



A Child's Hope



Volume 2, Issue 2 **Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.** June, 2006

Lucy's Letter

Dear Friends,
Greetings to all of you! Our Fundraiser "Hope for the Future" was a wonderful success. Not only did we raise some money for the building of our orphanage in Haiti, but everyone seemed to have a great time! We are all enthusiastic about building an orphanage and look forward to sharing more details about this project as it comes to fruition!

We are also very excited to announce that

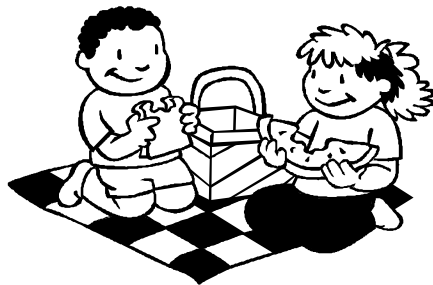
we are now accepting applications for our El Salvador Program! Be sure to read about this ministry and about the awesome possibility of helping people in this Central American country.

If you have not already checked out our updated website, make sure you take a look! Lydia and our web designer made a great team as they worked for many months to get the site up and running!

*Bendiciones,
Lucy*

Summer Picnic

The annual KAS summer picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, August 13th from 1-4pm. The picnic will be held at Yellow Creek Park in Owensboro, KY. We will be in the same shelter as last year. The picnic is for all KAS families including those who are still in the waiting process and also any family interested in adoption. As most of you know, we have never charged a fee for this event or for our Holiday Celebration. We would like to request this year that each family contribute at least one item that we can donate to an orphanage in either Guatemala or El Salvador. Items that are in need include: socks,



vitamins for children and teens, lice treatments, underwear (for little ones and big kids) and fever reducers. Along with the items we are asking that each family donate \$1 to help with the cost of shipping. Enclosed in the newsletter you will find a flyer with details for the picnic. Please come join us for a good time and meet other adoptive families. Make sure you bring your bathing suits for the spray park and your fishing poles!!

Please RSVP to Kristy Knelson kristy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org, or 684-2598 by July 31st so that we may plan more accurately!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Join our KAS clients yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kasclients>
- ☺ Check out our new website!

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FAMILY STORY—Tim, Suzannah, and Daniel Benjamin Kiper

Our journey to adopt has taken us from devastating disappointments to joy beyond words. Over a four-year period, we experienced four pregnancy losses and an unsuccessful attempt at IVF through embryo adoption. We desperately wanted to have children, but all of our attempts had come up empty. We wondered what God was doing with our lives and why God allowed all of these painful experiences to happen to us? We prayed for guidance and felt that international adoption was our best option. We were drawn to the idea of an Asian child, but we were too young to pursue a Chinese adoption. A friend of mine suggested we look into adopting from South Korea, and the rest is history!

Through some internet research, we discovered that KAS in Owensboro, KY, facilitated Korean adoptions. We called the agency, attended the summer picnic, and began our home study in September 2005. In late September, just a few days after our home study was completed, we received our referral! We were told “It’s a boy” and immediately we were e-mailed pictures of the little guy. As we looked at him we were absolutely overwhelmed by how beautiful he was. It was truly one of the most exciting days of our lives!

The next few months proved difficult as we waited for our son, Daniel Benjamin, to come home to us.



The Korean government was slowing down the adoption process by only granting a few passports per month for the babies coming to the U.S. The unpredictability of the time line made the wait even more agonizing. Each day we would look at Daniel’s picture and prayed for his safe arrival. Then out of the blue, the call came!

Lydia called us to inform us that our baby would be flying in to Detroit, Michigan, in just a few weeks! We were beside ourselves with joy and excitement! On March 28, 2006, in a busy airport surrounded by people, we saw our son for the very first time. He was sleeping peacefully in a stroller as the escort brought him through the doors. He was the most adorable baby we had ever seen. We loved him from the beginning and that love just seems to keep growing each day.

Our lives have changed completely since Daniel’s arrival. The little guy has taken over! His fingerprints cover our windows and TV screens, his toys have taken over our house, but most of all he has taken over our hearts. Our attitude has changed from why would God allow us to go through so much pain to why would God choose us for such a beautiful plan? We would not change a thing about our adoption journey. The deepest sorrows bring the greatest joys! *Submitted by Suzannah and Tim Kiper*

Now Accepting Applications: EL SALVADOR PROGRAM

We are now accepting a hand full of applications for El Salvador. This program will only be suitable for those with a strong faith in the Lord, patience and preferably other children in their home! Because adoptions from El Salvador involve many different entities the time frame for a complete adoption from the time of referral will be approximately 9–14 months. The wait time for a referral of a child 0–3 years old is estimated to be approximately



1–6 months. Referrals for older children are more difficult to predict. Fees will be lower than Guatemala, but the process is not as predictable. Travel for both parents (if married) is required. One parent will need to stay in country for 16–21 days and the other may make two trips should travel be a problem. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to our first guinea pig families!!



Kathryn Winn is one of KAS’s newest employees. She is living in El Salvador. At this time she is ministering in a children’s home called My Father’s House with the basic purpose of helping the kids to discover the purpose that the Lord has for their lives, beginning a ministry to the biological families, and securing the professional futures of the children through the development of a vocation program. Kathryn’s other roles with KAS are to advocate adoptions in El Salvador, and traveling to Guatemala on a monthly basis to provide supervision and accountability.

KAS Fundraiser: Hope for the Future

On June 3, 2006, more than 100 people showed up for our First Annual Fundraiser, Hope for the Future. We raised approximately \$5500 to go toward the building of our orphanage in Haiti! And we are waiting for some additional promised matched funds. There are so many people we would like to thank who helped make this endeavor a success. In addition, we want to thank all those in attendance for your support!

We would also like to give a special thanks to **Linda Story** who prepared all of the food and baked our homemade desserts. Thank you to **Kim Hill** for putting this fundraiser together. Thanks to **Melissa Polites** for the table decorations and a big thanks to our live auctioneer, **Tommy Davis**. We would like to thank all the area businesses that helped make our fundraiser a success.

Shot of Elegance

200 N. Main Street
Hartford, KY 42347
(270) 256-2846

James H. Davis

Funeral Home and Crematory
3009 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 683-5377

Staples

528 Southtown Blvd.
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 926-1788

Don Moore Honda

4220 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 926-2500

Lee Brick and Block

P.O. Box 20308
Bowling Green, KY 42102
(270) 781-9813

Hausner Hard Chrome

3094 Medley Rd.
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 684-2279

Citizens Union Bank

827 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY 40066
(502) 633-1750

A Special Event Rental

2531 W 2nd St.
Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 689-1271

Unilever Products

1901 Ragu Dr.
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 926-3300

EJ's Pawn

150 Main St.
Hawesville, KY 42348
(270) 927-8335

Creative Memories

Kim Bennett
(270) 683-1297

American Founders Bank

1734 Midland Blvd.
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Vincent Corrade

441 Oak Lane Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10310

Thank you to all of the people that donated!!

- Jerry and Rebecca Bennett
- Kelly and Rhonda Koehn
- Cindy and Scott Joseph
- Christopher and Laney Ford
- Daniel and Tara McClure
- Arnold Flener
- Vivian and George White
- Bill and Mary Lou Madigan

Shelby County Parks and Family Activity Center

717 Burks Branch Rd.
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Aramark Services, Inc.

1112 Florence St.
Evansville, IN 47710
1-800-444-9206

An Event To Remember

Melissa Polites
(270) 993-9877

Haiti Facts:

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere
- 70% of Haitian people live in poverty with an annual income of \$400 per year
- 40% of the population is under the age of 15
- Most families eat only one meal a day because they cook their meals on dirt pits and use charcoal but they can't afford to buy enough charcoal for more than one meal.
- There are no road infrastructure (no paved roads). It can take up to 3 hours to travel 20 miles due to the pot holes.
- The average Haitian makes an equivalent to 1 US dollar a day, however, the cost of rice and beans is more in Haiti than in the US.

PROGRAM UPDATES

CHINA: China continues to be a wonderful opportunity for families, although the number of referrals has decreased lately. The wait time for referrals has increased to around 12 months, with families traveling approximately 2 months later. We are hoping that the wait time for referrals will decrease, but at this time no definite information concerning this has been offered by the CCAA. The restrictions for having more than one child in China have been lifted a great deal in the past year, which is allowing more children to be parented by their biological families.

KOREA: The wait time for children to be brought into the US to their families had increased significantly in 2006. It appears as if this situation has improved lately. Our partner agency, FAC, continues to work with the Korea Social Services in hopes of continuing to allow children to come home to their families as

quickly as possible. At this time it is difficult to predict when newly referred children will come home to their families.

DOMESTIC: We continue to receive many more calls from expectant parents considering adoption as a plan for their unborn child. We completed another domestic placement since the last newsletter and Keisha continues to offer support to several expectant mothers.

GUATEMALA: We still have a short waiting list for families only accepting of girl referrals. We are committed to the families who are in our Guatemala Program and hope that the wait for female referrals will decrease in the near future. We are seeking families who will accept the referral of boys and currently do not have a waiting list for families seeking boys. Please consider allowing God to bless you with an infant boy.

KAS KULTURE KORNER!

Korean DOL Celebration

The *dol*, or first birthday celebration is considered a very important celebration in Korea. Because of the high infant mortality rates in the past, this celebration is considered to be even more important. It begins with offerings of rice and soup to the spirit. However, the highlight of this celebration is when the child symbolically foretells his or her own future.

For this ritual, the child is dressed in new traditional clothes. The child is seated before a table of various foods and objects such as thread, books, notebooks, brushes, ink and money

which have all been given to the family by friends and relatives. The child is urged to pick up an object from the table, as it is believed the one selected first will foretell the child's future. If the child picks up a writing brush or book, for example, he is destined to be a scholar. If he picks up money or rice, he will be wealthy; cakes or other food, a government official; a sword or bow, a military commander. If the child picks up the thread, it is believed he will live a long life.

This is followed by feasting, singing and playing with the toddler. Most

often guests will present gifts of money, clothes, or gold rings to the parents for the child at this time. Upon departure, guests are given packages of rice cakes and other foods to take with them. This sharing of rice cakes is thought to bring the child long life and happiness.



BOOK REVIEWS

101 Ways to Be a Special Mom by Vicki Lansky author of the best selling 101 Ways to Tell Your Child "I Love You" offers moms meaningful ways to enrich their parenting experience, creating special moments and fond memories. This book is full of simple ideas on ways to make your child feel special and see how much you love them. This is a fantastic resource, especially for those moms in a time crunch that are looking for creative ways to be thoughtful.

Shaoey and Dot by Mary Beth and Steven-Curtis Chapman

This is a story about baby Shaoey who was adopted from China. It is lovingly written from the perspective of a tag-a-long ladybug named Dot. The reader is carried through the process of how Shaoey is eventually brought from a child alone to her forever family and her new country. Shaoey and Dot is a touching story filled with beautiful and fun illustrations. The story is written to be entertaining for children as well as educational.

Reading this book together could be a great starting point to address questions children adopted from China may have as well as a jumping off point for open lines of communication.

"Each bed in the room held a lost little bundle of love"
Excerpt from Shaoey and Dot

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

We are pleased to introduce our Board of Directors and we are so grateful for their service!

Amy Huddy has been on our Board since our founding. She is married to Matt. Together they have an adopted son, Nathan from Korea in 2000, and an adopted daughter, Katie from China in 2004. Amy left her job as a Chemical Sales Engineer to stay at home with her son and daughter.

Wes Roberts is employed at Bellevue Baptist Church. He is married to Karen and together they have two biological children, Jacob and Zachary, and an adopted daughter, AnaKaye from Guatemala in 2004.

Jeff Hausner is the CEO and President of Hausner Hard-Chrome. Jeff is married to Lois and together they have adopted a son, Addison, from Guatemala in 2004.

mala in 2004.

Cindy Bowman is married to Eric. Together they have adopted Hallie Mae from the US In 2004. Cindy works at the Owensboro YMCA in an administrative capacity.

Connie Hardison is a new member to our board. She is an Accounting Manager at Daymar College. She is married to Troy. Together they have two adopted children from Guatemala, Ty (in 2002) and Alli (in 2006).

Nick Polites is a new member to our board. Nick is employed at RiverValley Behavioral Health. He is married to Melissa and they adopted a son, Caden, from Guatemala in 2004.

Courtney Markham-Abedi is a new member to our board. Courtney is a psychiatrist in Lexington. She is married to Nick. Courtney and Nick have

one biological son and they adopted a daughter, Willow, from Korea in 2005.

Charlie Henry is also a new member to our board. Charlie is employed with Lee Brick and Block. He is married to Ellen, who works with KAS as an Adoption Case Specialist. Charlie and Ellen have two biological children, Noah and Lauren Frances, and they adopted Hannah from Guatemala in 2004.

Dale & Lucy Armistead Dale is employed as a Manager at Don Moore Honda on Owensboro. Together he and Lucy have five children, Gabby, Kyler, David, Lainey and Declan, two of whom were adopted from Guatemala in 2004.

WHAT'S NEW WITH KAS

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF:

Kathleen Morris

We are pleased to welcome Kathleen to our team. She is an adoption case specialist and will be helping Kiesha with Post-placements as well as complete home study updates.



**Have a Happy and Safe 4th
of July Celebration!!**

**"Never
measure
God's
unlimited
power by
your limited
expectations.
" from Our
Daily Bread**

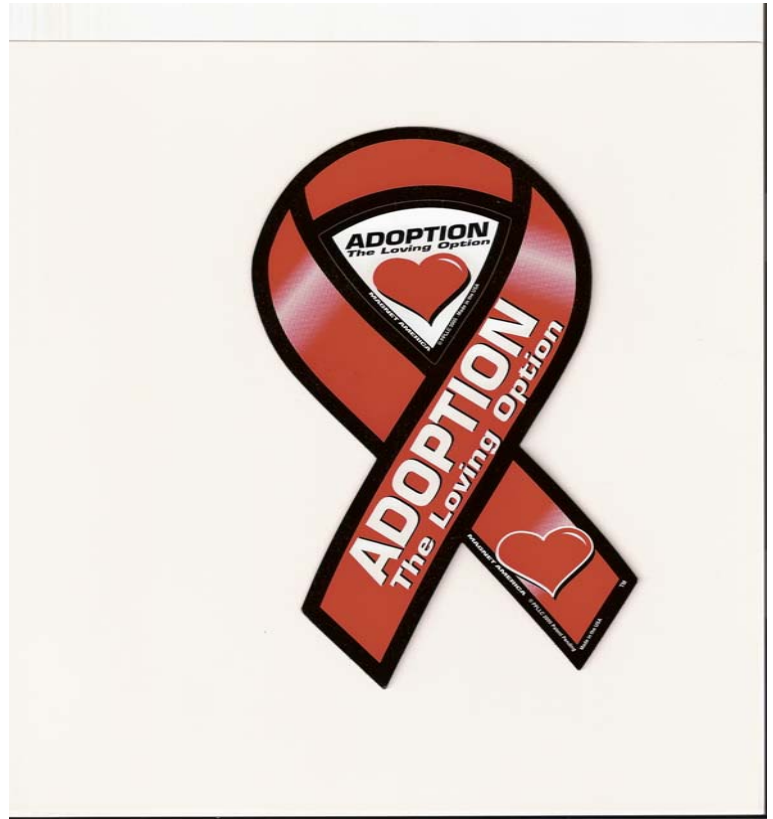
WELCOME HOME!

We have done our best to include all families whose children have arrived home since our last newsletter. Please let us know if we have left out your information and please accept our apologies!

- The Kiper family welcomes Daniel Benjamin from Korea
- The Jones family welcomes Laney Beth from Korea
- The Nelson family welcomes Maddox from Guatemala
- The Burgoon family welcomes Caleb from Guatemala
- The Bennett family welcomes Katie from Guatemala
- The Frahler family welcomes a son from Russia
- The Hutcheison family welcomes Gabriel from Guatemala
- The Wiersma family welcomes Elizabeth from Russia
- The Koehn family welcomes Seth from Guatemala.
- The Howard family welcomes Trevor from Guatemala.
- The Burba Family welcomes Tess from Guatemala
- The Gregory family welcomes Karissa from Korea
- The Fry Family welcomes Jared from US
- The England family welcomes Grace from Guatemala
- The Woodman family welcomes Janaya Mei from China
- The Wells family welcomes a daughter from the US

FUNDRAISER

ADOPTION MAGNETS: Families can purchase these adoption magnets for \$10.00 each (which includes shipping). KAS will receive \$5.00 to go towards Humanitarian Aid with each magnet sold. To place an order, please call Kristy Knelson at (270) 684-2598 or email her at kristy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org.



Kentucky Adoption Services

3808 South Griffith Ave.
Owensboro, KY 42301

Phone: (270) 684-2598
Fax: (270) 684-6748



