

My Adoption Story

My name is Anna Rand. It used to be Anna Shokurova. I was born in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia to a decent family. My father died of cancer when I was about six months old. My birth mother apparently lost custody of me when I was about three; however, it was not enforced. After my father's death, my mother remarried, but that didn't work out, so she met another man, whom I called Papa. We lived with him in a house in the country until he died, when I was 6. They had a good relationship without alcohol; unfortunately, they drank together quite often. Usually, everything ended in violence. My life was never stable, but it felt completely normal, until I was about five or six years old and all of a sudden it completely fell apart.

We became homeless and neither my mother nor my brother had a job. I always knew that both of them had problems with alcoholism, but it never clicked in my mind that they were drug addicts until I got older. I used to beg in front of a church for money and food, which in the end went towards their substance abuse.

Continued on page 6.



Anna

2010 Gala: Genius Needed!



Each Spring CAS hosts an exciting Gala event! This major fundraiser helps support agency services and projects for orphaned children. Will you help?

Your help is needed in the following areas:

- Event Planning
- Creativity
- Community Resources
- Auction items
- Cheerleaders
- Record breakers
- & Anyone who wants to help!

Volunteers for the planning committee are needed today! Contact Siri, sscott@carolinaadoption.org, for more information. Last years committee had a lot of fun and broke the fundraising record for CAS, come be a part of the team!

Please enjoy our new newsletter format. In an effort to conserve resources and money we will be reducing our printing and mailing and focus on great e-newsletters. Click on any story to go directly to that page.

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John Matthew



Andrew, Nina Kate, & Daniel having a little backyard fun!

Welcome

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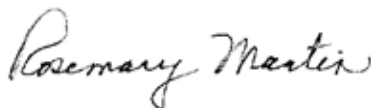
Dear Friends,

This has been a busy and a tough year for staff, as for many of you. Like our readers, we've felt the impact of the recession as more families had to place their application on hold or withdraw from the adoption process. Our donations have declined substantially and we've faced staff cutbacks. Fewer donations limit our ability to assist needy children in overseas orphanages. We experienced the impact of closed major programs in Guatemala and Vietnam. We've worked hard to build new programs and now eagerly await the first referrals from Mexico, Georgia and Nepal. The first referrals have come in from Bulgaria and Haiti.

We're really excited with the opportunity to find homes for older children and children with special needs through expansion of our Waiting Child Program. Soon we expect to have information available on children in Armenia, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine who are ready and waiting for families of their own. We're pleased to note our China Waiting Child program has already opened.

At this beautiful Thanksgiving season, let's take time to be grateful for all that's wonderful in our lives. Let's give thanks for family, friends, co-workers and loving relationships in our lives that are really what's important. Please accept my sincere appreciation to you for your ongoing support of our mission to orphaned and vulnerable children.

Warm Regards,



Rosemary Martin, LCSW
President/CEO



Rosemary Martin



**Tyler & Sara
Enjoy the Beach!**

OUR MISSION

Carolina Adoption Services is a children's charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children worldwide.

Welcome Home

We welcome home the following children, who have joined their forever families in the past 6 months.

ETHIOPIA

Abel Laucher

MOLDOVA

Cristina Birchfield

PERU

Angela "Rosie" Mahoney

Rosario Richards

Eduardo Richards



RUSSIA

Iliya Scott

Maxim Kucala

Svetlana Lutz

Catherine Kleinsorge



SOUTH KOREA

John "Jack" Lilly

Parker Allen

Gavin Currie

Thomas Masson

Jacob Polak

Connor Budden

Recent Memorials & In Honor Donations

Memorials

In Memory of Harry Portnoy

In Memory of Richard Feist

In Memory of Theresa Jackson

In Memory of Renee Callaway

In Memory of John O'Rourke, Sr.

In Memory of William Snyder

In Honor Donations

In Honor of Marie Foscato

In Honor of Kennedy



Alexis

In Honor donation cards are available year round. A \$10 donation is suggested to help vulnerable children. You will receive a card to send stating a gift has been made in the recipients name. You may also give memorials of loved family members to CAS. To donate to CAS and receive one of the cards, please contact Cindi Rager. If you have any questions about donation options, please contact the CAS business office, cas@carolinaadoption.org. **We now have Holiday cards available.**

You may also donate online: www.carolinaadoption.org/donate.

Education: Building Resources & Bonds

Carolina Adoption Services offers a unique educational experience to families with lots of advantages. The first advantage is Trudy Tobias, educational coordinator for CAS. Before coming to CAS, Trudy was a middle and high school social worker for ten years, and then became an adoptive mother and adoption professional. She has worked in the field of adoption for over twenty years as a home study worker, program coordinator, and an adoption educator and trainer. Her years of professional and personal experience with adoption are a treasure for families.

The second advantage is our goals for each adoptive family. CAS strives for families to be prepared for difficult transitions and emotions, have a well rounded general understanding of parenting, feel more confident as adoptive parents, and feel ready for possible lifelong concerns that may affect the family. As Trudy says, “education is scary, because you do not have to prepare for the things that go well.”

The third advantage is CAS’ wonderful webinar classes. These classes offer the unique opportunity to learn, interact with Trudy, and build a support system of families who are also adopting. You will complete homework, do group projects, and learn about others experiences. Our webinars are truly not just another online program, but an enriching experience.



Trudy Tobias

AdoptPrep is one of these unique webinars and covers a wide range of topics in six sessions. The sessions cover an overview of preparing for international adoption: before, during, & after, loss & grief in adoption, Understanding developmental delays and ways to assist, sensory integration and appropriate discipline, trans-racial and trans-cultural issues, and talking with children about adoption and the seven core issues of adoption. Families are exposed to an intensive look into adoption.

Families have a lot to say about their experiences with CAS education:

Thank you again Trudy for your time and effort putting these classes together. We have connected with two families from this experience who are also adopting from Korea. We hope to keep in touch during the process and especially get our children together once they are home with us. We also found the scenarios very helpful to practice or rehearse our reactions in certain situations. –Tom & Andrea



Mae's first day of school.

Hearing personal examples helped us understand and appreciate things we have already read about. –Patrick & Laura

Very good. I learned things I have never really thought about prior to this online class. –Penny

The real advantage of education is having a happy, successful family. If you have questions about the education available through Carolina Adoption Services, contact Trudy, education@carolinaadoption.org.

My Adoption Story (continued)

Like I said, we were homeless, but we were not without shelter. There were a few times that we actually had to sleep outside or inside an apartment complex, but I don't remember it being that bad. My mother held me the entire time so I was never cold. I love this strong woman to this day and have nothing but respect and empathy towards her. She had the most difficult life of anyone I've ever known, but she always let me know that she loved me.

When I was nine, I was standing outside of the church begging, two social workers came by and took me away. I was put into an orphanage called "Dom Detstva Solnishko", which translates to "The Children's Home of the Sunshine." That was the second best thing that ever happened to me. The two years that I spent there, I made good friends and got the opportunity to be a kid. I've heard of some bad orphanages, but the one I was in was definitely not on that list. We always had clothes, food, and structure. Every summer, we went to camp. It was a really positive experience.

In July 1997, while at the summer camp, I received the news about an American family interested in adopting me. To be honest, I had a crying fit. I wanted nothing to do with it. I was happy. My birth mother and brother visited me on a regular basis. I didn't want to hurt them. However, my orphanage director sat with me after I settled down and basically just let me have it in a nice way. She told me that I don't have much going for me in Russia and that America was the land of opportunity. She showed me a picture of the family that was interested in me. She told me that I will have my own room, a dog, and a family that can provide and care for me. Of course, my curiosity took over me and I agreed to it. It took a few months for everything to work out. Every night before bed, I would look at that picture of my future family and I grew excited about my new life. I had to break it to my birth mother and brother what was going on. I think that was the hardest part about the whole thing. They both begged me to stay and promised a home. There were a lot of tears and guilt involved on my part. However, I made up my mind, with the help of a few caring workers at the orphanage who talked to me about it. During those few months, I got a lot of medical tests done and everything became final. I was waiting for my new parents' arrival.

In the middle of December, 1997, it was a white snowy day; I was dressed in a pretty red blouse with a black jumper over it standing by the window watching my new parents walking towards the orphanage. I was really nervous and shy. However, I went downstairs to meet them and my adoptive mother was so nice to me, which made me feel much better. I was distant toward my adoptive dad at the very beginning just because it was uncomfortable for me to even think about having a father. During the next week or so, I spent a lot of time with them getting to know them. I learned that my father was funny. One of the first things he said to me in Russian was that he had a beer belly. I was less uncomfortable then. The last night in Nizhny Novgorod was a little bit emotional, but not as emotional as I thought it would be. I said goodbye to all of my friends and workers at the orphanage and I was alone with my new parents. I really only cried, when we got on the train. Then it hit me that I was leaving the only place that I knew and people that cared about me to go to a different place with people that I hardly knew that did not speak my language. I spoke no English, except for 'yes' and 'no'. On top of that, I was thinking about my birth mother and how she was feeling.

My Adoption Story (continued)

After a long train and plane ride, I arrived in Greensboro, NC to meet my new big family. I remember two of my nieces and one nephew running around the airport in Santa Clause hats on. They were so adorable. I met my sister and my brothers. One person that truly made me feel at home was my oldest niece, Ashley. I was 11, she was 6. From the moment I stepped off the plane, we were friends. She helped me adjust to my new life. I spoke Russian, while she spoke English.

About three weeks after my arrival, I was put into fifth grade at Lindley Elementary. I was in the ESL program there, but in a normal homeroom in the mornings. My parents also got me involved in our church that we attended. Also, I was immediately put into Russian lessons one hour a week, so that I would not forget Russian. I believe that my parents did everything right when it came to my social activities because they helped me learn English fast. I could communicate to my parents in less than 3 months with very broken English. It was a cute period time of my life that I think they really enjoyed. In addition, having Russian lessons once a week by a lady who only speaks in Russian, gave me comfort when I was homesick.



Anna & Friend in Russia

Thanks to these lessons, I am still fluent (but not perfect) in Russian. I attended The Early College at Guilford and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. I started working for Chick-Fil-A in high school. After almost five years of working there, I am now a manager. In my heart, I always wanted to work for an adoption agency or something close to that. However, many people tried to push me away from that and tried to push me towards making more money. I went to UNCG as undecided on my major, later to decide on majoring in Social Work. I took a break from my major in Social Work and studied abroad for a semester in Kazan, Russia, which is only 6 hours away by train from my birth city. I took the chance and visited my orphanage. It was a very emotional experience for me, but it was very much needed. I am now a senior, emotionally ready to graduate. I am an intern at Carolina Adoption Services. I still don't know what career is in store for me. I know that I have great opportunities to do whatever I want because I am a motivated person. I know that the choice that my parents made by adopting me is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I have a family. I have a future. My adoption story is a success.

For more information about adopting from Russia, visit our website, carolinaadoption.org.

Graduates' Memoirs

Written by Angela Cataraga, MOSP coordinator

If we were asked which the role of the family is and who the parents are, I'm sure that people would say: the family has the key role on a child's life... parents are-or should be-the most important persons in a children's lives. They become the role models and they shape their children's personalities in the long run... But do you know that we still have people whose answers would be: Why don't I know what is to be loved by parents? ...little by little I began forgetting my parents, I hated them, and I didn't want to see them... I would stay at the gate of the orphanage waiting for my mother, but she never came to see me. I missed her and I cried very often...

Unfortunately our country still has a lot of children who, living in extremely precarious conditions, are provided with a home (i.e. the orphanage) and daily care, together with other children in the same difficult situation, BUT who have never had the chance to be loved by a father, to be indulged by a mother or simply raised in a family.

"Our life-as they say-is different to other children... We cannot understand people and people can't understand us." Still there are people who do their best trying to change these children's lives, who manage to persuade them look on the bright side, pass over the pessimism and sometimes depression in which they had once been stuck, rebuild their lives. These are our generous and kindhearted sponsors.

Below we have just one graduate's story out of many, that tells people how sad it is to be an orphan and how difficult it is for an orphan to face life's hardships in order to succeed.

I come from a family with three children. My parents were drinkers and they didn't take care of us. I was four when my parents, because of their incapacity to ensure us a decent living, were deprived of their parental rights. By court order, my brothers and I, were taken from our parents and sent to a special kindergarten. At that time we couldn't understand what happened, it was a big shock for us.

I spent one year at the kindergarten and then I was sent to an orphanage in the north of Moldova - Cupcini. There I spent two more years in a kindergarten. I began to adapt to a new life style, to a new school, to a new colleague group. I made new friends; I had another big family with teachers, BUT NOT parents.

Then I went to school at the same orphanage. Little by little I began forgetting my parents, I hated them, and I didn't want to see them. The most of all I hated them for not caring for us. Then I made a decision: I'll never be like them.

Continued next page...



Sponsored Students with Julie in Moldova

Many years past - I don't remember my parents at all. I have never felt and have never known what parents' love is. This is very strange for my friends who have parents, they can't understand me, but I can't understand them. We orphans have our own world; we hate the world and many times it seems that world hates us.

After the graduation of the orphanage, I went to a high school in Chisinau. Then I entered the university and I found out about Moldova Orphan Sponsorship Program. Some kind people offered their help, giving me an opportunity to go to school and hope for a better future. Due to my sponsors, Timothy and Robin, I could graduate the university. Now I understand that world is not as cruel as I thought. That there are wonderful people who are not indifferant to needy people's lives. I know it will be difficult in future too, but what makes me happy is that I I began loving people and life. I hope to have a very big family and I'm sure I'll never repeat my parents' mistakes.

--Igor Avram

Igor is not the only one who, missing the care and affection of a father and mother, who never having a loving home, who facing lot of hardships, never thought he would become a student; he would graduate and have a job, but he and other students from our program were in luck and they realized their dreams that once seemed to be impossible.

This miracle was possible due to the sponsors who have taken care about them, offering them a helping hand, boosting their morale, and supporting them to overcome the loss they have once experienced.

This year our program has completed the list of graduates with 10 more students and I think it won't be fair if we didn't mention the names of those who contributed enormously to these students' successful graduation.



Andrei
A recent graduate!

So, special thanks to:

Betty & R. Parker Williams - Tania Caragia

David & Angela Levine - Natalia Grosu

Donald & Elena Lucy - Pecionkin Serghei

Kristin Moore - Andrei Creistea

Nancy Jo Snyder - Serghei Gherasimenco

New Beginnings Sunday School Class at White Plains UMC - Natalia Frunza

Norvell Coots - Galena Rusu

Scott & Connie Perrill - Victoria Grosu

Timothy & Robin Lane - Igor Avram & Petrica Avram

and our other sponsors who have supported our students.

For information about sponsoring a student, contact Amy Kreimer, akreimer@carolinaadoption.org.

Country Updates

Armenia

We welcome back to the office Julie Glandt, our Assistant Director, who recently traveled to Moldova and Armenia! During her trip, she met with officials of the Armenian government, the US Embassy, and our attorney's office. She advocated for our families who are in process and made some progress in paving the way for future cases, especially regarding Hague procedures. We understand that new laws are being drafted and will shortly be approved that will affect the adoption process in Armenia. Among many positive changes will be implementations of definite time limits regarding how long Armenian offices have to process a family and new procedures for abandonment cases, meant to minimize the time a child spends in an orphanage simply awaiting a change in legal status. We are quite optimistic about these changes and are looking forward to continuing our cooperation with our legal team and the officials in Armenia.

Armenia continues to be a good program for families of demonstrable Armenian heritage who are interested in adoption. If you have questions, please contact Robyn Miller at rmiller@carolinaadoption.org.



Bulgaria

This past summer Bulgaria held their National Elections after which a new Minister and Deputy Minister were appointed to the Ministry of Justice. On September 29th the new Deputy Minister of Justice, Daniela Masheva, and members of AOMO (an organization of accredited Bulgarian agencies, which our facilitators belong to) had a meeting in which important matters were discussed. In this meeting it was shared that in preparation for the new changes in the Family Code, which are now in effect, the MOJ has created regulations that detail international adoption procedures and accreditation procedures for the foreign agencies. These new regulations will not have any significant changes; rather the goal is to optimize the Ministry's work and the adoption process as a whole. The new members of the Inter-country Adoption Council (the matching committee) have now been appointed. Once the new Regulations are published (scheduled for early October) the new IAC will begin to meet in what will be the first matching session since June 30th. We hope that our first family may be able to make their second trip to Bulgaria by the end of the year to complete their adoption! Families who are hoping to adopt a child 5 years and older and/or a child with Special Needs will experience a significantly shorter wait. We are accepting a limited number of additional families in this wonderful program. Please contact Allie Weldon, allie@carolinaadoption.org, for additional information!



China Waiting Child

We have had a wonderful response to the announcement of this new program! We encourage all interested families to call and ask questions. There are many waiting children with very minor "special needs" and this program moves rather fast. It is possible to have your child home with you in one year!

Our first family has been home for about six weeks and they are doing very well. Our next family is awaiting final approval from the CCAA and then their travel permission. We would like to have more families become a part of the Waiting Child (WC) program. If your LID is still many months away, it is possible to transfer to the WC program and complete your adoption much sooner, although some additional fees apply.

Families in this program have the advantage of personalized attention from the program facilitator. She works closely with each family to identify the child that is the best match for that family. You are able to receive updates with pictures while you wait to travel.



Country Updates

China

Our first Hague family is now happily home with their daughter.

October 1 was Chinese National Day. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China. When the anniversary is a multiple of five (e.g. the 50th, 55th, or 60th), large-scale official celebrations are typically held.

October 3 was the Mid-Autumn Festival. The Mid-Autumn Festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese calendar, which is usually around late September or early October in the Gregorian calendar. It is a date that parallels the autumnal equinox of the solar calendar, when the moon is supposedly at its fullest and roundest. The traditional food of this festival is the mooncake, of which there are many different varieties.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the few most important holidays in the Chinese calendar, the others being Chinese New Year and Winter Solstice, and is a legal holiday in several countries. Farmers celebrate the end of the summer harvesting season on this date. Traditionally on this day, Chinese family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon, and eat moon cakes and pomelos together. Accompanying the celebration, there are additional cultural or regional customs, such as: Eating mooncakes outside under the moon, putting pomelo rinds on one's head, carrying brightly lit lanterns, lighting lanterns on towers, floating sky lanterns, burning incense in reverence to deities including Chang'e (simplified Chinese: pinyin: Cháng'è), planting Mid-Autumn trees, collecting dandelion leaves and distributing them evenly among family members, and Fire Dragon Dances (source: Wikipedia).

Because these two holidays ran back-to-back this year, most government offices are closed for the majority of the week. Historically, referrals during the month of October are not issued until later in the month. CCAA has made no indication as to when referrals will be issued this month.

Haiti

In August our first family was matched with a child and they will be traveling to Haiti in October to meet their baby girl! Currently the wait to be matched with a child, including infants, is very short as this is a country in dire need with children being relinquished every day. It is important to note that while the wait for a referral is short, the wait to complete an adoption can be about 14-18 months (or longer) from acceptance of a referral. Families are welcome to visit their child as they would like during this wait and Haiti's close proximity to the United States makes it inexpensive to do so. Haiti is a wonderful program for single women looking to adopt a young child. This past summer CAS was pleased to send a donation to the orphanage we work with, Maison des Anges. The orphanage was able to purchase new highchairs for the children.

For more information please contact our Haiti Program Coordinator, Allie Weldon, allie@carolinaadoption.org.



Country Updates

Kenya

On October 1st, 2009, the US Department of State issued an Adoption Notice regarding adoptions from Kenya. It can be found on the Department of State's website, and reads as follows:

Kenya is party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention). As such, all adoptions between Kenya and the United States initiated after April 1, 2008, must meet the requirements of both the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention.

Although the Government of Kenya (GOK) acceded to the Hague Adoption Convention in 2007, it appears not yet to have established the regulations and procedural infrastructure necessary to meet its obligations under the Convention. In the absence of Hague-compliant adoption procedures, the Department of State cannot issue the documentation required for Convention cases to permit issuance of a U.S. immigrant visa for an adopted child. The Department of State therefore cautions American citizens not to initiate the adoption of a Kenyan child at this time.



The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi continues to be in contact with the High Court of Kenya and their Department of Children's Services concerning the processing requirements of Convention adoption cases. Please continue to monitor adoption.state.gov for updated information as it becomes available.

As a result of this warning, Carolina Adoption Services is not accepting new applicants into the program at this time. Please stay in touch with our website for developments. If you are interested in adopting from Kenya, and you will be a pre-Hague, I600 case, having filed your CIS application PRIOR TO 4/1/2008, please contact Robyn Miller at rmiller@carolinaadoption.org.

Korea

Darlene Cirilli from Family & Children's Agency has just returned from her visit to Korea, where she met with the staff of Social Welfare Society (SWS).

Korea has been reviewing quota numbers for 2010. Quota numbers are assigned to each social welfare agency in Korea by the Korean government. The quota number, which is given for all agencies who are registered to work through SWS, is projected to be 30 for 2010. This is only slightly lower than the previous year, which was 35. There have been many rumors about international adoption from Korea coming to a close in 2012. The staff at SWS reported nothing to Darlene to indicate this will happen. Quota numbers have lessened each year, making fewer children available for international adoption. Korea promotes domestic adoption within their country and has been very successful. SWS placed the most children for adoption domestically last year, out of all the social welfare agencies in Korea. Domestic adoption, however, is not rising to the degree that would allow Korea to completely eliminate international adoption. Prospective clients and clients in process are urged to be careful in blog and internet posting, as these are read by anyone and everyone, including officials in Korea. Please be sensitive in your posting.



Families can be assured that the children available for adoption have the best care while waiting for their forever family. The reception hall, where babies stay until going into their foster home, is spotlessly maintained, with attentive and nurturing staff providing care. Foster families are of the highest character, providing a wonderful environment for children, and the children are thriving in their care and affection. Birth mothers receive outstanding care and counseling, prior to deciding to work with SWS, throughout their pregnancy, and after placement.

CAS continues to accept applications for the Korea program and the program continues to be a viable option for families who meet the program qualifications. For the most current list of requirements, please call to speak with the CAS Korea Program Coordinator.

Country Updates

Mexico

Our first three pilot families have submitted their dossiers to Mexico for consideration of a referral. The first two dossiers sent to Toluca have been reviewed and the DIF office has asked for additional documents. The families and our consultant in Mexico are working to obtain the documents required by Toluca. The third family has submitted their dossier to Cuernavaca and it should arrive in the DIF office by the first full week of October for the review process to begin.

Our pilot families have been made aware that there may be changes in required documents and the time frames for receiving a match are at this time unknown but we are hoping that once the first few dossiers are approved and go through the referral process we can ascertain projected time frames for both approval of dossiers and time frames for a referral.

We are not accepting new applicants into this pilot program until we can complete our first few adoptions.

Moldova

The elections in Moldova are over, a new Minister of Social Protection is seated, and adoptions will continue to move forward. The US and Moldova are working cooperatively regarding Hague requirements to ensure compliance with all steps. A September visit to Moldova by CAS representative, Julie Glandt, provided a great opportunity to meet with officials, discuss future adoption possibilities and support humanitarian efforts. Families considering Moldova must be aware that all available children have a medical diagnosis which allows them to be adopted internationally. References for this program are available.

While in Moldova Julie posted updates and pictures. Please visit our website and click on Follow Julie's Trip to Armenia & Moldova to read about her trip.

Nepal

At the end of August we were informed by our facilitator that the Deputy Prime Minister has granted approval for the first three families (not CAS families) to complete their adoptions and they may travel immediately. On September 2nd a new Minister and State Minister were assigned to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. The first few families to receive referrals last spring were able to travel to Nepal in September and successfully completed their adoptions. It is anticipated that many waiting families will be matched with children over the course of the coming months. Timeframes remain unpredictable, families who are hoping to adopt a child 4 years and older may experience a shorter wait. We are currently accepting new applications for 2009 and 2010. Please continue to check our website for any new updates.

If you are interested in the Nepal program, please contact Allie Weldon, program coordinator.



Country Updates

Peru

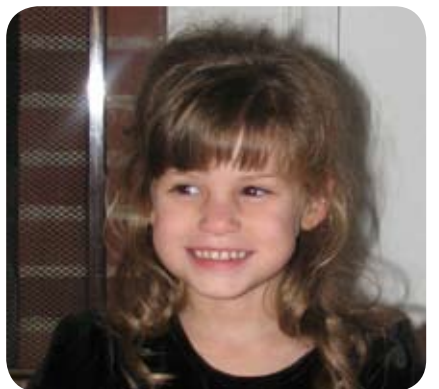
We have received our first I800 approval and Article 5 letter for our first Hague case with Peru. The process from receiving the match from SNA until the Article 5 letter was issued was approximately 2 months. The family will now be in Peru for approximately 4-6 weeks to bond with their children and complete the adoption. We wish them the very best.

SNA did not hold a matching session in the month of August and we have not yet been informed if a session occurred in September. MIMDES has a website where they post the match sessions as well as the number of approved families waiting on a referral. Currently there are 366 approved families waiting on a referral and another 98 families who have submitted a dossier and are waiting on their approval. As posted earlier this summer, MIMDES projects that some families may wait 2-3 years for a match unless of course they select a child from the Waiting Angels List.

The Waiting Angels List is a list of children that are older (6 and up), older sibling groups, and children with special needs. We are currently only accepting applications from families who are interested in adopting a child from the waiting angels list.

Republic of Georgia

Over the summer we opened a new program in the Republic of Georgia to a handful of pilot families. We are hopeful that our first three families may be matched with children before the end of the year. At this time we are not accepting new families into the program as we wait for these first few families to be well underway with successfully completing their adoptions. We hope to open this program to new families in the coming months. The Georgian government continues to work to organize and streamline adoption procedures since the responsibility for adoptions was moved last January from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Health. A primary goal for the Ministry is to reduce the 18 month time frame in which a child must be on the national registry. Please continue to check our website for new updates.



Russia

The Russian Program is one of the agency's most longstanding and reliable programs and remains stable and viable. The Russian Program is one of the few where referrals of children under the age of two at time of referral are available. Time frames remain predictable, and families who are open to region, ethnicity, age and gender are able to process through in a timely manner. The Russia Program continues to schedule court dates and receive referrals from 5 different regions. The program is actively seeking families to apply. Please visit our website, carolinaadoption.org, and see what our families have to say about adoption from Russia. The Joys of Adopting from Russia webinar is also available on our website, you may watch it at your convenience

Ukraine

The Ukraine Program remains open and is actively seeking families to apply. Families who are open to adoption a child or sibling group 5 years or older are strongly encouraged to consider this program. The SDAPRC continues to review and process submitted dossiers. Would you consider an older, waiting child? Please contact CAS, info@carolinaadoption.org, for more information.

Honor the Dreams of a Child

- I want to be a police.* –Prasant
- I want to be a star.* –Anju
- I want to study.* –Raj
- I want to be a businessman. I lone can't reach my aim. I want to study higher classes. Your support will help me to shine my future.*—Bhupendra
- I want to be a nurse.* –Karishma
- I want a sponsor family.* –Cikendra
- I want a good life.* –Soroj

The orphan children of Nepal need ongoing support to reach their dreams. These children are living at Children Welfare Home (CWH) because of poverty, death of a parent, homelessness, and a multitude of other family crisis. The Nepal Orphan Sponsorship Program offers families the ability to change the life of a child who is full of potential. For



a small monthly donation you can help Prasant become a policeman or maybe Soroj can have a good life. CAS has seen how sponsorship programs can be successful and make a difference with the Moldova Orphan Sponsorship program. With your generosity we can make the same difference in Nepal.

For more information about the Nepal Orphan Sponsorship Program contact Rosemary Martin, rmm@carolinaadoption.org. The boys and girls have dreams of being sponsored to be able to continue school, have shelter, and a family at CWH, only you can make those dreams come true.

Namaste

A Letter from Sergei, MOSP Student

Good day.

It has been another school year. It passed quietly. I have already finished the fourth year of study at the Academy, left for another year. My notes are not bad. But I always say to myself, what could be better. This year I have had the practice. It was held at a confectionery factory. After practice I had to work. As a child I could not imagine that will work in a confectionery factory. I like it. The truth is hard to reconcile and work and study.

This year, I began to attend evening courses in English. It seems to me that modern man must know English. I want to thank you as well as the sponsorship program, and you personally have helped me to achieve my success. Such people as you make the world a better place. Thank you for that.



Sincerely,
Sergei Filatov

2009 Holiday Cards

This holiday season, many will honor someone special with the gift of one of these beautiful cards featuring art by world renown artist Ion Carchelan. The cards are printed on a handsome art paper and have been hand cut. All proceeds will go to support the programs of Carolina Adoption Services. Holiday cards will be available on November 1, for a minimum donation of \$5 each. All contributions are tax deductible.



Children in the Snow
by
Ion Carchelan

You have two opportunities to receive holiday cards. First, an order form will come with our Thanksgiving Appeal in November. Second, you may contact Cindi Rager, crager@carolinaadoption.org, to place your order. Happy Holidays!

Grow With Us

Carolina Adoption Services is seeking energetic and passionate people from a diverse variety of backgrounds to work on a common goal: a children's charity - changing the world - one child at a time. Our need for Board Members includes expertise in finance, fundraising, marketing, and human resources. This is the perfect opportunity for you to enhance your professional profile and leadership while helping a wonderful organization reach their mission. Elected terms will begin January 2010 and will last three years. Board members are passionate about the CAS mission to children and able to attend regular meetings in Greensboro. Interested in growing with CAS, contact Rosemary Martin, rmm@carolinaadoption.org or 336.275.9660.



Find CAS on the Web



GoodSearch

You Search or Shop...
We Give!

We Celebrate CAS Families!

We would love to celebrate you! Send us your photos for our publications, sscott@carolinaadoption.org.



Thomas celebrates his birthday!



Mae
What a great laugh.



Caroline
Shows her pretty smile and dimples.



Sleepy Leah, Shhhhhh...



Morgan Visits North Carolina

Help keep us current! Send your change of address, phone, or e-mail to info@carolinaadoption.org or call 800.632.9312. This ensures you will receive announcements, invitations, newsletters, and country updates.