

A Child's Hope

Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.



Lucy's Letter

Greetings!

2008 is flying by with lots of changes in adoptions, as well as with our office. The Hague Treaty went into effect for the US on April 1 and as many of you are aware options for international adoption are dwindling. In spite of the increasing challenges and added bureaucracy, KAS has actually increased our commitment to humanitarian aid! We are in desperate need of your tax deductible donations to help us continue funding our various projects worldwide. So far, God has provided the means to allow us to minister to children in need and we prayerfully continue turning to him to continue meeting our budgetary needs. (To see a copy of our 990 tax filings from 2007 you can go to www.guidestar.org.) The cost of food has increased by approximately 50% in many of the countries where we work, making support all the more critical. We appreciate anything you can offer.

In July 2008 KAS and Homestudies and Adoption Placement Services, Inc.

(licensed in New Jersey) signed an Affiliation Agreement, with the intent of a merger before the end of 2008. We are very pleased with the additional opportunities this will offer our families and believe combining forces with another reputable agency will be a great asset.

On my recent trip to Africa, I had such a memorable time visiting Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal and The Gambia. We have committed to a project called The Hope for Children Project in The Gambia, which will fund a children's home, a library and eventually an auditorium for the use of needy children. We plan to assist a project in Ghana that frees enslaved children (some as young as 3 and 4 years old) and helps reintegrate them into their families and/or Ghanaian



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KAS Upcoming Summer Event

KAS will be having its annual Family Summer Event on Saturday, July 26th at Yellow Creek Park in Owensboro, Kentucky. This event is a great way to meet other adoptive families and create long lasting friendships. No matter where you are in process—still deciding if adoption is right for you or already an adoptive family—we encourage you to attend, as this is a great way for you to learn more about your chosen country through other adoptive families.

The event will begin at 11:00 am and

end at 3:00 pm. We are located by the spray park, so be sure to bring your child's swim suit and rubber soled shoes.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. We ask that each family bring the following corresponding to their last name:

A-H: Chilled Drinks—No 2 liters (Soft Drinks, Bottled Water or juice boxes ONLY)

I-O: Desserts—Individually wrapped items (Cookies, Brownies, & Snack Cakes)
We will not have cups or utensils.

P-Z: Chips or Toddler Snacks

We can't wait to see you there.

Volume 4, Issue 2

Summer Issue

BREAKING NEWS!!!

KAS has some brand new programs available to families interested in International Adoption. Our Ghana and The Gambia programs are the result of Lucy's trip to Africa. We also have a new network program for Kentucky families for adoptions from Ethiopia through Illien Adoptions and Russia. Please see the Program updates for information on these new programs.

We are pleased to announce that Korea is once again open for Kentucky families.

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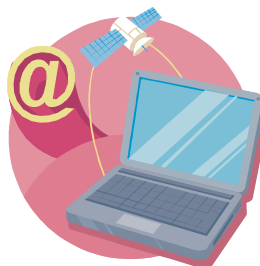
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Digital Newsletter

As most Americans know the economic crunch is hitting everyone hard. Here at KAS we are working hard to find ways to cut administrative costs instead of the dreaded alternative of raising fees. We have researched different options and have found one that we feel not only helps cut our cost, but also make us a little more "Green" in the process. This option is to reduce our copy and mailing costs by doing a digital newsletter.

We are currently in the process of compiling email addresses for everyone who receives the KAS newsletter so that we may be able to make the switch to a digital newsletter in the coming months. We expect to have all addresses in place so that when you receive your fall newsletter it will come to your



email box instead of your mailbox.

Very soon, there will be a link on our website that will take you to a form in which you can sign up to receive the newsletter. If you currently have an email on file with KAS then you will be added directly to the list. You may receive an email requesting you to approve this addition and update your information. We appreciate your assistance with this process.

Should you not have access to email and prefer to be kept on the paper mailing list, we would ask that you please contact the office and update your address information so that we can make sure that everyone receives the KAS newsletter.

Waiting Children

Sibling Group in Haiti

Wilson (pictured left) six years old, Wilberson (pictured middle) four years old, and Wildania (pictured right) 6 months old are currently residing in an orphanage in Haiti. Their mother has passed away and their father brought them to the orphanage because he was not able to care for them.

The boys enjoy playing ball and being together. Wildania is a very active and seemingly healthy infant. They were all malnourished when they arrived at the orphanage and are beginning to thrive with the love and care they are receiving.

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



KAS Schedule of Fees Change Effective June 1, 2008

As of June 1, 2008 KAS has revised its schedule of fees and country fees. Below is a list of fees that have changed. If your formal application was received prior to June 1st you will be under the old fee schedule. If your formal application was received after June 1st, these are the changes that you will see:

- Post Adoption Fees: \$200 (raised from \$150)
- Domestic Placement Fee: \$12,000 (raised from \$10,000)
- Domestic Networking Fee: \$600 (raised from \$500)
- El Salvador Agency Fee: \$5,000 (raised from \$4,000)

The fees with post-placements/post-adoption visits have also been updated. As stated previously the fees have been raised to \$200 per visit. Most countries require at least three visits, with one visit occurring in the home. As

of June 1st, if a family requests to have more than one of their post-placement/post-adoption visits in their home, they will be subject to a higher fee.

Mileage Rates have also increased. All mileage will now be billed at a rate of \$0.40 cents per mile. Surcharge rates have also been raised to \$15 for 0-200 miles, \$30 for 201-350 miles, and \$50 for over 350 miles. Surcharges will be added to the incurred fee including mileage for each home visit and each post-placement. The mileage is roundtrip from the city of residence of the assigned caseworker. At this time KAS has workers in Owensboro, Bowling Green, and Erlanger, KY. We do our best to try and schedule families together to decrease this cost. However, this is not always possible.

Program Updates

CHINA: The CCAA has reviewed dossiers through January 31, 2007. As of 7/08, the CCAA has placed children with families through January 25, 2006. The wait time for a referral is presently at 29+ months. All families are welcome to join China Chat on the KAS EZ-Board each Thursday night from 8-9 pm CST. KAS is now networking with Madison Adoption for our China program. We are accepting families who reside in Kentucky.

KOREA: One of our partner agencies is once again accepting new applications for Korea programs from Kentucky families for children with mild or moderate special needs. If you are interested in the process from Korea please contact Lydia.

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. KAS has raised fees as of June 1st for the KAS Domestic Placement Program. Any family who submitted their Formal Application after June 1st will be subject to the new fee of \$12,000. This fee is necessary because of increased expenses toward advertising and expanding the Domestic program.

ETHIOPIA: Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc. proudly partners with Illien Adoptions, International, a licensed child placing agency based in Atlanta, Georgia to assist Kentucky families in their pursuit of an adoption from Ethiopia. Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc. and Illien Adoptions have created a cooperative working relationship to provide ethical, professional and quality service delivery to both children and families. Infants and children of all ages are available for adoption. Both married couples and single women are allowed to adopt from Ethiopia.

GUATEMALA: Guatemalan adoptions in process are continuing. We are not accepting any new families for Guatemala. 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. 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 ap-

proved. Please Note: There is some misinformation abounding about adopting from El Salvador—please contact us for the ACCURATE information. This program is an excellent choice for families seeking older children.

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 3 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.

THE GAMBIA: KAS is pleased to be the first and only adoption agency authorized to work in this gorgeous West African country. Children available from The Gambia will be 9 months and up and will be either fully orphaned or abandoned. Fees are reasonable, with a significant portion going directly into humanitarian aid. We anticipate the adoption process will take less than 12 months and are excited to have already accepted our first families into this pilot program.

GHANA: KAS is beginning an adoption program in Ghana. Details will be offered in the next newsletter, as well as online.

RUSSIA: KAS is able to Assist Kentucky families with adoptions from Russia. For more information please contact the office.

UKRAINE: Ukraine 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 State Department 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 accepting families for this program.

**For up to date information regarding our
Programs and Fees
please visit our website at
www.kentuckyadoptionservices.org
Or
email the office at
mandy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org**

Thanks!!!!

We would like to thank the following people for their donation to KAS' many endeavors. If you would like to learn how you can make a tax deductible donation to KAS please contact kelly@kentuckyadoptionsservices.org.

William and Mary Lou Madigan - \$50
 Blackford & Association \$50.00
 Theresa and Philip Whiteford \$250.00
 Hawesville Baptist Church \$500 plus their donation of goods.

We also would like to thank everyone who gave to our Humanitarian Aid Donations for Haiti request.

The Nelson family \$75.00
 The May Family \$200.00
 The McClure Family \$75.00
 The Ehrhart Family \$40.00
 The Grooms Family \$100.00
 The Tucker Family \$150.00
 Patrica and David Steinmuller \$75.00
 Karen Collins \$140.00
 Stockton School District: Elementary Teachers and Students and Kim Schmid's Social Studies classes \$458.18

Welcome Home!

The Hill family welcomes Andrew from Guatemala.
 The Hickey family welcomes Kaden from Guatemala.
 The Shapaka family welcomes Addison from Guatemala.
 Jennifer and Hadji welcome Isaiah from the USA.
 Bill and Robin welcome Hunter from the USA.
 The Thatcher family welcomes Jacklyn from Guatemala.

The Horton family welcomes Ava from Guatemala.
 The Galyen family welcomes Grace from Guatemala.
 The Himonidis family welcomes Ava from Guatemala.
 The Hamari family welcomes Charis from Guatemala.
 The Koehn family welcomes Zachary from Guatemala.
 David and Heather welcome Brennan from the USA.

Fundraiser Updates!

KAS Adoption Services Nights

KAS has four Dinner nights scheduled at Owensboro Area Restaurants throughout July and August. We hope that you will be able to take the family to dinner and help KAS raise money to help the many orphaned and abandoned children throughout the world.

The following are the participating restaurants, dates and times. Each location will be donating a portion of your meal cost directly to KAS.

- **Applebees: July 22nd from 11 am to Close**

- **The Blind Parrot: July 23rd from 3 pm to Close**
- **Texas Roadhouse: August 4th from 4 pm to 10:30 pm**
- **Beef o' Brady's: August 20th from 4 pm to 8 pm**

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.

Kentucky Adoption Services Night at Texas Roadhouse



**August 4th, 2008
 4 P.M.—10:30 P.M.**

Present this KAS Night Coupon and KAS will receive 10% of your dinner check (dine in OR to go)



Not redeemable with any other coupons or on alcohol.

MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR KAS TO RECEIVE THE DONATION, THANKS!

Lucy's Letter—Continued from Page 1

society when appropriate or make an adoption plan for their future. We have also submitted paperwork to apply for accreditation in another African country.

We are in need of prayers and financing to assist our orphanage in Haiti. Unfortunately since the last newsletter we have had two infants pass away at the home just days after their admittance. In spite of medical intervention there was nothing that could be done. We take relief in knowing these precious infants are home with their heav-

enly Father, although this does not entirely take away the earthly grief we feel at this sad loss.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Bendiciones,

KAS Family Adoption Fundraisers

KAS knows how difficult it is to raise the money to complete an adoption. That is why we would like to offer families the opportunity to list their fundraising events in our newsletter so that each family receives extra exposure. If you would like to add your adoption fundraiser or learn more about those mentioned please send an email to:

mandy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org.

Phelps Family Fundraisers:

July 12th-Softball tournament in Greenville, KY

July 26th- Softball tournament in Slaughters, KY

These are Co-ed tournaments with a \$100 entry fee per team. Teams must have 6 men and 4 women. Please contact Meghann Phelps at 270-315-2712 for information on signing up.

Culture Corner— Ghana

Ghana is situated on the southern coast of the West African bulge and is bordered to the east by Togo, to the west by the Ivory Coast, to the south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and northwest by Burkina Faso. Ghanians are known for their friendliness and receptiveness. There are seven tribal languages spoken in Ghana, but English is the official language of Ghana.

Ghana is only a few degrees north of the Equator, therefore giving it a warm tropical climate. Lake Volta, the world's largest artificial lake, extends through large portions of eastern Ghana. Unfortunately child slavery is a common problem around Lake Volta.

Religious divisions are as follows: Christian 63%, African

beliefs 21%, and Muslim 16%. The Christianity practiced in Ghana has many aspects of traditional African religion integrated into it. Ghana has the highest percentage of Christians in West Africa.

Soups are the primary component in Ghanaian cuisine and are eaten with fufu (either pounded plantain and cassava or yam), kokonte (cassava meal cooked into a paste), banku (fermented corn dough), boiled yam, rice, bread, plantain, or cassava. The most common soups are light soup, palmnut soup, and groundnut (peanut) soup.




Kontomire Stew or Palaver Sauce

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Palm Oil or Crisco Oil
- 2 pounds Kontomire, or any Cooked Green Leaf Vegetable (agusi)
- 6 - 8 Shallots
- 1 1/2 pound Flaked Fish, Corned Beef, or Stew Meat
- 3 Tomatoes or 2 tablespoons Tomato Puree
- 1/2 pint Water
- 4 ounces Pine Nuts, optional
- 4 ounces Shrimp, Scallops, or other Shellfish, cooked
- Salt & Pepper

Directions

Boil leaves until soft (save liquid); mash to pulp & set aside. Soak agusi in small amount of water for 5 minutes. Fry onion and tomato puree in oil. Add agusi and simmer 10 minutes. Add fish or meat, lobster, a small amount of the leaf liquid and mashed leaves. Season. Serve hot with rice, yam, or potatoes, or as a meat sauce.



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"Finding Families for God's Children"