

COUNTRY UPDATES JULY 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.

Haiti Program News...

Carolina Adoption Services is excited to announce the opening of its new program in Haiti. This is a great option for single females, married couples and families wanting to adopt a child of either gender between 4 months and 9 years of age. The children available for adoption are of African heritage. Most of the children have a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark hair.

From the submission of dossier until the child is referred is approximately 3 to 5 months. It then takes approximately 14-16 months for court approval and the issuance of the decree of adoption. Families are permitted to visit their child while waiting for court approval. Adoptive parents will make one trip to Haiti, which lasts 5-7 days.

For more about this program contact Allie Weldon, allie@carolinaadoption.org.

ARMENIA

The Armenian Program is moving forward. Our facilitator continues to go to the orphanages and work on behalf of the families to bring home their children. Her colleagues support her efforts and assume responsibilities when needed. We are expecting two infants to be assigned within a few weeks. We encourage families with Armenian heritage to learn more about this excellent program and apply.



BULGARIA



Bulgaria has become a popular country for prospective parents. There are now several families working on their homestudies for this new program. This is a wonderful option for

singles, married couples and families wanting to adopt a child of either gender, 13 months and older. Older parents can also adopt from Bulgaria if they are open to an older child. We are currently seeking applicants for this program.

Children 13 months and older are available for international adoption. 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

We were happy to see so many families who have adopted from our China Program at our recent 15 Year Celebration Picnic. Children were entertained by our China Facilitator, Grace who did a magic show and book reading from her recently published children's book, Jin Jin the Dragon. It is a marvelous book for both young and old, with a great message about being different and accepting ones differences. There is also an educational piece regarding some Chinese language and the importance of the Dragon in Chinese culture. For a donation of \$20.00 (includes shipping) we will mail a copy to your home. The book is available for pick-up for a \$15.00 donation. All proceed will go to our humanitarian programs.

Trudy R. Tobias, MSW, is the new China Program Coordinator, assisting families who have already submitted dossiers in our China Program. We are waiting for referrals to be made by CCAA in the next few months, and hope to have at least one or two families traveling soon.



CHINA (Cont'd)

New families entering the program will be working with Carol Galvin in our ABC Office in Chesapeake, VA. Carol is a wonderful and experienced China Program Coordinator. Any family interested in applying for the China Program should contact Carol at abc-east@cox.net, or 757-546-2042. More information is available from our website as well.

GUATEMALA

One family received approval from PGN for their adoption after the completion of the birth parent interview. We hope that this family will receive travel dates in the next several months to bring their children home. Other families, whose interviews have been completed successfully, are still waiting on PGN to approve their cases.



The program is currently closed and we cannot anticipate a date at this time when adoptions with the country of Guatemala will resume.

KENYA



We currently have three families living in Kenya. Two of the families have completed their court process and are in the final stages of completing their adoptions. They will be coming home with their children soon!! The other

family is still in the court process. Our International Director's trip to Kenya a couple of months ago is still bringing forth positive results, as we are now working closely with Little Angels Network in Nairobi to start some aid and development programs for communities in need in Kenya. We will be providing more detail in our upcoming newsletter. If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of our Kenya program, please contact Robyn Johnson, Kenya Program Coordinator, at 1-800-632-9312.

KOREA



CAS welcomes families living in NC, SC, NJ, and VA to the Korea program, which is networked with Family & Children's Agency (FCA) of Connecticut.

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. Currently the wait time for a referral is 5 to 7 months from the time the packet is sent to Korea. SWS is working to get referrals out as soon as possible and reports that there continues to be few girls available for adoption. Once accepting a referral, it is taking approximately 3 to 4 months to bring the child home. Two families currently have referrals and are waiting to travel.

MOLDOVA

CAS welcomed home one family and their children in June! The children range in ages from three to 11 years old. The official visitors from Moldova have been delayed and we hope to see them later in the summer. The agency facilitator will be coming to CAS and visiting families along with the other officials. Families who have adopted from Moldova are encouraged to participate. If you are interested in the Moldova Program please contact Julie Glandt, jag@carolinaadoption.org. She is excited to talk to new families about this program.



PERU

On June 18, 2008 the President of Peru signed a law returning to INABIF (the division in charge of abandoned children) the power to complete the abandonment process of children. This law is designed to decrease the amount of time it takes to complete abandonment proceedings for children in orphanages. The government hopes that this will shorten the amount of

PERU (Cont'd)

time that children remain in orphanages before being placed in a permanent, loving home

Our Peru program is currently at capacity and we are not accepting new applications at this time until we see some of our waiting families receive matches and travel.



Families need to be prepared for at least a 6-8 month wait for approval and at least 6-12 months for a match of a child unless they accept a referral of a child from the Waiting Angels Program. Children in the Waiting Angels Program are older than 5 years of age, older sibling groups, and children with special medical needs.

RUSSIA

The Russia Program has been very busy this past month! Two families came home with their children in June. Three families are scheduled for court in July and two families are taking their first trip to meet their referrals! The adoption activity has been 'hot' in Moscow, St. Pete, Sakhalin, and Kirov. Please contact Tania Griasnow for more information about this great program.



UKRAINE

The SPDARC continues to review and process submitted dossiers. Families with scheduled SDAPRC appointments continue to travel and are able to complete their adoption process. Families who are interested in adopting from Ukraine in 2009 are encouraged to submit applications and begin the homestudy process.



VIETNAM

We are excited to report that we had 3 families that completed their adoptions in June. It is important to note that these families completed their adoptions from Quang Nam, a region which had previously been blocked by USCIS. The wait for I-600 approval has continued to slow down as more I-600 applications have been submitted by all agencies

In early June we encouraged families, staff and board members to take part in a national campaign initiated by The Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS), of which CAS is a member, to encourage the establishment and agreement of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) after the current one expires on September 1, 2008. JCICS recently announced that the signed letter will be presented to Secretary Rice this week. It is believed that the calls and e-mails that families made to their congressional representatives were extremely beneficial to this campaign.



As many of you now know, Tom Jackson, CAS International Director, and one of our Board Members, are in Vietnam. The purpose of the trip is for us to do our own research and fact-finding, so that we can be of assistance in getting our families through the I-600 process, particularly in the Tuyen Quang province.

We are keeping everyone in the Vietnam program alert to new developments through our client-only distribution emails. As we learn more verifiable information, please be assured that we will pass it on.