



Welcome to Kids To Adopt Monthly Newsletter!

Kids To Adopt (KTA) is a not-for-profit international adoption agency located in Vancouver, WA that specializes in placing older and special needs children.

We hope to keep you up-to-date on new programs, family stories, tips, and other useful info for prospective adoptive families and those who have adopted already!

Thank you for your interest, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to submit something to the newsletter or have any other questions or concerns!

Contact us:

Kids To Adopt
2012 Broadway
Vancouver, WA 98663

Tel: 360.695.1704
Fax: 360.539.8447

Email:
info@kidstoadopt.org

Website:
www.kidstoadopt.org

Staff & Volunteers:

Daniel Roberts
Sandy Roberts
Kate Wallis
Robert Hunter, Psy.D.,
ED.D

"Born in Our Hearts"

*Featured Family Story, written by Tim and Hilary, adopted parents of Anara.
Edited and reproduced with rights by Kids To Adopt*

You know I always heard other adoptive moms say that their adopted children were "born in their hearts". But, I never fully understood just how strongly I would FEEL that. Bringing Anara into our family was one of the 4 most amazing experiences of my life. No, it wasn't exactly the same as carrying a baby in my womb for 9 months and giving birth. But, it was every bit as meaningful, exciting, and powerful.

I loved my three biological children with all of my heart from the moment I found out that I was pregnant with them. Each day that passed I got to know them more, even before they were born I knew what their little personalities were like. Anara was different...I fell in love with her photograph before I got to know her. The day I opened up the email from the agency with her information I cried, just like I did on the three mornings that I took pregnancy tests! I was going to have a baby! I didn't go through typical labor, but adopting Anara proved to be a much longer labor of love!



Walking into the orphanage and seeing her bouncing in her little swing is the most precious memory, I will never forget it...again I bawled! I held her close and kissed her and told her I loved her, and that Jesus loved her.

Continued on Page 2 under "Anara" ...

Evaluating Your Referral: Part Three

Some more great adoption tips from one of our parents, Dana

The great tips continue!

4. Know FAS When You See It

We became particularly familiar with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). With Russian adoption, you have to. Again, we scoured the Web for information - and especially photos - about FAS. We participated in online forums on the topic. We borrowed a pediatrician friend's medical books to look at photos of children diagnosed with FAS. We google'd and yahoo'd and altavista'd and dogpile'd for online resources on the topic.

For our first referral, we consulted an IA doctor. Part of the doctor's services was a detailed briefing about FAS. He educated us thoroughly about head circumference from his perspective. Our

first referral, we felt, had the classic look of FAS, and our IA doctor agreed. Afterward, we evaluated subsequent referrals ourselves (this is not for everyone!).

Using your own judgment is only for those who can keep their emotions in check. It is very difficult to decline a referral. I had many sleepless

Continued on Page 2 under "Tips"

Contents

Introduction	1
News and Tips	2
Updates	3



Anara

Continued from Page 1

She was mine, there was no doubt in my mind that she was my daughter. The most excruciating part of the whole process was leaving my daughter in a third world orphanage. Do you know what it is like to turn around and walk away from your child for 2 months? When you are pregnant you are never without your child, you have control over how they are cared for. You protect them and nourish them, its all up to you. When you adopt from Kyrgyzstan you don't have that luxury. But knowing what kind of life she would have if we didn't adopt her wasn't even an option. The only way I was able to walk away from Anara was knowing without a shadow of a doubt that my daughter was being left safely in the arms of Jesus. She always was and is His child. I said when we first started looking at adoption that I could NEVER go to Kyrgyzstan! Never say never, God may have a different plan than you do :)

Many of you know that we had some difficulties starting a family. I have endometriosis and it made things a little complicated. While we were very fortunate that we didn't have to struggle for years like many people do, it gave us a taste of what it is like desperately want a baby and fear that it may never happen. I had people tell me, "Oh, just adopt and you'll get pregnant", that drove me nuts! First of all, you have to be ready to let go of the idea of having a biological child. Second, adoption is not second best! It is simply a different avenue to becoming parents. Neither one is better than the other, just different. No matter how your child comes into your family, the love that you have for them is immeasurable. After bringing Anara home, I pity those that haven't experienced



the miracle of adoption!

There is no feeling in the world like having your child placed in your arms whether it is after 20hrs of labor in a hospital , or months of waiting for a court decision in an orphanage. Children are a gift from God. Anara has filled a hole in my heart that I didn't even know was there, she has made our family complete. When I sit back and think about all that happened to bring her home I am amazed at the way God orchestrated it all. He loved us all enough to put together all of the pieces.

If you are waiting to become a family, know that God is faithful! He has a plan for your family, and in His time He will see it to completion...you just have to be patient. Who knows, your child may be where you least expect them to be, maybe halfway around the world in a country you've never even heard of...like Kyrgyzstan. ~

Referral Tips ...

Continued from Page 1

nights after saying no – especially the first time. (I can still see all of their photos in my mind's eye.)

5. Get Emotional Support

During our cold and clinical research, we tried hard to keep ourselves as detached as possible from the evaluation process and the beautiful children's faces in the referral photos (my husband was more successful at this than I was),

Finally exhausted, I sought emotional support – again, online. For 2 ½ years I participated in four different Russian adoption online forums available through <http://groups.yahoo.com> – namely, Russian Adoption, Russian Orphanages, and Borovich Kids – and dipped in and out of FRUA Chat.

Each adoption forum has its own "personality." Some forums are more fact-oriented. Some are more emotionally oriented. Some throb with pain; others, with humor.

I became close to a handful of participants on the forum who seemed the most *simpatico* with my way of thinking. Despite the kindness and concern and caring of good friends and wonderful relatives, there is nothing like bonding with someone who is going through the same thing you are. Their honesty and forthrightness was a gift and I will always be grateful to them.

(Two months after completing our adoption, I still felt very connected to the online community I'd been part of and continued to participate in two out of the four groups.) ~

Read our next newsletter for the rest of Dana's tips!



UPDATES!!

A lot has happened in the past few months and we have been extremely busy! For those of you who don't know, we moved office locations and are now at 2012 Broadway, Vancouver, WA 98663!

Russia

Our Russian program has been a bit hectic lately as many of our families have been traveling!!

We do still have a considerable amount of Waiting Children who are looking for families! To get photos and more information on our Waiting Children, make sure to email Kate at kate@kidstoadopt.org to get on the email list.

One note about Russia, many parents inquiring about our agency are asking "Are you accredited to work in Russia." To clear this up, we work with Frank Adoption Center and Frank Foundation. FAC is accredited to work in Russia. We have worked with them for about 10 years now and have found them very reliable! Our agency has been selected by Frank Foundation to place their children with special needs. But remember - we place healthy kids too!

Kyrgyzstan

This past weekend we had our third family complete an adoption from Kyrgyzstan. Welcome home Lana!! We have another family that is leaving in January.

We have been getting quite a few inquiries from families interested in adopting children from Kyrgyzstan - but most of these families want to adopt young, healthy girls. For those who are interested, it is very difficult to adopt a young healthy girl from Kyrgyzstan! It is a small country, and there is a long waiting list to adopt

such a child from Kyrgyzstan. We would recommend Russia (larger country) and maybe Kazakhstan! We do have a few Special Needs children from Kyrgyzstan who are still waiting for their forever family!

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has seen a bit of a slowdown in adoptions since they increased their travel time. There is also a wait for travel dates for those parents who can travel!!

We do have some Waiting Children from Kazakhstan that are looking for homes!! If you wish to adopt a young healthy infant, consider this program - just be patient!

Ukraine

We have had quite a few families travel these past few months to Ukraine. Two are in-country right now! Ukraine is technically closed for adoptions right now, but they are letting families travel who are adopting special needs children and those over the age of 13 years.

We do want to say congratulations to Theresa and Mark for completing the first ever adoption from Torez (an orphanage with special needs children)!! We are so happy for you and that Christopher has found his forever family!!

The SDA in Ukraine will be accepting dossiers again for all other families starting in mid-January! We are recommending families to move quickly and have dossiers into us towards the

beginning of next year to get in front of the line!

Bulgaria

We have quite a few families who are working on their paperwork for Bulgaria! I do have a lot of inquiries where families ask "Is Bulgaria open for adoption?" The answer is yes - they are just moving slowly!!

Guatemala

Our Guatemalan program is temporarily closed! It is very risky to start an adoption in Guatemala, and parents are encouraged to pursue another program.

Hague Update!

For those who don't know, KTA had their Hague visit postponed due to the passing of Sandy's mother in September.

Our new Hague visit has been scheduled for early February 2008. We are not sure if we will still be on the first list, but it really shouldn't matter either way.

NOTE: The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption is an international law that creates standards for adoption agencies and countries throughout the world to make certain that adoptions occur legally and no child trafficking occurs.