



A D O P T I O N S N E W S L E T T E R

November is National Adoption Awareness Month! It's a time when state government, communities, businesses and organizations celebrate adoption as a positive proactive way to build a family. It's a great time to celebrate your family and spread adoption awareness.

COUNTRY UPDATES

Ukraine

The H1N1 virus is affecting many of our Ukraine families. Ukraine officials have announced that measures such as temporary quarantines, school closures, and travel restrictions are being implemented, in an effort to slow the spread of the flu. Families should expect some delays.

Contact Lydia@mljadoptions.com if you are interested in adopting a child from Ukraine.

Nicaragua

The Fatherless Foundation is facilitating a hosting program from Nicaragua. Families are needed to host children from December 16 through January 3. The cost for hosting from Nicaragua is \$2,500, which is due by November 20. This opportunity is for Indiana residents only. Please contact mark@mljadoptions.com if you are interested.

Further, from November 24-29, Latin America Program Director Mark Reder and Michele Jackson will be traveling to Nicaragua to visit orphans with The Fatherless Foundation. We are thrilled to announce that the Foundation has paired up with a Granada Library to host a baseball clinic for local children. The Library has been very supportive in this endeavor and will be using the clinic to promote literacy by focusing on baseball books leading up to this event. Our group will be providing sports books, baseballs, bats, gloves and hats to the children (many of whom have never owned their own baseball gloves or bats).

Please contact sonja@mljadoptions.com if you have any baseball equipment, toys or gently used clothing that you would like to donate.

Honduras

Married couples and single women may adopt from Honduras. Parents must be between the ages of 25 and 51 and must have been married at least three years when submitting their dossier. Only one child may be adopted at a time, with the exception of sibling groups.

Contact Mark@mljadoptions.com, if you are interested in adopting a child from Honduras.

Democratic Republic of Congo

We are excited to report that Congo has now lifted the stipulation that married couples must be married for at least five years in order to adopt from Congo. This change was made in an effort to relieve the orphan crisis. There is now no stipulation that married couples have to be married any number of years. Singles and married couples - no matter how long you have been married - can adopt!

For more information please contact sonja@mljadoptions.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

Homestudies

We offer home study services for both domestic and international adoption. For information regarding a home study for international adoption, domestic adoption, stepparent adoption, second parent adoption, relative adoption, etc. Please contact Brooke@MLJadoptions.com.

Adoption Education

The next adoption education course will be offered at MLJ on November 11 from 6-8 p.m. This session, entitled "Parenting an Adopted Child," is a mandatory course for adoptive parents. This course discusses the stages of child development as they affect the adopted child.

The next education course will be offered at MLJ on December 9 from 6-8 p.m. This session is entitled "Preparation and Adjustment."

Please contact sonja@mljadoptions.com, or visit www.mljadoptions.com to RSVP.

PAST EVENTS

3rd Annual Fatherless Foundation, Inc. Auction

Thank you to so many of you who attended the 3rd Annual Fatherless Foundation Auction. The Foundation raised \$10,000+ including corporate donations for orphan care and adoption. Over one hundred adults and thirty children were in attendance. Thank you!

Fall Vintage Fashion Auction

The Annual Fall Vintage and Designer Fashion Auction hosted by the Fatherless Foundation was a huge success! Thank you to all who came out to this event, supporting the Foundation and their mission of providing assistance to orphans worldwide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nicaragua Service Trip

From November 24th to 30th members of our team and several volunteers will be traveling to Nicaragua. During their stay they would like to provide orphanages with supplies as well as cash donations. Please contact sonja@mljadoptions.com if you have anything that you would like to donate.

Initial Adoption Seminar

MLJ is offering a Free Initial Adoption Seminar for those considering either international or domestic adoption on December 6, 2009 from 12-2pm. The seminar will be conducted at Connection Pointe Christian Church located at 1800 N. Green Street Brownsburg, Indiana 46112.

Please visit www.mljadoptions.com to RSVP.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We are happy to introduce the FAQ section to our newsletter. Each month our team will compile several frequently asked questions from our families and answer them for everyone in this newsletter.

1. What are Forms I-600A and I-600 and what is the difference?

Form I-600A is the "Application for Advancing Processing of Orphan Petition." The purpose of this form is for USCIS to make a preliminary finding that parents are eligible to adopt a child from abroad.

Form I-600 is the "Petition to Classify Orphan as Immediate Relative." The purpose of this form is to classify the child as an immediate relative of the Parents. This Petition is similar to the I-600A in substance; however, the I-600 is usually filed after referral and may contain the referred child's name.

2. What is a Dossier?

A dossier is a compilation of documents said to demonstrate parent's "fitness" to adopt. The requirements for preparing your dossier depend on the child's country of origin. Common required documents include: financial information, birth certificates, marriage certificates, divorce decrees, criminal background checks, homestudy, photos, etc.

3. How likely is it that my child's DOB is correct? Can a child's date of birth be changed?

The accuracy of the child's birth date as it appears on their birth certificate depends on the child's country of origin and how such child's parental rights were terminated. For example, where a child was merely abandoned at a hospital or police station, it is unlikely that the orphanage was able to obtain an accurate birth date.

A child's DOB can be changed on birth certificate during the readoption process in Indiana. However, a court will only change a child's DOB upon a showing of cause. For example, if a child is developmentally behind in school the court may agree to change the child's birth date to six months earlier. Most often these change of birthdates are a downward departure from the DOB as it appears on the foreign birth certificate. Parents may ask their attorney providing readoption services whether this would be appropriate considering their particular child's circumstances

Stay connected! Follow MLJ on Twitter and become a fan on Facebook. There are several photos from our recent trip to Congo on our Facebook page.