



## June/July Update

Hello! The months of June and July have been busy ones for MLJ Adoptions. On June 1, we officially announced a new program pilot in Samoa. We have also been working hard finalizing details of The Crossroads of America Adoption Conference. Most importantly, we have welcomed home several children from three different countries!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

What's MLJ Up To?

July 16 – Affording Adoption Seminar, Twin City Bible Baptist Church, Marion, Indiana, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

July 19 – Parenting and Latin American/Hispanic culture at MLJ offered at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm

July 26 – From Infertility to Adoption at MLJ, 6:00 pm

August 2 – Transracial Parenting at MLJ, 11:00 am

August 13 – Initial Information Seminar at MLJ, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

August 20 – Affording Adoption Seminar at MLJ, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Please visit:

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

### CROSSROADS OF AMERICA ADOPTION CONFERENCE

On September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, MLJ Adoptions will be hosting the Crossroads of America Adoption Conference. We are excited to announce that we have finalized the location of the Conference; it will be held at The Harrison Center in downtown Indianapolis.

As mentioned in last month's Update, the Conference will offer various educational sessions for the adoptive parent, the prospective adoptive parent, the adoption professional, as well as those involved in orphan care. This is a great opportunity for our current and prospective clients to meet the foreign staff members completing their adoption process in their child's

country of origin. Foreign staff from MLJ's country programs will have booths and be available for questions.

Detailed information including a schedule of events 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](mailto:Stacy@mljadoptions.com) for more information.

### CLIENT BLOG CONTEST

Thank you to all of our clients who entered a blog for our blog contest! We received around 40 blog entries, and randomly chose three families that will receive a \$500 grant toward their adoption. Congratulations to our contest winners, who have already been notified.

Be on the lookout for future blogs from all of the families that entered the blog contest. Some of the blog topics include: managing stress during adoption, raising funds for adoption, celebrating your child's culture, and many more.

### NEW CLIENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

MLJ is offering an opportunity for new clients to receive grant monies throughout the month of July. The first 10 families who submit an application, application fee, contract and initial payment will receive a \$500 grant to be credited toward their second payment. We understand that the adoption process is expensive; it is our hope that the cost never hinders those parents who feel called to adopt.

### SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

MLJ recently implemented a new social media policy for our current clients. The policy is available for review by all clients on the Client Care database.

The purpose of this new policy is to educate our families on the dangers of disseminating information about the adoption process and specifically about a referred child. Please refer to this policy if you have a blog or other social media outlet where you have been sharing or wish to share information about your adoption.

## **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](mailto:Lydia@mljadoptions.com).

### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

One child arrived from Congo in June. Welcome home to 11 month old Dibu!

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.

We continue to receive conflicting information from the US Embassy regarding the use of Escorts for Congo adoptions. However, we are still successfully processing adoptions using our escorts. We are in constant contact with the State Department, and will continue to monitor the situation closely. Parents should be prepared for the possibility that travel may be required if requested by the US Embassy or the Congolese government.

If you are interested in adopting a child from Congo, please contact Sonja Brown at [Sonja@mljoption.com](mailto:Sonja@mljoption.com).

### **HONDURAS**

We have several exciting things to tell you about in regard to our Honduras program. First of all, please help us in welcoming 7 year old Angel David home. To

date, three children from Honduras have joined their forever families! In addition, we recently received a referral for a 16 month old girl.

September 5-9, MLJ will participate in a service trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. We plan to visit three government orphanages to obtain and compile information on the children. The cost of this trip will be approximately \$800 plus airfare, and the group will be limited to ten participants. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please contact Amy Moore at [Amy@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Amy@mljadoptions.com).

If you are interested in adopting a child from Honduras, please contact Lydia Tarr at [Lydia@mljadoptions.com](mailto:Lydia@mljadoptions.com).

### **MEXICO**

We continue to work with Mexican officials to ready this pilot program for opening. We anticipate that the program will open in late August. Our team will be traveling to the country soon to finalize details of this pilot program.

### **NICARAGUA**

The Supreme Court and Central Authority in Nicaragua, Mi Familia, have announced their desire to reduce the bureaucracy related to adoption. They have signed an agreement to limit the bureaucracy and make the adoption process more efficient. We are thankful that Nicaragua is committed to finding children homes in a more efficient manner. We will keep you updated as new information becomes available.

### **SAMOA**

At the beginning of June, we officially announced a new pilot program in Samoa, a small island in the South Pacific! We immediately had tremendous interest in this new program, and have selected our first five pilot families. We anticipate opening this program to other clients in the next 3-4 months, however cannot guarantee a full opening of the program within that time frame or thereafter.

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](mailto:Sonja@mljadoption.com).

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

In the recent months, we have added a Special Needs program. 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. Behavioral problems are part of the emotional disabilities group. In addition, children age 5 and older can 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](mailto:Amy@mljadoptions.com).

### **UKRAINE**

We are thrilled to welcome home Olivia – 9 years. Additionally, several other families will soon be on their way home from Ukraine. In the next few weeks we will welcome home Katherine- 8 years, Matthew - 6 years, Daniel – 10 years, Samuel – 8 years, Joshua – 6 years, and Misha - 8 years!

Ukraine continues to process adoptions of children age 8 years and up. However, because of the current instability, MLJ is not accepting new applications for the Ukraine program.

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