



2 0 0 7 F A L L E D I T I O N

# Cape Cod Adoption Network

FUNDED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CAPE AND ISLANDS UNITED WAY

## Welcome to the First Newsletter offered by the Cape Cod Adoption Network!

Our goal is to produce this Quarterly newsletter for friends and families associated with adoption. We will welcome feedback, input and recommended articles to include as we move forward with this Newsletter. The Cape Cod Adoption Network was created to fill a need for coordinated information and support for families on the Cape. Through our educational and social programs, we are well on the way to bringing families together & creating an Adoption Community right here on Cape Cod. Please let us hear from you if you would like additional information on the services we offer.

### Spotlight: The Fratus Family



Brian and Judy Fratus are the very proud parents of two children adopted from the Republic of Kazakhstan. They choose adoption based on the advice and encouragement of an adoptive parent and close friend. After attending an

information session and meeting adoptive families with children from Kazakhstan, the Fratus's knew this was their path. While their original plan was to adopt one child, they choose to adopt two children at the same time, creating an immediate family!

Their experience in-country was very positive. They chose Good Hope Adoption Services as their local adoption agency, who provided homestudy services and coordination of their child assignments and placements. Brian and Judy were very impressed with the child-care staff and the level of love provided to all of the children at the

orphanage located in Ust Kamenorgorsk, Kazakhstan. The Fratus's knew the moment they met their children that they were meant to be together. Emily was a one-year old toddler at the time, and Rudy was an inquisitive five-year old boy. Emily, who was born with congenital club feet, underwent surgery and required 6 months of casts and braces. She is now doing fine, and has become an incredibly active 4 year old who will be starting pre-school later this year. Rudy had the challenge of "unlearning" Russian, and acquiring English as his primary language. Although there were adjustment hurdles to be met, Rudy has made a successful transition to the public school setting, is active in sports, and is socially on the mark with other kids his age.

Today both children are completely connected to their family and are 100% American kids. When asked to offer advice for new parents adopting, Judy says, "Take a deep breath. Things may seem out of your control, but trust in your agency and in the in-country staff. They are professionals, and will do their job. We love our children, and cannot imagine life without them"

*The Cape Cod Adoption Network is a collaboration between Good Hope Adoption Services, Friends of the Harwich Early Childhood Advisory Council, The Cape Cod Children's Place, and The Family United Network, and the Upper Cape Family Network of the Cape Cod Child Development Programs.*

*Agencies committed to providing family support and guidance throughout Cape Cod. For more information:*

*The Cape Cod Adoption Network  
(508)385-7815 ext. 5*

*Good Hope Adoption Services  
Dennis, (509)385-7815 ext.2*

*Cape Cod Children's Place  
Eastham, (508) 240-3310*

*Families United Network  
Hyannis, (508)775-6240*

*Upper Cape Family Network  
Falmouth, (508)548-0151*

*Harwich Community Partnership  
Harwich, (508)430-1692*

## THE HAGUE CONVENTION

Adoption agencies throughout the United States are in the early phases of a national accreditation process referred to as the Hague Accreditation. This will prepare approved agencies to meet and comply with standards set forth by the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption.

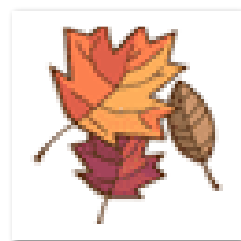
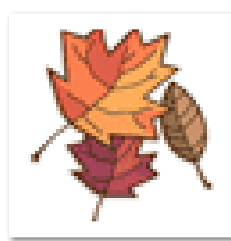
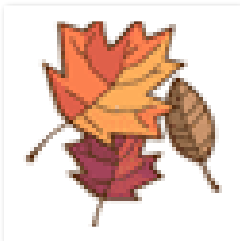
The Hague Convention is a treaty that provides a framework of safeguards for protecting children and families involved in international adoption. It was developed under the auspices of the intergovernmental organization known as the Hague Conference. The United States signed the Hague Convention in 1994. It has taken these many years to 1) bring the Convention to the US Senate and House of Representatives to be studied and approved and 2) to ensure that the United States was able to carry out its obligations under the Convention. The United States Department of State is charged with oversight in the accreditation of adoption agencies. A list of accredited agencies is scheduled to be posted in early 2008.

Mary Ellen McGowan, Good Hope Social Worker is hard at work organizing the accreditation process for Good Hope. This will enable GHAS to become a Primary Provider of adoption services in all countries that are approved by the Hague Convention. It will also ensure adoptive applicants that Good Hope has been rated as operating with the highest standards of adoption practices in the international adoption community.

To learn more about this process, you may visit the Council on Accreditation Web-Site, [www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org). The COA, based in New York City, is charged with the oversight of the national accreditation process for all U.S. agencies.

### Cape Cod Adoption Network Welcomes New Staff Member

Andi Lunden-Coe has assumed the position of Family Support Coordinator for the Cape Cod Adoption Network. In this role, Andi will be coordinating all activities and events, including children's play groups, kid's activity groups, family meetings and educational events. Andi has much experience as a family advocate.



## COUNTRY UPDATES

**Kazakhstan:** This country continues to offer the best opportunity for both singles and married couples. The quality of orphanage care is very good, as well as the number of staff ratio to children. Kazakhstan requires families to commit to one longer trip, or two trips. Children range in age from 8 months to 8 years of age.

**China:** This country has slowed down the adoption process for families, and the current wait for a child referral after dossiers arrive in China is 2.5-3 years. Children referred will be in the same age category as in the past, yet the adoption process in this country is changing, (please see below).

**Guatemala:** The Government of Guatemala has made a decision to close the country to all new adoptions, effective October 1, 2007. Adoptions in process as of this date will complete, yet there will be many ups and downs until new procedures are in place.

**Other Countries:** The countries of Russia and Vietnam are operational, yet with many hurdles. Families are advised to pursue adoptions only with careful consideration for the current political conditions at this time.

### New Programs

**Uzbekistan:** Good Hope Adoption Services is opening up a program in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This country is located in central Asia, to the west of Kazakhstan, and will be open to both singles and couples. Most orphanages are in the capitol city of Tashkent, and children will be 6 months to 8 years of age, with sibling groups available.

**China:** Good Hope has been selected as the Massachusetts agency to work exclusively with Homeland Adoptions, based in New York. Homeland Adoptions is one of only two agencies in the U.S. that has been granted permission to place children with minimal medical needs, such as cleft palates and orthopedic issues. The adoptions will be fast, with a child assignment almost immediate, and travel being completed within 6 months. Children range from 6 months to 14 years. Good Hope has information about available children now. Contact 508-385-7815.

### Foster Care Opportunities

The Cape Cod Adoption Network will continue to support the Department of Social Services recruitment efforts on the Cape for Foster Families. For additional information, please contact Andi Lunden-Coe, Family Support Coordinator, at 508-385-7815, ext.5.



# Welcome Home !

## Kazakhstan



Aida



Grace



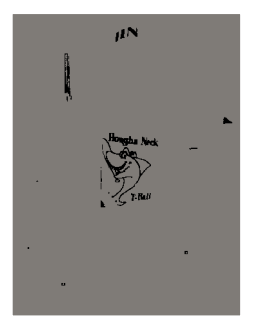
Maya



Zukhra



Nick



Kolya



Katerina



Andrew

## Guatemala



Katie

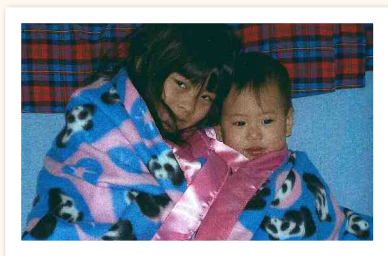


Justin



Angela

## China



Emma & Annie



Alexa



Mia

## **Cape Cod Adoption Network's Calendar of Events ~ Fall**

### **Family Support Groups;**

#### **Waiting Family Meetings:**

For Singles and Couples.

Place: Good Hope Adoption Services Office  
708 Route 134, South Dennis, MA

Dates: Third Saturday of Each Month

Time: 5:30-7:00PM

Pizza and Coffee served

#### **Parenting Classes:**

##### **Presented By Cindy Horgan**

Place: Good Hope Adoption Services Office,  
708 Route 134, South Dennis, MA

Dates: November 1, 8, and 15<sup>th</sup>, (Thursdays)

Time: 5:30-7:00PM

Pizza and Coffee served

### **Toddler Play Groups**

#### **For ages 1-5:**

##### **West Dennis Community Center**

School St., W. Dennis, MA

Dates: Oct. 17, Nov. 7 & 21, and Dec. 5 & 19

Time: 11:00-12:30

##### **Lunch at the Hearth and Kettle**

Rt. 28, S. Yarmouth, MA

Dates: Oct. 24, and Nov. 28

Time: 11:00-12:30

##### **Movin' and Grovin'**

Brooks Free Library, Harwich Center  
739 Main St. (Rt. 39), Harwich, MA

Dates: Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 11:00-12:30

##### **Bonkerz**

Stop and Shop Plaza, Rt.28 S. Yarmouth, MA

Date: Oct. 31

Time: 11:00-12:30

### **Kid's Activity Groups**

#### **For ages 5-13:**

##### **Movie Night**

Entertainment Cinemas, 500 Rt. 134 S. Dennis

Date: First Friday of every month

Time: according to movie times.

##### **Mystic Bowling**

Ryan's Family Amusements  
S. Yarmouth, MA

Dates: Every Friday (except the first)

Time: 5:30-7:00PM

### **Dates to Save:**

#### **Family Social Events**

November 17<sup>th</sup>

National Adoption Day Celebration  
Falmouth, MA

December 16th

Family Skating Party  
Tony Kent Arena  
Dennis, MA

#### **Educational Events**

November 2007

Navigating the Educational System  
Harwich Community Center  
Oak Street, Harwich, MA

January 2008

Creating Lifebooks  
Harwich Community Center  
Oak St., Harwich, MA

For more information on any of our programs, please contact  
Andi Lunden-Coe at Good Hope Adoption Services (508)

385-7815, ext. 5

\*Sign up to be on the mailing list!

**The Cape Cod Adoption Network Library offers  
wide a variety of books and resources for  
families available on loan. For information and  
a list of titles, call  
The Cape Cod Adoption Network (508) 385-7815**

#### **Massachusetts Legislative Connection**

##### **Senator Edward Kennedy**

JFK Building  
Room 24  
Boston, MA. 02203

**Contact:** Emily Winterson  
617- 565- 3180

##### **US Representative William Delahunt**

146 Main Street  
Hyannis, MA. 02601

**Contact:** Neva Flaherty

**Email:** [neva.flaherty@mail.house.gov](mailto:neva.flaherty@mail.house.gov)  
508- 771- 0666

