

Gala Raises \$60,000!

Spending money on fabulous items has never been so rewarding. There was something for everyone: vacation getaways, diamond jewelry, tickets to events and tons more. The sold out crowd of 200 guests had great fun competing in the silent and live auction and enjoyed dinner and the heartfelt presentations.

The sixth annual gala was a grand success thanks to the many donors, sponsors, volunteers, and guests that evening. We could not do it without you. Thanks to all who embrace the CAS mission and help us change the lives of children every day.

You will not want to miss this event next year!



**Swing into Spring!
Beth & Bella**

Go On a Safari with CAS!

We are having a CAS Family Summer Celebration at the Natural Science Center of Greensboro! Families will have the opportunity to meet animals, explore exhibits, catch up with other families, and hear the latest from CAS! Thanks to a generous donor, the Natural Science Center will close the to public and “re-open” for us! We will also have private showings in their new 3-D theater. What an exciting way to start the summer!

If you are interested in attending, please contact Robyn Miller or Marie Givner. RSVP deadline is June 3. Once you have responded, you will be sent a packet that will include the arm bands for entrance, a brochure from the center, and a schedule of events. We will have short group meetings throughout the event, please make sure you know when your group will meet.



For those interested in making a day of the event, you have many options. Your armband will allow entrance to the center before our event begins, to allow you to see some of the animals that go to bed early. Greensboro Country Park adjoins the center, where trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas are available. We encourage groups to meet and have fun all day!

**June 6, 2009
5:00-8:00 pm
Natural Science Center of Greensboro
4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455**

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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Emily Mai



Chloe, Victoria & "Bentley"

Welcome

Board of Directors

Helen Lewis, Chair
Robert Ferguson, Vice Chair
Ron Kohler, Treasurer
Linda Smith, Secretary
Renee Hultin
Susan Hunt
Peter Kotting
Barbara Mann
Margaret Rowlett
Emily Smith
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Susan Fox
Marie Givner
Julie Glandt
Heather Gordon
Tania Griasnow
Angela Jackson
Amy Kreimer
Robyn Miller
Helen Nixon
Cindi Rager
Pencie Rumley
Siri Scott
Angela Spangler
Trudy Tobias
Allie Weldon
Tricia Wood
Christie Young

Spring is here!

....And with it, as always, come thoughts of renewal, of fresh starts and new beginnings. Implementation of Federal regulations associated with the Hague Treaty, the volatile economy and the closure of key programs such as Vietnam and Guatemala have brought about many new challenges for the agency. I am thrilled to share that our last family in the Guatemala program has completed their adoption. Despite many changes and challenges in their process, the family, like CAS, persevered and are now celebrating the new growth and new beginnings of their family.

CAS continues to evolve and adjust with the changing tides of international adoption and the changing needs of the vulnerable children. We have begun some very exciting programs and projects in several areas.



Isabelle

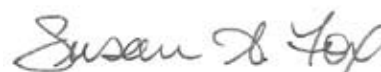
a very generous donation we are able to have the event at an exciting new venue. Last year's picnic was a huge success with more than 200 families attending. This year I would love to see that many and more. The picnic is sure to be great fun for families and children who will enjoy visiting the animals and each other at the Natural Science Center. I look forward to seeing all of you at this event.

Rosemary, CEO/President, will be in Nepal for 10 days at the end of April. Joining her will be a physician with a specialty in reconstructive surgery. They are bringing medical supplies and meeting with medical personnel in Nepal to assess the feasibility of a subsequent Medical Mission Trip.

Given the status of our economy, we are acutely aware of the economic struggles clients face in financing the costs associated with adoption. We have implemented a payment plan for those folks needing assistance with the cost of their homestudy and/or first installment of the agency fee. Families in need of this service should contact our business office for more information.

Springing forward to summertime, I am excited about our up-coming Family Picnic on June 6. Thanks to

Sincerely,



Acting Director

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.

CHINA

Madeline Welsh

GUATEMALA

Maria Brewer

Juan Mealey

Friman Deinhammer

Jeremy Deinhammer

Victoria Ramsey

Alex Morgan



MOLDOVA

Mikkel Brill

Aliana Nett

Anna Richardson

Sara Martin

PERU

Sofia Mitchell

RUSSIA

Marpha Andahl

Ollie Shoffner

Svetlana Hayes

Owen Doyle

Sebastian Duncan

Connor Livingstone

SOUTH KOREA

Trent Fuller

Carrier Womack

Keene Buckner

UKRAINE

Emilia Zupanic

VIETNAM

Kate Panning

Lauren Somera

Myriah Schmitt

Wesley Langley

Sydney Hansen

Bella Pettigrew

Tia Buchanan

Jack O'Neal

Kennedy Sing

Quinn Makully

Lya Hurst

Ly Brown

Moriyah Brown

Anya Sexton

Chloe Seidel

Quynh Loflin

Ngaire Moore

Leah Crews

Havy Albert

Isabella Freeman

Maeley Hydrick



Emma Brosius

Matthew Cappelluti

Corinne Van Winkle

Zoey Heiple

Tao Hession

Sophia Holler

Mai Graham

Lynn Hamilton

Mika Abrams

Lorine Miller

Noelle Phleeger

Saige Olinger

Samantha Apa

Naomi Rosen

Caroline Baxter

Simon Lanclos

Robert Klaus

Annie Howard

Cooper Won

Andy Blum

Lane Dille

Abigail McMoil

Juliet McDaniel

Michael Dickinson

Isabella Llanes

Elise McClellan

Eban Whisonant



Let's Go Forward Together!

As part of our ongoing efforts to support orphans and vulnerable children worldwide, the staff and board of CAS are excited to announce a *new fundraising program*. The purpose of "Going Forward Together" is to raise \$400,000 over the course of the next three years for the **Orphans Hope International Foundation (OHIF)**, a 501(c)(3) organization providing humanitarian aid to orphans world wide. OHIF acts as the primary fundraising arm of CAS,

We are inviting families all over the country to host a party at your home and invite your friends to make a donation to OHIF. Through these events we hope to raise awareness about Carolina Adoption Services and how important our survival is to the aid of children worldwide.

Here's how it works:

- Agree to host a party. (What could be simpler or more fun?)
- Decide on a format that suits you - cocktail party, backyard barbecue, brunch/tea, Kentucky Derby party, birthday, 4th of July celebration - be creative!
- You provide the food, fun, and friends.
- We'll send you some ideas for how to talk about the challenges of international adoption, the need of the orphans, and how to ask for donations in a way that's comfortable for you and your guests and supplies to assist this effort.
- Send your guests' tax-deductible donations to the foundation
- **Feel great, knowing that you and your friends have helped us to change the world, one child at a time.**

Please join us in this effort! For more information about how to schedule a "Going Forward Together" party, contact Sue Hunt, CAS board member, 336.373.9877 or e-mail: susanhunt501@gmail.com.



Moldova Students Turn Green

In December the students gathered for their quarterly meeting. Angela Arhip wrote the following article about the meeting.

At this meeting, the students were eager to find out about my trip to the USA and of course to find out news about their sponsors. I shared my impressions with them hoping it may be motivating for them to study harder and learn English to be able to visit America too. The students enjoyed the gifts, cards, and photos sent to them. They thanked kindheartedly their sponsors and people who work at this project.

The main topic discussed at this meeting was “The Green Project: We Must Protect Our Environment”. The speech was prepared by sponsored student Dumitru Topa. He was able to arouse students’ curiosity and stimulated them to participate actively in the discussion. The students asked questions, gave suggestions, and proposed solutions.

This discussion was dedicated to helping the environment, hoping that people will do their best to preserve the world. We know that almost every day our planet is affected by another problem, which is by the way, created by the man – so, it is also a man’s duty to find a way of solving the problems. Students concluded that every one of us is responsible for our healthy environment. We can do something to repair the damage or at least to slow it down so that we could provide a cleaner environment for our future generations. We must save our planet to have a sustainable society!

Welcome New Students

The new students to the program Mihai Galbura, Vladimir Gavrilita, Oxana Gutu, and Ana Cazacu were introduced to their colleagues. They expressed their happiness of becoming members of this important project and told us how essential is this support for them helping them to realize their dreams.

It is worthy to be mentioned that the Sponsorship Program is essential in our students’ lives. It does not only provide a support, it also encourages our young people to study English. A month ago two new students began studying English: Rodica Macari and Serghei Filatov. In January, 2009 Valentina Triboi is going to take a course in English.



Moldova Orphan Sponsorship Program Students

Makutano Children's Orphanage Update

The word "Makutano" is Swahili for "meeting point" or "junction;" describing the location of the home at the junction of two major highways in Kenya. The children come from a diverse and large area, following either road, and find themselves at this crossroad. They are usually running away from home and have no idea where they are going.

In May 2008, Little Angels Network and Carolina Adoptions Services staff visited the home on their way to other community projects in Kenya. They found 12 boys in the home without the basic requirements. The children were all running from home, looking for a better life. They had lost hope as most of their parents had passed away because of AIDS.



CAS and our partner in Nairobi, Little Angels Network, worked to pull together some resources for the boys. In August of 2008, contributions were made of the following: clothes and shoes donations, purchase of 9 bunk beds (18 sleeper), 20 mattresses, bed-sheets, protector covers, pillows and blankets, money towards the water project – purchase of plastic outdoor water tanks, and connection pipes, electric supply to the room occupied by the boys, purchase of basins for shower and containers to wash their clothes, collapsing a wall to make the boys room bigger and partition for caretakers room, installation of glass windows, and metal doors, this was to protect the boys from cold.

The home has gone through quite some transition since August 2008. The purchases of equipment brought a lot of excitement to the home's management, and the sponsoring church took it seriously. Previously, it had been considered a half-hearted obligation. When all the equipment mentioned above was in place, Little Angels Network trained the social workers and house manager on the basics of institutional care and requirements by Kenyan laws.

After Little Angels Network staff visited the home in February 2009, the following interventions were recommended:

1. Basic Aid – food and provisions for the short term – the children are malnourished and are just receiving a ration to maintain themselves. The need for food is urgent.
2. Transition to known relatives – Our assessment has established that there are only two children who cannot go back home. We shall then take the family members through an acceptance phase by counseling and supervised visits. The social worker and government officer can then work to ensure the child's needs are met at household level, by providing linkages to healthcare and maybe a bursary fund.
3. Basic rights training for the managers –The current management of the home treat the children as a last priority. We want to provide basic training on the effects of their behavior on the children. The children are already traumatized and hungry. Facing rejection just makes life harder on them.
4. The project will work with the local government officers to treat the facility as a transitional rescue facility (halfway house), for children getting lost in the town. We shall train them to have a system of rescue, recording, tracing, and resettlement.



With your help we have been successful in providing aid. Please continue to donate to CAS to provide assistance to these children and the many others in similar situations.

Allie has a Positive Trip to Bulgaria

CAS is pleased to share with you information from Allie's trip to Bulgaria. When asked the one thing that stood out after her trip, Allie said, "I can say without reserve that you will be in wonderful hands when you travel to Bulgaria. Our in-country facilitators, Nina and Petar, exhibited the utmost professionalism while demonstrating their care and compassion for the thousands of children living in Bulgarian orphanages."

Allie had the opportunity to visit three different orphanages – Pazardzhik – for babies from 0-3 years and two orphanages for children from 3-7 years – Lesichovo and Dren. She was impressed with the warmth at each of these orphanages and you could tell in meeting the orphanage directors or deputy directors how much they care for all of the children. On average at the baby orphanage there were approximately 4-5 children with each caregiver and at the orphanages for children 3-7 years old there were about 12-15 children in a class, generally with one caregiver.

It was very clear that there were many more boys than girls in all three of the orphanages. The children at Lesichovo and Dren were happy to sing songs and perform children's dances during our visits. In Dren they have a "Granny" program where Monday through Friday several older women go to the orphanage for a few hours each day and spend time with two to three children providing them with much needed individualized care and attention. In Pazardzhik they are very fortunate to have a psycho-motor development room where a therapist meets with children that are living at the orphanage as well as children that live in the village who attend a day program. They also have an indoor "pool" that they use in the winter to help the children develop their muscles and they have a massage therapist to work with children as needed. At the baby orphanages the directors are pediatricians, which is most helpful. In Pazardzhik they had a separate area for babies who were ill so that they would not be near the other babies. In Lesichovo they have a large play area outside for the children which they all love – in the summer months they are even allowed to play outside after dinner. In Dren the older children (6-7 years old) attend a required pre-kindergarten program at a school in the village along with children that live in the town which provides them with additional socialization. It was clear that these children receive good care.

On behalf of Carolina Adoption Services, Allie was able to provide each orphanage with a donation of 600 Leva, approximately \$415 USD, along with a large suitcase full of infant and toddler clothes. In Pazardzhik they will use 500 Leva towards purchasing a van to transport the children to the hospital, etc. and 100 Leva to purchase items for the children. In Lesichovo they will be using the donation to assist with the costs for the children to attend a summer camp (for a couple of weeks) at a Mineral Springs Spa. In Dren they will be purchasing new clothes for the children.

Continued next page...



Baby Orphanage in Pazardzhik



Lesichovo Orphanage Playground

The primary purpose of Allie's trip was to attend the Ministry of Justice Conference on Bulgarian adoptions. This was a highly publicized event in Bulgaria with many media representatives as well as a couple hundred participants from around the world. The U.S. Consular Officer and Vice Consul from the Embassy were also present. In listening to Minister Tacheva and Vice Minister Raichinova speak you could hear in their voices the compassion they have for the children and how dedicated they are towards continuing to improve their adoption system. We were provided with statistical information from the past several years and there is a very clear trend that the number of adoptions completed has steadily been increasing for the past year. As of March 10th, the IAC (International Adoptions Council) had met 5 times this year to review files of available children and prospective adoptive parents; in these meetings they made proposals for the adoption of 57 children with 51 families. In 2008 the IAC met 34 times during which there were proposals for 402 children with approximately 360 families. In 2007 there were only 14 meetings with the proposal of 95 children being matched with approximately 91 families. Please note these numbers are

not exact as different numbers have been published in different materials – but they are close to being exact. The trend is expected to continue with an increasing number of IAC meetings. They have committed to meeting at least three or four Tuesdays each month and during each meeting they will review no less than 20 children's files and at least 70 prospective adoptive parent's files.

It was discussed that this upcoming summer they will be holding elections. A date has not yet been set, and at this time it seems apparent that Minister Tacheva will not remain in her position as the political party with which she is affiliated is not favorable. It is hopeful that Vice Minister Raichinova will continue with her position as she is not affiliated with a political party. It is too early to tell exactly who may take over as Minister; in the meantime both the Minister and Vice Minister are diligently working to pass new legislation on adoptions that will be irreversible.

Over the past couple years in Bulgaria both domestic and international adoptions have changed from being a taboo topic to being one that is highly publicized in the media. Bulgarians are now much more aware of the orphanages and are dedicated to improving them and helping the children to be united with permanent

and loving families. While many of the orphanages are full to capacity, this is no longer being ignored and the children are receiving much better care.

Allie believes after attending this conference that now is the time for families to be submitting their dossiers. She anticipates that more and more families will be applying to adopt from Bulgaria and with the current backlog of more than 700 families it is best to have your dossier registered as soon as possible.



**Allie, CAS Bulgaria Program
Coordinator, & Nina, CAS Facilitator**

Country Updates

Armenia

The Armenia program continues to be a great option for families who have a demonstrable Armenian heritage. The program has recently waived the heritage requirement for families who are interested in adopting a child with moderate to severe special needs. If you are interested in this program, please contact Robyn Miller at rmiller@carolinaadoption.org.

April is a significant month in the Armenian culture. Easter is one of the most celebrated holidays in Armenia, with traditions such as dying eggs red and making cheorek (sweet bread). Later in April, on the 24th, Armenians around the world observe the Genocide Victims Memorial Day, in honor of the memory of over one million Armenians who were killed in the Genocide of 1915.



Bulgaria

On March 19th the Bulgaria Program Coordinator, Allie Weldon, attended the International Conference on Intercountry Adoptions in Sofia. It was evident that the current Ministry of Justice staff and the orphanage directors who were present at this conference are extremely passionate about the well-being of the thousands of children living in Bulgarian orphanages. The orphanages were well-kept and the children are divided into different groups, similar to pre-school classes. The children were very excited to sing songs and dance for Allie and staff from Happy Child (the accredited organization that we work with in Bulgaria). The Ministry of Justice is dedicated to improving the adoption process which is apparent as the International Adoptions Council (IAC) is committed to meeting at least 3-4 Tuesdays each month. At each meeting they are dedicated to reviewing at least 20 files of available children and at least 70 files of prospective adoptive parents as they seek to find the perfect match for the children. Now is the perfect time for families to jump in and begin their adoption of a beautiful Bulgarian child.



China

While May Day and Memorial Day are well known holidays in the U.S., in China the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar marks the “Festival of the Double Fifth,” also known as the Dragon Boat Festival, the third largest festival in the Chinese calendar. There are many legends as to the origins of this holiday, but one theory behind it is that dragon boat racing will help balance the forces of ying and yang, which are thought to be out of balance during this time of year, by appealing to the God of Water. Regardless of the theories, there are few sights more spectacular than a fleet of boats decorated to look like dragons racing to the finish line, with paddlers moving their oars in unison to the steady rhythm of drums. This festival has become so popular outside of China that today there are dragon boat races everywhere throughout the world, including Seattle, Washington. The Festival falls on May 28 in 2009 so see if you can find a race to watch!

We look forward to getting more families into the CAS China Program, and most of all, having these wonderful children come home.

IMPORTANT for Waiting Families: Please be sure you are continually checking your home study, your CIS approval, and your fingerprint clearances to be sure that nothing expires to ensure that you will be able to be matched with a child. If you have any questions, please let Trudy Tobias, China Program Coordinator, now.



Country Updates

Haiti

The number of babies and children waiting to be matched with their forever families increases everyday, the need for loving families for these precious little ones is significant. Haiti is a wonderful option for families seeking to adopt a child between 4 months – 9 years of age. The children at the Maison des Anges orphanage are very well cared for with a 24 hour medical clinic on the orphanage grounds, and the children begin going to preschool when they turn 2 years old.

Families may make 1 or 2 short trips of about 5 days each to Haiti. Families will be escorted during their stay and they have the option of staying at a guest home near the orphanage where meals will be provided, or at any hotel of their choosing. Families may anticipate being matched with a child within 0-6 months of submitting their dossier and the wait for issuance of the decree of adoption and travel approval is approximately 7-10 months, which is a significant improvement from the past wait of 14-16 months. Children may arrive home with their families as young as 10 months old.

Now is a great time to begin your adoption journey in Haiti. For more information, please contact our Haiti Program Coordinator, Allie Weldon, at allie@carolinaadoption.org.



Kenya

The Kenya program is a great program for families looking for a great cultural experience along with their adoption. The program requires the family to move to Kenya for a period of around a year in order to foster their child while the transition is monitored by Kenyan Social Workers who report to the Family Court Judge. What better way is there to learn about your child's home country and culture? For more information on CAS's exciting program in Kenya, please contact Robyn Miller at rmiller@carolinaadoption.org.

The Kenya program also continues to accept donations for our group of boys in Kenya who need ongoing support. If you are interested in donating to this cause, please contact us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have shown an interest in supporting this cause or who have already donated.



Korea

The Korea program is going very well! A couple of families have returned home recently and the children's adjustment has been wonderful. Several families will be traveling very shortly to Korea to bring home their children. The program's standard wait time from packet to referral is 5 to 7 months, however, several referrals have come in 4 to 5 months after packet submission!

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 meet the requirements of the Korean Social Welfare Society (SWS). Please visit our website for a current list of requirements of SWS, or call to speak with the Korea case manager.



Country Updates

Mexico

Mexico has been in the news the last several weeks due to the political unrest and the news of the drug wars within the country near the US border. We hope that this will soon settle down as the unrest affects many including the children in need of a loving home. The attention to adoption has been delayed as the Mexican government is dealing with this problem.

At this point, our pilot family program is full to new applicants but we will accept applications on a provisional basis from interested families. These families will also need to have an alternate country of choice in case the program does not progress as quickly as we hope.

Families adopting from this program need to be open to a child 4 and older or a younger special needs child. The state of Mexico (Toluca) may have younger children available with an in-country stay of 2 months. As we have our first families go through the process we will update all interested families as to time frames, what to expect, etc.



Moldova

Adoption from Moldova has slowed over the last few months in anticipation of the April elections. The Presidential elections were held with some political disorder but the situation is settling. All agencies will be reviewed and accreditations renewed before new dossiers can be submitted for consideration. A specific time frame for accreditation has not been set but the Moldova authorities are working actively to complete this process. Families interested in Moldova may apply now as preparing for international adoption takes several months. Contact Julie Glandt for more information about Moldova.



Nepal

We are happy to share with you that this month our President/CEO, Rosemary Martin, will be traveling to Nepal. Rosemary will be meeting with our facilitators and visiting at least one orphanage. Carolina Adoption Services is pleased to be supporting one of the children's homes outside of Kathmandu on a monthly basis. This donation helps to cover the cost of rent and taxes, school fees and medical care (as needed).

At this time many dossiers have already been submitted to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and these families are waiting to be matched with a child. All of the orphanages have been asked to submit the information on the children who are eligible for international adoption so that the matching process may begin. It is unclear exactly how long families may wait to be matched with a child; however it appears that families who are open to adopting older children or children with Special Needs will complete their adoptions in a shorter time period than families wanting to adopt infants. As a result of the shutdown of international adoptions for a couple of years there are many more older children who are waiting for their forever families than there are infants. We are excited to see how adoptions will progress in the next few months.



Country Updates

Peru

We had one family receive a match of a sibling group from the Waiting Angels in March and we were very excited for them as they had been waiting for some time. They are now making plans to travel to begin the in-country stay of 4-6 weeks to complete the adoption. SNA is making a determined effort to place children from the Waiting Angels List with families that are open to either older children or children with special medical needs. We have limited openings in our Peru program for families interested in adopting a child from the Waiting Angels List. Please be aware that this list is for children ages five and older, older sibling groups, and children with moderate to severe special needs. We cannot accept applications at this time from families who wish to adopt a healthy child under the age of five.

On the Waiting Angels list are children who need additional medical testing to determine their exact medical diagnosis but the government of Peru does not have the financial resources to pay for the needed testing. If you or any community group you know is interested in making a donation to assist these children with the testing needed please contact us for further details. We hope to change the lives of these children in addition to those who will find a permanent loving home. For more information contact Angela Jackson or Trudy Tobias.



Russia

On March 4, 2009 the children at Belaya Halyneetska orphanage were pleasantly surprised when a brand new van that can transport up to 12 people was made available for their use. Belaya Halyneetska is an orphanage for school aged children with specialized needs. The van will be used to transport children to special educational and cultural events, medical evaluations and sports events in the Kirov region. This gift was made possible by combined contributions made by CAS families who adopted from Kirov region, the regional manager and our facilitator.

The Russian Program is seeing referrals from many regions and families traveling. If you are interested in a stable program that continues to have happy children come home, Russia is for you! Russia is one of the few programs where children under two are being referred to families. Time frames are also very attractive for families open to gender. For more information about our Russia program contact Tania Griasnow.



Ukraine

The program remains open and is actively seeking families to apply. Families who are open to adopting a child 5 year or older, are strongly encourage to consider this program. The SDAPRC continues to review and process submitted dossiers. There have been recent changes in Ukrainian legislature requiring that adoptive parents be no more than 45 years older than the adoptive child. This change will allow the younger parent to adopt in their name only with the consent of the other parent. Families interested in adoption from Ukraine are encouraged to submit an application and begin the homestudy process, to insure processing in 2009.

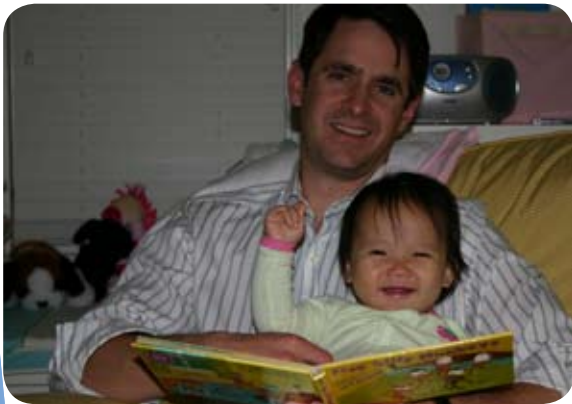
For more information about our Ukraine program contact Tania Griasnow.



Exciting Changes in Education

CAS has long been a proponent of the importance of education to aid the transition of the child into the adoptive family. The fact that CAS has always believed so strongly in education and has required 30 hours of education is one of the things that has always set CAS apart from other agencies and is a testament to our strong desire to really help our families before, during and after the adoption process.

Until The Hague was passed on April 1, 2008, there were many agencies and states that didn't require any education. However, with the advent of The Hague, now all agencies must offer at least 10 hours of adoption education. As a result, CAS Home Study Only families or CAS Placement Only families have been receiving 10 of their education hours from their other agency. Therefore, to better meet our clients' needs, AdoptPrep and Beyond Basics have been combined, with discrete topics offered in their entirety in a given session instead of being presented in AdoptPrep and elaborated upon in Beyond Basics. This should also be helpful to our CAS families who are using CAS for both the Home Study and the Placement.



We are also excited to be able to offer these classes via webinar. We feel that this technology helps our families to acquire more information than is usually available in just taking a class online, plus it affords clients a way to ask questions, and to get a chance to "meet" and to interact with other families. Often families are asked to do "homework" which involves another family, which assists in this process.

In addition, we are offering two other webinars: Adopting Toddlers and Adopting Older Children. These offerings will assist families to meet the unique challenges according to the age of the child they hope to adopt.

Any suggestions for how to improve our Education Offerings are always welcome! For any suggestions or questions that you may have, please contact Trudy Tobias, CAS Education Coordinator, directly either by e-mail or ext 128.

Seeking a Few Good Board Members

The CAS board of directors has openings for several new board members. Members are elected to serve three year terms and attend bimonthly meetings. Interested persons must have a passion for the mission of CAS and be willing to work. You will have the opportunity to help guide CAS, participate in the planning of wonderful events, and join a great group of professionals and adoptive parents. Help CAS change the world...one child at a time! For more information, contact CEO, Rosemary Martin.



Double Your Gift of Miles!



Between April 1 and May 31, 2009, when you transfer miles to a friend (CAS) on delta.com, your recipient will receive a 100% mileage bonus. The miles will greatly help us keep down cost of overseas travel and enable us to make more frequent trips to meeting with our overseas facilitators. See delta.com for more information and contact our business office.

Vietnam Pneumonia Epidemic

During the first week of April all of our families who completed adoptions from Vietnam were contacted regarding an epidemic of pneumonia at the Tuyen Quang orphanage and the great need for donations so that medicine and breathing machines may be purchased and to assist with hospital and caregiver costs. We have been told that at least a dozen babies had been hospitalized and one sadly has passed away. At this time more than 30 babies in the orphanage are sick, 3 are in a hospital in Hanoi and 5 are in a hospital in Tuyen Quang. The costs to care for these children continue to increase and the need is very serious. CAS has sent \$1,500 from their humanitarian aid funds to assist the babies in Tuyen Quang. To date CAS has received \$3,690 for these babies from many generous families who have adopted children from Vietnam or from those who have a connection to adoptions from Vietnam. Thank you very much for your outpouring of support.



While many babies have been adopted by Italian families since the shutdown of adoptions to American families, adoptions have slowed down as there are not enough Italian families in the program. This then leads to more and more babies waiting in the orphanage. At this time there is no projection as to when adoptions may re-open for Americans. There have been discussions that Vietnam may sign on to The Hague Convention and that there may not be a new Memorandum of Understanding before Vietnam ratifies The Hague. If this is the case it may take quite a bit of time before Vietnam is Hague compliant and adoptions may resume. We will continue to update all of our families who have adopted children from Vietnam about the situation in Tuyen Quang and any updates on adoptions re-opening. On behalf of the babies in the Tuyen Quang orphanage thank you to all of our donors for your kind generosity.

Recent Memorials & In Honor Donations

Memorials

In Memory of Delbert Dunlap
In Memory of George Stratton
In Memory of Patricia Barker

In Memory of Margaret Murphy
In Memory of Nancy Lee Meagher
In Memory of Patricia Waller

In Honor Donations

In Honor of Genya, Billy, & Tommy
In Honor of Amelia & Ava Nicholson
In Honor of Sasha Simmons
In Honor of Aidan Rastall
In Honor of Shannon Dodd
In Honor of Naomi Ruth Mohr Grenier
In Honor of The Neville Family
In Honor of The Weil Family
In Honor of Christopher Dimitrii Scott
In Honor of Jason Riggsbee
In Honor of Carter Parks
In Honor of Isabel Warren
In Honor of Miley Parks
In Honor of Mrs. Regis Modlin
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Smith
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Smith

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Josh Smith
In Honor of Mrs. Billie Landen
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stallings
In Honor of Mrs. Teresa Cyr
In Honor of Alexander Thomas Gordon
In Honor of Jake Riggsbee
In Honor of Nick, Alice, Jinna, & Gracie
In Honor of Dana Petroff
In Honor of Diane Kunz, Esq.
In Honor of Lea Valentine
In Honor of Wesley Minh Langley
In Honor of Robin Carter & Doug Davis
In Honor of The Brasington Family
In Honor of The Fuller Family
In Honor of Amelia Cook

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 Mothers Day cards available.**

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

Help with Adoption Expenses

International Adoption can cost \$30,000 or more, which is quite considerable for most families. There are many resources available for adopting families, and we wanted to collect a number of them in one place to prevent you from spending exhaustive hours searching for them!

Federal Adoption Tax Credit: Currently, the amount of the credit is over \$12,000 per child. In International Adoption, you are eligible for the tax credit the year after your adoption has been finalized.
<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

State Adoption Tax Credit: In addition to the Federal tax credit, many states offer a State credit, as well. In some states, this is restricted to families adopting from the state's child welfare system. In others, however, families who have adopted internationally are also eligible. Please check with your tax professional on the available state credits in your state of residence.

Military Subsidies: Active duty military personnel can be reimbursed up to \$2000 per child after an adoption is complete. There is a maximum reimbursement of \$5000 per year. This reimbursement is not available to families adopting independently or through a for-profit agency. If adopting a disabled child, that child may qualify for up to \$1000 monthly assistance under the military's Program for Persons with Disabilities. If you are active duty, please check with your local Family Resource Center, or here:

National Military Family Association (NMFA)
2500 North Van Dorn Street, Suite 102
Alexandria, VA 22302-1601
703.931.6632
nmfa.org

Employee Benefits: Many employers are now offering adoption reimbursements, averaging approximately \$4000. For information on lobbying for these benefits, see the following websites:
www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org
www.adoptivefamilies.com/clip.php (Article on "How to Lobby Your Employer for Adoption Benefits")

Fundraisers:

Some of our clients in the past have hosted everything from garage/yard sales to bake sales in order to help finance their adoption. Some families have simply set up a separate bank account and invited friends and family members to donate directly into the account. (Ask your bank about special bank accounts such as this.) Here are some helpful websites to help you with creative fundraising:

achildsdesire.org/fundraisingm.htm
www.affordingadoption.com/fundraisers.php
www.easy-fundraising-ideas.com/programs/adoption-fundraising/

Other Websites:

transracial.adoptionblogs.com/weblogs/adoption-grants-part-two
www.theorphanfoundation.org/resources/GrantsLoans.pdf
www.adopting.org/adoptions/adoption-finances-and-money-resources-and-information-for-all-types-of-adoption.html

We Celebrate CAS Families!

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



Alex, Margaux, & Wake



Leo



Victoria



Camille



Daniel, Nina Kate & Andrew



Nathaniel

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.