



A Child's Hope



Volume 2, Issue 1

Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc. March, 2006

Lucy's Letter

Dear Friends,

2006 has started off with a blast for us here at KAS, Inc. We continue to grow at a much more rapid rate than anyone could have expected. Word of mouth continues to be our primary means of recruiting families for adoption. If you would like to have one of us come to speak at your church or other civic organization to share our ministry we would welcome this opportunity. We have also included a handout that you can copy and distribute if you would like to help us spread the word about the blessings of adoption.

We have recently hired two new members to our team, Kristy and Kathryn. Kristy, an MSW, will be starting out in a part-time position assisting families with their adoptions from China. Kathryn is an American living in El Salvador who has experience in adoptions, orphanages and humanitarian aid. We are so pleased to welcome them!

SPECIAL THANKS

There are so many people who have contributed to our growth and success since our founding. Most importantly, we all thank God for allowing us to serve him in such a special and tangible way.

We would also like to offer thanks to Jeff Hausner, a member of our Board of Directors. Jeff, the president of Hausner Hard Chrome & an adoptive father, has contributed so much to our office that it would be impossible to list all that he has done. The latest in a long list of assistance is a new printer and computer. Thanks Jeff! We would also like to thank our other Direc-

This newsletter is longer than usual and is packed with information. There is so much going on and so much to say that we just couldn't shorten this newsletter. I hope you will enjoy the information and that you will offer us ideas for future editions.

I encourage you to watch for more information about our upcoming Fundraiser. I know that each of you is asked for donations from many worthy organizations every time you open your mail box, pick up your phone or even open a magazine. From school candy bar sales to raffle tickets, we recognize that it is impossible to give to everyone who asks. We do hope that you will consider our ministry when you plan your gifts so that we can continue to serve children in need. We have so many dreams here—many of them have already come to fruition. We thank you for your part in that and for your continued support!!

*Bendiciones,
Lucy*

tors, Cindy Bowman, Amy Huddy, Wes Roberts, Dale Armistead and Lucy Armistead. Without their dedication our mission would not be possible!

In addition, special thanks to Tara & Daniel McClure, Rhonda & Kelly Koehn, Ronnie & Penny Howard, Randy & Penny Evans, Jerry & Becky Bennett, Tracy & Matt McGary, Tim & Suzannah Kiper, Matt and Mandy Lawson, Bargain Discount Grocery, Arnold Flener and Kevin & Karen McHarg for their contributions toward humanitarian aid. Also, thanks to Melissa Polites for her volunteer work with KAS!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Join our KAS clients yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kasclients>
- ☺ Check out our new logo on page 7!

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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 Smith family welcomes Austin from America
- The Oberst family welcomes Houston from Guatemala
- The Hardison family welcomes Allison from Guatemala
- The Koehn family welcomes Alexia from Guatemala

- The Unruh family welcomes Jose & Luis from Guatemala
- The Kramer family welcomes Elsie from China
- The Wharton family welcomes Gracie from China
- The Walker family welcomes Landon from Guatemala
- The Reed family welcomes Caleb from Guatemala.
- The White family welcomes Connor from America.
- The Cox-Howe Family welcomes Drew from Korea
- The Sanchez family welcomes Arianna from Guatemala

PROGRAM UPDATES

CHINA: China continues to be a wonderful opportunity for families. We already have more families signed up for our China program in 2006 than throughout 2005! The wait time for referrals has increased to around 10 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. We have recently added a new Staff Member, Kristy Knelson, who will be assisting families with their China Adoptions! Kristy has an MSW and will be a great source of support for our adopting families.

KOREA: The wait time for children to be brought into the US to their families has increased significantly. The Korean government has instituted a quota on how many passports they will issue each month, which has delayed many children. Our partner agency, FAC, continues to work with the Korea Social Services in hopes of improving this situation. 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 have completed four domestic placements with KAS doing the actual placements since August, 2005. We have several expectant mothers who are receiving support from Kiesha.

GUATEMALA: We still have a waiting list for families only accepting of girl referrals. We are cautiously working toward agreements with additional attorneys in Guatemala, which will increase the number of referrals we will have available. 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. However, we are equally committed to maintaining an exceptional reputation both here and abroad and will only work with attorneys we consider above reproach. 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.

NEW EL SALVADOR PROGRAM

Lucy Armistead returned from a visit to El Salvador full of enthusiasm and excitement for not only the possibility of adoptions from there, but also for the many opportunities for ministry. She was able to meet with the officials in charge of orphanages (or Children's Homes as they are called there) and those in charge of adoptions. As many of you already know, helping older children find homes has always been a passion for Lucy personally, as well as one of the important missions of our agency. This program will offer an excellent and financially reasonable opportunity for families to adopt older children. Infant adoptions will also be possible but will be more time consuming .

KAS has submitted the application for accreditation and expects to accept our first families around the end of April. We will start this program only accepting a handful of families who are prepared for the uncertainty of a new program. While Lucy was in El Salvador she was able to visit orphanages and KAS contributed enough money to purchase two dryers for an orphanage. We are exploring an alliance with a University in San Salvador to help provide vocational training for older children in institutional care. There are many opportunities for ministry in all the countries where we work. Read more in this newsletter to find out how you can help.

FAMILY STORY—JEFF, LOIS & ADDISON HAUSNER

Our journey to adoption was a road of monthly disappointments. We found ourselves at a crossroads, either pursue options to become pregnant or stop trying. Neither option appealed to us, so Jeff and I prayed for a baby—never considering adoption. Amazingly, God did have adoption in mind for us, and shortly thereafter, Lucy joined our Sunday school class. She introduced herself as the Director of KAS and Jeff and I marveled at how brilliantly God shed his light on the path of our future. Not long after our initial meeting with Lucy she received a Guatemalan baby boy to place. She e-mailed us his photo and we were immediately captivated and in love with our child. His whole face radiated when he smiled revealing beautiful dimples, twinkling eyes and a sweet spirit. Throughout the entire process Jeff persistently asked Lucy "Are you sure this photo is of our child?" he thought our son was so beautiful (which he is) that he was an adoption poster child. She graciously responded to him hundreds of times, "YES THIS IS YOUR CHILD!" We met our Addison on Feb. 7, 2004 at Helen's, his foster mother's home in Guatemala City. To our



Addison is pictured on the left exploring a mud puddle. Summer 2005

astonishment, a quiet, smiling baby boy was laid in our arms. Through our tears of joy we saw the most perfect baby smiling at us. That moment he truly became our son! Jeff often tells the story that he felt God's presence that evening watching us, as a parent waits in anticipation and excitement upon watching the gift of a lifetime. God was there that evening smiling down on the gift that He had given Jeff and I...SUBMITTED BY LOIS

The Hausner family resided in Guatemala during their adoption process for about three months. They state that although they were quite homesick at times, "Just one smile from our sweet baby healed a homesick mommy and daddy." They were also able to meet their son's biological mother and sister and will always treasure this meeting and look forward to sharing Addison's Guatemalan heritage and their love for his birthplace.

KAS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2006

On January 14, 2006, more than 100 people showed up for our Annual Holiday Celebration. We again had this event in January because November and December are so hectic for families.

The children had a wonderful time playing in the bounce house and the slide. They also had fun creating painted "Masterpieces" that we will be using in a fun and creative way for an upcoming FUNDRAISER! Families at all stages in the adoption process were in attendance and were able to mingle and visit with old friends and make new friends.

It was truly a joyful event and a blessing to all involved.

Special thanks to Tara McClure, an adoptive mom, who made blankets to be sold with all the proceeds going toward KAS humanitarian aid projects and to Melissa Polites, an adoptive mom who gave of her time to help make this event a success! Our dedicated workers who spent time organizing, cleaning up and helping with the art project also deserve thanks! In addition, we want to thank all those in attendance for your support!

CALL FOR POSSIBLE BOARD MEMBER

We are seeking at least one additional Board Member to help KAS in our mission of serving children and families both in the US and abroad. We are looking for individuals who share a passion and commitment toward our goals who will be willing to take on an active role in governing KAS. We cannot consider interested persons currently in the adoption process, but those with a completed process who feel called to serve in this capacity are welcome to submit their names for consideration. Board Meetings typically occur every other month and last for about 1–2 hours.

Board Members are expected to faithfully attend meetings and contribute their ideas and time to help find families for God's children. It is not an easy task and it can be time consuming, but it is also a blessing to be used by God for His purposes. Please prayerfully consider this possibility.



Our Board Members help build families!

SPREAD THE WORD!

As a Christian agency, we feel strongly that it is the duty of Christians worldwide to care for those less fortunate. We stand on God's word that directs us: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27.

All people have an opportunity to give children a chance at a better life and we ask that you will help us spread the word about the blessings of adoption and about our mission here at KAS, Inc. One of the ways you can help do that is by copying the handout on this page to be included in your church's bulletin or passed out at the next meeting of a civic organization or to be posted at your place of employment. Just write your name and number on the line and watch God work! Thanks for your help in finding families for God's children!



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IS A CHILD WAITING FOR YOU?

Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc. is a licensed, Christian, non-profit adoption agency, based in Owensboro, Kentucky. There are quite literally millions of children around the world who fall asleep hungry and weary, believing that no one cares. KAS cares deeply for these children. If you are considering adoption but do not know where to turn KAS can help guide you. KAS is also active in Humanitarian Aid Projects because no matter how many children come home, there will still be many children who will never know the love of a forever family. To learn more about how you can help, either through adoption or through supporting KAS Humanitarian Aid Projects, please call:

KAS Family's Name and Number

OR KENTUCKY ADOPTION SERVICES, INC.
(270) 684-2598
1-866-543-7459 (toll-free)

You can also check out KAS on the web:
www.kentuckyadoptionservices.org

KAS assists children throughout the world and families throughout the US!

" And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5

WORDS TO HELP DURING THE ADOPTION WAIT!!

- "Worrying is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but gets you nowhere." Glenn Turner, Broadway actor
- "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phillipians 4:6
- "Fear can keep us up all night long, but faith makes one fine pillow." Phillip Gulley, pastor
- "Delights yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalms 37:4
- "Peace I leave you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

KAS KULTURE KORNER!

CHINESE NEW YEAR!!!

According to the Chinese, 2006 is the Year of the dog. Chinese New Year is a 15 day celebration that starts with the first new moon of the year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Chinese New Year falls on a different day each year because the Chinese use a combination of a lunar and a solar cycle for their calendar. A Lunar Cycle is approximately 29.5 days. In order to catch up they also use the solar cycle by including an extra month once every few years. (This extra month is added about 7 years out of 19.) This amount to the same as our leap year. The 15th day of the New Year Celebration is celebrated with the Lantern Festival, which includes displays of lanterns and children carrying lanterns in parades. New Years eve and day are times of reunion, thanksgiving and recognition of one's ancestors.

This 15 day celebration is recognized in different ways on each day of the celebration as detailed below: The first day of the celebration is marked by abstaining from meat. The 2nd day is considered the birthday of all dogs and is celebrated by being kind to dogs and feeding them extra tid bits, as well as praying to one's ancestors. The 3rd and 4th days are times for son-in-laws to show respect for their parents-in-laws. The 5th day is called 'PoWoo', after the God of Wealth. It is celebrated by staying at home. No visiting of any kind occurs on this day as it is believed this would bring bad luck. The 6th—10th days are marked by visiting with friends and relatives, as well as visiting temples to pray for good fortune and health. The 7th day is consid-

ered a the birthday of all humans and is a day for farmers to display their produce. The 9th day is marked by an offering for the Jade Emperor. The 10th through the 12th days are celebrated by inviting friends and relatives over for dinner. The 13th day, a mixture of simple rice congee and mustard greens is eaten to cleanse the system. The 14th day is spent preparing for the lantern Festival, which is celebrated on the 15th. Chinese people may not believe the same superstitions that characterized



Chinese New Year for 2006 occurred on JANUARY 29!

this celebration in the past; however, many still follow these traditions. Adoptive families also enjoy getting together around this time to expose their Chinese born children to a fun and festive aspect of their birth culture.

FAMILY FUNDRAISERS

The following is a list of fundraising efforts of some of our KAS families. Please let us know if you have a fundraising event coming up. We would love to help support our families!

Mandy & Matt Lawson - This Owensboro area adoptive family is featuring adorable, personalized \$10 charms on their website: [Http://geocities.com/mattmandy0807](http://geocities.com/mattmandy0807)

Tracey Ferguson—This adoptive Mom is pursuing several fundraising efforts. She has started selling Avon and is also selling trendy silicone bracelets that everyone is wearing right now. These \$3 bracelets come in many different colors and all feature an Adoption theme! Tracey is also selling handmade fleece blankets E-mail nickynoodle97@yahoo.com.

ADOPTIVE FAMILY YARD SALE!

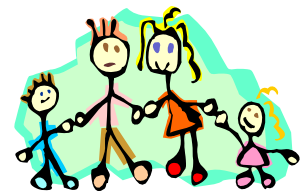
Watch for details on the KAS listserv for an adoptive family yard sale. We hope that with some good advertising this event will be a fun day that will allow our families to make some extra money!

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

FAMILY WEBSITES

Some of our very creative and talented families have created website and/or blogs to chronicle their adoption journeys. Please bring these to our attention so that we can share your creativity and your joy with others. These

are some of the websites we are aware of:
www.hollyhobbie.150m.com/Adoption
[Http://geocities.com/mattmandy0807](http://geocities.com/mattmandy0807)



Be sure to check out our family's sites!

HOW WILL FEDERAL CHANGES IMPACT ADOPTIONS? WHERE IS KAS?

Global changes are happening in the world of adoptions. This will change the process of adoptions forever. The United States Department of State has recently published final regulations to bring the US into compliance with the Hague Treaty.. Agencies that plan to continue working with other Hague countries will be required to obtain what is being termed "Hague Accreditation". At KAS we have been preparing for these new regulations for quite some time; however, obtaining this level of accreditation will be time consuming and expensive. We have been preparing and implementing policies and pro-

cedures that will strengthen our agency and that will make the accreditation process easier. It is our hope that fees will not increase because of these upcoming changes, but in reality, fee increases are likely to occur from all agencies, because of the need for expensive software, frequent reports and the need for additional staff to maintain agency compliance with accreditation standards. We will do our best to continue offering exceptional services without fee increases. In the meantime, we appreciate any donations to help us obtain this accreditation.

To help us prepare for accreditation

we would like to purchase a new data management software program that will streamline many of the office procedures. This program will allow families to log onto our website and track their adoption progress. For example, it will allow families to check for the days DNA testing occurs or the log in dates for China dossiers. We have thoroughly researched our options and have tentatively chosen the program that we believe will best assist both our agency and our families. We are all very excited about this future development and will keep everyone updated as this becomes a reality for our agency.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER WARRIORS:

KAS would like to start a prayer program that will include people who will act as prayer warriors on behalf of our agency and the children and families we serve. We would ask each volunteer to commit to one hour one time each week to pray for KAS and our families! A weekly e-mail would be sent out on the KAS clients yahoo group that lists specific prayer requests. Those who would like to be included as prayer warriors would also be listed on a database on the KAS yahoo site so that families could contact them privately to request prayers for specific issues.. Please notify us if you are interested in

serving in this capacity that will bring as many blessings as it offers!

MENTOR FAMILIES:

We are also interested in finding adoptive families who have completed the process who would be willing to develop a personal relationship with those still in the adoption process to help them get through the stress and uncertainty that is inherent in the adoption process. We would love to match up families based on country and geographical area and feel that this will be beneficial for all involved. We would love to hear from all who are interested.

VIDEO INTERVIEWS:

As many of you have already heard we are working on a Video/DVD Education Series to supplement the Parent Preparation Training we already provide. To make this most interesting to families we would like to include interviews and stories from our families. No matter where you are in the adoption process we want to hear from you if you are willing to be interviewed on camera about your adoption. We would like to have families talk about all kinds of issues regarding adoption from the decision to adopt, struggles with infertility, attachment issues, transitioning siblings, travel, etc.

KAS FAMILY BOOK

We are still asking families to submit stories for our KAS Families Book. So far we have only 8 stories to place in the book. Please get your story to us as soon as possible so that you can be included. If we do not have at least 50 families to include we will be unable to publish the book!! We

know you are all busy enjoying your beautiful children., so if you need help writing your story let us know and we will ask some questions and come up with a story angle specific to your family!! Call us or e-mail us to tell us you are interested, in allowing us to interview you!



**Tell everyone about
YOUR Miracle!**

WHAT'S NEW WITH KAS?

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF:

Kristy Knelson

We are so pleased to welcome Kristy to our team. She will be starting March 28, 2006. Kristy will begin in a part-time position assisting families that are adopting from China, as well as with our Adoptive parent Training Program. Kristy has her MSW from Western Kentucky University and brings a great deal of experience and compassion to her position.

Kathryn Winn

We are excited to introduce Kathryn as our Central America Program Coordinator. She is a native of Michigan, but has lived in Argentina and El Salvador as a missionary serving in prisons and an orphanage. She will be

starting May 1, 2006 and will not only assist with adoptions from Guatemala but also with El Salvador and with the many projects we are starting there to assist children in need. Kathryn has a Bachelors degree in Sociology and a Christian Education minor from Wheaton College.

KAS FUTURE FUNDRAISER

We are getting ready for our first ever fundraiser in early June! Watch the KAS listserve and your mailbox for information. We are so excited about this event and look forward to your participation and support. We will have many items to be auctioned off from around the world! If you have an item you would like to donate for this event we appreciate any and all items! We have so many projects

and goals overseas that can be realized through hard work, dedication and funding..

Some of the items we will be auctioning off include an Original Haitian Painting, a Genuine Emerald from Colombia, an Authentic Antique Huipil from Guatemala, Pearls from China, silk scarves, silk table cloth, Jade Jewelry from Guatemala, an Original Piece of Art from China and many other unique and wonderful things from across the globe!



BOOK REVIEWS

An American Face by Jan M.Czech

Written about a young adoptee, Jessie, who waits anxiously for his "new American looking" face that he is certain will come along with his American citizenship. The story follows him through the days leading up to his citizenship. This book would be helpful in talking with children, both adopted or not about racial differ-

ences and includes a couple of incidents of discrimination toward little Jessie. This story can help teach children about the blessings of diversity and being comfortable just as they are, as well as treating others with kindness no matter what their appearance. It includes references to other people in Jessie's world who also do not look "American" but who

are indeed Americans. Ultimately, Jessie comes to appreciate his unique features and to find in others features that are both similar and different from his own.

"When my face changes I won't play on his team even if he begs me to."

Excerpt from An American Face

NEW KAS LOGO!

We are pleased to present our new agency logo! After months of sketches and debate we decided that this image best represents who we are at our most basic and our mission as people and an agency!

The heart and home represent our search for loving families who long to provide a nurturing home to children in need. The large heart represents

our love for all of the children and families we serve.

The cross as a part of kas shows our dedication to being a Christian agency that treats all people with the love of Christ. kas is not capitalized with the cross extending from the k to symbolize our first and foremost commitment to Christ our Lord!



OUR NEW LOGO!!

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Finding Families For God's Children



OFFERING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS

What causes millions of children throughout the world to be homeless, hungry and ultimately hopeless? While there are many factors that contribute, the main reason is poverty. As an organization that sees first hand the devastation that poverty reeks, it is impossible to hear the cries of children in need and ignore them. One of our passions here at KAS is helping older children. We have a vision of helping older children in orphanages to break the cycle of poverty. Realistically, we know that most of these children will not return to a nurturing birth family or be adopted by loving parents. We seek to show God's love to these children in many ways.

One of the ways we are trying to help is in El Salvador. We are starting to form a collaboration with a University to provide vocational training to older children in state run orphanages. We also want to start a mentoring program that engages churches in the Salvadoran community to match adults with children to offer even more personalized vocational training. We believe that the only way to break this cycle of poverty is to offer these children a chance at making a decent living, which is not being accomplished in the orphanages. We want to expand these efforts and have hired a full time staff member in Central America to not only coordinate our adoptions, but to also build relationships and ignite our humanitarian visions! We

are currently supporting several missions in various countries and want to increase our aid exponentially.

We need your help! Please consider organizing a KAS fundraiser, talking to your church or other organization about our mission or just send a check in any amount marked "Humanitarian Aid". If you are aware of a civic group that would help us, please tell them about our vision. No donation is too small and 100% of what we receive designated "humanitarian aid" goes directly toward helping children in need. None is taken out for "administrative" costs! We are a 501 (c) 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please join us as we meet the needs of so many .

Help us give hopeless children a future to hope for!!

