



## MAY UPDATE

### COUNTRY UPDATES

#### Ukraine

The Fatherless Foundation, Inc. is facilitating a hosting program for several Ukrainian orphans from June 9<sup>th</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup>. There are still five more children that are in need of host families. This is a great opportunity to experience what it would be like to adopt a child of a different ethnicity or an older child.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact [Valerie@thefatherlessfoundation.org](mailto:Valerie@thefatherlessfoundation.org).

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

#### Nicaragua

Thank you to the families who have selflessly opened their hearts and homes to host several orphans from Nicaragua. Your hosting experience will undoubtedly change your life, as well as the life of the child you host. Thank you for providing these children with an opportunity to experience family!

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

#### Honduras

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

#### Democratic Republic of Congo

We are thrilled that our first Congolese child will be homing home this summer!

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

#### Bulgaria

We have officially opened our newest Country program, Bulgaria!

This program is open to married couples, as well as single men and women. There is no length of marriage requirement.

The children available for adoption are 12 months to school age children. The children are primarily of Roma ethnicity or of Gypsy decent. There are occasionally children of "true" Bulgarian decent, however, such children are much less frequently available. No children from Bulgaria are considered "Caucasian" and children of fair appearance cannot be specified. Sibling groups and special needs children are available.

Two trips are required (one to visit and one to come home, approximately five days each) and it may be possible for an escort to bring the child home.

The process is not considered started until your dossier arrives in the country. Once the dossier is received, parents will receive a referral in 6-18 months, depending on age and gender of child desired.

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

#### Haiti

Our Haitian Program Director, Lydia Tarr, and Executive Director, Michele L. Jackson returned from Haiti recently. We anticipate opening our Haiti program late this summer.

**Coming Soon:** Parent requirements, children available and information about the process.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Haiti, 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. If you are an Indiana resident and would like to start the home study process please contact Sonja Brown at [Sonja@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Sonja@mljadoptions.com).

## 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 [Sonja@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Sonja@mljadoptions.com), for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Initial Adoption Seminar

MLJ is offering a Free Initial Adoption Seminar for those considering either international or domestic adoption on **June 9th from 6-8 p.m.** at the MLJ Adoptions, Inc. offices.

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

If you reside sixty (60) miles or more away from our offices, you are eligible for a free telephonic informational seminar. Please contact [Nicole@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Nicole@mljadoptions.com) to schedule your free telephonic consultation.

### Affording Adoption

We are thrilled to announce that 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, who raised more than \$50,000 for her own adoptions. Seminars will be provided on the following dates and times:

June 19, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at MLJ Adoptions, Inc.

August 28, 2010 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at MLJ Adoptions, Inc.

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

### Adoption Education

The next adoption education course will be offered at MLJ on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. This session is entitled "Preparation & Adjustment."

Please contact [Sonja@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Sonja@mljadoptions.com), or visit [www.mljadoptions.com](http://www.mljadoptions.com) to RSVP.

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Sonja Brown, African Program Director and Administrative Director

Born in Hamburg Germany, Sonja immigrated to the United States when she was 17 months old. Sonja grew up in the Indianapolis area and attended the University of Indianapolis, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1983. Upon graduation, Sonja moved to Dallas, Texas, where she continued her education, earning her Master's Degree in Business & Human Relations.

Sonja currently resides with her husband of 17 years and three children. Sonja is kept busy managing the family owned construction business, writing, and working as Administrative Director and African Program Director for MLJ Adoptions, Inc. Additionally, Sonja volunteers for Kid's Voice, an Indianapolis organization dedicated to the welfare of neglected and abused children, and [The Fatherless Foundation](#), Inc. a not-for-profit assisting orphans and adoptive families. Sonja is the author of two published books, [Starting Over](#) and [My Face Is Falling](#).

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

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