



FUNDED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CAPE AND ISLANDS UNITED WAY

Welcome to the Second 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: The Gramm Family



Hi, we're Marge and Joe Gramm, the parents of Molly, born in the Peten Region of Guatemala. Deciding later in life to have our own children proved to be complicated, so adoption was the natural choice for us. Lucky for us, Good Hope Adoption was minutes from our house in South

Dennis. Karen proved to be just the right fit for us. I don't want this to sound like an infomercial, but to this day, we are so grateful for connecting with Karen. We chose Guatemala because we liked the idea of staying in the "America's" and thought we'd have an easier time with the Spanish language. We could adopt an infant & it was easy to get to Guatemala from the East Coast. It took about a year from the first paperwork, to traveling. About seven months into the process, we got our referral, along with pictures of our seven day old daughter. We waited another five months & we traveled the end of July 2005. Molly was very lucky to have Jannette, a wonderful foster mother, with a large extended family that

were in constant contact with Molly, providing a loving environment. We made only one trip to Guatemala which lasted two weeks. The first week we traveled to Lake Atitlan in the Mayan Highlands to as far north as Tikal National Park in the Mayan Lowlands. That's the region where Molly was born. Our return to Guatemala City from Tikal, to meet and receive Molly, was filled with anticipation and excitement. In our hotel room, when Jannette passed Molly to Marge, an instant bond between baby & mother happened. We spent the next week, still in Guatemala, getting to know our new daughter and her foster family, before returning back home. Molly was 4 months, 3 weeks old at the time of adoption. Molly has bonded with us as if we were her natural parents. It took some time for her to be comfortable with family & friends, but has many wonderful relationships in place now. She loves animals, the pool, beach, snow, walking, & PBS cartoons, of course. She started toddler school this past September & is getting ready for public pre-school in March. Molly has a great sense of humor & is a fun, intelligent, beautiful, emotional child that brings fulfillment & love to every part of our lives. Our advice to anyone thinking of adopting is to pick an agency that is working in your best interests: one that will listen to your needs, as well as making sure all the paperwork is properly documented. The process is complex and having trust in your agency is key in riding out the highs & lows.

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 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
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
Hyannis, (508)775-6240*

*Families United Network
Hyannis, (508)775-6240 ext. 512*

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

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

Adoption Tax Credit

You may be able to take a tax credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child (including a child with special needs). The adoption credit is an amount subtracted from your tax liability. Although the credit generally is allowed for the year following the year in which the expenses are paid, a taxpayer who paid qualifying expenses in the current year for an adoption which became final in the current year, may be eligible to claim the credit on the current year return. The adoption credit is not available for any reimbursed expenses. In addition to the credit, certain amounts reimbursed by your employer for qualifying adoption expenses may be excludable from your gross income.

For both the credit or the exclusion, qualifying expenses include reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, traveling expenses (including amounts spent for meals and lodging while away from home), and other expenses directly related to and for which the principal purpose is the legal adoption of an eligible child. An eligible child must be under 18 years old, or be physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself. The adoption credit or exclusion cannot be taken for a child who is not a United States citizen or resident unless the adoption becomes final. An eligible child is also a child with special needs if he or she is a United States citizen or resident and a state determines that the child cannot or should not be returned to his or her parent's home and probably will not be adopted unless assistance is provided. Under certain circumstances, the amount of your qualified adoption expenses may be increased if you adopted an eligible child with special needs. The credit and exclusion for qualifying adoption expenses are each subject to a dollar limit and an income limit. The maximum tax credit and exclusion, subject to the income and tax liability limits allowed for the adoption of a child is \$10,960.00

To take the credit or exclusion, complete [Form 8839](#) (PDF), *Qualified Adoption Expenses* and attach the form to your [Form 1040](#) (PDF) or [Form 1040A](#) (PDF).



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. The country does not allow children to be identified as pre-assigned referrals and instead finalizes referrals once an adoptive family meets their child for the initial encounter.

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 closed 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 new program in the Republic of Uzbekistan will be open in February. 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. Two trips will be required to complete the adoption process.

China: Good Hope is working exclusively with Homeland Adoptions, based in New York. Homeland Adoptions is one of only two agencies in the U.S. that is placing children with minimal medical needs, such as cleft palates and orthopedic issues. In many cases, the medical needs are very minimal. 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 more information, contact Rosemary Porte at the Department of Social Services 508-894-3837

Update on the Hague Convention

Many adoption agencies are working diligently to complete the lengthy Agency Self Study needed for accreditation by the Hague Convention. The US Department of State has employed the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to handle the accreditation process. Mei-Lam Rice, an employee of the COA, is assisting Good Hope Adoption Services through the process. She has approved all major documents we have submitted to her through January. We still have work to do!

The COA is operating under a time line with the Department of State and is encouraging all applicant agencies to complete their self studies as quickly as possible. Good Hope is making every effort to comply with this request.



Welcome Home!



Ava came home from Uralsk, West Kazakhstan in December, 2007



Megan came home from Uralsk, West Kazakhstan in December, 2007



Joey came home from Ust-Kamenogorsk, East Kazakhstan in September, 2007



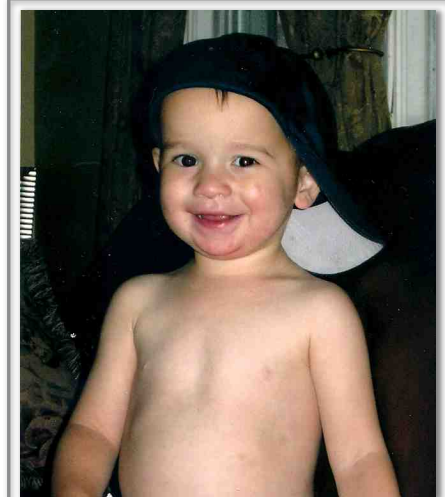
Natasha and Vanya, brother and sister, came home together from Petropavlovsk, Northern Kazakhstan in November 2007



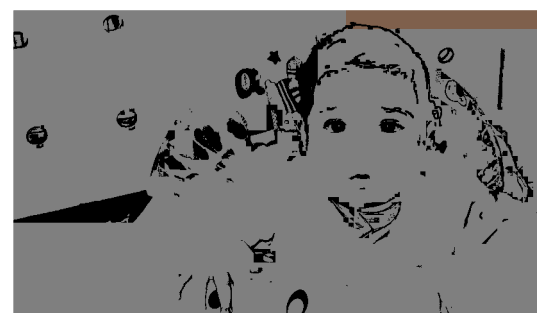
Gabriella came home from Guatemala in December, 2007



Kate is arriving home from Almaty, Kazakhstan in February, 2008



Colby came home from Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan in September, 2006



Emily is arriving home in February, 2008 from Actua, Kazakhstan.

The Cape Cod Adoption Network Library offers wide a variety of books and resources to sign out on loan. Call (508) 385-7815 for more information.

Titles From Our Library

Mei Mei little sister- by Richard Bowen
The Ultimate Insider's Guide to Adoption-by Elizabeth Swire Falker
Cross Cultural Adoption- by Amy Coughlin & Caryn Abramowitz
Nurturing Adoptions -by Deborah D. Gray
Parenting the Hurt Child- by Gregory C. Keck, PhD & Regina M. Kupecky, L.S.W.
The Whole Life Adoption Book- by Jayne E. Schooler
Becoming a Family- by Lark Eshleman, PhD
Why I Chose You- by Gregory E. Lang
Our Own- by Trish Maskew
Adoption Nation- by Adam Pertman
Dim Sum, Bagels and Grits- by ???
Adopting a Toddler- by Denise Harris Hoppenhauser
Attaching in Adoption- by Deborah D. Gray
Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew
Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born- by Jamie Lee Curtis
Does Anybody Else Look Like Me- by Donna Jackson Nakazawa
How it Feels to be Adopted- by Jill Krentz
Chinese Eyes- by Majorie Ann Waybill
Over the Moon- by Karen Katz
It's Okay to be Different- by Todd Parr
Baboushka- by Arthur Scholey
When I Met You- by Adrienne Ehlert Bashista
Happy Adoption Day- by John McCutcheon
How Does it Feel- by Norbert Landa
We See the Moon- by Carrie A. Kitz
The Cats in Krasinski Square- by Karen Hesse
The Littlest Matryoshka- by Corinne Demas Bliss
The Russian Word for Snow- by Janis Cooke Newman
Beyond Good Intentions- by Cheri Register
Helping the Child- by Stephen Nowicki Jr. PhD & Marshall P. Duke PhD
From Aaron to Zoe- by Daniel Avram Richman
A Mind at a Time- by Mel Levine, MD
The Russian Adoption Handbook- by John H. Maclean
The Lost Daughters of China- by Karin Evans
Born in Our Hearts- by Filis Casey & Marisa Catalina Casey
Driven to Distraction- by Edward M. Hallowell MD & John J. Ratey, MD
The Moral Intelligence of Children- by Robert Coles
Moscow & St. Petersburg- by Thomas Cook
How to Raise a Emotionally Healthy, Happy Child- by Albert Ellis PhD
The Broken Cord- by Michael Dorris
The Out of Sync Child- by Carol Stock Kranowitz, MA
Hello, Aibek- by Kerin Quirk
The Complete Idiots Guide to Learning Russian- by Christopher Froelich
In Their Own Words- by Linda Grillo, Dee Meaney, & Christine Rich
Toddler Adoption- by Mary Hopkins Best
Building the Bonds of Attachment- by Daniel A. Hughes



Legislative Connections

Massachusetts

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
508- 771- 0666

Rhode Island

US Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy
PO Box 1001
Ashaway, RI 02804
Email: rep-kennedy@rilin.state.ri.us
401- 377-8818

Resources and Websites

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>

Kazakh Aul of the United States

Association for American & Kazakh Families
247 Cypress Street, Providence, RI 02906
phone: 401-486-4023



Travel Tips for Adoptive Parents

There is so much to remember when you are preparing to go abroad. To better help you prepare for this trip to meet your child, we have a compilation of suggestions on what and how much to bring with you. Check with your friends and especially your doctor about other items to bring. If you have any great ideas about what and how to pack, let us know!

Before You Even Begin Packing

- All airlines have individual luggage restrictions. Check with your airline about the number, dimensions and weight limitations on luggage.
- Check with your doctor or clinic. Some clinics will offer a travel packet of frequently needed medications for you and your child. Also, ask your doctor if your vaccinations are up to date, and which vaccinations are suggested for travel to your country.
- Make sure you have someone to take your mail, water your plants, feed your pets. Give someone a key to your home in case you leave anything important behind
- Find out how to add your child to your health insurance policy in advance if possible
- Make a list of everyone you want to buy a souvenir for so you don't forget anyone
- Make an emergency phone list, in case of emergency. Pass this on to your adoption agency
- Create an email group of family and friends to stay in touch with during your trip and adoption process.

Bring For Your Child

- Towel and wash cloth
- Baby toiletries (baby bath, shampoo, powder, lotion)
- Small digital thermometer
- Bottles and nipples
- Sip cups for toddlers and older children
- Pacifiers and holders, although some children will refuse them
- Baby cereal, cheerios or crackers
- Paper towels/napkins
- Blanket
- Clothing (estimate a size larger)
- Diapers and wipes, diaper rash cream
- Umbrella strollers (portable) are easiest to pack
- Teething ring and ointment
- Toys (toys that make a little noise are good for distracting)
- Baby Tylenol (consult your pediatrician for appropriate medication and dosage before you travel)
- Picture book(s)
- Medication for constipation or diarrhea (ask your pediatrician)
- Spoon and travel bowl
- Baby carrier, such as a Snuggli
- Food items and diapers can be purchased there, we suggest you bring enough for at least one full day of travel.

Bring For Yourself

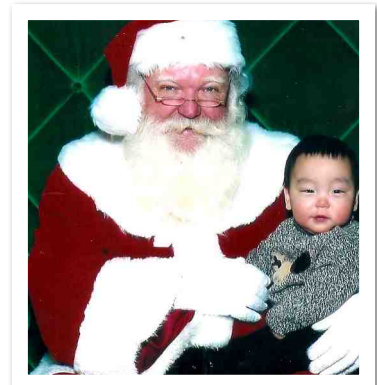
- Money belt (should be worn under clothing with all money and your passport/identification)
- Fanny Pack
- Back pack or briefcase to keep paperwork intact. You will need to carry paper work with you often.
- Translation guide/travel book
- Over the counter medications such as Immodium, Tylenol, cough syrup, Tums
- Any prescription medications, with prescription information on the bottle
- Travel size packet of wet ones and/or travel size liquid hand sanitizer
- Power converter
- Small hair dryer (use on low)
- Personal toiletries
- A bottle of water for each of you
- Reading material and a journal
- Small note pads and pens
- Photos of your home and family in a portable case
- Camera, film or digital
- Tissue paper and gift bags
- Donation/gifts
- Clothing: One business/church type outfit for court
- dress in layers
- Bring comfortable shoes & slippers
- Portable DVD player,
- laptop computer



Looking for something kid friendly to do on bad weather days?

***How about a trip to the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History?
Call 508-896-3867 for information on children's activities
*Or the Cape Cod Children's Museum?
Call 508-539-8788**

***Check with your town's library about their children's programs**



Cape Cod Adoption Network's Calendar of Events ~ Winter

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

Airline Road, Dennis, MA

Dates: February 2 & 16, March 1st ~ ongoing every other Saturday

Time: 10:00AM-11:30AM

Child Care Available with notice *Coffee and Refreshments served

Toddler Play Groups (For ages 1-5):

West Dennis Community Center

School St., W. Dennis, MA

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month (except Feb. 6th)

Time: 11:00-12:30

Movin' and Groovin'

Brooks Free Library, Harwich Center

739 Main St. (Rt. 39), Harwich, MA

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month

Time: 11:00-12:30

Lunch at the Hearth and Kettle

Rt. 28, S. Yarmouth, MA

Dates: January 30th, & April 30th

Time: 11:00-12:30

Winter Play Group Host Moms:

~ **February 6th** ~Erin Aiken

133 Evergreen Drive

Marstons Mills, MA , phone: 508-428-5049

(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)

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

Ryan's Family Amusements Bowling

Route 28, South Yarmouth, MA

Date: January 27th, Time: 2:00-4:00PM

YMCA Swim Day

Route 132, Barnstable, MA

Date: February 24th, Time: 2:00-4:00PM

Willy's Fitness Party

Willy's Gym and Fitness Center

Attucks Way, Hyannis

Date: March 30th, Time: 1:30-3:00PM

Family Social Events

Drop-In Scrap-Booking

February 7, 2008, March 6, 2008 Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Good Hope Adoption Services Office

Rt. 708 Route 134, South Dennis, MA

Bring your photos and a scrap book to work on.

We'll supply the rest!

Dates to Save:

May 2, 2008

Boris Gindis, PH.D. Workshop for parents and professionals

Support & Education for current & perspective adoptive parents

West Dennis Community Center

School Street, West Dennis, MA

May 18, 2008

Spring Gathering/Family Social

West Parish Congregational Church

Route 149, West Barnstable (Exit 5 off the Mid-Cape Hwy)

For more information on any of our programs, please contact Andi Lunden-Coe at the Cape Cod Adoption Network

508-385-7815 ext. 5

*Sign up to be on the mailing list!



News of National Adoption Day 2007

November 17th was National Adoption Day. The Cape Cod Adoption Network hosted a celebration of this day with good friends, food, games, and music at the West Dennis Community Center. Over 125 people from adoptive and foster families attended. The Department of Social Services was present to provide information and support for those considering becoming foster parents. For many of the families, this was their first connection with the Cape Cod Adoption Network and other adoptive families. They all shared stories, experiences, and laughter.

Entertainment was provided by the popular Toe Jam Puppet Band. Kids of all ages joined in the fun. A good time was had by all! The Cape Cod Adoption Network is looking forward to next year's event and hoping to recreate the success of 2007! Help us by marking your calendars and joining us when we celebrate National Adoption Day 2008 with a party that promises to be even brighter!

