



2009 Holiday Edition
From the
Heart
NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends and Families,

2009!!! What a fast and furious ride for Good Hope! This year has taken us down many paths, connected us with many new partners and supporters, and of most importance, introduced us to many new wonderful families. While at times it seemed as though our good work, good faith, and good partnerships would be stretched to the max, we would get tossed a big dose of good luck, and so continue to find ourselves in a position of strength and good fortune. This year, we have been very fortunate to have worked with families from Ireland to Washington state to Florida, Virginia, Maine and Michigan, placed children from the Ukraine, China, Kazakhstan, Russia and supported families adopting children from Poland...and from our country. We have had the pleasure of seeing adoptive parents joined with their infants, born in Texas, Colorado and on the West coast... We have taken over programs from agencies closing, assumed partnerships with facilitators overseas, and have sought new agencies to collaborate with in our country. Good Hope has welcomed home many, many wonderful children, and have seen the sparkle in their eyes, and the joy in the faces of their new families and relatives. What an incredible gift this is for all of us.

In the bigger picture.... What a year 2009 has been in the World of Adoptions! The implementation of the Hague Adoption Treaty in the United States has brought many things, from raising the ethical bar between participating countries in international adoptions, to forcing some countries to close the doors to international child placement. Sadly, many smaller adoption agencies have not managed to stay operational, due to increased financial pressures, and



the reduced number of participating countries. There are more and more orphaned children in need of families, and fewer possible permanent outcomes for adoption. On the domestic adoption front, the economic conditions in our country have forced some families to consider difficult decisions resulting in placing children for adoption. ...And with all of this, the desire for couples to become parents never changes, and we continue to meet new mothers and fathers that seek to parent children of all ages.

Good Hope is fortunate beyond words to be entering our 10th year of operation, and to be a part in the creation of many new families. We are deeply dedicated to the children, to their futures, and to the possibilities that may exist if they are to be matched with parents that can offer them a future. We are deeply committed to the parents, and to the grandparents, whose lives become complete when they can help raise a child to have a full and meaningful life. We are all winners, if we can continue to participate in this hope for all families.

At this time of year, we especially take stock of all the good that has come our way, with the hopes that this new year will offer the same incredible gifts for new families and with the new hope for children that can begin their new lives. On Behalf of all of us at Good Hope, we wish you a Blessed holiday and New Year celebration with all that are dear to you.

With Good Hope and Good Cheer,
Karen Medve and staff, Andi Lunden, Mary Ellen McGowan, Tammy Coyne, Laurie Kjoller, Nuala Sullivan-Wall, Mary Ellen McDonagh-Angelone, and Wendy Katz and Dave Doolittle.

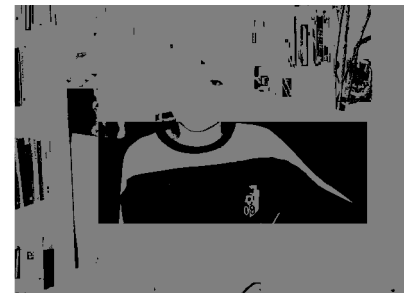
Welcome to the Ninth Newsletter offered by The Staff At Good Hope Adoption!

This Quarterly newsletter is offered to friends and families associated with adoption. We welcome comments, suggestions, and recommended articles to include in future newsletters. Our Newsletter was created to fill a need for coordinated information and support for adoptive and foster families. Through our educational and social programs, we bring families together to create an Adoption Community right here in New England. Please let us hear from you if you would like additional information on the services we offer. Tel. 508-385-7815, or on the web at www.goodhopeadoption.org

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**David Silva came home from China
September 2009**



**Kevin will be coming home this
December from the Ukraine**

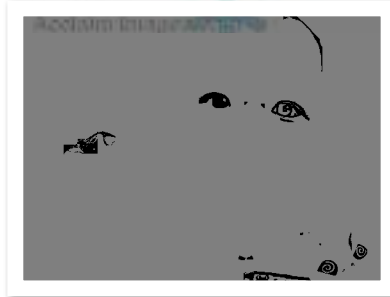


**Silas was united with his family in
October 2008**



**Owen came home from Ust Kamenogorsk
Kazakhstan in August 2009**

Welcome Home!

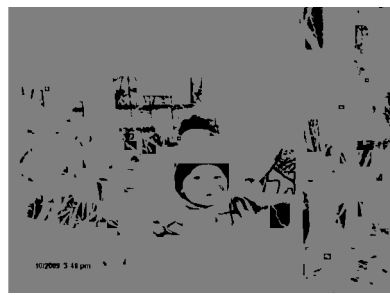


**Damir was escorted home to his family
in November 2009 from
Ust Kamenogorsk Kazakhstan**



**Lilly Mei can home from China in
September 2009**

**Julia was escorted to her new family
from Ust Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan in
November 2009**



**Xavier will be coming home this December
from Ust Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan**



**Oliver is coming home from Almaty,
Kazakhstan in December!**



Addison came home in July 2009



**Jeanne Mei came home in
August 2009
from China**



New Staff at Good Hope



Nuala Sullivan-Wall, LSW,

Nuala works for Good Hope Adoption Services as a consulting social worker. She brings with her twenty years of experience in working as an adoption social worker. She has provided hundreds of birthparents with supportive counseling and maintains ongoing relationships with many of the birthparents.

Nuala conducts homestudies for adoptive parents and post adoption services. Nuala provides services for families whom are adopting internationally as well as domestically. Nuala is dedicated to her adoption work and is thrilled to be working with all members of the adoption triad. Nuala lives in Western MA. with her husband and three young children.

Laurie Kjoller, LICSW

Adoption is a passion for me and I believe it is a wonderful way for families to grow. The following is a little bit about my background.

After graduating from Springfield College with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, I attended the University of Connecticut School of Social Work where I obtained a Masters Degree in Social Work. My professional experience includes extensive international adoption work, family and individual counseling. I am a licensed clinical social worker in Massachusetts.

Adoption has touched my life in a personal way as well. My husband, Bob and I are the proud parents of four internationally adopted children and two grown biological sons. Our family lives in Centerville, Massachusetts and we are quickly becoming part of the Cape Cod adoptive community.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to join the Good Hope Adoption team and to continue my work with adoptive families. I look forward to meeting each of our families and wish you the best in your adoption journey.

HAGUE ACCREDITATION

After achieving the two-year temporary accreditation status with the Council of Accreditation in April 2008, Good Hope is actively working towards full accreditation. Under the careful leadership of Mary Ellen McGowan, we have been crafting policies and procedures to comply with the multitude of standards mandated by the United States Department of State. In preparation for our site visit on the days of January 24-26, 2010, Gerry McGowan is diligently inputting reams of information to meet the requirement for full electronic submission. What a champ Gerry is for volunteering for this monstrous task. We thank you!

Over this last year, we have realized over and over again the many benefits of having this important designation, which is necessary for working in international adoption. We are very thankful to the McGowan's and our staff and Board of Directors for supporting this monstrous effort.

Have a portrait drawn of a loved one... and support Good Hope Adoption at the same time!

Falmouth artist Karen Harkness, who, along with her husband is a Good Hope family, will draw a portrait in graphite from your photos and will donate 15% of the proceeds to Good Hope Adoption.

Makes a great gift for a loved one or for yourself!

Prices range from \$100-\$150 for a drawing (unframed) up to 10"x12" of one person, depending on complexity.

To view Karen's work or for more information please visit her website at karenharkness.com and email her at karen@karenharkness.com. Or, just give her a call at 508-548-5489.

Please note that this offer is subject to the artist's availability, so don't wait!



A Child's Joy

2010 calendars are off the press and ready to go! 100% of the profits benefit a charity for the children. We truly appreciate your donations. Please email alcgoodhope@aol.com with your order or call 508-385-7815. Each calendar is \$17.00.

Order soon for the holidays!



Russia is Coming, Russia is coming....

and soon to be welcoming Good Hope families....!

For months now Good Hope staff have been working very closely with representatives in Russia, with the hopes of achieving Agency Accreditation with the Russian Federation. During these many months, there have been meetings here, and numerous written policies sent back and forth through cyberspace, by fax, and by Fed Ex and DHL, all with the hopes of meeting the standards set forth by the Russian Government. Andi Lunden from our staff has done a masterful job heading up this project, and we owe much of the credit to her hard work and careful crafting of reams of written work. We have representatives in Moscow, and staff working on our behalf as we lay the foundation for this new program.

Our hopes are to be operational by January 2010 with children currently being identified for our families.

This is not a new program, but rather, one that has been operational for years. What will be new is the proposed partnership with Good Hope Adoptions.

A bit of an overview on this program includes the travel: which is a first trip of about 5 days, a second trip that is longer, or can be broken into two shorter trips. Court is on the second trip, and full dossiers are to be submitted on behalf of families after trip one.

Over the years we have been directly involved with the placement of children from Russia and can say without hesitation that they are simply beautiful. We have the benefit of working closely with Dr. Boris Skurkovich of the International Adoption Clinic at Rhode Island Hospital, and his knowledge and experience with this country are extremely beneficial for our families.

We are currently in the process of developing a list of interested families, and remain optimistic that the first families may be traveling as early as January, based on agency accreditation.

If you are interested in learning more, We encourage you to contact the Good Hope office, and we will be very happy to go over the program specifics.

Domestic Adoption Groups

Over the years, Good Hope has placed much of our emphasis on supporting families that adopt internationally. This past year, we have had the good fortune to meet families that embrace domestic adoption as the right choice for their families. One of our friends and adoptive moms, Meredith Wirtz, has both the background and commitment to facilitate a monthly group for moms and dads who are either waiting, or recently home with their children. Meredith is a licensed social worker, and has a passion for supporting families in their adoption journey. A schedule for informal get-togethers will be forthcoming, offering a forum to share information, experiences, and fellowship with one another. Meredith can be reached at <nmwirtz@gmail.com>.

AMC Winter Family Retreat January 9-10,2010



The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Boston Chapter invites families touched by adoption with children between 7 and 16 to join them at Calumet in West Ossipee, NH for their first ever event!

This special weekend will offer adoption programming, and outdoor activities in a beautiful winter wonderland.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and meet other families touched by adoption. All of Calumet Retreat Specialist will be assigned to assisting families in taking full advantage of their glorious facilities.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 for adults; \$75 for children (Includes lodging, meals and all activities) Contact Jeanne Blauner with questions or to sign up for this fantastic program. jablauner@comcast.net or (978) 368-1199

Filled with Hope

Handmade mugs with a mission



These beautiful handcrafted stoneware mugs are made in Orleans by artist Kristin Knowles of Outermost Pottery. She and her husband, Thomas Fetting, adopted their children, Jack, 6, and Sasha, 4, from Kazakhstan in the spring of 2008. Looking for a way to give back to the adoption network on Cape Cod which has so enriched their lives, Kristin decided to try to raise funds for Good Hope Adoption Services to help with their ongoing efforts to provide education, awareness, and outreach services as well as fostering a thriving community of adoptive families throughout the Cape and Islands through playgroups, support groups, and festive seasonal activities.

When you purchase a mug, five dollars will go directly to Good Hope Adoptions. They make great gifts for family, friends, teachers, etc., and can be personalized with names, symbols, or special designs. They are microwave and dishwasher safe.

And best of all, they are made right here on Cape Cod... with love!

Join us for
The Chinese Lunar New Year

The Year of the Tiger

**Good Hope Adoption Services
and the
Cape Cod Adoption Resources
will be hosting the
14th annual**

**Lunar New Year Celebration
at the Cape Cod Super Buffet
228 Route 28, Yarmouth, MA
Sunday, February 14 th, 1:00-4:00 pm
Enjoy traditional games, crafts,
and the Lion parade.
Reservations are required.
Call: 508-385-7815**

KID'S CORNER

see Snowman on Back!!!!

Gorgeous Garland

Have your child use cereal to make this fun and simple garland!

1. Cut several lengths of colorful yarn (place tape on the ends to prevent fraying)
2. Have your child string colorful O-shaped cereal onto the yarn
3. Drape the finished yarn over your mantle, tree, banister...



Upcoming Events

Monthly Adoption Meetings: Meets the third Saturday of every month. Meetings will be held at the Good Hope Office in South Dennis, on January 16, February 20, and March 20, 2010. Please contact Good Hope for additional information, (508)385-7815.

Toddler/ Preschool Play Groups; meets at the West Dennis Schoolhouse every Wednesday (except for the 2nd Wed. of the month) from 1:30-3pm .For more information contact Tammy Coyne, Family Support Coordinator, (508)385-7815.

Domestic Adoption Groups:
See page 3.

Mom's Support Groups: Stay tuned....

Classic Holiday Movies

Make some popcorn and spend the evening together.

1. Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer
2. The Year Without a Santa Claus
3. Santa Claus is coming to Town
4. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
5. A Charlie Brown Christmas
6. It's a Wonderful Life
7. Miracle on 34th Stree
3. A Christmas Carol
4. Frosty the Snowman
5. A Christmas Story



Good Hope's Annual Fall Gathering 10/31/09

This year Good Hope celebrated National Adoption Month by hosting a Halloween Party at the West Dennis Community Center.

Everyone had a wonderful time. We all enjoyed good food,music, arts and crafts, parades, games, a magic show and much, much more. The children looked adorable in their costumes. It was wonderful to see so many of our families and friends!



Dress Mr. Snowman your way!

Pick, Cut and Paste Together

