



## JULY/AUGUST UPDATE

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Annual Adoption Picnic!**

We hope that you and your family can join us for our third annual adoption picnic!

The picnic is a great opportunity for adoptive parents to meet others who have adopted and share stories, support, food, and fun. It is an opportunity for your children to meet other kids who may have a similar experience. For prospective adoptive parents, you will have a chance to speak with those who have gone through the experience, as well as our team! Please bring with you anyone who is interested in adoption or orphan care, including all family and friends!

Drinks, main dish and activities will be provided.

All in attendance are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Last names beginning **A-R**, please bring a side dish. Last names beginning **S-Z**, please bring desert

Where: FOREST PARK, 701 CICERO ROAD, NOBLESVILLE IN SHELTER #1

When: SEPTEMBER 18, 2010 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Please RSVP by emailing [Nicole@MLJAdoptions.com](mailto:Nicole@MLJAdoptions.com). We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Initial Adoption Seminar**

MLJ is offering a Free Initial Adoption Seminar for those considering either international or domestic adoption on **September 8th from 6-8 p.m.** at the MLJ Adoptions, Inc. offices.

Please RSVP by visiting <http://mljadoptions.com/SeminarInfo.aspx>.

#### **Affording Adoption**

MLJ Adoptions, Inc. will be offering free seminars addressing the cost of adoption and the opportunities for adoption funding, including grants, loans, tax credits, HR benefits, fund-raising, and more. Led by our Financial Resource Coordinator. Seminars will be provided on the following dates and times:

September 18, 2010 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Twin City Bible Baptist located at 7252 S. Meridian Marion, Indiana 46953.

October 16, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at MLJ Adoptions, Inc.

Please RSVP by visiting <http://mljadoptions.com/SeminarInfo.aspx>.

### COUNTRY UPDATES

#### **Bulgaria**

Bulgaria is a Hague country program, meaning that the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption governs all adoptions from Bulgaria. As one of the few Hague Approved agencies in Indiana, we are happy to provide adoption services in Hague countries. We are excited about this new country program and feel it will quickly become one of our most popular, as young children are available and little travel is required.

If you are interested in adoption from Bulgaria, please contact [Lydia@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Lydia@mljadoptions.com).

#### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

We are thrilled to announce that 8 beautiful children have come home from the Democratic Republic of Congo. WELCOME HOME!

Jacob, age 5  
Kamila, 6 months  
Makayla, age 1  
Nyima, 6 months  
Plamedi, age 5  
Priska, age 2  
Sasha, age 1  
Story, 9 months

In country news, an additional exit requirement has been implemented in Congo. In order for traveling

parents to exit Congo with their child they must have a visa, passport and two exist approvals.

Due to this current process, prospective adoptive parents are discouraged from traveling to Congo. In addition to liability and safety concerns, traveling parents can now expect to stay in-country for between one and three months, if not using an escort. MLJ is happy to provide escort services to our families.

Contact [Sonja@mljoptions.com](mailto:Sonja@mljoptions.com), if you are interested in adopting from Congo.

### **Haiti**

Children of all ages are available for adoption from Haiti. If you are interested in adopting a child from Haiti, please contact [Lydia@mljoptions.com](mailto:Lydia@mljoptions.com).

### **Honduras**

Michele L. Jackson and Lydia Tarr, Assistant Program Director for Latin America will be traveling to Honduras in September. They will be meeting with government officials and visiting orphanages in the country.

Contact [Lydia@mljoptions.com](mailto:Lydia@mljoptions.com), if you are interested in adopting a child from Honduras.

### **Nicaragua**

The Fatherless Foundation is offering an Orphan Care service trip to Nicaragua in February of this year. This is a great opportunity to assist orphans and understand the plight of orphans worldwide.

Please contact [Nicole@mljoptions.com](mailto:Nicole@mljoptions.com) if you are interested in the Nicaragua service trip.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Nicaragua, please contact [Lydia@mljoptions.com](mailto:Lydia@mljoptions.com).

### **Other Countries**

If you or someone you know is interested in adopting a child from a country where we do not have a current program, let us know, as there are several services that we can provide.

## **ADOPTION PREPARATION**

### **Home Studies**

We offer home study services for both domestic and international adoption for all countries with adoption programs. We have been completing home studies for international adoptions from

such countries as Ghana, China and Pakistan, in addition to our country programs. As a Hague Approved agency, we are able to conduct home studies for all countries.

If you are an Indiana resident and would like to start the home study process please contact Nicole Skellenger at [Nicole@mljoptions.com](mailto:Nicole@mljoptions.com).

### **New Adoption Preparation Team Member**

We would like to welcome Mandy Parrino to the team, as our BSW intern. Mandy is a great asset to the team with her social work background and adoption experience, as she completed her own adoption from Swaziland.

## **READOPTION**

Due to the recently implemented Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, all adoptions completed in foreign countries must be domesticated through the legal process of readoption. This process should be started as soon as your child comes home.

Please contact [Nicole@mljoptions.com](mailto:Nicole@mljoptions.com) for more information.

## **TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **Nicole Skellenger, Director of Operations**

Nicole joined MLJ Adoptions, Inc. in 2008 as a law student intern. During her internship she developed a passion for finding homes for orphans as well as the legal and social aspects of adoption. She started this August as our newest Director.

Nicole received her Juris Doctor Degree from Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis in May 2010 with the honor of a gold award for exceptional pro bono service. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Florida State University in 2007, where she majored in Public Relations and Theatre.

**Stay connected!** Follow MLJ on Twitter and become a fan on Facebook. We look forward staying connected on-line!