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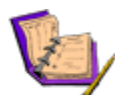


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April 28th, 2017



*Notes From Cathy's Desk*

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

### Temporary Administrative Assistant at The Children's Bridge

We are pleased to announce Maryfrances Carton will be covering for Hannah Carton as our Administrative Assistant from May 1 - August 30, 2017. Hannah Carton will be on an Engineering Co-Op placement and will return to The Children's Bridge in September 2017. We wish Hannah well and welcome Maryfrances! After May 1, 2017 you can reach Maryfrances at [maryfrances.carton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maryfrances.carton@childrensbridge.com) or 613-226-2112 ext. 0

### Adoption Tax Credit

If your family has completed your child's adoption in the 2016 fiscal year, please check the CRA web site for information about the adoption tax credit.

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvds/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/Ins300-350/313/menu-eng.html>

Line 313 - Adoption expenses

As a parent, you can claim an amount for eligible adoption expenses related to the adoption of a child who is under 18 years of age. The maximum claim for each child is \$15,453. You can only claim these incurred expenses in the tax year including the end of the adoption period for the child.

### Connect-A-Kid Mentorship Program Ottawa

The Children's Bridge is pleased to partner with Connect-A-Kid to provide a team based mentorship program for adopted children, devoted to connecting the adoption community through mentorship, embracing cultural diversity and celebrating adoption. We are pleased to welcome Kara Eusebio and Natasha Clark as two of our new adult mentors along with Maryfrances Carton and Anika Clark

(currently on maternity leave). Please check our web site at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) under events for our May and June events. We will be planning our fall events over the summer holidays!

CIC Links:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/index.asp>

Differences between the CIC Immigration Sponsorship and Canadian Citizenship processes

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/differences.asp>

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

### Florida, Thailand and South Korea Adoption Programs

The Children's Bridge currently has openings in our Florida, Thailand and South Korea adoption programs. Please contact Program Managers, Karyn Bakelaar, Darlene Catton or Maria Fulford to ensure you meet the requirements for these adoption programs [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com) or [maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com)

### Did you know?

Why using the word "orphan" might not be a good idea.

The definition of "orphan" is a child/person whose parents are dead. So, in reality, orphans aren't people who aren't with their biological families. Just because someone was adopted, doesn't make them an orphan. Many adoptees don't identify as orphans and find the label hurtful and dismissive (of their first/biological families). Adoptees also feel like it's a word used to make them feel like they are in need of saving and perhaps to justify the adoption. Most "orphans" actually do have living relatives.

### Did you know?

The Movie and Book Lion are great resources for teens. The book LION was written by adoptee Saroo Brierley.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristin-chenoweth/kristin-chenoweth-on-lion-and-adoption\\_b\\_14113034.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristin-chenoweth/kristin-chenoweth-on-lion-and-adoption_b_14113034.html)



*Adoption Services*

Cathy Murphy

### PRE AND POST ADOPTION SERVICES

#### Post Adoption Consultation Service:

The Children's Bridge is pleased to offer our Post Adoption Consultation service for adoptive families that includes: scheduled telephone/skype call, email correspondence and identification of resources specific to the needs of the family, child or youth or the country the child has been adopted from.

The fee for consultation is \$75.00 per hour.

Please note that this fee is not charged for our initial 6 months post adoption follow-up call when The Children's Bridge families are first home from country with their child.

To book a Post Adoption Consultation, please contact [Karyn Bakelaar](#), [Darlene Catton](#) or [Cathy Murphy](#).

### Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in the coming months: Information Session for prospective adoptive parents - AdopTALK October 14 and 15, 2017 in

Newmarket, Ontario and Connect-A-Kid Ottawa Mentoring Program events are posted on our web site at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) Many thanks to Maryfrances Carton and Anika Clark for leading this group! Welcome to Kara and Natasha!

### Post Adoption Follow Up Calls

You will be contacted by one of our TCB staff approximately 6 months after arriving home in Canada. The purpose of our call is to touch base with your family and see how your child and family are doing. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to touch base before this time or if you require any supports or resources for your family.

### Pre and Post Adoption Services Book List and Recommended Reading

Below you will find a list of books related to adoption, trauma-informed parenting, race, culture, ethnicity or just every day books that feature kids of colour. I will be adding to the list monthly, and if you have favourite book lists you'd like to share, please feel free to email them to me at [Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) .

We encourage families to keep in mind these books are good for every child to have as part of their library - adopted or not, person of colour or not - as exposure to diversity, different ways to make a family, etc. can only lead to more tolerance and acceptance for everyone!

### March Booklist

1. Seventeen Cute Children's Books About Adoption: <http://www.todaysparent.com/family/17-cute-kids-books-about-adoption/image/2/>
2. Great Books for Black Teenage Boys: <http://mybrownbaby.com/2011/08/books-for-african-american-teenage-boy/>
3. Strong Nations - Books that Feature First Nations Children: [http://www.strongnations.com/store/item\\_list.php?it=3&cat=6](http://www.strongnations.com/store/item_list.php?it=3&cat=6)
4. Mighty Girl Booklist - Top Books that Feature Latino/Hispanic Girls: <http://www.amightygirl.com/mighty-girl-picks/top-latino-hispanic-american-mighty-girl-books>
5. Books on Mayan Culture (Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, etc.): [http://www.terraexperience.com/b\\_books\\_childrens.htm](http://www.terraexperience.com/b_books_childrens.htm)
6. Children's Book Tour of Central Africa (CAR, DRC, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda): <https://www.librarything.com/list/1047/all/A-Childs-Book-Tour-of-Central-Africa-Congo-Cameroon-Rwanda-Chad>
7. Books that Celebrate Haitian Children: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
8. African-American Children's Movies: <http://movies.lovetoknow.com/african-american-childrens-movies>
9. Books that Feature Children from the Pacific Islands (Pacific Islands, Polynesia, Tahiti, Marshall Islands): <http://www.pacificislandbooks.com/children.htm>
10. Exploring East Asia Through Children's Books: [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/outreach/educators/storytelling/child\\_booklist.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/outreach/educators/storytelling/child_booklist.shtml)

### April Booklist

1. Top Five "Go To" Books for Trauma Informed Parenting: <http://beachildsadvocate.blogspot.ca/2016/04/my-top-5-go-to-books-for-trauma.html?spref=fb>
2. Top Ten Kids Books for Mixed Race/Biracial Children: <http://www.mixedremixed.org/top-10-favorite-kids-books-for-multiracial-kids-and-teens/>
3. Books About and Written By New Immigrants: <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/novelist-special/new-fiction-from-new-immigrants>
4. Southeast Asian (middle school fiction): [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/92237.Southeast\\_Asians\\_in\\_YA\\_Middle\\_Grade\\_Fiction](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/92237.Southeast_Asians_in_YA_Middle_Grade_Fiction)
5. Middle School and Young Adult Fiction with Muslim Protagonists:

[http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/16325.Muslimah\\_YA\\_fiction](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/16325.Muslimah_YA_fiction)

6. Books for Latino/a/x Kids and Teens: <http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=2000155101>

### May Booklist

1. Top Ten Books of Filipino Stories for Children: <http://tagaloglang.com/top-10-books-of-filipino-stories-for-children/>
2. Best Books on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/12/best-books-democratic-republic-congo-review>
3. 82 Children's Books that Depict Multi-racial Families: [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/50576.Children\\_s\\_Books\\_Depicting\\_Multiracial\\_Families](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/50576.Children_s_Books_Depicting_Multiracial_Families)
4. 13 Children's Books About Bullying: <http://humaneeducation.org/blog/2014/10/09/13-childrens-picture-books-bullying/>
5. Many Languages, Many Alphabets - Books that Expose Children to Different Alphabets Around the World: <https://litforkids.wordpress.com/2009/05/03/many-languages-many-alphabets/>

### June Booklist

1. Multi-racial Asian Families - books that consider race, families, children and the intersection of Mixed ID/Asian identity: <http://multiasianfamilies.blogspot.ca/p/books-for-kids.html>
2. 50 Picture Books About Mixed Race Families: <http://coloursofus.com/picture-books-about-mixed-race-families/>
3. LGBTQ Positive Books That Kids Need to Read: <http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2016/06/lgbtq-books-for-kids.html>
4. 25 Books for Black/African-American Little Boys: <http://www.watchtheyard.com/list/childrens-books-for-african-american-boys/>
5. 25 Empowering Books for Black Little Girls: <http://www.forharriet.com/2013/10/25-empowering-books-for-little-black.html#axzz4CHIMDr5S>
6. Children's Books Set in Haiti: [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/82951.Children\\_s\\_Fiction\\_set\\_in\\_Haiti](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/82951.Children_s_Fiction_set_in_Haiti)
7. Top Ten Indigenous Books for your Summer Reading List: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/10-top-indigenous-books-for-your-summer-reading-list-1.2695671>
8. #Indigenous Reads: Your Picks for the best Indigenous Books: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/celebrating-indigenous-book-club-month-1.3624136/indigenousreads-your-picks-for-the-best-indigenous-books-1.3624580>

### July Booklist

1. Best Novels on Racism and Discrimination: [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/21184.Best\\_Novels\\_on\\_Racism\\_and\\_Discrimination](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/21184.Best_Novels_on_Racism_and_Discrimination)
2. 13 Latina Young Adult Authors to Know: <http://www.latina.com/entertainment/book-club/latino-young-adult-authors-know>
3. Popular Korean American Books: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/korean-american>
4. Top Ten Books About Adoption (Chosen by Adopted Children): <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/oct/22/top-10-books-about-adoption-chosen-by-adopted-children>
5. Books on Transracial Adoption for Adoptive Parents: <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption/adoptionsuggestedbooks/transracial-adoption/>
6. Best Children's Book about Transracial Adoption: <https://www.babble.com/babble-voices/best-books-for-transracial-families/>
7. 10 Most Empowering Books for Girls in 2016: <http://coolmompicks.com/blog/2016/07/13/empowering-books-for-girls/>

8. A Great Place to Get Discount Books Listed Above: <http://bookoutlet.ca/>

### September Booklist

1. Ten Children's Books with Black Girl Protagonists: <http://www.bustle.com/articles/144443-10-childrens-books-with-black-girl-protagonists>
2. Ten Must Have Books for Muslim Children: <http://www.aquila-style.com/lifestyle/10-must-have-books-for-muslim-children/45518/>
3. Best Books on Buddhism for Kids: <http://www.criticalcactus.com/best-books-on-buddhism-for-children/>
4. Children's Books Featuring Kids of Color Just Being Themselves - Because That's Enough: <https://medium.com/embrace-race/childrens-books-featuring-kids-of-color-being-themselves-because-that-s-enough-36aa15c94d44#.hpch29xk7>
5. Ultimate Stats on White Privilege: <http://www.jbwttucker.com/ultimate-white-privilege-statistics/>

### November Booklist

1. Book List for Black Girls: Promoting Self-Love and Empowering Young Black Women: <https://mediadiversified.org/2013/09/09/book-list-for-black-girls-promoting-self-love-and-empowering-young-black-women/>
2. Take Me Away...To Guatemala!: <http://imlostinbooks.blogspot.ca/2009/11/take-me-awayto-guatemala.html>
3. Celebrate Young Adult Books That Feature Haitian Culture: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
4. Social Justice Reading List for Adults: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1By9bUjJ78snEeZuLXNGBdIVMJgEQWMEjR-Gfx8ER7lw/mobilebasic>
5. Arm your Mind with These Books on Activism and Social Justice: [http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/stop-trump-reading-list/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=paid&utm\\_medium=cpc](http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/stop-trump-reading-list/?utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=paid&utm_medium=cpc)

### December Booklist

1. Books about Kwanzaa: <https://www.amazon.com/Best-Sellers-Books-Childrens-Kwanzaa/zgbs/books/3087>
2. Books that teach about Las Posadas for Latin(x) families: <https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2012/12/03/mira-look-books-for-teaching-about-las-posadas/>
3. Books about Hanukkah - a Diverse Dozen: <http://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2015/11/27/hanukkah-books-diverse-dozen/>
4. Christmas Books Around the World: <http://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2013/12/10/christmas-books-around-world/>
5. Top Ten Diwali Kids Books: <http://coloursofus.com/top-10-diwali-childrens-books/>

### January Booklist

1. Talking to Kids About Protesting: <http://www.westories.org/blog/2016/9/22/talking-to-kids-about-protesting-5-things-i-want-my-kids-to-know>
2. Books for Free in Honour of Women's Marches: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/janet-mock-issa-rae-books-for-free\\_us\\_58827a8fe4b096b4a231b051?utm\\_hp\\_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/janet-mock-issa-rae-books-for-free_us_58827a8fe4b096b4a231b051?utm_hp_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&)
3. Books for Smart, Confident and Courageous Girls: <http://www.amightygirl.com/books>
4. 23 Kids Books Set in South Africa: <http://coloursofus.com/23-childrens-books-set-south-africa/>

### March Booklist



1. Recent Books Written by Women of Colour: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-new-books-by-women-writers-of-color-to-add-to-your-must-read-list\\_us\\_58b49a75e4b060480e0b1184?ws3e63wnhsniv0a4i%3Futm\\_hp\\_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&ncid=fcbkInkushpmg00000047](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-new-books-by-women-writers-of-color-to-add-to-your-must-read-list_us_58b49a75e4b060480e0b1184?ws3e63wnhsniv0a4i%3Futm_hp_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&ncid=fcbkInkushpmg00000047)
2. Popular Ethiopian Kids Books: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/kids-ethiopia>
3. Top Ten Chinese-American Books: <https://www.momsrising.org/blog/top-10-chinese-american-childrens-books-ages-2-14>
4. Books That Teach Kids Intersectional Feminism: <https://www.romper.com/p/14-books-that-teach-intersectional-feminism-to-kids-43204>
5. 32 Multicultural Kids Books About Strong Female Role Models: <http://coloursofus.com/20-multicultural-picture-books-about-strong-female-role-models/>
6. 10 Books by Indian Authors to Look for in 2017: <https://www.bustle.com/p/10-books-by-indian-authors-to-look-out-for-in-2017-29680>
7. Free Books on Race, Sexuality, Gender and Class for Young Adults: <http://www.tyreebp.com/tbp-blog/2016/01/14/free-books-on-race-gender-sexuality-and-class-that-are-bound-to-get-you-woke>
8. Children's Books that Tackle Race and Ethnicity: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/22/books/23racebooks.html? r=0>



## USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

### ADOPTION PROGRAM NEWS

#### Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC)

This adoption program is currently full and a call-back (wait) list is in effect. We currently have one family on the call-back list. Please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar, for further information on this adoption program.

Congratulations are extended to Michael and Lisa, who are now home in Ontario with their baby girl!

### PROGRAM CHANGES

Adoption by Shepherd's Care has made some recent changes in their policies, and will now be prioritizing the files of families with known infertility issues, are childless, are experiencing secondary infertility, or have previously adopted a child through ASC.

#### USA Tax Laws and Dual Citizenship Status

This correspondence was sent to all family's home with children adopted from the USA, and to new families beginning the adoption process. Please feel free to share this information widely.

Under the *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act* (FATCA) which was enacted in the USA in 2010, all US citizens must file annual tax returns, as well as report all foreign financial assets. This law also allows the American government (IRS) to access records and information for US citizens from the CRA or larger Canadian financial institutions (some smaller banks and credit unions are exempt).

In most cases, dual citizens will not owe taxes on US tax returns as Canada has a much higher tax rate than does the US. Some saving accounts are exempt from FATCA, such as RRSP's, etc, thanks to FACTA provisions in Bill-C31. That being said, annual tax returns must be filed, and financial assets in your child's name must be reported.

In previous information that had been shared with adoptive families, three options for adoptive families were stated as follows:

A. Parents and their adopted children can comply with the US legislation (submit annual tax returns/report assets according to law);

- B. Renounce or relinquish the child's US citizenship once Canadian permanent residency was granted;
- C. Parents and the adopted child could simply not comply.

However, it has recently been brought to my attention that **Option B (renouncing or relinquishing US citizenship) is not an option**. According to US Immigration Law it is not possible for minors to renounce citizenship, nor is it possible for adults to renounce of behalf of an American Citizen. While this link states the age of renunciation to be 16, I have spoken to a few US Hague attorneys that have stated the age is now 21. Additionally, the process of renunciation is long and is somewhat costly (one website said fee increased to \$2300USD, and more if an immigration attorney is involved (see news articles below). ( <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal-considerations/us-citizenship-laws-policies/renunciation-of-citizenship.html> )

There has been some advocacy and organizations that are attempting to have this overturned, such as The Alliance for the Defense of Canadian Sovereignty, but for now the law is in tact and applies to all adoptive families. There is a lawyer in the GTA area that holds free Information Seminars on US taxation, and also will advise you on your options as outlined above. His website is: <http://www.citizenshipsolutions.ca/>

I will share any further information with you that comes my way, and this information will be in the Monthly Update for the next few issues. I have two Hague attorneys in the US investigating whether options exist in the cases of adoption, but at this point it seems adopted children fall under the same laws and regulations as other US ex-pats.

**Laws and Bills:**

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal-considerations/us-citizenship-laws-policies/renunciation-of-citizenship.html>
- <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/corporations/foreign-account-tax-compliance-act-fatca>

**Other Resources and Reading:**

- Alliance for the Defense of Canadian Sovereignty: <http://www.adcs-adsc.ca/>
- FAQ Document of FACTA by a Chartered Accountant: <https://www.hutcheson.ca/common-questions-asked-by-us-citizens-in-canada-fatca-and-tax-related/>

**Information, Resources and Articles:**

- Blog Post - Possible Consequences of Not Filing Annual Tax Returns as an American living abroad (dual citizen): <http://www.expatarrials.com/article/consequences-for-not-filing-us-income-taxes-as-an-american-expat>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/the-law-page/dual-citizens-launch-legal-challenge-on-canada-us-tax-deal/article20007176/>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/international-business/impact-of-sweeping-us-tax-crackdown-will-be-felt-by-the-unwitting/article21076723/>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/personal-finance/taxes/attention-american-expats-in-canada-the-irs-has-its-eyes-on-you/article19140900/?1488999885865>
- <http://files4.webydo.com/41/410162/UploadedFiles/454d0e03-b40d-47ab-9d67-314b0c4163ca.pdf>
- <http://www.macleans.ca/economy/business/think-sharing-bank-data-with-the-u-s-only-affects-canadian-americans-think-again/>

**ACF Adoptions**

This adoption program is now full, and a call-back list is in place. ACF hopes to be able to take more applications as of May 2017. Please contact the Program Manager (Karyn Bakelaar) for further information on this adoption program.

**USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS**

**ADOPTION BY SHEPHERD CARE (ASC)**

FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
--------	------------------

1	Family V & N	Home with Baby!
2	Family S and L	Compiling Dossier for USA
3	Family C & M	Completing homestudy process
4	Family R & R	Completing homestudy process
5	Family R & K	Completing homestudy process

## ACF ADOPTIONS

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
	N/A	On Hold to New Applications

**\*\*Please Note:** The above chart will not be updated when waiting families are matched with expectant parents in Florida, as there are still too many unknowns at that point in the process. The chart will be updated after the birth of the child, following the signing of final consents in the USA.

If you would like any information on the Florida adoption program, please contact the Florida Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



**HIV+ Kids Adoption Program**

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

The Children's Bridge is pleased to announce we will be hosting an information evening on **Adopting a Child Living with HIV** on Saturday, May 6th in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Please see our website for details and to register, at: <http://www.childrensbridge.com/pages/upcomingevents.html>

Date: Saturday May 6, 2017

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Place: Holiday Inn, Winnipeg - Airport West Suite (2520 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg)

Cost: \$50.00 membership with The Children's Bridge

(please complete membership form and mail to The Children's Bridge with your cheque)

We are also in the process of scheduling a date for an Ottawa session this June. For more information please email the Program Manager at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com), or watch our website for details.

#### Program Possibilities

- **India** - all ages of children living with HIV are available for adoption, other program requirements may be waived (maximum age, marital status). Please contact Karyn Bakelaar for more information ( [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) )
- **Thailand** - children will be 3+ years at time of adoption, program requirements may be waived, and single applicants (female only) may apply. Please contact the Thailand Program Manager, Darlene Catton, for more information ( [Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com) ).
- **China** - We are currently working with an orphanage in China that is able to place children living with HIV into adoptive families.
  - For further information, please contact Cathy Murphy ( [cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com) )

If you would like any information on the HIV+ Kids adoption program, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.





## *Republic of Zambia Adoption Program*

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

### Adoption Program News

I am thrilled to announce that one of our families in the Zambia program have been matched with a waiting child. They have arrived in Zambia and have begun the fostering process which is a requirement of this program.

We will now be accepting two (2) new families into this adoption program. Applicants must be married, and live in a diverse area of the country. Please review the Zambia program requirements before enquiring about this adoption program - you must meet all requirements and be able to complete the long in-country stay (6 - 7 months). If you would like more information, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar, for more information.

So far we have completed one adoption from Zambia, and have one relative adoption in the final stages of visa processing. One family is matched with a child and has begun the adoption process in Zambia, and our second family is currently waiting for a child proposal from Zambia.

If you would like any information on the Zambian adoption program, please contact the Zambian Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



## *India Program*

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. CARA is now accepting families for both their mainstream program and their special needs stream. Most children are over 3 at time of referral, and they have still emphasized the need for families for older children. There are many older children waiting for families in India so CARA is able to match families fairly quickly who are open to children over the age of 7 or 8 years old.

If you would like any information about the India Adoption program, please contact me at 613-226-2112 ext. 2, or at [Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com).

### Camp Masala

This was shared with me from one of our wonderful families that have completed an adoption from India, and it looks like a really great opportunity for adopted children to be immersed in Indian culture and to share this experience with other adoptive children and families.

<http://www.campmasala.org/page/show/1059053-camp-masala-a-special-weekend-your-family-will-never-forget->

### Family's Progress

We currently have one family waiting to travel to finalize their child's adoption in India, and one family waiting for CARA's approval on their submitted dossier.

### OCI Status:

CARA's guideline's certainly say that adopted children are eligible for OCI status - this is from the US State department: CARA's [Guidelines Governing the Adoption of Children, 2015](#) state that an adopted Indian child shall be entitled to receive an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, if found eligible. For more information about the procedure for applying for OCI status for your child, please contact the nearest Indian Embassy or consulate.

Families can apply online for OCI status here : <https://passport.gov.in/oci/welcome>

### Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

Once families are home in Canada with their children, they must complete a formal process renouncing Indian citizenship (dual citizenship is not possible in this adoption program). This **must** be done within 3-years of receiving Canadian Citizenship (or Record of Landing if you complete the Permanent Resident Visa route). It is **very important** to complete this step, as failure to do so may

result in penalties when your child travels back to India at any point in their life. It is a punishable offence under the Indian Passport Act, 1967, to apply for an Indian passport, continue to hold an Indian passport, get an Indian passport re-issued or travel on an Indian passport after acquiring foreign citizenship. Under Indian law, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have acquired foreign citizenship are required to surrender their Indian passports to the nearest Indian Mission/Post immediately after acquisition of foreign citizenship.

Please see this link for more information on relinquishing Indian citizenship and relinquishing your child's Indian passport: [http://www.blindia-canada.com/renunciation\\_ppt.php](http://www.blindia-canada.com/renunciation_ppt.php)

#### Foreigners Regional Registration Office and NOC

There has been a new requirement put in place by the Indian government that all families must obtain a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) from the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) before you bring your child home from India. This is also a requirement for adoptive parents who hold OCI status and will travel on a Canadian passport. This NOC is essentially an exit permit and families will need to apply for it at the FRRO before departing India.

The adoptive parents are advised to first contact the FRRO office to request an appointment date and bring along with them the printout of the online application form and relevant documents pertaining to their adoption. The exit permit(s) shall be granted within three working days after submission.

I am happy to provide traveling families with more detailed information about this process once they are at this stage in their adoption process. Please note: It is highly recommended that all families travel to Delhi in order to apply to the Delhi FRRO office. The Delhi office is more familiar with the process and has been able to keep to the 3-day turnaround time. As well, the CARA office is close in proximity, which means documents that are needed can be accessed in person and in a timely fashion by the adoptive family or the FRRO officers.

CARA has advised that parents can contact the FRRO support desk by telephone at 91 11 2671-1443 or by e-mail at [frrodli.support@nic.in](mailto:frrodli.support@nic.in) OR [frrodli.support@gov.in](mailto:frrodli.support@gov.in) for assistance in obtaining this document.

The address for the FRRO office in Delhi is as follows:

Foreigners Regional Registration Office  
East Block VIII Level II ,  
Sec 1, R K Puram, Delhi - 110066  
+(91)-(11)-26711074, 26711384, 26711443, 26711348

If you have any questions about the India adoption program, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com).



## *South Korea Program*

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: [maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

#### REFERRAL NEWS!!!

A referral arrived mid last week for a very adorable 8-month baby boy. The new parents are thrilled with the news. BIG CONGRATULATIONS!

#### COURT DATES AND TRAVEL NOTICES

We wait for court date notices for three families. The last two families to attend court were permitted to leave the Court House right after their short hearing. After court, families find their own way back to their hotel either via taxi or subway.

Our family with the March court date received notice this week that they can now make their second trip to Korea to receive their son. Travel plans are made and they'll be uniting with their son in just a little over a week.

#### Timeline summary:

Family	Dossier to Korea	Referral received	Acceptance to Korea	EP to MOHW	EP App'd	Docs to Court	Court Date	AO App'd	AO Conf'd	COPR	Placed

A	April 12/16	May 5/16	June 16/16	Sept 8/16	Dec 19/16	Dec 20/16	Mar 9/17	Mar 19/17	Apr 10/17	Apr 27/17	
B	April 19/16	Jun 26/16	July 28/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17					
C	Jul 28/16	Aug 16/16	Sept 20/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17					
D	Aug 18/16	Sept 29/16	Oct 27/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17					
E	Dec 8/16	Jan 3/17	Feb 14/17								
F	Aug 23/16	Jan 10/17	Feb 14/17								
G	Nov 3/16	Apr 19/17									
H	Feb 14/17	Mar 20/17	Apr 19/17								
I	Feb 14/17										
J	Mar 23/17										
K	Apr 19/17										

Referral timelines can take anywhere from 1 to 8 months, estimated, and matching is not completed in any order. Timelines from referral acceptance to travel for court (first trip) can take 7 to 12 months once referral acceptance is submitted to SWS. Each case is different and court date notices can be set out of order. Timelines cannot be guaranteed.

Estimated second travel notice is issued once Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) is received by SWS can take anywhere from 6 to 16 weeks from court date.

SWS Guest House Update: The SWS Guesthouse is closed for an indefinite period and we are unsure as to why. I have recently updated the Referral Booklet/Travel guide current hotel/accommodation information.

### AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop before or shortly after your completed home study is submitted, as the certificate must be included in your dossier for Korea. All details for AdopTALK are on our website.

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdopTALK will be held October 14th and 15th in Newmarket (GTA). All details are now on-line.

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE ADOPTION COURT HEARING:

Below is some information from SWS regarding what to expect at the court hearings in Korea. We hope that all families will feel prepared as they attend court for the finalization of their adoption, and encourage all families to review the questions below and how they would answer each one. Families will either attend court on a Thursday or Friday, and SWS has compiled some questions that families have been asked by each judge. We advise that families should prepare themselves for all questions regardless of which day they attend court.

**The following are examples of questions that a judge may ask:**

1. Did you meet with your prospective adoptive child? How was it? How did the child do?
2. If you have a child/children, does he/she/they know about this adoption? How did he/she/they respond?

3. After meeting with the prospective adoptive child, was there any change in your decision to adopt?
4. Questions about the occupations of the parents
5. Who is going to be the primary caretaker?
6. How are you going to raise your child (your parenting plan)?
7. What is your motivation to adopt from Korea? Is there any community around you or your neighborhood that can support your adoption?
8. How long has it been since you first applied for adoption?
9. When were you matched with your child? Or how long has it been since the matching?
10. Was there any difficulty in pursuing the adoption process?
11. Lastly do you have anything to say?

Some judges may ask questions based on the homestudy and psychological evaluation. Reviewing your own homestudy and psychological evaluation report beforehand would be very helpful.

When you answer the judge, you should be looking at him/her, not the translator, although he/she may not be able to understand what you say. And please smile! Don't be nervous! You just show how much you love your child and just be truthful!

Families may be permitted to leave the Court House right after their short hearing. After court, families find their own way back to their hotel either via taxi or subway.

#### **INFORMATION ON ADOPTING A SECOND CHILD FROM S. KOREA**

We have received information from SWS about families that are interested in pursuing a second adoption from South Korea. The Ministry of Health and Welfare has agreed to accept families who are under the age of 50 at time of placement for second adoptions, or for first adoptions if the family is of Korean heritage or an adult adoptee.

Prospective adoptive parents would be required to receive special permission regarding their age in advance. If a family is interested in completing an adoption and is over the age of 45, SWS will ask the Ministry for permission before the family can proceed.

The conditions in which the upper age limit for adoptive parents may be 50 at time of placement are as follows:

- Both parents are of Korean heritage, OR
- Either parent is an adoptee themselves (of any heritage), OR
- Parents (of any heritage) already have previously adopted a child from Korea.

Due to the approximate time frame for adoptions from South Korea, SWS has informed us that they would require the family's dossier before they turn 48.

If you meet these requirements and are interested in adopting from South Korea, please do not hesitate to contact me for further details.

#### **ADOPTION ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE**

Historically, the estimated time for COPR issuing is 4 to 6 weeks after Manila receives paperwork from SWS. However, we've seen as long as 16 weeks for a few cases. SWS will send the immigration paperwork to Manila approximately 1 week after the confirmed adoption order has been issued as there is translation required. SWS will inform us when a family is ready to travel for the second trip once they have received the COPR, not when Manila says they have issued it as we do not want families waiting in Korea for an indefinite and longer stay.

#### **APPLYING FOR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ARRIVAL HOME**

Families who have returned home must complete the application for Canadian citizenship for their child within 30 days of arriving home. All of the children adopted from Korea will be returning to Canada as permanent residents and therefore families will need to apply for citizenship as it is **not automatically granted** to internationally adopted children.

A copy of the completed application should be scanned and emailed to our agency and I will forward to SWS. The family court in Seoul will not issue Adoption Orders if families do not comply and apply for citizenship. Not applying for citizenship will affect all families in process waiting for their Adoption Order.

Please note that CIC has updated their website and their forms. The current citizenship application that should be completed by families when they return home is found here:

CIC Links:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/index.asp>

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

Families who have arrived home with their children after November 2016 have been instructed by CIC to have the Adoption Order officially translated. We find this very strange as two original Adoption Orders are given to the adoptive parents, one in Korean and one in English. Families have also had to provide a translated Adoption Order in order to apply for a Canadian Passport. If you have any difficulties, we suggest that you contact CIC to ask specific questions about your application.

#### **SOUTH KOREA HOMELAND VISIT**

Several successful South Korea Homeland Visits have taken place and families have shared their unique and personal experiences which you can find on our website - most recent one, from this summers' visit: [http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits\\_SKtestimonials.html](http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits_SKtestimonials.html)

2017 Homeland Visit details are now finalized. Please contact me if you'd like information or registration details.

Currently we have two families participating in a May and July custom Homeland Visit.

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact me. [maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com)

#### **9th WELCOME HOME for South Korean Adult Adoptees**

The Children's Bridge adoptees from South Korean do not meet the age requirements at this time to attend this program but I'm posting the information with the hopes of it reaching the wider Korean adult adoptee community.



## Shall we be friends?

This seven-day program is designed to let overseas adoptees experience their birth country of Korea in a more interesting way by assigning Korean friends to each of them.



**Period** Aug. 20, 2017(Sun) ~ Aug. 26(Sat)

**People eligible** 15 overseas adoptees between the age of 20 and 50  
(Priority will be given to those never been to Korea before)

**How to apply** Please contact SWS at [swspas@sws.or.kr](mailto:swspas@sws.or.kr)

**Closing date for application** July 28, 2017

### Program

Date	Schedule	Details
Aug. 20 (Sun)	Opening Ceremony	- Let the adoptees and volunteers know about the purpose of the visit and throw an event to build relations among them - Present the theme and schedule
Aug. 21 (Mon)	SWS & Baby's Reception Home visit	- Visit the Social Welfare Society and Baby's reception Home
	Foster Home Visit	- Visit the foster home
Aug. 22 (Tue)	Korean traditional culture experience	Experience Korean culture
	Seoul downtown tour	sightseeing in Seoul
	Korean food experience	Have a time to make Korean food
Aug. 23(Wed) - Aug. 24(Thu)	2 day trip	- Participants make 2 day trip to outside of Seoul
Aug. 25 (Fri)	Birth Family Search #1	- File Review - Visit the police station or related sites
Aug. 26 (Sat)	Birth Family Search #2	- Meeting with the foster family - Meeting with the birth family
	Closing ceremony	- Present the prepared material to wrap up the schedule and farewell

### From The Social Welfare Society, Korea (SWS):

I am happy to inform you of the upcoming event this year, the 9th Welcome Home.

Welcome Home is a program sponsored by Social Welfare Society since 2008 for adult overseas Korean adoptees to visit and explore the homeland.

This year, the program will begin on August 20th and will last for 7 days, closing on August 26.

The core idea of the program is to match an adoptee with a Korean volunteer and experience the entire program together as a team, which we call the 'buddy system.'

Through their buddies, it is hoped that adoptees will explore Korea in a friendlier way, feel comfortable and invited in their homeland, and eventually build a healthy identity as an adoptee.

The entire cost of the program is sponsored by Social Welfare Society and this also includes accommodations for one day before and one day after the program.



As the opening ceremony is scheduled in the afternoon of August 20th, all participants are expected to arrive in Korea by the morning of August 20th.

As for the departure, the closing ceremony is scheduled in the evening of August 26th, which means all departures should be planned on August 27th or later.

Any overseas Korean adoptees between the age of 20 and 50 are welcomed to apply for the program and should there be an overflow or applicants, the applicants that have not visited Korea before will be given priority.

Application will be closed on July 28th.

I hope many adoptees can get an opportunity to be part of this program and your help and support is the key, which I greatly appreciate in advance.

Best,  
Shinhye Kang, Social Worker  
Post Adoption Services Manager  
Social Welfare Society

*Please contact me for an application form. Thank you.*

*Maria Fulford*

*South Korea Adoption Program Manager*

*The Children's Bridge*

*[maria.fulford@childrensbridge](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge)*

*613-226-2112 ext.4*

#### KOREAN CULTURE GROUPS AND EVENTS - GTA AND OTTAWA

##### 2017 Korean Cultural Class - Association for Families of Korean Adoptees, Ottawa

For the monthly class schedule go to: <http://www.childrensbridge.com/pages/generalevents.html>

##### **Monday May 6, 2017 9:45 - Tae Kwon Do and lunch**

Dear Families,

As scheduled, we will have the Taekwondo lesson on May 6. Tae Eun Lee (Taekwondo instructor) asked that anyone who would like to participate in the lesson should wear comfortable long pants and a t-shirt. Parents and children are all welcome. This time the lesson will start at 10:00 AM sharp. Please come no later than 9:45AM.

Since this is the last session of the winter program, we will be having lunch. We will cook mung bean pancakes and fermented soya bean paste soup at the church. Ok Sun Park, who makes her own soya bean paste, will demo how to make it. Children will make LA kimbap wraps with sea weed and a choice of vegetables and condiments. Please RSVP by April 22 to [minsook@rogers.com](mailto:minsook@rogers.com). Thanks to the Korean Community church, we have access to a big kitchen so we will be able to have more Korean cooking lessons with lots of side dishes in the fall. Please stay tuned.

I am wondering if any children who came last month for the Samulnori lesson are interested in continuing to practice in the fall in order to perform at our annual Christmas party. Please encourage them if they are and let me know.

See you at 9:45 AM on May 6 at the Ottawa Korean Community Church, 241 Bell St. N.

Cheers,  
Min Sook

#### Korean Canadian Adoptee Association (KCAA), GTA

Below is a list of our upcoming event and some detail:

##### **Summer Heritage Camp 2017- July 21-23, 2017**

Held at Pine Orchard Camp 4088 Vivian Road, Cedar Valley, Ontario <http://pineorchardcamp.com/> .

Many families have been asking about this year's camp since we announced that we will be relocating to a new location. Due to the popularity of this site, we were only able to reserve in July for 2017 but we have already reserved this site for 3rd week of August in 2018 as per our usual camp schedule. I apologize for any inconvenience and conflict with your summer holiday planning.

This location has wonderful amenities such as basketball court, swimming pool, and campfire area with large seating. Also, we will be spoiled by modern air-conditioned cafeteria and individual rustic cabins for each family. This site also has camp trailer areas too.

Spaces are limited so register as early as possible with Stephen Kranabetter at [kranny@rogers.com](mailto:kranny@rogers.com) since cabins and trailer areas will be assigned at time of registration. We intend to keep the fees affordable and only modestly higher than the fees charged during previous camps. More details will follow in the months leading up to the camp.

I hope 2017 brings much peace and happiness to all your families.

Best Regards,  
Vincent Lim, President  
Korean Canadian Adoptee Association

If you have any questions about the South Korea adoption program, please do not hesitate to contact me at [maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com)



*Thailand Adoption Program*

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)  
Tel: (905) 836-6776

#### Adoption Program News

Welcome home to Jon, Allison, Tyler and Kari!

#### Stats

Over the last 5 years, the average age of child at proposal was 23 months. There have been twice as many boys referred as girls.

#### Families with Referral/Travelling

Family	Dossier to Thailand	Referral Rec'd	Date of Travel
J & A	November 21, 2013	July 11, 2016	March 2017 (TRCCH)
R & M		March 10, 2016	TBA (FFAC)

#### Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Dossier to DCY	Province
K & J	December 2014	NL
J & L	November 2015	NS
G & E	November 2015	ON
M & J	November 2015	ON
T & A	December 2015	ON
J & C	March 2016	NS
J & K	August 2016	ON
A & B	December 2016	ON

P & R	February 2017	ON
T & P	February 2017	NS
M & A	March 13, 2017	AB

At this time, 7 families who have signed retainers continue to work on their dossiers. Three families are working on their dossiers, have their retainers but have not yet submitted them. Another 6 families are waiting for pre-approval (one has signed their retainer).

If I do not have a signed retainer on hand, you will not be guaranteed a spot in the program.

#### Paperwork Change - Dossier - Effective Immediately

The Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services have asked that, along with the home study, we must submit the psychological assessment. Please begin the steps to complete this assessment when you start your home study.

#### AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop about 6 - 8 months before you anticipate receiving your proposal. All details for AdopTALK are on our [website](#).

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdopTALK will be held October 14th and 15th in Newmarket (GTA). All details are now on-line.

#### Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they are processing files in 4 - 6 weeks.

#### Waiting Children Program

If you are interested in adopting an older child (over 4 years of age) or a child with special medical needs, note that this type of adoption does not fall in the same quota for mainstream adoptions and the requirements for families adopting older children or those with special needs are not as restrictive (for example, the age of the adoptive applicants and/or other children in the home could be amended) and the timeline may be quicker.

If you are interested in this program, please contact me for more detailed information.

#### Travelling outside of Canada (before adoption finalization)

When you come home with your child and you want to travel with him/her outside of Canada, you are required to obtain a Statutory Declaration from our office (or your provincial ministry for those outside of Ontario) to travel since the adoption is not finalized. The Children's Bridge (or the provincial ministry) is the guardian of the child until the adoption is finalized. Finalization happens approximately 1 year after you arrive home. Please contact me if you are travelling outside of Canada. Children travelling to the US before finalization need to obtain a US visitor's Visa as they are not Canadian Citizens. Please call your local US consulate for further details.

#### Immigration Sponsorship

Please ensure that you have applied for Immigration Sponsorship approximately two years after your dossier has gone to Thailand or sooner if in the Waiting Children Program. Timelines have become a little unpredictable and we want to make sure that you have been approved to sponsor well before a referral is received. We have just learned that Immigration Sponsorship approvals expire after 2 years and so we have changed when you apply for this.

#### Citizenship and Immigration 1-888-242 2100

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/family.asp>

Once you submit this to immigration you will receive a letter with a UCI # and Application Number on it. Please note these used to be called Kit and Client ID #. Please email this number to me and/or scan and email me a copy of the document. Keep the package that CIC sends to you in a safe place, as you will need to take it to Thailand with you. Immigration paperwork must be completed well before you receive your referral.



Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)  
Tel: (905) 836-6776

#### CCCWA

Cathy Murphy was recently in China and met with many departments at the CCCWA. I had asked Cathy to try to obtain some concrete information on our 5 remaining families in the mainstream program, which she did.

Cathy met with Vice-Director General Chu who said that they could only commit to matching 1 of our families files over the next two years. There just aren't any "healthy" children waiting for families.

The CCCWA have matched up to January 15, 2007. They are unable to tell us when any family can expect a referral and in fact, issued a memo to all agencies stating that they will no longer be matching by date stamp.

I know this is probably not the news you wanted to hear but this is the information that we received and important for you all to know.

We have a very good relationship with the CCCWA and will continue to work with them to complete the remaining adoption files.

#### CHINA HOMELAND VISIT

We are offering 2 options for the summer tour. Details for both options are available on-line or by contacting me.

At this time, we have 2 families registered for the July tour and 4 families for the August tour. Most of the kids are in their early to late teens.

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact me.



Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

Email Cathy: [cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com)  
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

We currently have 13 families with their dossiers logged in at the CCCWA and 5 families are in the process of completing their Homestudy/Dossier. We have 18 families in process in our WC China Program.

The Children's Bridge expects to receive our next set of individual children's files from the CCCWA in May 2017.

New families coming into this program who are considering an adoption through our WC China Program must be open to adopting a boy over 7 years of age with special medical needs. In the past year, The Children's Bridge has placed a large number of boys with our families, and we have been told by the CCCWA that the WC China Program is becoming an older child adoption program with more older boys waiting for families. This change will NOT affect WC families who already have signed retainers with The Children's Bridge this will affect any NEW families.

Here is a link from China Asia news about the changes in China:

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/catch-up-tv/get-real-s15/china-s-new-unwanted-8579500>

#### China Trip Update

Cathy Murphy and Esther Yeung were in Beijing from March 6 - 10, 2017 and visited with our in-country staff persons, adoption travel service and staff at the CCCWA as well as with the Thompson, Palmer and Kirby Yee families who were completing their adoptions.

We met with Director General Zhang, Shi Feng and Vice-Director General Chu, Xiao Ying. A new law came into effect on January 1, 2017 for NGO's. The CCCWA is not yet sure how the Civil Affairs Office will implement this new law and the affects it may have on their daily operations. Adoption agencies should expect a Memo from the CCCWA sometime over the next year once they receive direction from the Civil Affairs Office.

The CCCWA is encouraging all prospective adoptive families to consider adopting children with higher special medical needs through their Special Focus Group and older children over 7 years of age with special medical needs. The CCCWA said more older boys with special medical needs are waiting for families in orphanages in China and they hope to place as many of the waiting children with adoptive families.

From March 11 - 13, 2017 we were at the Elim Centre in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province visiting with children, caregivers and foster families. Elim is a home for children living with HIV and children with special medical needs.

Kirby Yee family with Cathy, Joan, Esther and Sidney (China staff)



Cathy Murphy presenting workshop on child development and trauma for Elim caregivers and foster families in Xi'an.



**CIC Immigration Sponsorship links:**

Please click onto the link provided:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/family.asp>

Once on this link, go to the gray text box on the left hand side of the page and click onto "Choose a process" and then "Use the immigration process".

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/residents/canadians/adoption/immigration.asp>

Once on this link click onto "Apply" "begin the immigration process" and download all of the forms from the following link <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/apply-how.asp>

If you have any additional questions, you can contact the CIC Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100.

Many of our families are frustrated with the CIC process and have found the web site is not user friendly. Please remember, you can advocate for change and can speak with your Member of Parliament about your concerns.

Many thanks to Jan Gravelle who continues to act as a volunteer mentor to assist our families with the CIC process!

For more information on our WC China Program or to set up a screening call for an older child adoption from the WC China Program, please contact me at [cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com).

**GENERAL EVENTS:**

*Please also check the General Events section of our web site for pre and post adoption events in your community at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) under "General Events".*



The CB newsletters are online! Please visit:  
<https://www.childrensbridge.com/members/nlarchive.html>



*Cathy Murphy and the Children's Bridge staff.*



MAKING FAMILIES HAPPEN