

COUNTRY UPDATES MAY 2008

This Country Update brings you the most current and up-to-date information from our Program Coordinators to keep you informed of what is going on in the countries. For more information on any of our programs, contact us at info@carolinaadoption.org or 800-632-9312.

Russia Program News...

The Russian Program is running smoothly and families are being processed very quickly! Four families were able to travel to Russia in April and accepted referrals from Moscow and St. Petersburg regions. One family submitted their dossier in the beginning of April and was able to travel and meet their referral in the end of April! Regional managers are eager for dossiers! Great time to be part of Russian Program.

See News to Note (p.2) for a story written by a family about traveling to Russia without a picture or medical exam of their referral.



The Everhart family enjoyed spending time with Oleg, CAS Russia facilitator, and other Russia families during his visit in April. Oleg enjoyed seeing the children and their families.

ARMENIA



The Armenian government continues to work on upgrading of their adoption process to make it more user-friendly and efficient. Our representative in Armenia expects to receive referrals by the end of this month for two excited waiting families. Our rep tells us she is ready for more families and believes the adoption activity will continue to improve as we move forward with Hague processed cases in the future. This program is ready to receive interested families with Armenian heritage.

BULGARIA

Our new program in Bulgaria has received quite a bit of interest over the last month from prospective families. It is a great option for singles, married couples and families wanting to adopt a child of either gender over a year in age. Older parents can also adopt from Bulgaria if they are open to an older child. CAS is pleased to be working with the Happy Child Association, a licensed adoption agency in Bulgaria, to unite many children who are without parents with loving, forever families from the United States.

CHINA

Word has it that May's referrals were mailed out by the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) and that the Log in Dates (LIDs) are January 10 through and including January 12. This means that 3 days of LIDs were processed in May. Last month, the CCAA processed 5 days of LIDs with the dates being January 5th through January 9th. The current wait time from LID to referral is at least



CHINA

36+ months. I know this is an incredibly long time to wait for your child and we are hoping that the process speeds up.

ETHIOPIA

We had another family return home in April with their child making the total families home with children through our partnership with Gladney to three! Another family recently accepted a referral and is waiting on a court date to approve their adoption.

However, due to the recent surge of interest in the program for Gladney, they are placing a hold on accepting new partnership applications for a few months until they can hire and train a new staff member to handle additional cases. We anticipate this to be a temporary situation and will notify families on our website when we can begin accepting new applicants from NC, SC, VA, and NJ through our partnership agreement.



GUATEMALA

We had one family return home with their child in the month of April. Another family received their travel dates and will be in Guatemala in May to bring their child home. We are hoping to see our other in-process families receive their approval and travel dates. Due to the recent change in the Attorney General's office in PGN, reports from Guatemala are that they intend to audit in-process cases. This may mean further delays for families that have already been waiting longer than normal. This may be seen as a positive step in Guatemala hopefully instituting procedures that are Hague compliant. This could possibly open the way to seeing new adoption cases in the future. However, this is not anticipated by some to be until 2009.



The program is currently closed.

KENYA

We have three families now living in Kenya for their foster care period and court dates. Our international director is in Kenya at the time of the writing of this update, and we hope to have more updates from his visit in our next newsletter! We currently have four children, between 6 years and 8 years of age, who are waiting to be matched with families. All four of the children are HIV positive, but are extremely healthy, thanks to daily A.R.V. treatment. If you are interested in learning more about these children, please see our Waiting Children page of our website, or call Robyn Johnson at 1-800-632-9312.



MOLDOVA

(cont'd)
Hague Convention country so interested families should prepare for some delays as the US implements this process.

PERU

Our Peru program is now full and we are not accepting any new applications at this time. Most of our current families are hoping to adopt a child or children from Peru under three years who are healthy. As we see families receive matches of children and travel, we will be able to process more families. Currently, after dossier submission families must be prepared for a 6-8 month wait to hear of approval from MIMDES followed by at least a 6 month wait or more for a match. Those wishing to adopt a healthy child under 5 may have to wait the longest.

The April matching session for MIMDES, saw no U.S. families receive matches of children. We hope that as the government of Peru implements expected changes to the abandonment process, more young children will be available to families for a match. Those families open to older children (5 and up), older sibling groups or children with special medical needs may select a child from the Waiting Angels program in a shorter timeframe. Those wishing to adopt a healthy child under the age of 5 must wait for MIMDES to match a child to them.



KOREA

We welcome families living in NC, SC, NJ, and VA to the Korea program, which is networked with Family & Children's Agency (FCA) of Connecticut. Because of recent changes in the Korean government, specifically the election of a new president, referrals have slowed to an extent. Families can expect to receive a referral at least 6 months after submission of paperwork to Korea. Families adopting in the Korea program must be open to gender and meet the requirements of the Korean Social Welfare Society (SWS). SWS provides excellent foster care for their children, and families are able to meet the foster family when in Korea. The in-country stay is approximately one week and children are around 10 to 12 months of age when they arrive home.



MOLDOVA

Adoptions from Moldova continue as we welcome home another family this month! Three more families will travel in May. Adoptions typically slow somewhat during the summer months. CAS currently awaits accreditation by the Ministry of Social Protection and approval is expected in the next month. Moldova is a



UKRAINE

at least 21 years old
2. Maximum age difference between adoptive parents and adopted children cannot exceed 45 years.
3. Unmarried foreign citizens cannot adopt Ukrainian children.



VIETNAM

We are excited to report that we had 10 families that completed their adoptions in April. There are currently 7 families in Vietnam that are working on completing their adoptions. The average wait for I-600 approval continues to be at least 60-90 working days after the application has been submitted; approvals have slowed down over the past few weeks.

We have many families that have submitted their I600 applications and are waiting for their approval to travel. We received 7 medical evaluations last week and we anticipate that we will continue to receive new medical evaluations on a regular basis.

We are keeping everyone in the Vietnam program alert to new developments through our client-only distribution emails.



CAS is not accepting new applications to the Vietnam Program.

UKRAINE

The US Embassy in Kiev has confirmed that on April 21, 2008 the President of Ukraine signed law #258-VI, dealing with legislative amendments to Ukrainian Laws regarding adoptions. The law came into full affect on April 24, after it was published in the official newspaper of Ukrainian Parliament. The new law stipulates the following: 1. The minimum age of prospective parents must be