



# Cape Cod Adoption Network

## SUMMER 2008 EDITION

FUNDED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CAPE AND ISLANDS UNITED WAY

### Welcome to the Fourth 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 comments, suggestions, 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 Family:

#### The Cummings-Ripley Family



My husband and I are grateful adoptive parents. When people ask us how the process went we don't hesitate, and answer with an enthusiastic "great"! Yet, the process was actually arduous and really put our desire to be parents to the test. The first agency we dealt with was out of Albuquerque,

New Mexico and after visiting them and paying certain funds this agency closed! We were completely unprepared for this and devastated. We actually took a break to gain perspective of our lives and to lick our wounds - after some time we started looking into different agencies again. When we found an agency that was the "right fit" we went full force into locating our "child". We filled out appropriate paper work and even

made a fancy brochure of my husband and I (all very daunting). This was completed in August 2003 and we were matched with a family by the next month! It was soooooooooo fast we were completely taken off guard! When we met with birth mom and dad, we hit it off like gangbusters! We even went to a couple of doctor visits with birth mom which was completely amazing. We had a little time to bond with these incredibly unselfish people that were choosing to do what they felt was the best thing for their baby!

Our Grace was born on November 8 2003. We got the phone call at 2 or 3 a.m. on the 8th and we made it to hospital 12 minutes after she was born! IT was the most incredible experience of our lives. Birth mom was sitting up holding baby Grace as we walked into room and she looked at us as I cried tears of joy and held my arms out to greet my child. Grace looked into my eyes with the biggest blue eyes I have ever seen and looked as if to say, "here I am mom, are you ready?"

It's difficult to write all that transpired that night....however it is inscribed on my heart forever.

Grace is 4 1/2 years old now and every day is truly an adventure with her!

*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, The Upper Cape Family Network, and The Family United Network a program of the Cape Cod Child Development Programs. Agencies committed to providing family support and guidance throughout Cape Cod. Our Mission is to create connections for children, their families, their schools, and their communities; to offer educational and social support, parenting education and therapeutic opportunities through*

*partnerships with adoptive family members, resources on Cape Cod, and the adoption community*

*For More information:*

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

*[www.capecodadoptionnetwork.org](http://www.capecodadoptionnetwork.org)*

*Good Hope Adoption Services Dennis, (508)385-7815 ext. 2*

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

*Cape Cod Child Development Families United Network Hyannis, (508)775-6240 ext. 512*

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

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



## Current Status In International Adoption

The United States became a Hague Convention Country on April 1, 2008. This is very good news for the safety and well-being of all future adopted children, as the bar has been raised very high to meet new ethical practices between countries and agencies.

The unfortunate fall-out from this is that the United States cannot interface with any country that has not become a Hague convention country by this date, if any initial effort to achieve accreditation has begun. At this time, this impacts the country of **Guatemala**, where adoptions have now ceased between this country and the United States.

There are political fall-outs with other countries, including the country of **Vietnam**, which has ceased all adoptions with citizens of the United States, effective now. **The Peoples Republic of China**, who will be hosting the summer Olympics this coming July, has slowed down their adoption process to a crawl. Families are now being told that the wait for any "Healthy" child is between 3 and 5 years. Many agencies have stopped accepting applications for new families, as asking families to wait this long for a referral is realistically out of the question. Our partnership with "Homeland Adoptions" continues to offer families the option of being matched with children that have medical needs.

**Russia** remains a viable option for families, and is a Hague convention country. We are promoting this country through a partnership with "Happy Families International Adoption Center, Inc." based in New York. This agency had been placing children from Russia for many years, and has recently entered into a working agreement with Good Hope. **The Republic of Kazakhstan** continues to be open, and the process is becoming longer. Families are being encouraged to submit dossiers directly to the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington, and the new consul continues to be very deliberate in his review process. We remain optimistic, although these have been trying times for our waiting families, and for our agency. Kazakhstan has a strong commitment to its children, who always come home, being noticeably well taken care of.

**Poland:** this country is a hidden jewel, and is working well now. We have partnered with Huminskis Angels, out of Pennsylvania, and look forward to matching families with children through this collaboration. Poland is known for a commitment to placing sibling groups, and families considering this option, are best suited for this country.

Lastly **Uzbekistan** continues to be a future option for families hoping to adopt overseas. Good Hope is waiting for final word on our accreditation, which will then allow us to be placing children from this former Soviet Republic. Children can be as young as 6 months of age, and with 2 shorter trips. We have many families recently interested in adopting Domestically, and have been supporting these adoptions by working with agencies that specialize in identifying US birthmothers. Adopting domestically is always a possibility for any family, with different procedures and timeframes, and similar costs.

These are very definitely challenging times in the world of child placements, and professional agencies need to be open-minded, innovative, and persistent to keep options open for families. We ask for your help during the coming months, and invite you to complete the questionnaire included in this newsletter. Many of you have skills that will help our agency move to the next level, as we work our way through these times.

As always, congratulations to all of the families that have brought their children home this year, and let's forge ahead as we support our Waiting families, and the many children waiting to meet their new parents.

Karen Medve

### **We are entering into an uncharted period in the world of adoption...**

Please take a few seconds to read below. **Good Hope really needs your help now.** If there is a way that you can offer some advice, time, or expertise, we need you!! Cut out this form, mail to:

708 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660. Thank you!!

**Fundraising/Fund Development** \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming a Mentor Family** \_\_\_\_\_

**Speaking about Good Hope Adoptions to Friends** \_\_\_\_\_

**Writing Support Letters for Good Hope Adoptions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsoring an Information Session** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info** \_\_\_\_\_

## Good Hope Adoption Services Achieves COA Temporary Hague Accreditation

Good Hope Adoption Services has received notification that its application for 2-year Temporary Hague Accreditation has been granted by the Council on Accreditation (COA), according to an announcement made to Karen Medve, Director of the organization.

Temporary Hague Accreditation attests that Good Hope Adoption Services is in compliance with the Temporary Hague Convention Accreditation Standards. Good Hope Adoption Services' Temporary Hague Accreditation Expiration Date is April 8, 2010.

The Hague Convention is an international treaty created to ensure that intercountry adoptions are in the best interests of the children and to prevent abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children. In 1994 the United States signed this treaty and agreed to develop regulations and a monitoring process for adoption service providers in the US that worked with agencies in countries that signed onto the Convention. For more information about the Hague Convention, including a full list of participating countries, visit the Hagues Conference on Private International Law's website at [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net).

Congress passed The Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) in October 2000, which serves as the implementing legislation for the United States. The IAA names the U.S. Department of State (State Department) as the Central Authority for the United States and the federal agency responsible for implementing the Convention. The IAA requires agencies and persons providing adoption services in cases involving Convention countries to be accredited or approved. In July, 2006 the U.S. Department of State named COA as the only national accreditor for adoption service providers under the Hague Convention.

## Good Hope Partners with Happy Families Russian Adoption Program

Good Hope Adoption Services, Inc. has recently partnered with Happy Families International Center, Inc to work with them in their Russian Adoption Program.

Happy Families Program is special. The Executive Director of Happy Families International Center, Inc. Natasha Shginian-Needham, M.D. is a native of Moscow. She is a graduate of Moscow Medical School with a degree in psychiatry. She started working with orphans in 1992, helping them to receive medical attention they desperately needed. Living in Russia for the most of the past four years, she has been doing research working with orphans and biological mothers relinquishing their rights. Happy Families has developed several charitable programs in Russia to help orphans. They regularly travel to all the orphanages they work with and know the children's needs. Happy Families works closely with each of the orphanages, trying to improve their conditions.

An estimated 640,000 children are in Russian orphanages in need of loving families. As best as they can, the orphanage staff provides care to these children. There are many infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and older children available for adoption; sibling groups are sometimes available as well. There are also children with correctable medical needs who need loving homes to meet their needs

For more information please contact: Karen Medve,  
Good Hope Adoption Services, Inc. Phone:508-385-7815

### **Adoption Information**

*Info Sessions on Adoptions will be held the first Wednesdays of the month at 4:00 at Good Hope Adoption Services, Inc. To learn more about domestic and international adoptions join us: July 2, August 6, September 3, 2008  
708 Route 134, South Dennis, MA*

## ZHAILAU 2008:

### Kazakh Heritage Camp for Families

July 21-26, 2008 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Kazakh Aul of the US is thrilled to announce the fourth annual Zhailau Kazakh Heritage Camp for Families. Zhailau means the summer encampment or home of the Kazakh nomads, and we at the Aul are delighted to announce that our 5-night all-inclusive Zhailau will be held once again at the wonderful Geneva Point Center located on 200 acres of beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee waterfront in New Hampshire.

Our Zhailau camp will be a special time devoted to celebrating the wonderful culture of Kazakhstan, to providing an opportunity to bring children and families together, all while taking advantage of the wide range of recreational programming and facilities that the Geneva Point Center has to offer. Zhailau 2008 promises to be a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, to relax together, to eat, to play, and to celebrate our children's birth culture – together as a 'village,' our Aul.

The Aul will be conducting Kazakh cultural activities throughout each morning, and whole-group activities will be offered most evenings. Many activities will be centered around our authentic Kazakh yurt that we will raise together as an aul. We are privileged that many of our Kazakh teachers will be returning this year to guide and instruct us in Kazakh culture, including three who will be traveling all the way from Kazakhstan to join us for Zhailau: Assylgul Baidaralina, Karlygash Bukenova, and Kanat Bukenov! We are also delighted that Gulsaya Tuleubayeva will be coming once again from New York. New for 2008: Four new teachers, talented musicians from Kazakh folk orchestras, Aizan Tuleubayeva (New York) and the Trio Nazim comprised of Gulmira Amurtayeva, Anara Baimetova, and Samal Shaikenova (Texas). The Aul's Artistic & Cultural Executive Director, Daniyar Baidaralin, is putting together a wonderful program, and the theme for Zhailau 2008 is Music!

**Day Rates Available.**

For more information contact: Kazakh Aul of the United States Association for American & Kazakh Families  
247 Cypress Street, Providence, RI 02906  
phone: 401-486-4023, [www.kazakh-aul-us.org](http://www.kazakh-aul-us.org)

article source: Kazakh Aul of the United States  
information guide for Zhailau 2008, Kazakh Heritage Camp for families

**Interested in having a portrait of your child done?  
Good Hope happily introduces Karen Harkness, artist  
and pre-adoptive mom, to our families:**



## Welcome Home!

Marena came home from  
Ust Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan  
on June 21, 2008



Michael  
is coming home  
from Petropavlovsk,  
Kazakhstan  
in July, 2008

**Tapestry Books offers a large assortment of  
books on adoption. Check out their website:  
[www.tapestrybooks.com](http://www.tapestrybooks.com)**

### Resources and Websites

Happy Family International Center, Inc.

3 Stone Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

[www.happyfamilies.org](http://www.happyfamilies.org)

phone: 845-265-4731

Homeland Adoptions

99 Main St. Suite 114, Nyack, NY 10960

Phone: 413-253-3592, email: [NRelffsin@hotmail.com](mailto:NRelffsin@hotmail.com)

Huminska's Anioly, Inc.

<http://www.adoptionspolish.com>

Adoption Community of New England

1750 Washington Street, Holliston, MA 01746-2234

phone: 508-429-4260, 800-932-3678

The Asian Culture Society of Cape Cod

152 Henry's Road, Brewster, MA 02631

<http://www.asiancamp.org>

Families for Russian & Ukrainian Adoption

P.O. Box 2944, Merrifield, VA 22116

phone: 703-560-6184

Families with Children from China

<http://www.fwcc.org/welcome.html>

## Cape Cod Adoption Network's Calendar of Events ~ Summer

### Toddler Play-Group (for ages 1-5)

West Dennis Community Center  
School St., W. Dennis, MA  
1st and 3rd ( except July 16th), 4th, & 5th Wednesdays of each month  
Time: 11:00-12:30

### Summer Play Group Host Mom:

~**July 16th**~ Marge Gramm  
100 Searsville Rd.,  
South Dennis, MA, phone: 508 398-2730  
Time: 11:00-12:30

\*If you are interested in hosting a play group at your home, please call Andi at the Cape Cod Adoption Network to sign up! 508-385-7815

### Melody Tent Show : "Cinderella, too"

West End Circle, Hyannis  
Date: August 13th  
Time: 11:00-12:30  
Cost per Ticket: \$3.00 (call Andi to reserve your seats 508-385-7815)

**For All the Kids!**  
**Russian American Kids Circus**  
**at the Cape Cod Melody Tent**  
**Date: July 9th**  
**Time 11:00 AM**  
seats are limited  
call now to reserve yours!  
508-385-7815

### Sunday Kid's Activity Groups (For ages 5-13):

#### July 20th Beach Party

West Dennis Beach, Cape Cod  
We will meet at Lifeguard Chair #8  
Vans standing by to shuttle from Ezra Baker School  
Rt 28, West Dennis, MA  
free parking after 4:00  
Time: 1:30 on

#### August 10th Bike Riding at Old Town House Park

Town House Rd., South Yarmouth, Cape Cod  
Bring your bicycles and snacks  
There are fields for playing and a path for bike riding  
There is also a playground for the younger ones.  
Time 2-4 PM

Please RSVP for the activities and/or directions to:  
[alcgoodhope@aol.com](mailto:alcgoodhope@aol.com)

### 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

### Adoptive Moms Support Group:

The Northside Methodist Church  
701 Airline Road, Dennis, MA  
Dates: Every other Saturday June 28, July 19, August 2, 16, 30  
(July 5th cancelled due to holiday)  
Time: 10:00AM-11:30AM  
Child Care Available with notice email [alcgoodhope@aol.com](mailto:alcgoodhope@aol.com)  
\*Coffee and Refreshments served

### Up Coming Events to Look for this Fall:

#### Educational Workshops

##### Parent/Professional Work Group

helping to sort out the educational process for your child in our school systems

##### Life Books

creating a book to map out your child's history

##### Attachment Issues

practical information to help bring families together

#### Family Social Events

##### Fall Gathering/Family Social

Adoptive Families and Friends Annual Fall Party  
Date: October 11, 2008  
Time 1:00-4:00  
Where: West Parish of Barnstable Congregational Church  
Route 149, West Barnstable, MA (exit 5 on the midcape hwy)

#### National Adoption Day Celebration

**Date: November 15, 2008**

**Time: 1:00-4:00**

**Where: West Dennis Community Center  
School Street, West Dennis, MA**



Cape Cod Adoption Network/ Good Hope Spring Gathering was a huge success! Look for the photo gallery in the Good Hope Adoptions website!

[www.goodhopeadoptions.org](http://www.goodhopeadoptions.org)

For more information on any of our programs, please contact Andi Lunden at the Cape Cod Adoption Network: 508-385-7815 ext. 5 \*Sign up to be on the mailing list!