

# A Child's Hope

Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.



## Lucy's Letter

Dear Friends,

So much has been happening at KAS. We are so pleased to have been among the first agencies that received Hague Accreditation in the US. Our staff has worked so diligently to offer outstanding service and I am immeasurably blessed to be able to work with such an outstanding group of Christians. We are so glad to have received the recognition of Hague Accreditation!

We are in the process of formalizing an Affiliation Agreement with Homestudies and Adoption Placement Services (HAPS), a non-profit organization licensed in New Jersey. HAPS is accredited in China and Russia and has an excellent reputation. We are very excited about this possibility and that will make both organizations stronger and offer more options for our families.

Since the last newsletter, the KAS staff has been busy traveling. Emily has been in China. Tammy has trav-

eled to Guatemala and Lucy has visited Haiti, El Salvador and Guatemala. During this time of continued attacks on inter-country adoption as an option for children in need, we would ask that each of you please continue to stand in the gap for children in need of families. Children being sold into slavery for prostitution, domestic servitude and manual labor is unfortunately a sad reality throughout the world. International adoption is certainly not the answer to all the inequalities in the world, but it does offer a positive solution for some children; and like the story of the starfish it makes a big difference to "that one".

KAS remains committed to our humanitarian aid projects throughout the world and deeply desires to increase our service. This is only possible through your generous gifts!

Blessings,

## January Event a Success!

On January 26, 2008 KAS held the Annual Winter Event. We had over 100 people in attendance for the wonderful event.

The children had fun this year with the River City Clowns and also participated in festival games. Special thanks to Mary, Tyler, Ashley and Austin for all of your help with the game booths. You all are great!

Families in all stages of the adoption process were able to mingle and visit with old friends and also make some new ones.



Some of the KAS Family.

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Spring Issue

### BREAKING NEWS!!!

**As of February 29, 2008 Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc. is officially a Hague Accredited agency.**

**Thank you to everyone who prayed for the agency and staff during this process and for all of those who helped us with this process. We are grateful to our whole KAS family.**

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## Thanks!!!!

KAS would like to thank the following people for their generous donations.

Patrick and Amy Tucker

William and Mary Madigan

Wes and Karen Roberts

Stacie and Kenneth Beckner

Bennett's Auto Outlet

Hawesville Baptist Church

Samuel and Noah Tait

Pam Morris

Bruce and Tonya White

Harold and Mickey Newton

Heather Sandefur

Kristina Mitchell

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV

## Welcome Home!

The Vincent family welcomes Kaden from Guatemala.

The Blandford family welcomes Maya from Guatemala.

The Cook family welcomes Sammy from Guatemala.

The Montgomery family welcomes Aiden from Guatemala.

The Castlen family welcomes Monica from China.

Hobert and Christine welcome Elijah from the USA.

The Tucker family welcomes Sullivan from Guatemala.

The Saalwaechter family welcomes Josi from Guatemala.

The Sozio family welcomes Ella from Guatemala.

The Manea family welcomes Mossy from China.

The Greenwell family welcomes Alex from Guatemala.

The King family welcomes Landen from Guatemala.

The Rodriguez family welcomes Lily from Guatemala.

The Cuomo family welcomes Sarah from Guatemala.

The Vanover family welcomes Cole from Korea.

The Arnold family welcomes Kaya from Guatemala.

The Caudill family welcomes Emily from Guatemala.

The White family welcomes Isiah from Guatemala.

The Thomson family welcomes Karsten and Keegan from Guatemala.

The Ford family welcomes Maggie from China.

David and Mindy welcome Kaydence from the USA.

## Fundraiser Updates!

### Photograph Fundraiser Results

On January 26th, 2008 R&R portraits were on hand to photograph families. Each family paid \$15 to be photographed and also receive a framed 10x13 canvas portrait. For each family that purchased this portrait, KAS received the full \$15. We had 15 families photographed for a total from the Fundraiser of \$225.

We want to thank everyone who participated and look for this fundraiser again in the future.

### Cell Phone Fundraiser Progress

The cell phone fundraiser has not gone as well as we had first thought. We have had some great response from everyone but unfortunately the company that we are working with does not accept all of the phones that we are currently receiving. If the phone is damaged or old they will recycle it and not pay us for it. To date we have made

\$32.50 for 84 phones that we have submitted to them. If you have any phones collected that you would like to turn in to us, please feel free to send those in, but at this time we are going to discontinue this fundraising effort. Thanks again for all of your help!

### Chinese Traditional Clothing Store.

While Emily was in China she was able to purchase a limited amount of traditional Chinese pajamas and dresses in sizes that range from 2-14. Each outfit can be purchased at the cost of \$20, all proceeds going toward Humanitarian Aid.

*To learn more about what we have for sale please contact the office at 270-684-2598. Also, if you have a great fundraising idea for KAS please email the idea to [mandy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org](mailto:mandy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org)*

## Waiting Packets and KAS Yuku Online Forum

KAS is getting into the digital age more and more. We now have all of the Client Waiting Packets online, as well as a family forum for all current and former KAS families. Below are the instructions for signing up for both the Waiting Packets and the Yuku Forum.

### Waiting Packets

The KAS Waiting Packets and other guides are now located on a password protected site that is available to families in process, as well as once they arrive home. You will be required to have a password and user name to view these documents, so to obtain your password please contact Mandy at [mandy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org](mailto:mandy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org). We are not mailing the waiting packets anymore so if you have not received a waiting packet, or if you do not have internet access please contact the office.

These packets are separated by program and include the Monthly Waiting Packets, Dossier Information, Travel information and much more. Once you have received your user name and password you will need to go to: [www.kentuckyadoptionsservices.org/documents/index.php](http://www.kentuckyadoptionsservices.org/documents/index.php) to view your waiting packets.

### Yuku KASClientForum

The KAS Client Forum on Yuku is a great place for families to go online and meet other KAS families who are in the same stage as you. We ask that all families sign up

for this, and check it at least once a week so that you can keep up with the major things going on with KAS.

To sign up you first need to go to the following website address: <http://kasclientgroup.yuku.com/>. It will bring up a log in screen; from here you need to create a profile. This will ask you to fill in your name, password, gender, age and a few simple questions. Once you have filled out everything that is requested, it will take you to a page asking for your username. You can select one; please include your name as part of the user name. Then hit enter or next.

It will then take you to a Getting Started Guide. You will see a link that says Back to KASClientGroup. Select it. Then another box will appear saying at the top to Apply for Membership. Type in your message, include your full name and that you are applying for membership to KAS board. Press Apply for membership.

Once you have applied for membership you will get a box that tells you your membership is Pending. Before you can access the board, Mandy must approve you. Please email Mandy at [mandy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org](mailto:mandy@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org) to let her know that you have submitted your request. She will approve it as soon as she receives your request.

## KAS Upcoming Summer Event

KAS will be having its annual Family Summer Event on Saturday, July 26th at Yellow Creek Park in Owensboro, Kentucky. Plans for the day are still in the works but we hope to make this the biggest and best event yet.

If you have any ideas for the event please let Mandy know. We are trying to make it fun for both parents and children.

We are working on having a block of rooms available at a local hotel for families to book a room and come early. We are also going to try to set up a casual dinner on Friday night for anyone who would like to attend.

Please watch your mail in the coming months for your invitation and RSVP to this event.

## Waiting Children

### **Baby girl in Taiwan**

This sweet baby is in Taiwan. She is 10 months old. She has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. Medicals and additional photos are available. The fees for this adoption are very low and an escort is a possibility. We are seeking a strong Christian family with the experience and/or understanding of raising a special needs child.



**Daniel** (age 13) and **Genesis** (age 10) are beautiful children in Nicaragua waiting for a forever family. Daniel is described as a strong leader and was recently baptized. Both children are caring and loving.

Please pray the Lord will find His precious children families in His timing. If you know of anyone interested in adopting older children or a special needs child, please contact the KAS office or e-mail: [emily@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org](mailto:emily@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org).



## Program Updates

**CHINA:** The China Program is taking longer for referrals, as families are now waiting about 24 months for the referral of a child with anticipation that this time frame may yet increase. Emily has been doing a China Chat on the KAS EZ-Board each Thursday night from 8—9 PM CST. All China families are welcome to attend this chat. KAS has recently decided to switch our partnership to another agency for new China families. For the time being we will only be accepting families who live in Kentucky for this program. This change will not affect anyone whose adoption is already in process.

**KOREA:** There are currently no agencies accepting new applications for Korea programs from Kentucky families for healthy children. If you are interested in a child with special needs please contact the office.

FAC's Korea program is "On Hold" - they are currently not accepting new applications from families outside of Michigan and Ohio. When this situation changes, they intend to again open their program to partner agencies.

**DOMESTIC:** We continue to receive calls from expectant parents considering adoption as a plan for their unborn child. KAS continues to offer support to expectant mothers and to also network with other agencies who need families for children.

**GUATEMALA:** Guatemalan adoptions in process are continuing. We are not accepting any new families for Guatemala for relinquishment cases. Lucy recently visited the Central Authority in Guatemala (CNA) to plead on behalf of a precious little boy with some special needs. The CNA was extremely helpful and favorably disposed toward assisting with this child's adoption plan. Please keep this child in your prayers, as well as his prospective adoptive family! We are hopeful that Guatemala may work out a system whereby children in need will still be able to find adoptive families. All parties Lucy has spoken to agree that in-process cases will continue to completion. We do expect continued delays as PGN is rejecting cases for increasingly small technicalities and will keep all families notified of new and applicable information.

**EL SALVADOR:** KAS is actively seeking some adventurous families looking to adopt from this gorgeous Central American country. El Salvador is a time consuming process, whereby families must receive approval from the Central Authority of El Salvador in order to proceed with an adoption. As of January 1, 2008, Kathryn Winn is no longer employed with us, although she will remain at La Casa de Mi Padre and we wish her well on her future endeavors. Families must have been married for a minimum of 5 years and due to the length of time for adoption completion we are preferring families who already have children, which makes the emotional wait of adopting a bit easier. Although Salvadorian law allows for single females to adopt, in reality singles are rarely if ever approved. Please Note: There is some misinformation abounding about adopting from El Salvador—please contact us for the ACCURATE information. Lucy again recently met with the authorities in El Salvador. There remain several older children in desperate need of families.

**HAITI:** We are still looking forward to welcoming additional families into this program. Families must be at least 28 years old. Single women are accepted. Families must be of the Jewish or Christian religion and should not have more than 4 children. The laws in Haiti may be changing soon—we will keep all interested families current on what is happening with the Haiti adoption program! We are currently working with two children's homes in Port au Prince, Haiti, as well as Promises of Hope, the orphanage built through funding by KAS.

**UKRAINE:** The Ukrainian process is different from other programs, as parents receive a referral of their child when they travel to the country. The adoption process can take anywhere from six to twelve months after submitting your dossier to the State Department of Adoptions (SDA). After the SDA processes and approves the dossier, they contact KAS and the family directly to extend an invitation to travel to the Ukraine on a specific date to receive a referral of a child. Children available range in age from 18 months to 14 years of age, the most common ages being 3-4 years. KAS is ready to begin accepting families for this program.

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## Update on KAS Board President, Charlie Henry

Thanks to all of you for your prayers on behalf of our Board President, Charlie Henry. He is still having some medical issues and we appreciate your continued prayers.

On Thursday, March 20, 2008, Charlie is scheduled for some additional tests .

Please pray for wisdom for his health care providers and for healing for Charlie.



## Manea Journey to Mossy

Our adoption journey started almost eight years ago when we were pursuing an adoption from Romania for a daughter since this is my husband's birth country. We already had two biological sons Sean and Seth. We met Lucy who was writing our home study. We submitted our dossier in November of 2000 and Romania closed their program December 2000. It looked like God had different plans for our family.

Stan and I became foster parents and within two and a half years had three boys placed with our family who were available for adoption, so it was only natural that we adopt them. So we added Jonathan, Andrew and Kenny to our family; now we had five sons.

We knew we still wanted a daughter, so in June 2005, we contacted Lucy at KAS and submitted our dossier to China 12.12.05 and waited and waited and waited for almost two years. On 12.05.07 we finally received the call from Emily



and she told us we had a daughter, finally.

BoAi was born June 18, 2007 in Poyang, China. I drove to Owensboro the next day and Emily presented sweet BoAi's (Mossy's) referral information to me. Stan was unable to be with me, so the KAS staff emailed the pictures to our home so we could see the first picture of our beautiful daughter together. And she was beautiful, everything we were expecting and more! Since our children at home were 6, 6, and 5, we decided I would travel alone while Stan stayed home with our sons. After talking to Emily several times we discussed her traveling with me and Lucy so graciously agreed to allow Emily to share this amazing journey with me.

On January 19, 2008 Emily met me at the St. Louis airport and off we went. All I can say to the waiting families, "It is SO worth the wait"..don't give up! Thanks to the KAS family for making all of our dreams come true!

## Adoption Tax Credit— What you need to know!

You qualify for the **adoption tax credit** if you adopted a child and paid out-of-pocket expenses relating to the adoption. Adoption expenses include any and all costs directly relating to your adoption and that are reasonable and necessary for your adoption. Expenses include adoption fees, legal fees, court costs, and travel expenses. **Taxpayers who adopt a special needs child** can claim the full amount of the adoption credit without regard to the actual expenses paid in the year the adoption becomes final.

The adoption credit is calculated on Form 8839 Qualified Adoption Expenses. You may claim an adoption credit of up to \$11,390 (for tax year 2007) per eligible child. In 2008 the adoption credit will go up to \$11,650 per eligible child.

### When to claim the Adoption Credit

What year you can claim the adoption credit depends on when the adoption was finalized and whether the adopted child is a US citizen, resident alien, or foreign national.

**If the child is a US citizen or resident alien**, then you take the adoption credit in the following order:

- for expenses paid before the adoption is final, you take the adoption credit in the year after your expenses were paid,
- for expenses paid in the same year that the adoption is

final, you take the adoption credit in the same year, and  
 · for expenses paid in the year after the adoption is final, you take the adoption credit in the year the expenses were paid.

**If the child is a foreign national**, then you take the adoption credit only in the year when the adoption becomes final. Any expenses paid in the year after the adoption is finalized, you can take a credit for those expenses in the year that you paid them.

If your adopted child does not yet have a Social Security Number, you must apply for an Adoption Tax ID Number (ATIN) in order for you to begin claiming your adopted child as a dependent. The IRS provides comprehensive information on the Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number.

### Carrying Forward the Adoption Credit

Any adoption credit in excess of your tax liability can be carried forward to the next tax year. Excess adoption credits can be carried-forward for five years and is used up on a first-in, first-out basis. The IRS provides a Credit Carryforward Worksheet in the Instructions for Line 18 of Form 8839.

For more information visit: <http://taxes.about.com/od/deductionscredits/qt/adoptioncredit.htm> .

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.org**

*"Finding Families for God's Children"*

## Culture Corner— UKRAINE

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It borders Russia to the east, Belarus to the north, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to the west, Romania and Moldova to the south-west, and the Black Sea and Sea of Azov to the south. The city of Kiev (*Kyiv*) is Ukraine's capital.

The Ukrainian word *Ukrayina* is from Old East Slavic *ukraina* "borderland", from *u* "by, at" and the Slavic root *kraj* "edge; region". In the Ukrainian language *krayina* simply means "country." In English, the country is referred to without the definite article, conforming to the usual English grammar rules for names of countries. Before the country's independence in 1991, the country was often referred to as "The Ukraine." The term 'Ukraine' rather than 'The Ukraine' is now predominant in diplomacy and journalism.

Ukrainian customs are heavily influenced by Christianity, which is the dominant religion in the country. The

culture of Ukraine has also been influenced by its eastern and western neighbors, which is reflected in its architecture, music and art.

### The Pysanka

The tradition of the Easter egg, known as *pysanka*, has long roots in Ukraine. These eggs were drawn on with wax to create a pattern; then, the dye was applied to give the eggs their pleasant colors, the dye did not affect the previously wax-coated parts of the egg. After the entire egg was dyed, the wax was removed leaving only the colorful pattern. This tradition is thousands of years old, and precedes the arrival of Christianity to Ukraine.



### Kartoplyanka (Potato Soup)

#### Ingredients

1 small onion, chopped	chopped dill or parsley
2 tbsp butter	4 cups soup stock
2 medium potatoes, diced fine	2 cups water
1 small stalk celery, diced	1 tsp salt
1 cup shredded cabbage	1 tbsp flour
	1/3 Cup of Sour Cream

#### Directions

Cook onion in butter until slightly wilted. Add vegetables, soup stock, water and salt. Cover and cook until vegetables are tender. Blend flour with sour cream. Spoon some soup liquid into it, stir into soup and bring to a boil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Garnish with dill or parsley. Serve with rye bread.

