. You might also enjoy their answer to the question, "What do I say to the nice church ladies who ask how they can help us once we arrive home with our newly adopted child?"

SPECIAL FOCUS CHILDREN

These are children from China who are waiting for families:

Boy 614C – boy born 4/28/09 – epilepsy – he is on anti-seizure medication – when he has a seizure, it may last 2-3 minutes. Otherwise, he is a normal kid and a lovely boy who everybody likes.

Girl 629A –girl born 11/5/05 – mental delay, strabismus and possible tuberous sclerosis - she likes to watch cartoons and play outside with all kinds of toys and games. She likes music and mimics dancing when watching TV.

Boy 226 B- 1/23/03 – This handsome young 8-year-old boy has had cleft lip and palate repair surgeries. He has lived with a foster family since age six. He is an average learner. He can sometimes be naughty about doing his chores. He gets along well with other children.

Boy 226 C - 7/30/07 – This cute little 3-year-old boy has deformities of his limbs. He cannot walk but he can scoot around on his rear. He has an outgoing personality, likes to listen to music and smile, likes colorful toys, and likes to play outdoor games. He likes to draw.

Boy 226 D - 8/21/03 – This 7 ½ year old bright young boy has had corrective surgery for club feet. Now he can walk, run, jump alone, his other growth is normal, he has good self-care ability, can help do housework, e.g. sweep the floor, take out the trash etc. He likes writing Chinese characters, drawing, reading, likes to have discussions on schoolwork with the kids around him, listens to the teachers attentively, can answer the teachers' questions after thinking over them. He is a kid who is good at studying.

Boy 226 E - 8/10/03 – This 7 ½ year old little boy has congenital absence deformity of bones on the left hand and carpal bones, syncretic deformity of near tip of the left radius and ulna. Firstly since he lived in the welfare institute and seldom communicated with other, he was shy and not talkative. After a period, the teachers communicated with him actively, and other children played with him actively, he became outgoing. He turned to be active, and could communicate with others on his own. Though he only has one hand, he could take care of himself in the daily life. He would tidy up his bedclothes after getting up. He is friendly to other children in this institute, would help others actively. When he is free, he would help the caretakers to take care of other children and play with them.

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.

UPCOMING HAND IN HAND EVENTS IN INDIANA

Free Orientation on Adoption: Tuesday, October 25, 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 3 – Saturday, October 22, 2011 (**please note that this is a change of date**); Day 4 – Saturday, November 19, 2011; Day 2 – a Saturday in January 2012 to be announced. 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 a \$200 credit toward your next Hand In Hand payment for either your current adoption process or your next adoption through 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 around the world.

CAN YOU HELP CHILDREN WHO ARE STILL WAITING?

As a non-profit agency, we are the voice for homeless and abandoned children of the world. These children have year-round needs. If you are not able to provide an adoptive home for another waiting child, please consider a donation that will assist another family to do so or that will assist in a project for children who wait. Send your tax deductible donations to Hand In Hand, c/o MaryLee Lane, Founder and Director, 9520 SW 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 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.