



making families happen

I'm dreaming of a cure... but meanwhile...

I'm dreaming of the day... HIV status is shared as casually as a having diabetes;

I'm dreaming of HIV not being associated with certain groups defined by race, sexual orientation or economical status;

I'm dreaming of services, funding and help offered without a glimpse of judgment in how the person was infected or in our situation, the reasons why we would adopt these children;

I'm dreaming of the day, I don't have to go to my children's school and feel like I'm hiding a terrible secret that if shared could have major consequences on their future and acceptance among friends;

I'm dreaming of the day, some of our family members apologize for rejecting our children, screaming at us and calling us names after we disclosed;

I'm dreaming of the day, I don't have to fear losing friendships or family after naming my children's disease;

I'm dreaming of the day, I don't have to think of hiding the stash of pills or other "evidence" before someone comes over;

I'm dreaming or I should say, fantasizing over not telling certain things to my kids such as: "...It's best not to talk about it because they may not want to play with you any longer..."

... And I'm not dreaming of the day my children realize the impact of this stigma on their relationships.

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I'm dreaming of a cure... but meanwhile...

I'm dreaming of the day, birth moms can discuss freely this medical condition with their children without shame and guilt;

I'm dreaming of children like mine, growing up within their birth families because their parents' didn't die of AIDS.

I'm dreaming of a day people know the real facts around HIV and it's transmission;

I'm dreaming of the day, HIV is not seen and treated as a crime;

I'm dreaming of the day, families taking care of children living with HIV have a voice in the health care that concerns them;

I'm dreaming of the day, my children grow up and find the right support that respects their privacy and freedom of choice and are treated as the manager of their health;

I'm dreaming of the day, these children are no longer the invisible face of HIV but more professionals and advocates speak up for them and make things move forward;

I'm dreaming of the day, my children live their life to the fullest, achieving their dreams without fearing the « truth about them will eventually come out. »

I'm dreaming of my children as having a big circle of support of individuals who truly loves them and accept them as they are.

I'm dreaming of them, as being healthy and happy adults and HIV being just one of many things in their life.

I'm dreaming of them being able to use their own journey to support others and have empathy for individuals living with stigma, discrimination and/or a chronic condition.

I'm hoping for peace of mind, acceptance, freedom, health, justice, love and true friendships for all these children.

M - adoptive mother of two wonderful children



HOMELAND TRIP TO SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA MAY 13-18, 2017

By Rebecca, Age 12

Featuring her annoying little brother Timothy Haneul

DAY 1

We arrived in Seoul.



DAY 2

We visited the Seoul "N" Tower.

We visited Gyeongbokgung Palace, where we watched the changing of the palace guards.



DAY 3

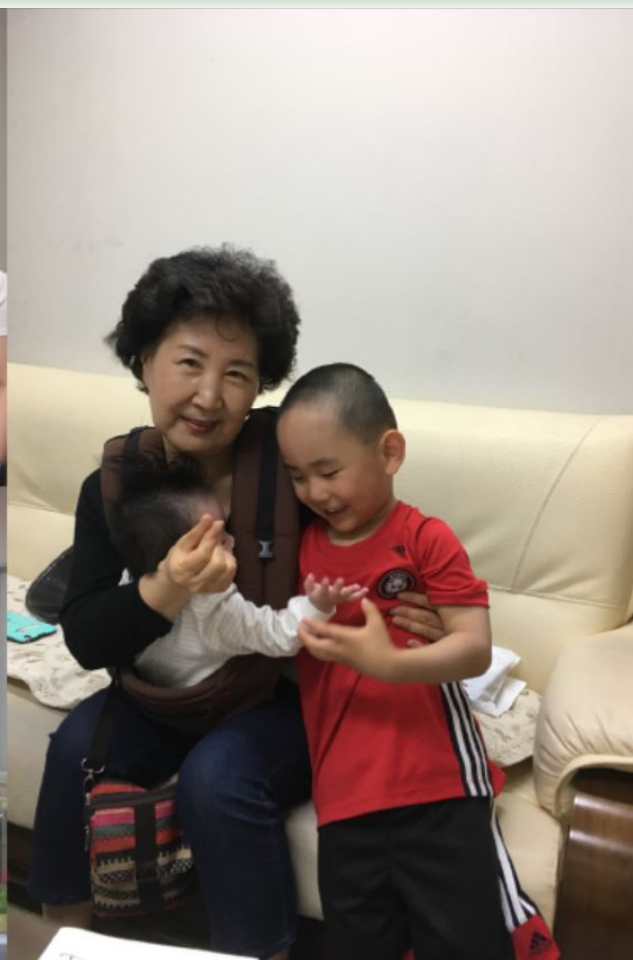
We took a walk along the Cheonggyecheon Stream.

We also learned how to cook Kimchi and got to try on traditional Korean Hanboks at the Kimchi Academy House.

After that, we made a short stop at a Samsung D'light store.

Finally we visited SWS to meet with Timothy's foster mom.





DAY 4

We visited the Hwaseong Fortress.

We also went to the Korean Folk Village and watched a number of performances.

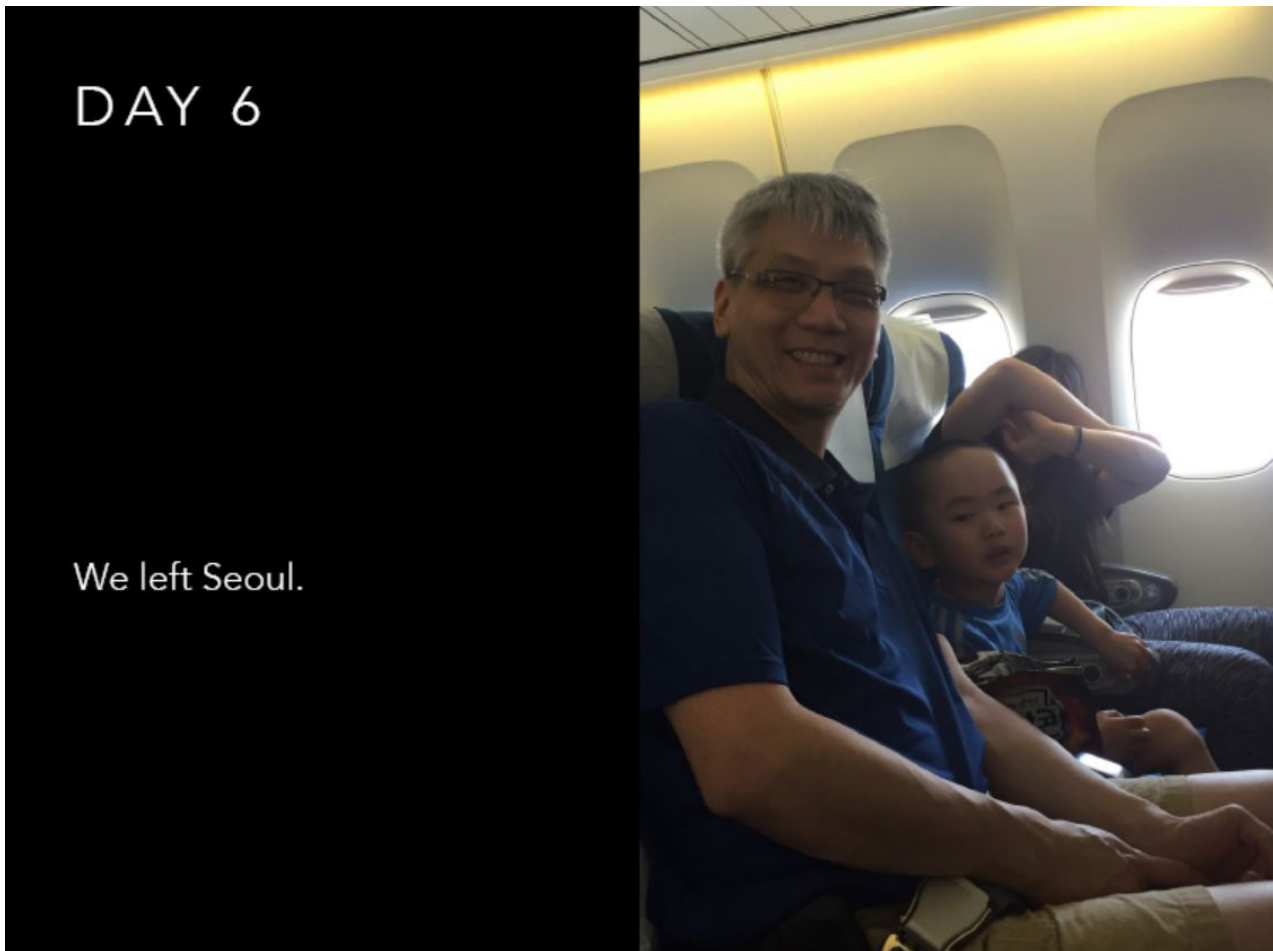




DAY 5

We went to Everland (an amusement park)





DAY 6

We left Seoul.

CB HOMELAND VISITS

CHINA - 2017

The August tour group returned home a couple of weeks ago and it sounds like they had a fantastic trip! Although they did face some unexpected delays (due to weather) and unexpected travel (they took a bullet train!) all seemed to take it in stride and enjoyed the excitement!

Here's an email to The Children's Bridge from one of the China Homeland Visit families:

Ni Hao!

Thought I would touch base and let you know that Maddie and I arrived home from China last night. We had an absolutely wonderful trip! Thanks again for organizing everything! We all greatly appreciate it!

Madeline loved her first China experience and has already asked to go back again in a few years. I personally loved that she made a connection with another girl on our trip and that we will get them together in future. Having a friend close in age in an exact same situation that she can talk to as she ages is great for them both. And I made some new friends too!

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Madeline jumping for joy on the Great Wall of China. Next to meeting her foster family this was what she was most excited to see on our trip.



Madeline and I about to embark on our rickshaw ride through the Hutong in Beijing.

Also the fact we were able to meet and spend significant time with Madeline's foster parents is amazing. Madeline spent 9 of the 10 months of her pre-adoption life with her foster family. To be able to get to know them is so important for us. We exchanged information and plan on keeping in touch. We will definitively visit them again when we return to China. Madeline was the sixth and last child they fostered...and she is the only one to return thus far. They are lovely people and were so happy to see Maddie.

The orphanage director Ms. Lee (who was the same person who drove to Chongqing and handed Maddie to me in Jan 2009) could also not have been more lovely. She was thrilled to see Madeline and treated her so warmly. All in all it was a wonderful experience.

I hope you enjoy the pictures of our time in China.

*All the best,
Danica*

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Madeline, me and Ms. Lee the current Director of the Dianjiang SWI.

Ms. Lee was the Assistant Director in 2009 and was the woman who brought Madeline into Chongqing and handed her to me.

We have many photo's of us with Ms. Lee in Jan 2009 and it was lovely to see her again and have her tour us around the orphanage



Madeline and me with her Foster Parents in their home in Dianjiang, Sichuan.

Madeline was the sixth and last child they fostered and the only one who has returned thus far.

Visit The Children's Bridge
for more information on
Homeland Visits!

- China
- South Korea
- Vietnam

*Photo taken at the ShiBaoZhai Pagoda
while on the Yangtze cruise excursion*



Photo taken during Yangtze cruise

THE CHILDREN'S BRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION CONSULTANTS



Homeland Visits


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