



August Update

Hello! It has been a busy month at MLJ Adoptions. We are so excited that four more children arrived home from Congo. Plans continue for the Crossroads of America Adoption Conference that MLJ is hosting at the end of September. Continue reading for more information on Crossroads and everything else happening at MLJ and with our clients.



UPCOMING EVENTS

What's MLJ Up To?

September 14 – Initial Adoption Information Seminar at MLJ, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

September 17 - Affording Adoption Seminar at Wallen Baptist Church, Fort Wayne, IN, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

September 28 - Parenting & Latin American/Hispanic Culture offered at MLJ, 6 – 8 pm

September 30 – October 1 – Crossroads of America Adoption Conference, Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN

September 30 – The Fatherless Foundation Annual Fundraiser at the Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis, IN, 6:45 pm

October 2 – MLJ Annual Adoption Picnic, Forest Park, Noblesville, IN, 1 – 4 pm

Please visit:

<http://www.mljadoptions.com/SeminarInfo.aspx>
to view all of our upcoming seminars.

CROSSROADS OF AMERICA ADOPTION CONFERENCE

On September 30th and October 1st, MLJ Adoptions will be hosting the Crossroads of America Adoption Conference. The Conference will be located at The Harrison Center in downtown Indianapolis. We highly encourage all adoptive parents, prospective adoptive parents, adoption professionals, as well as those involved in orphan care to attend.

Foreign staff from Bulgaria, Congo, Honduras, Mexico, and Samoa will be in attendance. They will be available for questions throughout the conference, and will also have booths with country specific displays and information. All current and prospective clients are encouraged to come and meet the staff members integral to completing the adoption process in their child's country of origin.

As mentioned in a recent blog, speakers at the Conference will include a Biggest Loser winner, five book authors, three non-profit directors, foreign dignitaries, attorneys, pastors, social workers, doctors, a dentist, an occupational therapist, officers of the court, and more. We are sure that the information that they present will be invaluable.

Detailed information and online registration can be found by visiting <http://www.mljadoptions.com/ConferenceRegistration.aspx>.

We will continue to post information about this event on our website, and feel free to contact Stacy Jacobs at Stacy@mljadoptions.com for more information.

ADOPTION PREPERATION & SUPPORT SERVICE GROUPS

We have recently added video conferencing for our education and support group services. Video conferencing will make the education process much more convenient for our clients.

Please note one of our newer classes, *Creative Discipline Techniques for Adoptive Families*. This class will provide information on how to positively manage

behavior while continuing to focus on your child's emotional and attachment needs. The unintentional encouragement of a child's misbehavior will also be discussed. This class is appropriate for parents with children of all ages. Contact Lauren@MLJadoptions.com if you are interested.



COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

The Bulgaria program is very stable and continues to grow. We are thrilled that our foreign staff from this country will be attending the Crossroads of America Adoption Conference and conducting a presentation on orphan care and adoption in their country. This will be a must see for our families in process or thinking about an adoption from Bulgaria.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Bulgaria, please contact Lydia Tarr at Lydia@mljadoptions.com.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

We are excited to welcome home four children from the Congo this past month! Congratulations to the children and their families!

As a reminder, all Congo clients may send a care package to referred child(ren) residing in foster care if desired. Suggested items are clothing, comfort objects, small age appropriate toys, and photos. It is likely that you will not receive these items back when your child arrives home. If you would like to send a care package to your child, send all items to the MLJ office in a bag clearly marked with your child's name. Additionally, please send payment in the amount of \$50 to cover the airline baggage fees that will be incurred to deliver the packages to Congo.

Recently, through our professional connections, a licensed Physician's Assistant visited Congo. She graciously offered to visit all children currently in foster care/interim care homes and provide a limited report of her assessment. Those clients who took advantage of this one time opportunity for a Physical Development Impression should expect to receive the results of this assessment on or before September 30.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Congo, please contact Sonja Brown at Sonja@mljadoption.com.

HONDURAS

September 5-9, four staff members and a board member of MLJ Adoptions will participate in a service trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Three government orphanages will be visited with the purpose of obtaining and compiling information on the children.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Honduras, please contact Lydia Tarr at Lydia@mljadoptions.com.

MEXICO

Two MLJ Directors recently visited Mexico and met with many government officials. The meetings were very successful and we hope to be opening the Mexico pilot program in the near future.

We are honored that the First Lady of Hidalgo, Mexico will be speaking at the Crossroads of America Adoption Conference. She will speak on orphan care and adoption in Mexico. MLJ's in country attorney will also be present at the Conference.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua's adoption process continues to progress. Congratulations to the five families that have recently moved to the next step in their Nicaraguan adoptions!

SAMOA

We have seen steady progress in the adoption process for our five Samoa pilot families. One family has already received a referral! We still anticipate opening this program to other clients in the next 2-4 months, however cannot guarantee a full opening of the program within that time frame or thereafter.

As explained in previous updates, we will maintain two waiting lists for interested families. One waiting list is for those who have submitted an application and an application fee. The second waiting list is for those who have submitted an application and have also completed and submitted a home study. The home study ready waiting list will have priority. You will be assigned a number based on when you submitted your application and whether your home study is completed.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Samoa, please contact Sonja Brown at Sonja@mljadoption.com.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special needs children are available in all of our country programs. Special needs include mental, physical and emotional disabilities which can range from mild to severe. Children age 5 and older can also be considered special needs because they are harder to place with a family.

If you are interesting in adopting a child with special needs, please contact Amy Moore at Amy@mljadoptions.com.

UKRAINE

Ukraine is officially open to taking applications and will continue to process adoptions. Because of Ukrainian regulations, children available are 8 years and older. MLJ is now accepting new applications for the Ukraine program.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Ukraine, please contact Lydia Tarr at Lydia@mljadoptions.com.

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