November Update

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

National Adoption Month kicks off in November and highlights the importance of finding adoptive families for all of those children who are in need of forever families! National Adoption Month started out as only being Adoption Week, but was expanded to an entire month of awareness because all of that importance and information could not fit into just one week. National Adoption Month focuses on debunking the myths and promoting positive thinking surrounding adoption. While National Adoption Month originally began to help bring awareness to the adoption of

November 6 - Parenting and Adoption via Skype, 11am-1pm
November 7 - Children without Families via Skype, 9-11am (full)
November 10 - Bulgaria Open House at MLJ, 9:30am-12pm
November 10 - Affording Adoption at Twin City Baptist Church, Marion, 10:30am-12:30pm
November 13 - Preparation and Adjustment via Skype, 9am-11am (full)
children currently in foster care, the message of the month has expanded to cover all types of adoption both domestically and internationally. READ MORE>

(If you would like to use the above logo for your Facebook cover photo, visit this blog for a perfectly sized version)

Brooke Randolph to Present at Annual JCICS Symposium

MLJ is very excited to announce that our Director of Adoption Preparation and Support Services, Brooke Randolph, LMHC, has been invited to present at the 2013 Child Welfare Symposium hosted by the Joint Council on International Children’s Services. This conference will take place May 20-22 in New York City, and we encourage our clients (especially those who live in the area) to attend.

If you can’t attend this particular conference, ...

Upcoming Staff Travel

November 9-11, Nicole Skellenger will travel to Alberta, Canada to meet with families in that area that may be interested in adopting with MLJ. She will hold an Initial Adoption Information session on Friday, November 9 in Edmonton and then will travel to Athabasca on Saturday, November 10, for a second session. If you are interested in attending either of these sessions, please call our office (317-875-0058) or email Stacy for more details.

Later in November,
there are many other opportunities available. Empowered to Connect, Together for Adoption, NACAC and the Orphan Summit are just a few. Look for an event near you!

Michele Jackson and Brooke Randolph will travel to Honduras to meet with our attorney and the head of IHNFA. Updates on this trip may be available on the adoption forum at the end of the month.

2012 Adoption Photo Contest

In honor of National Adoption Awareness Month we will be hosting a Celebrating Adoption Photo Contest on our Facebook page. One photo per family or one photo per child (if more than one child that was adopted in your family) please. No identifying information will be posted about any child or family. Please do not include full names. Photos submitted with full names will be immediately disqualified. The contest will run from November 14 - 28. The winner will be announced on our Facebook page on November 30th.

We encourage you to email, call or visit with your two U.S. Senators and one Representative and ask them to become a cosponsor of S. 3616/H.R. 4373!

Photo Credit: Nujalee

Photo Credit 2012 Adoption Photo Contest
**Bulgaria**

We are thrilled that four children were welcomed home from Bulgaria this month! We would love it if you could join us for our Bulgaria Open House Brunch on Saturday, November 10 from 9:30am to 12pm. Families who are interested in adopting from Bulgaria or would like to have questions about the Bulgaria program answered, please contact Lydia.

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**Congo**

To date, we have officially welcomed home 128 children from Congo! More and more of our families are traveling to Congo. If you do plan to travel, you might want to check out our adoption forum, as some great travel and packing tips have been posted. If you would like more information about our Congo program, please contact Sonja.

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**Nicaragua**

Two of our Nicaragua families are nearing the end of their in country

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**Honduras**

Thank you to the families that were able to join us for the Dia de los Muertos party at the end of October. The crafts, dancing, and food were all a big hit! We plan to make this party an annual tradition, so plan to join us next year! Look for updates on the Honduras program in future newsletters or on the adoption forum. For more information, please contact Lydia.

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**Samoa**
Mexico

We wish we had news to report on our Mexico program, but unfortunately we continue to wait. We are thankful for your patience and understanding as we continue to pursue our final approval. If your family is interested in adopting from Mexico please feel free to contact Lydia.

stay; we are looking forward to their return home in the near future!

Lydia and Amy recently traveled to Nicaragua and saw great potential for a Special Needs Program and are working hard to get that program underway. If you have any questions or would like more information about adopting from Nicaragua, please contact Lydia.

In our Samoa program, infants through young teenagers need families. If you are interested in adopting an older child, Samoa does have several children ages 8-14 who are currently waiting. Please let Sonja know if you are interested in adopting a child from Samoa or if you have any other questions about the Samoa program.

Adoption Fun on Twitter

Again this month, we invite all of you to join us for some fun on Twitter. Every month we will pose a new adoption related question, and we would love to hear responses from our families. Don't forget to use the hashtag #adoptionfun. This month's question is:

What are you doing to raise awareness during National Adoption Month? #adoptionfun

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