

The

# CAFFA Connection

2011, Vol. 38, No.2

## Teaching Your Child's Teacher

By Jane Katch

I HAD BEEN TEACHING KINDERGARTEN FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS WHEN I REALIZED THAT THREE OF THE MOST PUZZLING CHILDREN IN MY CLASS THAT year were all from international adoptions.

Katya was from Russia. She wanted to be the center of attention all the time—whether she was playing with her friends or whether I was trying to explain the schedule for the day. Jasper was from Cambodia. He avoided playing with other children, preferring instead to sit alone, practicing writing the alphabet in uppercase, lowercase, and cursive. Caleb was from Romania. When I asked him a question, his answer was a jumble of words that were hard to understand. Was it a coincidence that these three puzzling children were all from international adoptions? Was there something I should know about international adoption to help them flourish in my class?

I looked for books and articles to help me understand but I didn't find anything that told me whether giving Katya a timeout for constantly interrupting our class meetings would be harmful to her, too much like the rejection she may have experienced in her orphanage. The books didn't tell me if Jasper needed more time to be alone or if I should more strongly encourage him to join the group of boys that were building a puppy pound in the nearby block area. And I didn't find anything to help me decide whether Caleb just needed time to learn English or if he needed more intervention.

Eventually I decided to ask the ones who would know them best—their parents. Why did it take me so long to realize I needed to do this? I suspect it was my belief that I, the experienced teacher, should have the answers. And I think I was afraid of saying the wrong thing, stepping on toes, hurting feelings—I didn't know how to bring up a conversation about adoption.

Much that I learned from these parents will probably seem obvious to you. Now it seems obvious to me, too. But I'm telling you about it in order to

show you how important it is that you educate your child's teachers and to give you some ideas about how you can do it most effectively.

The most important thing I learned was that each adopted child has his own story and may have challenges that he brings with him from his past experiences. It is not possible to make generalizations about "adopted children" or "internationally adopted children." I may have thought that I already knew this, but I learned it more deeply after my first day of conferences with those three sets of parents. In the morning, Katya's parents told me that she had difficulties around food and around relationships that seemed to come from her early experiences of deprivation in a Russian orphanage. Caleb's mother told me that when she adopted him at age two and a half, he spoke very little Romanian. I remembered the videos of Romanian orphans who couldn't speak or walk when the orphanages were opened up after the fall of the dictator, Nicolae Ceaușescu. By the time of Jasper's conference, in the afternoon, I had assumed that children who came from foreign orphanages had suffered serious deprivation. I was wrong. I learned later that in Jasper's Cambodian orphanage, he had a wonderful caregiver, good medical attention, and enough food. Jasper's mother told me later that during that conference she thought I did not like adopted children because she felt I had prejudged him.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 5*



### OUR MISSION

Chicago Area Families For Adoption (CAFFA) is dedicated to providing information, education, and support to adoptive and pre-adoptive families. CAFFA also serves as an adoption advocate by promoting awareness to the media and community at large.

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CAFFA is approved as a charitable 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Treasurer Janel Jaeger at [treasurer@caffa.org](mailto:treasurer@caffa.org).

*The CAFFA Connection* is published six times a year. Newsletter contributions are welcome and may be sent to [newsletter@caffa.org](mailto:newsletter@caffa.org). The newsletter is sent via bulk mail, so please allow several months' notice for events.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL POLICY

For two months prior to membership expiration date, a red "TIME TO RENEW" will be stamped next to the address label. In the month of expiration the newsletter will be stamped in the same area with "FINAL ISSUE." At that time you will no longer receive the newsletter unless you send in your membership renewal form, which is always printed on the last page of our newsletter, or renew online at [www.caffa.org](http://www.caffa.org).

# From the President



SPRING, THE TIME OF SO MANY RENEWALS, SEEMS THE PERFECT TIME TO launch the new format of the CAFFA newsletter. I am happily booted off the front page to bring a feature article front and center. We now

can add clearer graphics and pictures. Most importantly, we can give our members a more professional, updated design using software that is easier to manipulate. Thank you, Jeani McAleer and Rachel Schick Siegel, for working so diligently on this very big project. We hope you enjoy the many new features and updates.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our conference a success. We had a record attendance, with more than 250 people attending the various workshops.

Our next event is our Third Annual Fundraising Garage Sale on May 21 in La Grange. Keep us in mind as you are spring cleaning your closets, toy bins, bookcases, and kitchens. Sadly, we cannot take large furniture, computer screens, computer hard drives, and stuffed animals. These items are just too hard to dispose of if they do not sell. The money raised is used to help offset the some of the costs of our upcoming events and we're working on a terrific lineup.

Here's a sneak peek of our plans for the rest of the year: a family event in August; an educational workshop in the fall, and a November event to celebrate Adoption Month.

At the conference, I was approached by a few wonderful parents that wanted to take a deeper role in CAFFA. We have board meetings every month at a board member's house. You can find the listing of 2011 board meetings on our website or on page 4 of this issue. If you are interested, I encourage you to make a meeting and see what the board is about and how we work for you, our membership. We have a few board positions coming available at the end of this year (ahem ahem...mine included) so we could really use some volunteers to join the board. These meetings are fun and the source of some great friendships. We also have a need to better understand and reach the "Foster to Adopt" community. If you are fostering to adopt or fostering a child, please consider coming to a board meeting and sharing your expertise.

As I said at the conference, thank you for supporting CAFFA. Let's continue to keep this organization strong.

*Jan*

Janice Reagan, President

# CAFFA News

## CAFFA REFERENCE BANK

If you have already negotiated your way through the adoption process, those just beginning the adoption journey would greatly benefit from your experiences. CAFFA often receives calls from people seeking to connect with a family that has adopted from a specific country, domestically, via foster care, transracially, through a specific agency, etc.

To add your name and experiences to our reference bank, or to check the bank, contact at [president@caffa.org](mailto:president@caffa.org).

## FUNDRAISING FOR CAFFA

How would you like to help CAFFA help others in the adoption community? By participating in our ongoing fundraising options, you can help fund CAFFA's social and educational activities and help keep our fees low. Our fundraising website, [www.caffa.org/fundraising.html](http://www.caffa.org/fundraising.html), describes the three programs that we are running.

The first program has two parts, GoodSearch ([www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)) and GoodShop ([www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com)). GoodSearch donates money to CAFFA for every internet search that you perform from their home page. To perform the initial (one time only) setup at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) you will just need to enter the name "CAFFA" into the bar where it says "enter your charity here..." and click "Verify." From then on, CAFFA will receive a penny for every search you make. It's not much, but every little bit helps. The other site, [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com), provides much bigger rewards for CAFFA based on the online purchases that you make. They have hundreds of well-known stores (Amazon, Best Buy, Target, etc.) on their page—you just have to click on the store link from their page and do your shopping as normal. It costs you nothing and the store makes a donation to CAFFA. If you have already entered "CAFFA"



Guests browse the exhibitor tables at CAFFA's 2011 Parenting Through Adoption Conference

Photo courtesy of Sheila Khan.

on the GoodSearch page, CAFFA should already be setup on this page for donations.

The second program is through [www.Escrip.com](http://www.Escrip.com). If you register your Dominick's (or any Safeway) Fresh Value card with their website, CAFFA will receive a donation from Dominick's of up to 4 percent of your grocery purchases. Escrip also has a Visa card for which CAFFA would receive up to 2 percent of all credit card purchases made on that card.

Third is our magazine purchasing program at [www.magfundraising.com/CAFFA](http://www.magfundraising.com/CAFFA). They have hundreds of popular magazines available (including Adoptive Families) and CAFFA gets up to 40 percent of the already discounted subscription price.

Please consider any or all of these options for your future activities. CAFFA, and the families that use our services, will be greatly appreciated.

## ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAFFA FAMILIES

A supportive and knowledgeable community of your adopting peers is right at your fingertips: the Yahoo! CAFFA online support group. We have an experienced and open second family for you to exchange ideas with. You'll meet folks new to the adoption journey, families

growing for a second or third time via adoption, and some members who are calling their adoptive families complete, but wish to stay connected to their newfound online CAFFA friends.

Join now to ask questions of all sorts; post family pictures; alert us to adoption events, news, and resources; share your joy; express your frustration, or concerns; and make friends and playdates. The group is moderated by adoptive sister and adoptive mom Sharon Watkins. To join the group, please e-mail your request to Sharon at [casswatkins4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:casswatkins4@sbcglobal.net).

## YOU...HAVE MAIL!

Please remember to notify CAFFA at [membership@caffa.org](mailto:membership@caffa.org) with e-mail and address changes. We

really appreciate your help in keeping our records current. Thank you!

### CHARITABLE GIVING

CAFFA is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization approved by the IRS. All donations are tax deductible. Please send your donation to CAFFA at P.O. Box 5995, Naperville, IL 60567-5995. Thank you for consideration and help in keeping our organization going strong!

### ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

CAFFA offers an online forum for parents of adolescents and teens. These stages already carry challenges for parents, but as adoptive families, there may be added layers of complexity, including but not limited to: questions of identity, behavioral changes, emotional issues and anger displacement.

We invite you to join the conversation—voice your concerns, offer advice, seek resources, share your stories, and celebrate your successes. To become a member of the online group, you must be a member of CAFFA. To join the group, please e-mail your request to Sharon Watkins at [casswatkins4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:casswatkins4@sbcglobal.net).

### ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MAGAZINE

Remember, an easy way to order Adoptive Families magazine is to go to [www.magfundraising.com/](http://www.magfundraising.com/) CAFFA to place your order—up to 40 percent of your purchase will benefit CAFFA!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Carol Landou, Elmhurst

May 19: CAFFA Garage Sale Set Up, 6 to 9 p.m.  
(Volunteers shop early!)  
736 S Kensington Ave, La Grange

May 20: CAFFA Garage Sale, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 21: CAFFA Garage Sale, 8 a.m. to noon

June 8: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Cathy Allen, Darien

July 13: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Shila and Andy Khan, Schaumburg

August 10: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Anita Snow, Chicago

September 14: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Lisa Garay, Riverside

October 12: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Jan Reagan, La Grange

November 9: CAFFA Board Meeting  
Home of Janel Jager, Naperville

All Board Meetings start at 7:30. Please contact Jan Reagan at [president@caffa.org](mailto:president@caffa.org) for addresses. Check our website for any changes to this calendar.



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**Friday, May 20**  
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Saturday, May 21**  
8 a.m. to 12 noon

### CAFFA'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Please join the Chicago Area Families for Adoption for our Annual Garage Sale. This year's event will once again be held in LaGrange. All proceeds will benefit CAFFA in helping to defray the cost of future CAFFA events. We hope to see you there!

Donations will be accepted starting Monday, May 9, through Wednesday, May 18. Please bring your donations to 736 South Kensington Avenue, LaGrange, IL 60525, (708) 588-1619. If no one is home, please leave your donated items on the front porch.

In an effort to keep our customers happy, please insure that all donations are new or gently used, include all parts and accessories and are in good working order. We will not accept large furniture, stuffed animals, computer screens or hard drives.

# Teaching Your Child's Teacher

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

From this experience, I began to see that I needed to listen to parents in a new way. Instead of feeling I should know the answers, I asked questions. Instead of being afraid to step on toes by saying the wrong thing, I let parents know I needed their help.

Here are some of the ways I believe you, the parents, can help your children make a good adjustment to their first school experience.

1. Look for a teacher or caregiver who will observe your child carefully and will talk with you about how your child is doing in school. When you are choosing a school or daycare for your young child, ask what kind of parent-teacher communication is encouraged and how teachers or caregivers let parents know when they see behavior that puzzles them. When you walk into classes, look for children who remind you of your child and watch how they are treated and how they respond. Trust your intuition!

2. Think carefully about how much you want to tell the teacher about your child's story. When you tell your child's story, your teacher will be able to understand some of the challenges that might come up for your child in school, will be more likely to listen without feeling defensive, and therefore will be more likely to become your ally in brainstorming solutions to any challenges that may come up in the classroom.

But you have to balance the benefit of telling your child's story with your own need to protect your child's privacy and with your wish that your child choose when and how to tell his or her own story. Sometimes you might want to give more general information rather than specific details. Other times, the specific details are so important to understanding your child's school behavior you might decide it is necessary to explain them. For instance, a preschool child who was adopted from Ethiopia became very upset when he saw drawings in the book, *Going on a Bear Hunt*. The teacher could not understand what was wrong and she described the book to his parents. After they talked with him, they realized the drawings in which the family walks

through the fields looking for bears reminded him of the long walk to the orphanage with his birth father. His parents decided it was important for the teacher to know about this so she could help him if he became upset or wanted to talk about these memories with her in the future.

After you have thought about the tension between telling your child's story to the teacher and respecting your child's privacy, it is important to plan what part of the story will be most valuable for the teacher to understand. When I learned how Katya had been force-fed in her orphanage—her parents had seen the caregiver, who didn't have enough time to feed a whole roomful of toddlers,

feed her cereal and potatoes until she threw up and then kept feeding her as fast as possible—I could understand why she fussed each day when she opened her lunchbox, complaining that there was nothing she wanted. When her parents

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“The most important thing I learned was that each adopted child has his own story.”

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and I brainstormed possible solutions that could give her a feeling of control over her food intake, we decided to give her two lunch boxes every day, so she could reject one and still have food she could eat!

Think about the kinds of issues that might be most difficult for your child in school and choose the parts of the adoption story that will help the teacher to understand what your child brings with her from the pre-adoption experiences. Then you can work together to think of solutions that might be effective in school.

Ask for extra time to talk with the teacher if you need it. Find out how the teacher prefers to handle this type of request. Sometimes I suggest a parent can sign up for two slots on a parent conference day. Other times it works better to take the usual amount of time and then set up a new meeting if we want to talk longer.

3. Explain to the teacher how you would like issues around adoption to be handled with your child and with other children. Don't expect that the teacher already knows things that might seem obvious to you and try not to assume this lack of information indicates a lack of concern on the part of the

teacher. In my conversations with parents, I came to realize how vulnerable adoptive parents may feel. When the parents in my class explained to me the difficulties they had to overcome in order to adopt, how they had felt criticized by family and examined by two governments, how they worried that they might miss something important that their children needed because they didn't share the same genetic history, I realized for the first time that things I said could easily be misconstrued by them as being critical. Try to understand that most teachers really like children, want to understand what's best for your child, and want to meet your child's needs in school. Assume that you need to educate them about issues of adoption rather than assuming that they don't care.

Most teachers have not had any training specifically on issues around adoption. Until I had talked with the parents, I didn't know the most appropriate terms to use in discussing adoption. When a child asked me why Jasper was adopted, I didn't know what to say. I wasn't sure how to bring up these issues with his parents. Once we had discussed it, I was able to feel confident about my answers. His parents suggested several picture books I could have in the classroom and the children loved them. Because I discussed in advance how his parents wanted me to talk about the issues that came up, I wasn't afraid to read and discuss the books with the children in my class. And when I wasn't sure what to say when a child in my class asked why Jasper's mother hadn't kept him, I felt comfortable asking his parents how they wanted me to answer that question.

If you are ready to assume your child's teacher is eager to learn about adoption and wants to do what's best for your child, you can work together to come up with solutions to the challenges that may come up and to support your child in making a good transition to the classroom.

*For the last 30 years, Jane Katch has taught young children, first at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and currently at the Touchstone Community School in Grafton, Massachusetts. She is the author of three books, Far Away from the Tigers: A Year in the Classroom with Internationally Adopted Children, They Don't Like Me: Lessons on Bullying and Teasing from a Preschool Classroom and Under Deadman's Skin: Discovering the Meaning of Children's Violent Play.*

#### RESOURCES FOR YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Here are two links to materials that may help your child's teacher understand how to deal with some of the issues that can come up in the classroom:

[www.adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/Assignments.pdf](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/Assignments.pdf)  
This site gives detailed suggestions on how to help teachers adapt assignments that might be uncomfortable or difficult for children who were adopted—when they're asked to make a timeline that includes baby picture or they are supposed to make a family tree that includes information they may not have or may not want to make public.

[www.adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/classmates.pdf](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/classmates.pdf)  
This pdf can help your child's teacher know how to deal with questions about adoption that may come up in school, such as "Is that Emily's real mother?" or "Why was Emily adopted?"



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#### NEW WEBINAR ABOUT SLEEP

Adoption Learning Partners will offer *Are You Sleeping?* on Thursday, May 19, from 7 to 8 p.m. central time, with a Q & A following from 8 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$15. Join Dr. Julian Davies for a practical, humorous, and balanced exploration of why adopted children (and their parents!) often sleep so poorly, and what to do about it. Julian Davies, MD, is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington, where he co-directs the Center for Adoption Medicine.

This webinar will help adoptive families: explore the reasons behind sleep problems in adopted children, formulate short-term and long-term sleep strategies for adoptive families, trouble-shoot specific sleep problems, and add many practical sleep tips to your toolbox. Registrants will be contacted and asked to submit questions prior to the event. For more information or to register, go to [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org).

# Meeting the Challenges of International and Domestic Adoption: Part Two

By Cherie Jones Das and Kathleen Hogan Morrison

*This is part 2 of an article that discusses how to adopt today. The first part discussed international adoption. This part focuses on domestic adoption.*

**A**DOPTIVE FAMILIES MAGAZINE EXPLAINS IT BEST: “THE FACT THAT MORE THAN 25,000 AMERICAN FAMILIES SUCCESSFULLY ADOPT newborn babies in the United States every year belies the widespread misperception that domestic adoption is a difficult, time-consuming, expensive, and risky process. The truth is that most families successfully adopt within two years of beginning the process. The cost of a domestic adoption varies widely, from as little as \$4,000 to more than \$30,000. On average, according to surveys conducted by Adoptive Families in each of the last five years, the median total cost of a domestic adoption is under \$20,000, considerably less than that of the average international adoption.”

For those interested in adopting older children, the foster care system across the country has children legally free for adoption for whom adoptive parents make no payments and receive adoption assistance subsidies. So domestic adoption is possible, but there are challenges:

## **INFANT ADOPTION**

Despite myths and stereotypes, domestic adoption has quietly redefined itself over a generation. Adoptive parents now have more options, more control, and more information. Birth parents are now actively involved in the process. Independent adoptions have increased and may now represent the majority of domestic adoptions. The Internet has made it easier for birth parents and adopting families to find each other around the country.

While almost every aspect of adoption is different than it was in the past, it is the family matching process that most changed. In private and agency adoptions, rather than merely being assigned a baby to adopt without any background information to share with the child as he or she grows, adopting parents now usually meet or talk with the birth

family. Birth parents, by the same token, choose which family will adopt their child. Birth families are more likely to have access to counseling and independent legal representation, and, together with the adopting family, determine the nature of contact after the adoption.

## **MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT OPENNESS AND LEGAL RISK**

The general public mistakenly believes that today's domestic adoptions involve frequent, face-to-face contact between birth and adoptive families. The term “open adoption” could more accurately be replaced with “identified adoption”; adoption in which families exchange identifying information, sometimes via an intermediary. In most cases, adoptive families and birth families agree, before the child is born or the adoption is finalized, to a mutually acceptable level of contact. Updates are often provided through e-mail, online photobooks, or letters periodically shared with the birth family.

There is no “typical” scenario. Some birth and adoptive families meet infrequently after the adoption, while others meet more frequently. Still other families start out communicating only via an intermediary but later decide to meet. After the reassurance of photos and letters in the first years following a child's birth, some birth mothers move on with their lives and contact diminishes. The process varies.

The biggest misperception about domestic adoption is that it is always legally risky. While there are no data on how many adoptions land in the courts, experts concur that less than 1 percent of domestic adoptions are legally contested after the relinquishment of parental rights. The best way to minimize legal risk in adoption is to work with expert adoption professionals. Seek out adoption attorneys who are members of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys ([www.adoptionattorneys.org](http://www.adoptionattorneys.org)) and adoption agencies that are licensed, not-for-profit, and have a history of best adoption practices.

## **FOSTER CARE ADOPTION**

If you are considering a foster care adoption, you may review information about a number of children

who are waiting for families. Some adoption agencies have adoption events, a photolisting service, TV or video segments describing waiting children, or other ways to let you know about available children waiting for families. In Illinois you can contact the Adoption Information Center of Illinois ([www.adoptinfo-il.org](http://www.adoptinfo-il.org)) for more information.

You can also view waiting children at the national photolisting website: [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org). You will often have the opportunity for preplacement visits to get to know a child before he or she moves into your home. Your family may also be able to serve as a resource, foster, or concurrent planning family, working with the agency to support the child's return to his or her birth family as well as being considered as a potential permanent family for the child if reunification does not occur.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway, a service of the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Health and Human Services Department ([www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)), is a well known source of information for foster care adoptions. It publishes resource lists of links to photolisting services in each state, as well as state adoption exchange websites. You can also consult the North American Council for Adoptable Children ([www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org)).

### **INTERSTATE ADOPTION**

When you and the child to be adopted reside in different states, an interstate adoption results. Interstate adoption are more complicated and costly than intrastate adoptions. Prospective adoptive parents may be barred from an interstate adoption if they do not have a current and completed homestudy with full fingerprint, criminal background, and child abuse checks. The provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children apply to non-related interstate adoptions. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children has been enacted by the various states to establish uniform procedures for handling the interstate placement of children in foster homes, adoptive homes, or other child care facilities. The purpose of the Compact is to regulate the interstate movement of children. The "sending agency" under the Compact includes a state that is party to the Compact, a subdivision of a party state such as a county or city, a court,

and a person, including a parent or relative in some instances, a corporation, or a child welfare agency. Thus, those to whom the Compact applies include traditional adoption agencies, as well as biological parents in private adoptions.

The Interstate Compact will likely apply to most situations where you are seeking to adopt a nonrelative in another state. When the Compact applies, the child cannot be removed from the home state (where the child is born) until the sending state and the receiving state give permission. Thus, interstate adoptions can become complicated and will certainly be more complex and difficult than those adoptions in which all parties reside in Illinois. Such adoptions are legally complex and require a careful comparison of state laws.

Some states strictly prohibit private, non-agency adoptions altogether, and others allow them under prescribed circumstances. Because statutory requirements

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**“The biggest misperception about domestic adoption is that it is always legally risky.”**

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vary so much across the country, in some instances it is not possible to make a private, interstate adoptive placement. Generally, interstate adoptive placements involving agencies in both states pose fewer problems than private, non-agency adoptions due to the wide variations in laws governing private adoptions among the states.

The processing of interstate adoptions can be cumbersome. You may go to some states and be required to stay as long as a month before receiving clearance to return home. As a result, you may become unwilling captives of the sending state because the sending state's Interstate Compact office is impossible to communicate with or has revised what requirements need to be met. Processing of much paper occurs with an interstate adoption, and agency involvement in both states will often expedite the matter. Ordinarily, the sending state does much of the paperwork, whether by agency personnel or private attorney.

Adoption law is controlled by state statutes. Every state has different adoption laws. Because the laws can be so different (even contradictory), you as prospective adoptive parents need to recognize the various ways that interstate adoption can go awry. For example, an adoption may be barred altogether or affected by the following factors:

- Advertising for a child to adopt is illegal in some states, but permissible in others.
- Paying birth parent expenses is illegal in some states, carefully regulated in others.
- Using unlicensed facilitators is illegal in some states and authorized in some states.
- Some states permit the use of another's state consent to adoption and some do not.
- The time for taking an adoption consent varies by state.
- The method of taking an adoption consent varies by state.
- Some states allow adoption consents to be revoked later and some states do not.
- There is no uniformity as to how parental rights of the biological father are terminated.
- Some states have a putative father registry; and some do not. Moreover, the effect of a putative father registration is not uniform.
- Some states require the use of an adoption agency.
- A few states require that a child to be adopted be placed in foster care.
- The states vary as to whether a birth parent's parental rights must be terminated in a court proceeding.
- Some states permit non-residents to file an adoption petition in the sending state (where the child is born).
- Every state is different as how it defines private versus agency placement.

The list above demonstrates why you need to access the best and most experienced adoption attorney and adoption agency you can find. Those professionals need to address all of the identified issues. The attorney or agency from the other state should be an expert in the state's adoption practices, and the Illinois practitioner should be an expert in the Illinois requirements.

### **NEEDED PREPARATION AND EDUCATION**

As prospective adoptive parents, you need to educate yourself about the adoption process. State adoption laws regarding all aspects of domestic adoption, from timing of revocation to allowable fees to professionals permitted to undertake adoptions, vary widely. You should carefully research



Photo used under Creative Commons from Flickr user SaraShoot.

your state's laws, as well as the credential of any adoption professionals you engage. You can find a state-by-state list of adoption laws at [www.adoptivefamilies.com/adoptionlaws](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/adoptionlaws).

Although most families complete a domestic adoption within 18 to 24 months, keep in mind that specific circumstances (age, profession, location, religion, marital status) may result in a wait that's longer. Be wary of any adoption professional who requires up-front fees that come with no guarantee of a placement. Look for good adoption professionals who will determine which costs are legally permissible; make sure the birth family received counseling; ensure that the birth parents' rights have been legally terminated before placement is finalized; and draft a post-placement agreement if appropriate.

Remember that domestic adoption expenses may total \$25,000 or less. However, costs can and do vary widely, depending on factors families may not be able to control, such as higher-than-expected advertising or medical fees. Remember too, that you will not pay expenses in foster care adoption.

For more information on domestic adoption, including sample budgets, worksheets, and questions to ask a prospective adoption agency or attorney, visit Adoptive Families' domestic adoption page, at [www.adoptivefamilies.com/domestic\\_adoption](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/domestic_adoption).

*Cherie Jones Das is the International Adoption Coordinator for Lutheran Child and Family Services. She can be reached at (630) 628-6448 ext. 223. Kathleen Hogan Morrison is an adoption attorney practicing in Chicago. She can be reached at (312) 977-4477.*

# Our Journey from Foster to Adopt

By Ann Marie Gignac

**W**HERE DID SHE COME FROM?" "IS SHE ADOPTED?" "SHE'S SO CUTE!" "CAN I TOUCH HER HAIR?" "HOW DO YOU DO HER hair?" "Is she yours? These are some of the common comments and questions that my family hears constantly.

My husband and I were happily married and the proud parents of an eight-year-old biological son when the nagging thoughts refused to dissipate; we wanted to grow our family. We were not clear on how we wanted to do it but after much discussion, we decided that adoption would be a great solution for us. Because of some volunteer work with a child welfare agency called Childlink, I had learned of the magnitude of children needing homes right here in Chicago and how changes in the laws for foster children made it easier for parents to adopt these children.

Foster care is the temporary placement by the Department of Children and Family Services of children outside their home due to abuse, neglect, or dependency among other situations. Placing a child in substitute care is not intended to be a permanent living arrangement, but protects the child with the ultimate goal of returning a child home. But for a lot of these kids, the goal of returning home is never realized. When it is not possible to return the child home safely, the Department seeks a new goal of adoption. According to the DCFS Illinois website, DCFS has taken steps to reduce the number of children in foster care and expedite resolutions so children do not "age out" in foster care (spend their lives until 18 years old in foster care). In 1997, there were 51,331 Illinois children living in substitute care. Because of an increased emphasis on early intervention and permanency services such as adoption, that number has declined to 16,160 children in June 2007. A big change.

Of course, early on we had so many questions! We started going through the "What if's?" and other questions like: "Why doesn't everyone do this knowing of the need?"; "What's the catch?"; "What if they don't call us for years and then it is too late because we feel we are too old and the moment has passed?"; "Could we take more than one child?"; "Could we handle special needs?"; "Does race matter to us?"; "What if the mom comes back?"; "What age would we choose?" It started to be overwhelm-

ing but then we stopped ourselves and realized that until we actually went through the process of getting licensed in the State of Illinois, we wouldn't ever be in the position to make any choices.

To adopt from foster care in the State of Illinois, both parents need to become licensed foster parents in the state. That usually involves completing about 30 hours' worth of classes. In addition to these training classes, you will complete applications, medical forms, provide references, and go through criminal background checks. This process could take from two to six months.

We decided that I would attend my Foster Pride (training) classes two nights a week for about five or so weeks and my husband, Jim, would attend some Saturdays from 9 to 5 (double sessions) to complete his hours. Splitting up our attendance in the classes meant we could avoid costly babysitting arrangements and be more present for our son.

We had to choose an agency. We chose Childlink because they were familiar to us and had a great reputation in the state of Illinois. We met with their social worker in charge of licensing and he completed our home study. When you become licensed through DCFS to become a foster parent, all the courses, home studies, and expenses are all covered by the state. And if a child is placed with you, then you will receive a board payment (about \$400) for the care of that child on a monthly basis. Our plan was to put that money in an account for the child that was placed with us so he or she could someday have a nest egg.

As we went through the education and training, we learned that there are all sorts of foster parents to meet all types of needs. There are the traditional foster parents that agree to take children in as a fostering arrangement looking to serve the temporary needs of children as they work toward reunification with their biological family units. There are foster parents that specialize in infants acting as that first home while more permanent placement needs are sorted out. There are foster parents that open their homes up to respite or emergency care needs where the children can be placed there immediately following some sort of crisis or initial placement into DCFS. There are foster parents that are "adopt only" homes. These are parents who are only contacted for placement when the child's parental rights have been terminated.

At the time we received our license, we decided that we couldn't be a home that offered temporary or respite care for kids coming into DCFS in need. I was concerned about the effect of having a revolving door of family change on our son. I thought it would be so hard for him to grow to know and love these children at his young age and then have them leave. I didn't think that would be fair to him. Also, I was working full time and while most employers are very supportive of a family leave when a child is placed with you while you figure out day care, it was not something that could be a regular occurrence for me. When we are older or our son is older, we might be able to be of help in that way but we were more interested in a permanent placement.

We felt it would be best to accept any child under the age of six. As it turned out, when DCFS is looking for homes for children, they first look to place within their zip code and make a strong effort to place within their school system. Because of where we live in the suburbs of Chicago, there are not a lot of school aged children available for placements.

At first, we thought we would naturally be an "adopt only" home. Our ultimate goal was adoption through foster care, but that is where it can get tricky. If you are only open to placements of children whose parental rights have been terminated, you could be limiting yourself.

When a child is placed into DCFS care, two goals operate concurrently. One is to work with the parents when possible to return the child home; and the other is to work toward a permanent placement, guardianship, or ultimately adoption out of DCFS. Typically, a child who is in DCFS will be in foster care for about a year before the parental rights are officially terminated and the goal is changed from Return Home (Reunification) to Permanent Placement if the parents have not done what it takes to get their children back. During that time, the child could be in multiple foster homes. The more homes children live in, the more challenges they may face in the future. We thought it would be best to have a child placed with us as early on in the process

as possible and that meant agreeing to take placement of a child whose parental rights have not yet been terminated. And really that was the idea of the DCFS changing some of the rules and adopting a concurrent planning philosophy years ago. While the state was helping parents work on reunification, a cautious backup plan was in place with an eye toward permanency for that child as well—a sort of hope for the best but plan for the worst scenario.

It was a risk, a gamble. I was terrified that I could not be strong enough for this scenario. What if the

parents regained custody and we lost a little one we had grown to love? That would break my heart! But if you are going to try for the adoption of a child through foster care, then that is a scenario that you have to make peace with. My husband and I decided that if that happened and the child we were fostering was returned home then of course we could be happy for them. If the child had a chance of living with his or her biological parents that could be present and able to care for him or her



Image used under Creative Commons from [ladspacopen.ac.uk](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ladspacopen.ac.uk).

lovingly, we would want that for every child. Perhaps it would mean that we were meant to be there for this child at this point in his or her life to provide that loving safe haven. I did think that I could only do that once if that happened to us, but first things first!

So in July 2008, our family became a licensed foster home for the State of Illinois. And then we waited. I was surprised that our phone wasn't ringing off the hook. Where were all the children that needed homes? Then we got a call about a sibling group, four children under the age of six who needed a home. Unfortunately, that would have been too hard for our family. Then we got a call at 2 p.m. about a little six-month-old boy, but it came after we had driven eight hours up north for our annual summer vacation. I was beside myself. We would have had to drive back and pick the child up at Midway airport the next morning. My husband said it would be such a disappointment for our son who had so looked forward to this annual trip. That was a hard time. I was afraid this was the one and we would not have any more chances! In our DCFS training, we were taught it would be okay to say

no to placements for various reasons. In fact, you should be prepared to not accept the first couple of placements that you may be presented with. With a heavy heart, we had to decline the placement.

In October 2008, my husband received another call about a healthy, five-week-old infant who had been taken into DCFS custody at birth, lived at the hospital for about two weeks, and had been in a foster home for the last three weeks. They were looking at this child as one who would be a permanent placement due to the mother's known history and they called us. I was at a work conference, and after several questions and clarifications back and forth, we made the final important decision over text! Crazy! I drove home the three hours the next day and went on quite a shopping spree at Target to get ready for our baby girl. It was so surreal! I think the first couple of weeks we were in such shock. It had been eight years since I had cared for an infant. My son reacted as to be expected. Luckily, there was only one moment that first weekend after she cried throughout his soccer game that he insisted that we give her back and that he loved being an only child! After that moment, he has adjusted beautifully to the role of the older brother. I think the age difference helped in that there is no sibling rivalry.

The past two years have been a wonderful experience. I can't imagine a time when she wasn't with our family. It has been such a gift to see our daughter develop and grow. The experience is so like any adopted family's experience. What is a little different is that there is that time period where you are fostering and you have to live with the uncertain outcome even though the outcome (permanent placement) seems highly likely. With foster-to-adopt, you have to go through a time period where you pray and hope for the best outcome for the child; and that the outcome will be the best for you as well. With our daughter that meant during our time fostering her we had to meet with a monthly case manager in our home for visits, use the Medicaid system for her healthcare and immunizations, attend her court hearings, follow state guidelines for approved babysitting, and get approvals to take her out of state for vacations. For us, there was an issue with DCFS making a mistake about her last name, which extended a fairly easy case another year. Her

parental rights were terminated October 2010, two years after her placement with us.

Now we are in the process of adopting our baby girl. We have secured an adoption attorney (whose services will be paid for by the state) and are waiting our turn for her papers to be completed, another home study completed, and the adoption hearings to be scheduled. The agency helps coordinate no-fee adoptions for its prospective parents following state mandated background checks (again) and home studies. Once her parents' rights were terminated, that was when I could really breathe a sigh of relief. That was a big step. It meant that she will not be returning back to her biological parent ever. It meant she will be staying with us.

Has it been easy? Yes and no. We really tried to just expect the best and prepare mentally for the worst. We did have a moment after she had been with us for about a year where her mother resurfaced and was talking about getting her baby back. That was scary. We knew intellectually that her mother would have to go through such hoops and

make a commitment to truly change her life to be able to get to even begin to work toward reunification and that would be so unlikely; but

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“I can't imagine a time when she wasn't with our family.”

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still, emotionally it was such a scare. When I talk to other foster parents who have gone on to adopt their children, many of them have had such moments. The situations might look different. It might be that the biological parents are allowed visits during the foster time and that can be difficult and awkward. Or it might be a tie to biological siblings or aunts or uncles or grandparents that can be challenging. We thought given the reality of this world of divorces and blended families; we could handle unique family alliances. We had the gift of living in a blended family that didn't fit the normal Rockwell painting and knew that families can look and feel different.

*Ann Marie Gignac and her husband Jim lives in La Grange with their ten-year-old biological son and their soon-to-be-adopted daughter, age two and a half. Ann Marie recently retired after 24 years in the healthcare. She has created a blog called [www.transracialparentingchicagostyle.blogspot.com](http://www.transracialparentingchicagostyle.blogspot.com) about parenting and resources for transracial adoptive families.*

# Educational Opportunities

## **UPCOMING PROGRAM AT ST. MARY'S SERVICES**

*Parenting and Disciplining Your Adopted Child*, Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. to noon, Arlington Heights. Join Kelvin Gott, teacher, coach, consultant/presenter and father of four as he discusses how children who develop good self-concepts succeed in school, have strong relationships with their parents and generally enjoy success in later life.

Pre-registration is required. All programs are held at St. Simon's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 717 W. Kirchhoff Rd., Arlington Heights, unless noted. For registration information, go to [www.stmaryservices.com](http://www.stmaryservices.com), call 888-ST-MARYS and ask for Kellie Kennedy or e-mail [kkennedy@stmaryservices.com](mailto:kkennedy@stmaryservices.com).

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE CRADLE**

*How to Discipline Your Children, Without Losing Yourself*, Saturday, May 11, 2011, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Guest Speaker: Kay Holler, LCSW, therapist in private practice and adoptive parent.

*Family Affair: Everything is Relative*, Saturday, June 4, 2011, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Guest Speaker: Becky Carter, LCPC Licensed Therapist, an adoptive parent and adult adoptee.

*LGBT Parenting: A Brave New World*, Saturday, September 24, 2011, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Guest Speaker: Dr. Aaron Cooper, PhD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist.

*Being a Conspicuous Family: What Kids Wish their Parents Knew*, Saturday, October, 22 2011, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Guest Speaker: Judy Stigger, Adoption Therapist; moderated panel of domestic and international adoptive parents.

All programs are held at The Cradle, 2049 Ridge Avenue, Evanston. For more information about each program (descriptions, credit hours, cost) or to register, go to [www.cradle.org](http://www.cradle.org).

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**

*Family at its Best: Reflections on Optimal Family Functioning with Robert Noone, Ph.D.*, Thursday, April 21, 7 to 9 p.m.

*Working Towards Healthy Attachment*, Sunday, May 1, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. A presentation and discussion by experts at The Theraplay Institute in Evanston, IL.

*Understanding Adoption: From Delivery to Possible Placement* with Richard Pearlman, Executive Director, Sunday, May 8, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

*Marketing 101: Adoptive Parent Outreach*, Sunday, May 22, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

All seminars are open to the public and pre-registration is required. Register below or by calling (773) 334-2300. If you register online, please arrive

15 minutes early and bring payment (cash or check accepted, payable to "Family Resource Center"). Fees: \$25 per person per workshop, \$15 for second family member; non-refundable. This fee does not apply to families that have applied to FRC or FRC Alumni. Unless otherwise noted, baby-sitting is not available as programs are not appropriate for children. For more information, go to [www.f-r-c.org](http://www.f-r-c.org).

## **ONLINE PROGRAM PROVIDES**

### **FREE TRAINING FOR THERAPEUTIC PARENTING**

Dr. Karyn Purvis has created an online training program—entitled *Created to Connect: A Christian's Guide to the Connected Child*—for the parents of children who come to adoption from a background of deprivation and trauma. The program includes 13 study guides and 39 articles, along with 13 audio and 21 video vignettes, all of which can be downloaded at no cost. The curriculum is based on biblical principles and focuses on attachment building, helping reduce the child's fear response, nurturing strategies, and other aspects of therapeutic parenting. To access the training program, go to: <http://empow-eredtoconnect.org/created-to-connect-study-guide>.

Source: *Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## **WEBSITE OFFERS RESOURCES FOR**

### **THOSE ADOPTING CHILDREN WITH HIV/AIDS**

Bethany Christian Services has developed training resources for people who are considering adopting a child with HIV/AIDS. The toolkit includes three training webinars and print resources that may be downloaded from Bethany's website for a fee. The materials can be accessed at [www.bethany.org/hivtoolkit](http://www.bethany.org/hivtoolkit).

Source: *Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## **INTERNATIONAL PRE-ADOPTIVE TRAINING AT LCFS**

Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois is offering a 10-hour seminar entitled "Our Rainbow Families" for those planning to adopt a child internationally. The training covers the topics required by the Hague Convention and is open to any family seriously considering an intercountry adoption. There is a \$100 per person fee or \$150 per couple for families not associated with LCFS. Pre-registration is required by calling (708) 771-7180 x306. For more information, go to [www.lcfs.org/Page.aspx?pid=1084](http://www.lcfs.org/Page.aspx?pid=1084).

# International Adoption Update

## U.S. RETAINS SUSPENSION OF NEPAL ADOPTIONS, CITING INADEQUATE REFORMS

The U.S. State Department has informed Nepal that concerns about the international adoption process have not been adequately addressed by recent reforms implemented by the country's government, according to Kiran Chapagain in the February 19 Republica article "West Not Impressed by Changes in Adoption

Process." During a visit to Nepal, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Susan Jacobs said that the origins of Nepali children matched for adoption were still unclear, despite new rules requiring proof that the children were orphans. "The

U.S. suspension on new adoption cases involving abandoned children will remain in place until substantive progress is made on the issues raised by a February 2010 Hague Convention report," said a U.S. Embassy spokesperson.

*Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## ABORTIONS, ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICIES CITED IN CHINA ADOPTION DECLINE

David Smolin's article, "The Missing Girls of China: Population, Policy, Culture, Gender, Abortion, Abandonment, and Adoption in East-Asian Perspective," will be published in the next issue of the Cumberland Law Review (Volume 41, Issue 1). Smolin analyzes the increasing gender imbalance of China's population, including steep declines in international adoptions from China—from 7,903 in 2005 to 3,001 in 2009. He attributes the drop primarily to increased sex-selective abortions and increased enforcement of anti-trafficking policies following a 2005 scandal. The scandal uncovered problematic practices by some Chinese orphanages, including the buying of children through the work

of intermediaries and other inducements.

*Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## 2010 REPORT SHOWS CONTINUING DECLINE IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

The U.S. Department of State's newly released FY2010 Annual Report on Intercountry Adoptions

shows that there were 11,059 total adoptions into this country from others, plus 1,090 children came into the United States on humanitarian parole visas. If these two numbers are added together, there were 12,149 children coming into the country for adoption, as compared to 12,753 last year and 22,990 in the peak year

of 2004. China was the leading "sending" country (3,401), followed by Ethiopia (2,513). The report for the first time includes statistics on disruptions/dissolutions in intercountry adoptions as reported by states; there were 21, plus two child deaths. These statistics did not include the boy "returned" to Russia by his mother in Tennessee, since that adoption had not yet been legally dissolved by fiscal year's end.

*Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA PLANS MAJOR SLOW-DOWN IN ADOPTION PROCESSING

Citing the need to work on quality and focus on more important strategic issues, the Government of Ethiopia's Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) announced on March 9 that it will reduce to a maximum of five the number of adoption cases it processes per day, effective March 10, 2011. Under Ethiopian adoption procedures, MOWCYA approves every match between prospective adoptive parents and an Ethiopian child before that case can be forwarded for a court hearing.



Image used under Creative Commons from The World Flag on Wikimedia Commons.

Given MOWCYA's current caseload, the U.S. Embassy anticipates that this change could result in an overall decline in case processing of some 90 percent. If this change is implemented as proposed, we expect that parents who have begun the process of adopting from Ethiopia but have not yet been matched with a child could experience significant delays. It is not clear if this change in procedures would have any significant impact on cases in which MOWCYA has already approved matches. Prospective adoptive parents should remain in close contact with their adoption service provider to obtain updates on individual cases.

On March 11, the U.S. Department of State, Office of Children's Issues, Adoption Division hosted a conference call for adoption service providers to discuss the proposed reduction. Below is a summary of information presented on the call.

- MOWCYA planned to implement a reduction of case processing from approximately 50 cases reviewed per day to no more than five cases reviewed per day.
- MOWCYA has stated that this reduction is to improve screening of adoption cases while also devoting existing resources to other priorities on vulnerable children.
- MOWCYA reviews each adoption case at two points in the process: after the match with prospective adoptive parents and after the final court decree to approve issuance of new birth certificate and passport for child.
- MOWCYA has not announced any implementation guidelines on how reduction in processing will affect each stage of the process.
- If only five cases are reviewed per day, delays could be significant. Calculations based on rough estimates of cases in process (around 1,000) indicate delays of one year or more.
- Department of State defines "cases in process" as those whose dossier has been accepted up to those cases that have received the final letter approving issuance of passport and birth certificate.

Since the announcement, the Department of State has heard many rumors, but none have been substantiated. The U.S. Embassy can confirm that the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs has shuffled the portfolios of key adoption personnel. The Embassy has not been able to confirm how this reorganization may affect the processing of cases through the ministry.

Additionally, the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa is discussing the possibility of developing a consolidated assistance proposal to MOWCYA to find out what the resource needs are and find what assistance can be given to allow MOWCYA to accomplish their goals.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, March 9 and March 16, 2011.*

#### **REVOCATION OF LICENSE: BETTER FUTURES ADOPTION SERVICES**

The U.S. Embassy was informed by Better Future Adoption Services' (BFAS) Addis Ababa office on February 4, 2011, that the Charities and Societies Agency revoked its license to operate in Ethiopia on December 9, 2010, because of alleged misuse of its license. BFAS further stated to the U.S. Embassy that it has initiated a legal appeal of the decision with the Government of Ethiopia. The Government of Ethiopia has not provided information for families in process with BFAS on how this revocation will affect their cases.

The U.S. Embassy strongly recommends that prospective adoptive parents who have entered into an agreement with Better Future Adoption Services, or who are planning to adopt through Better Future Adoption Services, seek the advice of a legal professional.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, February 15, 2011.*

#### **HAITI ACCEPTING NEW ADOPTION CASES**

Haiti's adoption authority, the Institut du Bien-être Social et de Recherches (IBESR), has informed the U.S. government that they are accepting new adoption applications for Haitian children who are either documented as orphans or who have been relinquished by their birth parent(s). The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince has also resumed normal visa processing. However, prospective adoptive parents should be aware that the already frail adoptions infrastructure in Haiti has been further taxed by the earthquake, creating displacement and family separations that make practical and legal determinations of orphan or abandoned status extremely difficult and create additional challenges to adoptive families.

We encourage prospective adoptive parents to verify that their application is being processed in accordance with Haitian legal requirements and the procedures established by IBESR.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, January 31, 2011.*

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# Tidbits

## **CULTURAL TOUR OF SOUTH KOREA**

The Chicago Arirang Lions Club (CALC), Korea Cultural Tour, along with the Busan Tong-IL Lions Club, Seoul ROTC Lions Club, Seo Seoul Lions Club, and Glungju University will be sponsoring the seventh annual cultural tour to South Korea. The tour will take place from June 14 to June 27. The cultural tour is available to all Korean American adoptees in high school (juniors and seniors) or college with the priority going to those who have never had an opportunity to visit their homeland.

Participants will go to Seoul, Busan, and Gyungju, and visit national museums and other historical landmarks that the country has to offer such as the Korean Folk Village, Manner House, and the DMZ. Furthermore, participants will also experience Korean family traditions and customs while staying with a Korean host family and also have an opportunity to visit schools and universities. Airfare, hotel, lodging, transportation, meals, and admission to all events will be provided by the CALC. There is a fee of \$1,200 per person, which will be used to help offset additional costs. For reservations and application information, contact Jason Lee at yejinwoo@email.com or Sokon Kim at sokonk@comcast.net, or call (847) 370-8424.

## **EVENT FOR KOREAN ADOPTIVE COMMUNITY**

This year marks the 34th anniversary of the Chicago Arirang Lions Club annual cultural picnic for adopted Korean children and their families. As usual, there will be plenty of Korean foods, drinks, games and entertainment. Please bring lawn chairs or picnic mats, and special treats you may want to share with other families. The event will be held on Saturday, June 11, at Blue Star Memorial Woods in Glenview. Send your RSVP, including your name, address, e-mail, number of adults, and number of children attending, to Mr. Dong Hun Shin at 3224 Harrison Street, Glenview IL 60025.

## **NEW ADOPTION INDEXES INCLUDE INFORMATION ON ETHICS AND PARENTING**

The Child Welfare Information Gateway added several sections on adoption resources that index a range of publications in specific areas. They include "Ethical Issues in Adoption," which can be accessed at [www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt\\_ethics/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt_ethics/); and "Parenting after Adoption," available at [www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt\\_parenting/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt_parenting/).

[www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt\\_parenting/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt_parenting/).

*Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## **CHILD WELFARE DATA BROKEN DOWN BY STATE, REGION, AND OTHER**

The U.S. Children's Bureau recently launched a new website with Child Welfare Outcomes data for 2006-2009 that can be accessed in a variety of ways, including by region or state. The site is available at: <http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/>.

*Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

## **NEW TOOL FOR LGBT ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**

For an honest look at adoption by LGBT families, check out Living Adoption: Gay Parents Speak, a compelling resource for lesbian and gay parents and the professionals who work with them. Watch the trailer for the film and order the DVD on photosynthesisproductions.com. (The same production company previously produced the award-winning films Struggle for Identity and Foster Parents Speak.) Meanwhile, the Human Rights Campaign, which collaborated on this film, offers additional tools and resources for navigating the process as an LGBT prospective parent or couple on its website, [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).

*Source: Adoptive Families magazine, March/April 2011.*

## **CT SUPREME COURT RULING IN FAVOR OF GAY COUPLE DESCRIBED AS LANDMARK**

Two partners with a valid surrogacy agreement can both be named on the children's birth certificates, the Connecticut Supreme Court has decided in a ruling described as groundbreaking for both gay and straight couples, according to a story in the February 16 Fairfield Citizen. "Fairfield Lawyer Wins Landmark Adoption, Surrogate Case," by Genevieve Reilly, explains that the case involved two gay men who were married; the state Department of Health initially refused to list the non-biological parent on the birth certificate and told the couple to go through a second-parent adoption. Instead, the case wound through lower courts and wound up with the Supreme Court deciding in their favor.

*Source: Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute e-newsletter, February 2011.*

# Culture Camp Roundup

## **CELEBRATION OF NATIONS/ CAMP MINIKANA**

Celebration of Nations Adoptive Family Weekend will be held from Friday, June 3, to Sunday, June 5. Come spend the weekend with your family and other adoptive families for a fun, informative weekend at YMCA Camp Minikani, located 20 minutes north of Milwaukee on the shores of Amy Belle Lake. The camp is brought to you by YMCA Camp Minikani and Carmen Knight, who has ties with Bridge Communications Inc and the Ties Program: Adoptive Family Travel. Activities and programs throughout the weekend will include archery, boating, a camp fire, the climbing wall, cultural activity booths, cultural wellness activities sponsored by local YMCAs, family Olympics, free massages, guest speakers, informative discussions, jumping off the Minikani Tram-pop-oline, swimming, and so much more!

So whether you've adopted from China, Korea, Peru, Chile, Paraguay, India, Vietnam, Russia, Romania, the Ukraine, the Philippines, the United States, Guatemala, Cambodia, Columbia, Ethiopia, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, or anywhere else, you are welcome to attend. For more information, go to [sites.google.com/site/adoptivefamilyweekend/](http://sites.google.com/site/adoptivefamilyweekend/) or find us on Facebook. To register go to [www.minikani.org](http://www.minikani.org). If you have any questions, please e-mail Eli Fyksen or Carmen Knight at [efyksen@ymcamke.org](mailto:efyksen@ymcamke.org) or [adoptivefamilyweekend@gmail.com](mailto:adoptivefamilyweekend@gmail.com).

## **HANDS AROUND THE WORLD CULTURE CAMPS**

Hands Around the World is sponsoring six culture day camps: African American, China, Eastern European, KISS (a Korean, Indian, Southeast Asian Spectacular) Latin American, and a multicultural experience for teens called The Cutting Edge.

Camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (3:30 on Friday) on July 25 to 29, at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, 405 Rush Street, Roselle. Culture camp promotes healthy identity development by giving adoptees an opportunity to immerse themselves in self-discovery with peers, experience positive mentoring and friendships, share their common experi-



Photo used under Creative Commons from Flickr user: Alforque.

ences, support one another, and learn about their rich heritage and traditions. This is accomplished through specialized hands-on activities and classes in ethnic cooking, arts and crafts, native animals, music and dance, puppetry, language, martial arts, ethnic games, and more. Come join in the fun! For information and registration materials, go to [www.handsaroundtheworld.com](http://www.handsaroundtheworld.com).

## **CAMP PRIDE KOREA**

Camp Pride Korea will be held from July 25 to July 29, from 9 a. m. to 3 p.m., at Man Hee Presbyterian Church, 1149 West Bloomingdale Road, Itasca. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Camp Pride is a culture day camp for Korean adoptees and their siblings. Classes are offered for children four years old (born by June 30, 2007) through grade 12. Camp Pride develops awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Korean culture to enhance self-esteem as a member of an adoptive family. Camp Pride provides a friendly, supportive, and happy atmosphere for all participants. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and will receive reduced fees depending on the volunteer position.

For more information or to register, contact Lisa Puccinelli at (847) 367-7862 or Patti Palumbo at (630) 495-4403, or send an e-mail to [camppridekorea@hotmail.com](mailto:camppridekorea@hotmail.com). The cost is \$130 for CAFFA members (\$140 for non members). Please register by May 13 to secure a spot.

# Calling All Families for Advice

Q

*What was your favorite part of CAFFA's 2011 Parenting Through Adoption Conference?*

[With regard to previous conferences] I am a big fan of the parenting workshops presented by Kel Gott; his Love & Logic ideas make sense, and he is such a terrific, engaging speaker. I can't wait to see him again!—Written by Shila

[With regard to previous conferences] Our children are ages nine and 11, so I consider us young veterans and by no means experts on adoption. No matter what part of our adoption journey we are in, I look forward to and truly enjoy the CAFFA adoption conference. I especially loved two sessions that I attended from previous conferences. One session was Kel Gott's Love & Logic approach to discipline, parenting, and raising responsible kids. The second session I enjoyed was based on how to communicate with our children on adoption and answer their adoption-related questions. It helped reinforce some of the things we were doing and also gave insight to what might lie ahead in the future. —Written by Sharon

My favorite part was hearing from adoptees. Not being adopted myself, there is no other way to know the possibilities of my children's feelings on the subject. It was extremely informative.—Written by Diane W.

I am sure I am not being original by saying this, but Adam Pertman's opening speech was very moving. He touched on all aspects of the adoption triad, was funny, and very inspiring. I also really enjoyed being around all the other families—it's nice to be in a community with those who have shared similar experiences when it comes to starting a family.—Written by Diane D.

I'm a board member and worked the entire conference so I only attended the keynote address by Adam Pertman. The keynote was humorous, insightful and engaging. I really enjoyed a few breaks shopping the retail section of conference. There was a great selection at the bookstore!—Written by Jan

We enjoyed meeting and connecting with other adoptive families at the workshops and over lunch. Sometimes we feel isolated as adoptive parents.

We'll make it a priority to attend more CAFFA events.—Written by Lindsey and Dave

I was happy to see lots of great workshops for a parent like me who already has adopted an older child. Kel Gott's workshop gave me good insight into my child's personality and strategies for managing behavior.—Written by Suzy

Wow! I can't really pick just one. I enjoyed and learned so much. The two sessions that stuck out the most were the ones on bullying and IEPs. Both speakers were very knowledgeable, stuck to the topic, gave a lot of information in a short amount of time and were fantastic. I would love to see them asked back again. Now that our children are older, we really enjoy topics like these and others. It is so wonderful that adoptive families have so many wonderful resources available for each stage of life. Thank you CAFFA and presenters for a wonderful conference and job well done.—Written by Sharon

My wife and I recently started the adoption process and became members of CAFFA at the urging of our agency. Thanks for providing great workshops to help us decipher the overwhelming amount of information available. This conference really helped us understand all our options and give us a direction for our journey. Written by Chuck

I enjoyed all of the sessions, especially Kel Gott's, but I think my favorite part was seeing the familiar faces of the people who work so hard to make CAFFA such a vital and vibrant part of the Chicago adoption community. —Written by Rachel

*The viewpoints in this column are very lightly edited for style. The CAFFA newsletter editors retain the right to not print anything that may be offensive to other families.*

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Share your thoughts on this question for our next issue:

"In what positive and/or negative ways have you seen adoption portrayed in pop culture in recently?"

Email your response to [newsletter@caffa.org](mailto:newsletter@caffa.org).

# Adoption Playgroups

## **CITY PLAYGROUP**

The Chicago playgroup usually meets the first Saturday of the month. A few of the families have children by birth and adoption. The group gets together at member homes and organizes outings to kid friendly places. Please contact Veronique at (773) 255-6079 or send an e-mail to [group\\_bucktown@caffa.org](mailto:group_bucktown@caffa.org).

## **NORTHWEST CHICAGO PLAYGROUP**

If you are interested in joining a playgroup on the northwest side of Chicago (Edison Park and Norwood Park area) for children adopted from Ukraine and Russia, please contact Bernadette at [group\\_nw-chicago@caffa.org](mailto:group_nw-chicago@caffa.org).

## **NORTHERN SUBURBS PLAYGROUP AND TWEENS GROUP**

Our members are from Crystal Lake, McHenry, Woodstock, Algonquin, Lake in the Hills, Huntley, Elgin, and more! Members communicate through a private Yahoo Group. We have two groups: o to Pre-teen and Tweens group. Our group also hosts a monthly Mom's Night Out! Please contact Sharon Watkins, group coordinator, for more information about meeting times and activities on either group: [group\\_north@caffa.org](mailto:group_north@caffa.org) or (815) 353-4977.

## **NEW NORTHWEST SUBURBS GROUP**

Geralyn and Kevin Walsh are forming a new playgroup for the northwest suburbs of Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Niles, Glenview, Arlington Heights, and nearby suburbs. For more information, send an e-mail to [group\\_nwsuburbs@caffa.org](mailto:group_nwsuburbs@caffa.org).

## **FAR WEST AND NORTHWEST SUBURBS PLAYGROUP**

For more information about the far west and northwest suburbs, contact Amy Sebastian at (630) 562-4407 or [group\\_farwest@caffa.org](mailto:group_farwest@caffa.org).

## **NAPERVILLE PLAYGROUP**

The Naperville area playgroup has almost a dozen members, and includes children as young as a few months to children age 7. Any and all are welcome. For more information, contact Jennifer Olson at (630) 885-6439 or [group\\_naperville@caffa.org](mailto:group_naperville@caffa.org).

## **OAK PARK PLAYGROUP**

Ruth and Dirk McElravey invite you to join a playgroup in the Oak Park area for adoptive families with newborns to preschool-aged children. They are the parents of a three-year-old son from Korea and a pre-teen daughter. The playgroup will meet once a month at members' homes or at a designated meeting place such as a park. Please contact Ruth at [group\\_oakpark@caffa.org](mailto:group_oakpark@caffa.org) for more information.

## **LAGRANGE AREA PLAYGROUP**

The LaGrange and LaGrange Park playgroup is for families with children adopted domestic or internationally, or through foster care. The age group is 0-5 years of age. The playgroup will meet monthly as a playgroup and then several times a year with couples and/or kids. For information, please contact Annmarie Gignac at [group\\_lagrange@caffa.org](mailto:group_lagrange@caffa.org).

## **SOUTH SUBURBAN PLAYGROUP**

For information about the south suburban playgroup, send an e-mail to [group\\_lockport@caffa.org](mailto:group_lockport@caffa.org).

## **TWEENS GROUP IN LOCKPORT/SOUTH SUBURBS**

Is your child a bit too old for the "playgroup scene"? Does he or she want to meet other "tweens" just to chat or hang out? If you are interested in a peer group geared to kids in the tween years in the Lockport/South Suburban area, send an e-mail to [group\\_new@caffa.org](mailto:group_new@caffa.org).

## **CALLING ALL LOCKPORT AND PLAINFIELD PARENTS**

Debbie Visenti is trying to coordinate an area playgroup. Please e-mail her at [dvisenti@hotmail.com](mailto:dvisenti@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

## **CAFFA/FRUA PLAYGROUP**

CAFFA and Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA) are collaborating on a joint playgroup. For more information, contact Linda Jonynas at (630) 435-1810 or [group\\_west@caffa.org](mailto:group_west@caffa.org).

*If you have questions or are interested in forming your own playgroup, please contact our Playgroup Coordinator, Nicole D'Anna, at [volunteer@caffa.org](mailto:volunteer@caffa.org).*

# Adoption Resources

**Adoption Ark** is a licensed child welfare agency based in Illinois and California. It specializes in placements from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Lithuania, and Bulgaria. Seminars are offered monthly. For more information, go to [www.adoptionark.com](http://www.adoptionark.com), or contact Ellen Taylors, Coordinator of Home Study Services, at (847) 215-2755.

**Adoption Center for Family Building** is a nontraditional, Illinois and Indiana licensed agency specializing in U.S. adoptions. The agency helps clients to locate a child available for adoption and handles all the arrangements. Clients typically reach their adoption goals within six to 12 months. Services are available to individuals all over the United States, regardless of religion, age, length of marriage, or any other arbitrary criteria. For information, call (847) 674-3231 or go to [www.centerforfamily.com](http://www.centerforfamily.com).

**The Adoption Consultancy** is an unbiased resource serving pre-adoptive families by providing them with the education, information, and guidance they need to safely adopt a domestic newborn, usually within 3 to 12 months. It also works with clients considering international adoption. For more information, call (813) 681-6232 or visit [www.TheAdoptionConsultancy.com](http://www.TheAdoptionConsultancy.com).

**Adoption Learning Partners** offers web-based educational adoption resources for professionals, parents, adopted individuals, and the families that love them. For more information, send an e-mail to [info@AdoptionLearningPartners.org](mailto:info@AdoptionLearningPartners.org) or go to [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org).

**Adoption Pediatrics**, Todd Ochs, M.D., reviews referrals; offers pre-adoption consultations, post-adoption evaluations; and continuing pediatric care; and consults with pediatricians and family doctors. He can be reached at his medical office at (773) 769-4600, or at his home office at (773) 907-8864.

The **Adoption Preservation Program of Metropolitan Family Services** offers post-adoption counseling services free of charge by licensed professionals who understand the dynamics of a family created by adoption, whether domestic, international, or relative adoption. They are a private, nonsectarian, nonprofit agency. For more information, contact Janet Heikes at (630) 784-4819.

**Adoptive Families Connected Support & Educational Group for Waiting & Adoptive Families** offers presentations and discussions on the second Thursday of the month, 6:30 to 8 p.m., in Oak Park. Childcare is provided at no cost. Sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Contact Elizabeth Thomas-Colwell at (312) 949-4811 or [Elizabeth.Thomas-Colwell@lssi.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Thomas-Colwell@lssi.org).

**Ballard, Desai & Miller** limits its practice to all types of adoption as well as reproductive technology law, such as surrogacy and egg donation. Partners Shelley Ballard, Nidhi Desai, and Marcy Miller are members of The American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and/or the American Academy of Assisted Reproduction Attorneys. The firm has offices in Chicago and Highland Park. For information, call 312-673-5312 or go to

[www.familybuildinglaw.com](http://www.familybuildinglaw.com).

**Bethany Christian Services** in Chicago offers informational meetings on its domestic and international adoption programs. The meetings discuss questions and concerns regarding adoption, the changes in adoption—particularly with openness with birthparents, networking, and many other issues. For information, call (708) 385-4889 or go to [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org).

**Bridge Communications** offers training programs for families, agencies, and association meetings. General adoption issues and transracial adoptions (including international) are covered for prospective adoptive families as well as families who have already adopted transracially who want practical ideas now that their children are past infancy. Call for information at (312) 316-5505, or e-mail [hughesbridge@mindspring.com](mailto:hughesbridge@mindspring.com).

**Catholic Charities** Intercountry Adoption program offers opportunities for beginning or expanding your families. It is an appealing option for both younger and older, single or married couples. The program allows families to adopt from 15 different countries, covering Central and South America, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Interested persons of any religious, racial, or ethnic background are invited to free presentations held monthly in Chicago. Call (312) 655-7086.

**Children's Home & Aid Society** has been working with families and providing adoption services since 1883. CHASI offers monthly orientation meetings for information on our international, domestic, and waiting children adoption programs. For more information, call (312) 455-5202 or (815) 962-1043.

Since 1923, **The Cradle** has served as one of the country's most respected adoption resources. Licensed to perform home studies for Illinois families, The Cradle also has both Domestic and International placement programs. Free informational meetings are held throughout the Chicago area and are available online. For more information, call (847) 475-5800 or visit the website at [www.cradle.org](http://www.cradle.org).

The **DuPage County FASD Parent Education and Advocacy Group** meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at Edwards Hospital Education Center in Naperville. Meetings are free. For more information, call (815) 462-4273 or send an e-mail to [acharate@trinity-services.org](mailto:acharate@trinity-services.org).

**EuroAsian Adoption Consultants** is licensed to handle all your international adoption needs, including homestudy, parent education, Illinois DCFS and US immigration requirements. EuroAsian partners with EAC in placing children from Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and China. Free information meetings are held in our Schaumburg office one Saturday morning and one Thursday evening each month. Call Mary House at (224) 353-6241 to register or visit the website at [www.euroasianadoption.com](http://www.euroasianadoption.com).

**Family Resource Center** in Chicago offers a variety of programs for adoptive families, including domestic (traditional and

agency-assisted) and international (China), homestudy services for any type of adoption, and in-house adoption education and training. FRC also provides services for birthparents, including housing. Call (773) 334-2300 or visit the website at [www.f-r-c.org](http://www.f-r-c.org).

The **Gift of Adoption Fund** is a national 501(c) 3 that inspires adoptions by giving grants that put adoption in reach: in reach for the 140 million children worldwide in need of families, for qualified parents yearning to adopt, and for those of us who want to do something concrete to move a child from a dire situation into a life of hope and promise. For more information, go to [www.giftofadoption.org](http://www.giftofadoption.org).

**Journeys of the Heart—Illinois** offers international and domestic adoption services. For information on their international program, call (630) 469-4367; for domestic, call (630) 545-0542. JOH can be reached via e-mail at [JOHChicago@aol.com](mailto:JOHChicago@aol.com).

**Kimberly Backman** is a practicing adoption attorney and represents both birthmothers and adoptive parents in the State of Illinois. Through the use of the Internet she has been very successful in locating birthmothers outside of Illinois and connecting them with clients within Illinois. She can be reached at (630) 472-1750 or via e-mail at [backim@aol.com](mailto:backim@aol.com).

**Law Office of Denise Patton** is a law office devoted to adoption law. Denise Patton is an adoption attorney, adoptive parent, and member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. She represents adoptive parents in all types of adoptions. For more information, visit her website at [ILAdoptionAttorney.com](http://ILAdoptionAttorney.com) or call her for a free phone consult at (847) 925-9072.

**Law Offices of Michelle M. Hughes** is a law firm that primarily practices in the area of adoption (agency, agency-assisted, DCFS, related, private, and international readopts). Michelle Hughes is an adoption attorney, founder of Bridge Communications, and a fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. For more information, contact her at (312) 857-7287 or [hugheslaw@mindspring.com](mailto:hugheslaw@mindspring.com).

**Law Offices of Sally Wildman**, through principal Sally Wildman, is known for its primary focus on adoption law since 1985. The firm's practice includes all types of adoption, consultations on assisted reproduction issues, and representation of adult adoptees. She is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. The firm is based in Chicago with a Northbrook location. Contact Sally at (312) 726-9214 or [s.wildman@adoptionattorneys.com](mailto:s.wildman@adoptionattorneys.com), or go to [www.SWildmanlaw.com](http://www.SWildmanlaw.com).

**Lifelink International Adoption** is licensed in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Lifelink has direct placing programs in Korea, China, Philippines, and Hong Kong. Lifelink can provide home studies for families adopting domestically and from other foreign countries as well. Lifelink has monthly orientation meetings in Bensenville and Naperville. For more information, go to [www.lifelinkadoption.org](http://www.lifelinkadoption.org) or call Dana Ellenby-Bergeron at (630) 521-8281.

**Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois** is a licensed non-profit agency with offices in several Chicagoland

and downstate locations providing adoption services for those interested in identified adoption, interstate adoption, inter-country adoption, and post-placement services. For more information go to [www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org) or contact Laurie Lawton at (708) 771-7180 ext. 228.

**Lutheran Social Services of Illinois** is a licensed, non-profit agency with offices in several locations around the Chicago area and throughout Illinois. LSSI offers adoption services that include international, special needs, and infant adoption. For more information, call (888) 671-0300, or go to [www.adoptionillinois.org](http://www.adoptionillinois.org).

**Midwest Adoption Center** provides a wide range of services to children, adults, and families touched by foster care or adoption. Programs include clinical services such as individual, marital, and family counseling. MAC also provides search and reunion services through two programs delivered under contract with DCFS. Offices are located in Des Plaines and Long Grove. For more information, call (847) 298-9096 or visit the website at [www.macadopt.org](http://www.macadopt.org).

**Multilingual Chicago** is a language school in the Logan Square/Avondale area that offers adult and children's group and/or private training in Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, Korean, and other languages. For more information, e-mail [info@multilingualchicago.com](mailto:info@multilingualchicago.com) or (773) 292-7676.

**On Your Feet Foundation** provides counseling and support to birth parents after an adoption. For more information, call (847) 433-7820 or go to [www.oymm.org](http://www.oymm.org).

Adoption Attorney **Sheila Maloney** handles many types of adoptions, including: private, agency, agency-assisted, recognition of foreign decrees, related (step-parent) and DCFS adoptions. She represents adoptive parents and birthparents with their adoption plans. She has been in practice for more than 20 years and is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. She can be reached at (630) 570-5050 or [stmesq@msn.com](mailto:stmesq@msn.com). Visit her website at [www.iladoptionlawyer.com](http://www.iladoptionlawyer.com).

**St. Mary's Services** is a State of Illinois, licensed, non-profit 501(c)(3). child welfare agency. St. Mary's was founded in 1887 by the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary. Services include maternity counseling and domestic and international adoptions. Visit our website at [stmaryservices.com](http://stmaryservices.com) for information about or call (847) 870-8181.

**Sunny Ridge Family Center** offers free adoption information meetings to educate families about adoption options and opportunities. These meetings explain programs available, requirements, the home study process, foster care licensing, cultural considerations, and more. Visit our website at [www.sunnyridge.org](http://www.sunnyridge.org) for more information, or call (630) 754-4538.

#### UPDATES WANTED!

Let us know if our information about your agency is out of date. Send updates to [newsletter@caffa.org](mailto:newsletter@caffa.org).

# Do you have a new addition to your family?

Please fill out the following information for publication in our next newsletter. Send it to CAFFA, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 5995, Naperville, IL 60567-5995, or via email to newsletter@caffa.org.

Parents' Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date Arrived Home \_\_\_\_\_  
Country born in (if other than U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Names and ages of siblings, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and location of agency or facilitator used \_\_\_\_\_

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## Membership Renewal Form

Please send this form along with \$40.00 annual membership fee (payable to CAFFA) to CAFFA, P.O. Box 5995, Naperville, IL 60567-5995

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Update \_\_\_ If a new member, how did you hear of CAFFA? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you have children, tell us about them:

Child's Name	Birthdate	Adopted/Bio Private/Intl	Which Agency	Country Born In	If USA, Cultural Background
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Would you like to be contacted regarding volunteering? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Not at this time \_\_\_\_\_

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