Burundi is one of Africa’s smallest countries. It is located to the South of Uganda, bordering Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By many accounts, Burundi is considered one of the world’s poorest nations.

Allie Smith is a regular visitor to Uganda, where she promotes Orphan Care initiatives, advocates for vulnerable children, and networks with several nonprofits providing care for children in need.

For the first time, she has had the opportunity to expand her work into the nearby country of Burundi. In mid-September, Allie arrived in Burundi to an enthusiastic welcome. Her visit was notable to child advocates seeking to expand opportunities to partner with international nonprofits.

Allie was joined on her trip by a local reporter who will be producing an article about her visit. She was also invited to meet with top officials working to address the needs of the country’s orphaned children.

Allie participated in two orphanage tours, meeting many of the children and caregivers.

Thanks to the support of CAS donors, Allie was able to provide much-needed goods to the orphanages she visited.

Stay engaged and informed as we continue to expand our work in Burundi! Visit us online for trip updates and information on how to contribute to our Orphan Care fund.
In September, Carolina Adoption Services was able to participate in two community events celebrating multicultural diversity and promoting nonprofit organizations in the Triad.

**The International Village Festival** was held in Winston-Salem on September 10th. The event celebrated new United States Citizens during a Naturalization ceremony. The festivities continued throughout the day as various vendors featured food, music, arts, and entertainment from cultures around the world. At the CAS booth, we sold art, jewelry, and goods provided through our African partnerships to raise money for Orphan Care initiatives.

The following weekend, we participated in the **Replacements, Ltd. Annual Yard Sale**. More than 6,000 people attended this popular annual event. The staff at Replacements invited local nonprofits to promote their missions to visitors, helping to get the word out about the great positive impacts our organizations are making in the community.

We’d like to express our sincere thanks to the volunteers that helped us at both events:

Parents & children: Amy, Maya, Dana, Beth, Lena, Bill, Lauren, and Sam
Board members: Kathryn, Tom, and Kathleen
And our awesome staff: Gwen, Anna, and Mary Ellen.

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**South Korea Parent Requirements**

The South Korea program has been progressing at an encouraging pace for adoptive families. Program packets are being reviewed in short order once arriving in South Korea, and matches are being issued shortly thereafter. South Korea is also becoming more open about parent age requirements. Officials have eased restrictions on the age difference between spouses. They are also permitting older applicants, provided that they have adopted from South Korea before, or have Korean heritage.

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**Bulgaria Waiting Children**

We continue to receive multiple files of waiting children from Bulgaria each month, through our two in-country partnerships with social services agencies. The children waiting in Bulgaria are of all ages, and we see a wide variety of both correctable and non-correctable special needs. Many older children and sibling groups are also available. In recent months, CAS has matched some families with older siblings. One of our families has described their adoption experience in a recent blog post. Anyone who would like to advocate for the children waiting can request access to our Photolisting, to see pictures and descriptions of the children and share their information with potential families!

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**Country Updates**

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**Community Events**

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**Stand Up for Adoption!**

**Sign the petition against damaging proposed DOS rules**

We’re asking all of our supporters to join us in standing up for every child’s right to a loving family.

Currently, the Department of State is seeking public comment on a set of proposed regulations which the adoption community believes will create barriers to bringing children and families together.

The proposal includes instituting a two-tiered accreditation process, requiring agencies to apply for and pay for Country-Specific Authorizations.

Additional burdens would also be placed on prospective adoptive parents. The rules suggest that parents adopting internationally should be required to attend their state’s parent education courses, designed for foster parenting.

We are collaborating with other adoption agencies and advocacy groups to respond to these proposed rules, and asking supporters of adoption to contribute their voices as well.

We’ve set up a special link on the front page of our website, under the Quick Links heading, to provide more information and to give you the links to sign the Save Adoption petition, and make a public comment to the Department of State.

Visit our website for information about how you can get involved!
Visit to Moldova

Long-awaited journey to visit the students in the Sponsorship Program

Marcy McHenry is an adoptive parent and long-time volunteer for Carolina Adoption Services. She has been the coordinator for our Moldova Student Sponsorship Program for several years, and this summer she finally had the opportunity to visit with the students in Moldova.

In July, Marcy and her daughter Mariana traveled to Moldova to meet with the sponsorship students and coordinator, Angela Arhip. Angela’s family met them at the airport and escorted them to one of the nearby vocational schools where several of the students attend various programs. They were able to get a tour of the school and dorms, accompanied by some of the sponsorship students and the Dean.

The next day, the group held a celebration to welcome Marcy and Mariana. The meeting was held at the restaurant where the students gather for their quarterly meetings. Marcy noted how moving it was to witness the bonds that this program creates for the student participants. It was clear that many supportive friendships have developed as a result of this program.

The students also form strong connections with their sponsor family in the United States. Each sponsor family had sent along gifts for their students, and everyone had an enjoyable time opening their gifts, taking photos, and socializing.

Marcy has shared several more photos and a full account of her visit in a blog post on our website.

There is always a need for additional sponsors in the program. Our sponsor families greatly enjoy participating in this special initiative, one that CAS has organized since 2000.

Contact us to learn how to get matched with a student in need by joining the Moldova Student Sponsorship Program!

Teen’s Volunteer Project

Rachael, a rising Charlotte-area senior, dedicated many hours over the summer to a special volunteer project for CAS. Rachael held jewelry sales at her Dad’s yoga studio and other places around town to raise money and awareness for orphans in Uganda and China. Thank you for giving back, Rachael!

Post-Adoption Resource Corner >>>

Browse new topics and links each month by visiting the Family Resource Corner on carolinaadoption.org!

Topic: Mealtimes

Food has the ability to invoke memories in ways that few other things can. Cooking is an excellent way to connect you to your child and your child to their culture. For families who are still waiting, incorporating things into your routine now is a great way to start getting prepared. Find international markets and restaurants in your area, and get to know the proprietors. Look up dishes on Pinterest to save and share your favorite meals.

Share Your Story

When you started your adoption journey, did advice from other parents help?

Now you can take part in offering your advice and perspectives for other families to benefit from. Contact CAS to share your story in a blog post, a testimonial, or as a reference family. Also, tag CAS on Facebook when posting celebrations, adoption anniversary days, and your child’s accomplishments!
Welcome to...
Family Connections

We invite you to catch up with CAS! Our Family Connections newsletter contains news, resources, and updates from our agency and our families each quarter.

Connect With Us

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www.carolinaadoption.org
Facebook: @CarolinaAdoptionServices

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