



A Child's Hope



Volume 3, Issue 1

**Kentucky Adoption
Services, Inc.**

Spring, 2007

Lucy's Letter

Dear Friends,

As many of you may have noticed this Newsletter is late getting out. We have been so busy around the office. Better late than never!

We are pleased to announce that we are ready to accept families for our new Haiti Program! We look forward to helping many Haitian children find forever families. In addition, we were blessed with an anonymous gift to allow us to build a BRICK home for "Grandma" and her 9 grandchildren! We are hoping that we will be able to expand this humanitarian relief to widows who may need

Update on Haiti

We had a wonderful mission trip in January to help finish our orphanage. Matt McGary, an adoptive father, accompanied Lucy and other missionaries to Jolivert, Haiti. Matt, an excellent electrician, wired the orphanage and installed ceiling fans, lights, etc. Lucy and her friend, Emily, along with the assistance of many Haitian boys and girls painted the inside of the orphanage. Matt suggested a name for the orphanage, "Promises of Hope" and this was decided to be a perfect name for exactly what KAS wants to convey with our ministry in Haiti! Thanks for the help Matt and for the name!

We are hoping to have the 2nd phase of our orphanage completed by August and we will be making another mission trip August 9-16. Please let us know if you are interested in going with us on this trip. We can also use donations. We need approximately \$20,000 for the second phase!

assistance in caring for children or grandchildren and are calling this Program "Grandma's House"!

Make sure to mark May 19, 2007 on your calendars so that you can visit your closest Build A Bear Workshop to help provide bears to children in need. Check out our back page for more information!

I hope you will enjoy this newsletter and that it will have been worth the wait!

Bendiciones,
Lucy

Special points of interest:

© Join our new KAS clients Forum at <http://p071.ezboard.com/bkasclientgroup>

© Check out our website!

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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 Stacy family welcomes Dathan from Guatemala.
- The Collins family welcomes Sophi from Guatemala.
- Mark and Erin welcome Daniel from US.
- Adam and Amy welcome Cecily from US.
- The Browning family welcomes Macy from Korea.
- The Roof family welcomes Isabel from Guatemala.
- The Wanick family welcomes Taylor & Jacob from Russia.
- The Wiersma family welcomes Elizabeth from Russia.
- The Martindale family welcomes Faith from Guatemala.
- The Grooms family welcomes Aiden from Korea.

- The Loescher family welcomes Osvin, Nancy, Yoseli, Dania & Edilso from Guatemala.
- The Dupont family welcomes Cambree from Guatemala.
- The Martin family welcomes Abby from China.
- The Himonidis family welcomes Nicholas from Guatemala.
- The Barrett family welcomes Elizabeth from Guatemala.
- The Morrison family welcomes Isaias from Guatemala.
- The Childress family welcomes Karla from Guatemala.
- The Penner Family welcomes Kamryn from China.
- The Folz Family welcomes Maggie from Guatemala.
- The Watts Family welcomes Joseph from Korea.
- The Clickner/Padgett Family welcomes Gabriella and Camilla from Guatemala.
- The Cash Family welcomes Kemry from Guatemala.

PROGRAM UPDATES

CHINA: The wait time for referrals from China has continued to increase and many are expecting this wait to increase even more. The CCAA has recently instituted more stringent requirements for adopting families. Families must be between 30–50 years of age and must be free from significant health issues. Families must be free from mental health issues, including the use of antidepressants in the past 2 years. In addition families must have a minimum of a high school education, have a net worth of \$80,000 and a minimum of \$10K of income per family member. Families must have been married for a minimum of two years; if previously divorced, the family must have been married 5 years. In addition, there must be a minimum of 12 months between placements or pregnancies when adopting from China. It is anticipated by some that the CCAA is seeking to involve SWIs with international adoptions who in the past have been hesitant to process the paperwork for international placements. We hope that this becomes a reality so that even more children may be able to find their forever families and the wait will decrease for referrals.

KOREA: Fortunately for the children of Korea, domestic adoption has increased there. KAS has recently closed our network Program with FAC for Korea because of the fact that they are unsure of how long it will take for referrals and homecoming for children through their Korean counterparts. We have reestablished a connection with another partner for Korea and anticipate children will be

referred approximately 4–5 months after becoming paper ready with children coming home about 3–4 months later. There is a long waiting list for females so families must be open to the referral of a boy.

DOMESTIC: We continue to receive many more calls from expectant parents considering adoption as a plan for their unborn child. Kiesha continues to offer support to several expectant mothers.

GUATEMALA: Due to the uncertainty surrounding the Guatemalan process, KAS is considering this program to be a volatile program and as such is continuing to update the Yahoo group about the issues with Guatemalan adoptions. We are still accepting families for this program contingent upon their understanding and acceptance of the risks involved in adopting from Guatemala. We are hopeful that Hague compliant legislation will be passed in Guatemala and that adoptions will remain a possibility for children in need. We are still receiving regular referrals from Guatemala, although the time frame for processing adoptions has increased.

EL SALVADOR: We are processing our first case in El Salvador and are looking forward to accepting additional families into this program. Our attorney has stated that he is ready to accept additional families.

HAITI: Check out Haiti on Page 3 for more information!!

KAS Fundraisers for Humanitarian Aid

"Prayers with Purpose"

We will be selling handmade bracelets made in El Salvador each inscribed with the name of a child and the country El Salvador. Each bracelet has a charm with a picture of the child attached and also a cross charm to remind you that this child needs your prayers.

These "Prayers with Purpose" bracelets are designed to not only support our humanitarian ministry in El Salvador, "Jeremiah 29:11", but also to allow many people to intercede on behalf of these precious children. Prayer is so powerful and we are very excited about this additional way to allow others in the KAS family to support the needs of children.

These bracelets are being sold for \$15 each; you will receive a tax-donation form for \$10. We are asking anyone who buys a bracelet to commit that particular child to your prayers and to offer intercession for the child!



Adoption Magnets

KAS still has adoption magnets for sale. Families can still 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.

Guatemala Jewelry

KAS still has a limited number of bracelets from Guatemala available for purchase. The prices range from \$5-\$12. We also have miscellaneous items from Guatemala and China for Sale!



"A Gift from God" T-Shirts

Families can still purchase these wonderful t-shirts for your precious "Gifts from God" for the prices of \$10.00 each (which includes shipping). KAS will receive \$4.00 to go towards Humanitarian Aid with t-shirt sold. We have the following sizes: Large onesie, 2T, 4T, and child small.

If you are interested in any of the listed items or would like to make a donation to Kentucky Adoption Services Humanitarian Aid projects please contact Janie at the office at (270) 684-2598 or by email at

janie@kentuckyadoptionservices.org

All Because Orphans Around the World Need YOUR Help!

HAITI ADOPTION INFORMATION

KAS offers adoption services through our orphanage, Promises of Hope, located in Jolivert, Haiti, as well as a private orphanage located in Port au Prince, Haiti. We expect the case processing to take 10 to 15 months from referral and referrals to be offered in 2-4 months based on the age of the child requested..

The fees for Haiti will be approximately \$17-19,000. Families must be 28 years old or older. For families with infertility they may be as young as 25. Families must have been married a minimum of 3 years with a maximum of three biological children in the home. Prior divorce is acceptable. Single women are accepted. Psychologicals are required for this program.

WHAT'S NEW WITH KAS?

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF:

EMILY SHELLHORN, MSW

We are so pleased to announce that Emily Shellhorn will be joining our staff June 1, 2007. Emily has a MSW from Missouri State University! Emily has been a dear friend to Lucy for many years and has accompanied Lucy

on several overseas mission trips. She has an amazing heart for children and adoption and we are waiting expectantly for her to join our team.

KAS COMPUTER SYSTEM:

Finally, after many years of debate and planning, KAS has purchased a data management system. Mandy and

Janie have been very busy entering all the information and learning the system. We are looking forward to the increased streamlining of our operations here at KAS and anticipate being able to provide even more personalized service to families through the addition of this system.

The Springob's Family Story

Dave , Joy, Ashley, Austin & Little Alex

When Dave and I decided to get married, everyone thought we were nuts! We've both been previously married and Dave brought 4 kids to our marriage and I was bringing twins--- so yes, together we would have 6!! That did not matter to either of us, but we would never have imagined that we would be adding to our family in the future.

Jump ahead a number of years later, our youngest kids, at 13 (3 are the same age, twin daughters and a son), are quite self sufficient, the oldest, 23, has graduated college and is engaged, our eldest son, 20, is in his Sophomore year at college, and our middle son, 17, is very industrious and getting ready to graduate high school. We were experiencing a mini "empty nest" syndrome. We both felt we had so much more love to give.

As a couple we have attended church together since the beginning, a challenge as Dave was raised a devout Catholic and I was raised a Southern Baptist. We managed to find a church that we were both very happy with. I don't know how to describe it, but after we attended a program through our church called, "Encountering Jesus" we felt closer to God and started to feel and seek His will and way in our lives. That was the beginning of August 2005.

At the end of August, I felt strongly that God wanted Dave and me to have another child, to adopt. So strongly that I cried in Kmart while listening to the Creed song - "With Arms Wide Open" - trouble was, how was I going to convince Dave that this is what I felt we had been led to do. First; I realized it was not my place to convince him and for what seemed a long time I prayed - I prayed for patience and guidance and for Dave's eyes and heart to be opened to God's will as well.

In the meanwhile, I started a little research on the Internet and looked at all the photo listings of the beautiful kiddos. I looked at different websites and read about the different processes - I must admit it is all very intimidating at first. After about 3 weeks I wrote Dave a letter detailing what I had been feeling and what I thought was God's will for our lives. I tucked it in his suitcase, he was going out of town for work, and asked him to read it while he was away. It's odd and so out of character for me, but I didn't "bug" him as

to if he had read it yet or not, nor did I pounce on him to discuss it on his return. This was definitely God's influence on me - I am not a patient person! Instead I PRAYED, and waited until he brought the subject up. (Which seemed like FOREVER!!) I had tried to prepare for him saying this is not a good idea, not the right time.... what he did say was that he had also been thinking of us becoming foster parents/adopting too!! A lady that worked at his Doctor's office had shared her adoption story with him and he had actually gotten the number for her agency. God is so great!!

The end of November 2005, we filled out our application and signed up with a local agency for the Home Study - it went really sloooooow! (All in God's plan though!) From the very beginning we thought Guatemala! For one reason or another,

mainly because we thought we could help more kids by adopting a larger, older sibling group we began to pursue domestic adoption. Then we hit obstacle after obstacle - which we had been warned about. To me it just didn't feel right. I shared my feelings with Dave that we should be adopting from Guatemala and we prayed about it. I asked God to show Dave too if Guatemala was where we were to adopt. The next day Dave received an email from a friend that began "Dave I believe God is at work here..." and went on to discuss Guatemalan adoptions. Dave and I never discussed the where after that - it was most definitely Guatemala!!

We found out about KAS through a business appointment Dave had with Jeff Hausner. The funny thing is they never talked business but talked all about Guatemalan adoption. On Sunday, January 26th, 2006, Jeff

went back to his office to get Dave's business card and called Dave to tell him about a baby from Guatemala he had heard about from his adoption facilitator at Sunday school!! We talked later with Jeff and his wife Lois, and we learned that the baby was a boy! (We DEFINITELY wanted a boy) and from there we would need to talk with Lucy at KAS. (She is in their Sunday School class!) This was all VERY exciting!!!

The next day Dave was in Owensboro on business, and stopped by KAS to meet and talk with Lucy about this baby boy. Did I mention we KNEW this was our child?! There were of course



KAS Annual Holiday Event

What a wonderful event that was held on January 6, 2007. There were many members of the KAS family in attendance and it seemed as though everyone had a wonderful time.

We want to thank the River City Clowns for the spectacular job they did entertaining the children and many of the adults. Their balloon animals, face painting



and just regular antics were out of this world.

Kathryn Winn, the KAS Central America coordinator, was in attendance for this year's event and spoke to those in attendance about her mission in Central America and her love for the children.

It was a wonderful event and we can't wait until next time!

Family Story-The Springob's-Continued

some formalities that had to take place first – 1) a KAS application 2) the referral had to be offered to other families that were already waiting – I think though for girls! By the afternoon we knew he could be ours. YEAH!! Lucy and all of the KAS staff were so accommodating – I think Dave called about 10 times and went back to her office 3 times that day. Lucy had the pictures developed and Dave called the girls and I --- we SO wanted to see those pictures, that was a long hour and fifteen minutes waiting for him to come home to Bowling Green. I think we basically met Dave at the county line to get them!! So there he finally was, the child God had brought to us, he was our beautiful baby boy Alex, who at the time was 4 ½ months old, with jet-black hair and deep brown eyes and a smile that lit up the room. He looked so very happy in the pictures!!

There was something that we had to investigate before we would be allowed to “officially” accept his referral. Alex was born with a Lipoma at the base of his Spine – it is basically a fatty tumor. At first we thought it was just cosmetic, but after getting the CAT scan and MRI that was taken in Guatemala we learned that it was more than cosmetic. We received them on a Thursday night and on Friday God walked us through two specialists and the Pediatrician's office. The Radiologist so graciously met with us, we walked in, and he reviewed the MRI and gave us the diagnosis of Spina Bifida, with Tethered Cord Syndrome. In my gut we “suspected” that this was something serious. Ok, so now we know – we both understood it would not change the fact that Alex was our son. After getting home, I started to do some research on the Internet and kept coming across the same Doctor's name. So, I looked up his phone number and gave his office a call. I “spilled” my story of the day's events to the receptionist who told me “you need to talk with his nurse – she is adopting from Guatemala too!!” Can you believe it??? I left her a message, and with it being late in the day on a Friday, I did not expect a call back – but we received one later that evening. Karen and I talked for 3 hours on the phone. She taught us A LOT!! On the following Tuesday, February 14th, we received Alex's official diagnosis from the Pediatric Neurosurgeon that specializes in Lipomyelomeningocele with Tethered Cord Syndrome and it was truly wonderful news – he would need to have an operation (sooner rather

than later) but that he should/would have normal function – in other words he should be able to walk!! That was the best Valentine's Day ever!!

In April 2006 we were able to visit and spend time with Alex, it was such a wonderful experience. The feeling of seeing and holding him for the first time is indescribable!! Meeting his wonderful foster mom and family is such a treasure – to have her answer so many questions we had about him and to see the genuine love and care she and her family had/have for Alex – really gave us such a feeling of peace as we had to leave without him to go back home.

We had begun the journey, and in the beginning I had thought the journey would be only about welcoming a child into our family. What I learned is that we welcomed and were blessed with friends that were also adopting or had adopted, that became family. They listened and supported and truly understood what we were experiencing. KAS sponsors a Yahoo group and provides that outlet to us during our wait. This group was a HUGE support for me.

With God's guidance to such faithful servants like Lucy, Karen and the multitude of friends we made along our journey --- our dream of adoption became true on September 18th, 2006. Having Alex in our lives is like “we have won the lottery!” (This is a direct quote borrowed from Alex's foster mom when Lucy asked her to describe him to us, his adoptive parents.) He has such a sweet spirit and is so funny!! We cannot imagine life without him, and his siblings adore him!! We thank God for all the people at KAS and their faithful diligence for bringing us our son and continuing to do so for others.

Alex had surgery to remove the Lipoma and de-tether his Spinal Cord on December 6th, 2006! The surgery, with lots of prayers from our KAS family, was a HUGE success. To look at him you would never even know he has any type of problem – he walks and gets into everything!! We are so very blessed – he is our Guatemalan Miracle!!

A Letter from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

To All Former, Current & Prospective KAS Clients:

The Board of Directors of Kentucky Adoption Services met on February 27, 2007. As some of you may know there is increased speculation that adoptions in Guatemala may be closed in the near future. Again, at this point this is purely speculation. (Although the Hague Treaty implementation in the US will certainly shut down adoptions in early 2008 if Hague compliant Legislation is not enacted in Guatemala.)

With this being said, it was the opinion of the Board of Directors that Lucy's time and effort be placed on her board responsibilities on a National and International scale. Lucy is well respected in the adoption community and we could not think of any better avenue for Lucy to

concentrate her time.

Over the years KAS has added staff to handle the clientele as deemed necessary. We, the Board of Directors, feel that there is more than adequate staff in both numbers and expertise to handle the current caseload.

As Executive Director, Lucy has done a remarkable job of juggling cases, board duties, new program startups (Haiti, El Salvador, etc.), humanitarian aid, and being a mother, wife, friend etc. As a board we decided that Lucy needs to focus on more specific tasks, most importantly making sure that international adoption is a viable opportunity for our clients.

What does all of this mean? Beginning April 1, 2007 The Board of Directors has asked Lucy to remove herself from

day-to-day activities of handling cases. Each current and future KAS client will be assigned a caseworker that he/she will contact for information regarding their adoption. Over the next couple of weeks each of our current clients will be contacted by your assigned caseworker. Please make every effort to yield your questions to your assigned caseworker. Please do not contact Lucy for questions regarding your individual cases. This will enable Lucy to focus her efforts on her new duties.

The Board of Directors would like to thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,
**Kentucky Adoption Services,
Board of Directors**

THANKS!!!!

Thank you to Hawesville Baptist Church and their Association!!!! And special thanks to PAM MORRIS who organized this event!

KAS would like to offer a special thank you to the Hawesville Baptist Church and the many churches of their association that banded together and threw a baby shower for Lucy for our Haitian orphanage.

KAS was literally showered with blessings from this organization and all of the organizations that came together to put on this event.

The orphanage received so many wonderful things: Toys, clothing in all sizes, cloth diapers, 4 cribs and money to purchase another crib, baby hygiene products-shampoo, soap etc., and so much more.

What a blessing that God sent with this shower. He did certainly shower his blessings on this event and our Haiti orphanage. Thank you again to everyone who was involved. We are very grateful for all that you did.

Thanks to our Families and Friends!

Thank you to the following families and groups for their blessed contributions to KAS. You will never know how much

your contributions will mean to not only this agency but to someone else.

Josh and Maria Cross

The Fleetwood Family

The Bennett Family

Al McGary

The Oberst Family

The Huddy Family

The McClure Family

The McGary Family

The Bowman Family

Emily Shellhorn

The Clark Family

Owensboro Kiwanis Club

Centenary United Methodist Church in Shelbyville

Thanks to our anonymous donors who provided the support to build Grandma a BRICK house in Haiti!

The Hausner Family

The Overholt Family

The Ford Family

The Gibbons Family

The Crouch Family

Ms. Helen Hisle

Ms. Helena Kruer

Ms. Suzy Robinette

Ms. Eleanor Warford

The Madigan Family

The Koehn Family

The Tucker Family

Mr. Scott Bean



KAS KULTURE KORNER!

Learning a Little About Haiti

We have started so much work in Haiti and we felt that now would be a good time to learn a little more about that country. So here are some facts about the country and a wonderful new recipe that sounds delicious.

The Republic of Haiti is contained in the western one-third of Hispaniola. It is a country of almost eleven thousand square miles with a population of about seven million people. The population consists of 95% African descent and 5% European descent.

The majority of people in Haiti, 80% are Catholic; 16% are Protestant while an

estimated 50% of Haitians also practice Voodoo. Voodoo is a religious culture that was brought from West Africa and hidden among the Catholic rituals of European missionaries. Voodoo is a pantheistic African religion similar to the Nigerian Yoruba faith.

The Capital of Haiti is Port-au-Prince and this is also Haiti's largest city. Official languages of Haiti are French and Haitian Creole. The major industries in the country are sugar refining, cement, textiles and tourism.

Haiti has the unique distinction of being the first black-led republic in the world. The national dance of Haiti is the me-

ringue even though you can see people doing the Juba and Crabienne. Haitian music has been influenced by Cuban styles and American jazz. There is also the Caribbean influence in the music in the form of reggae, soca and calypso. The French music influence comes in the form of zouk.

The cuisine of Haiti is influenced in a large part by French cuisine as well as some native staples originating from African and Taino cuisine such as cassava (kasav), yam, and maize (mayi). Haitian food, though unique in its own right, shares much in common with the rest of Latin America. Enjoy the dish below.



Haitian Style Meatballs



Ingredients

- 4 white bread slices
- 1 cup milk
- 1 pound freshly ground lean beef
- 2 slices smoked ham or bacon, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 garlic clove, crushed in garlic press
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Fat for Frying, heated to 365 degrees F

Directions

- Soak bread in milk for 5 minutes, then mash and mix with ground beef, minced ham, salt, pepper, garlic and tomato paste. Roll in to walnut-sized balls, coat with flour and then with cheese.
- Fry in heated fat until golden brown. Drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot with tomato sauce as a dip.

Note: These meatballs may be made larger for a main course and are usually served with cornmeal and a salad.



Creative Fundraisers For Families

Some Ideas for Family Fundraisers:
Adoptions are costly, as adoptive parents are well aware. There are many things that parents try to do to offset the cost of the adoption. Here are some ideas that KAS clients have used to raise money to put toward their adoption process:

- Yard or Rummage Sales
- Spaghetti Dinners
- Fundraiser Concerts
- Discount Cards (Restaurants etc.)
- Entertainment Books
- Mary Kay/Creative Memory Sales

- Chicken sale
- Homemade Bread sale
- Pampered Chef Bunco Party

Some people have also set up accounts to take donations. Online you can set up a PayPal account and place a "Donation" button on your website or blog which will allow you to take donations (these donations may not be tax deductible.) You can also set up a tax-deductible account with some organizations which will allow friends and family to donate to your case and they will receive a tax deduction.

There is always a way to raise money to help bring your little one home!

There are also various foundations that will give grants to adopting families. Be aware that many of these grant opportunities derive the money for grants from an application fee to apply for the grant. These are probably not the best grants to apply for. In addition, most grants require a completed homestudy and oftentimes an actual child referral before making a commitment. Before paying to apply for a grant do plenty of research! But go ahead and apply for the free ones!

Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.

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Finding Families For God's Children



Adoption

*There are so many orphans
In this big wide world
So many more than you thought
Or ever have been told
Each one needs someone to love them
And someone to care
They're all alone in this dark world
With so many troubles to bear
Imagine the joy on their faces
When they hear they will be adopted
Now they will know what it's like
To be cared for, loved, and wanted
Even the small ones will know the difference
And I think this will be their preference
That they would be adopted
And be cared for, loved and wanted!
By-Victoria Koehn*



**Join us on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00
STUFFED WITH HUGS:
HUGS SWEET HUGS!**

Build-A-Bear Workshop is hosting STUFFED WITH HUGS: HUGS SWEET HUGS to make bears for children in need of a family and to celebrate adoption. You can help! Bring your family to your local Build-A-Bear Workshop and make a bear for FREE. To find a location near you visit <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutUs/contactUs/findastore/>

There will be 200 bears made per store and these bears will be left at the store. The bears will then be delivered to agencies and donated to children around the country and around the world!