

# This Month at a Glance

By The Children's Bridge



**December 2019 Edition**

---

**Stay Connected with The Children's Bridge!**

[Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

---



## **NOTES FROM KARYN'S DESK**

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Executive Director  
(613) 226-2112 ext. 2  
[karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

### **Upcoming Holidays Hours**

The Children's Bridge will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 until Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Our offices will re-open on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We wish all our families a wonderful and restorative holiday season!

### **Event Updates**

For a full list of events, please see our "Event Section" of our new website at:

[https://childrensbridge.com/events/category/gen-event/2018-10/?tribe\\_events\\_cat=gen-event&tribe-bar-date=2018-10](https://childrensbridge.com/events/category/gen-event/2018-10/?tribe_events_cat=gen-event&tribe-bar-date=2018-10)

### **AdopTALK**

Our next AdopTALK will be held in Ottawa on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please contact Lenore Cork-Lemay at [admin@childrensbridge.com](mailto:admin@childrensbridge.com) for more information or to register.

### **Connect-A-Kid Ottawa**

The Ottawa Connect-A-Kid events are now on the website!

Events for the remainder of the year have been posted.

Please check our web site at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) under events for upcoming events.

### **Membership**

The Children's Bridge strongly recommends that all families maintain an active membership even post-adoption, so families can remain aware of services, events and resources/supports. Adoption is a lifelong process, and adopted children tend to have various needs at various ages and stages of development. Maintaining an active membership with The Children's Bridge means families will stay up-to-date with citizenship news (which can affect our children long after finalization), country changes, homeland trip and local supports.

### **Website/Membership**

The Children's Bridge launched a new website in summer of 2018, and all families with active memberships will need to active their account on the new website. Members will not be able to access the "Member's Area" of the website or pay fees online until they have migrated over to the new website. These steps can be found at: <https://childrensbridge.com/members/>

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Children's Bridge was pleased to host our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Our Annual Public Report and the 2019/2020 Slate of Officers will be available on our website after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### **Webinar for all families (FREE)**

#### **Helping Kids with Trauma Histories Get Through Their School Day**

*presented by Elizabeth Emen, LMHC, NCC*

\*\*\*For more information on the webinar, please scroll to page 16 of our monthly update\*\*\*





## INDIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager  
 (613) 226-2112 ext. 2  
[karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 21 families in process to adopt from India and are able to work with adoptive families across Canada (except for Quebec). This program is open to families of non-Indian descent, as well as those who are Non-Resident Indians (NRI's) or those with Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI). Families who have NRI or OCI status are prioritized by CARA, but all families who meet the requirements are welcome to apply.

Our India program is open to families who wish to adopt a child living with special needs, and also those hoping to adopt via the mainstream program.

Most of the children are 18-months+ at time of child proposal. Special needs of the children in the Waiting Child program vary widely, and can include (but are not limited to): hearing and/or vision issues, HIV, Hepatitis B, developmental delays, Down Syndrome, heart issues such as ASD or VSD, etc.

### Adopting a Child with Special Needs

Every month, we will attempt to highlight a different special medical need that we frequently see in our India (special needs) adoption program. If there is a specific special need you are interested in learning more about, please let us know and we will do our best to include it in our next update.

Disclosure: although every attempt is made to ensure this information is accurate and is taken from reputable sources, families should consider this as a resource and starting place only, and not as a replacement for medical advice or independent research.

A few things in general when considering adopting child with special needs:

- Although timelines are generally faster in a special need's adoption program, this should not be the primary motivating factor. Adoption is a lifelong commitment, as is parenting any child (born to you or via adoption).
- The costs associated with adopting a child with special needs are not lower than other programs. Adoption fees cover the cost of your process, which does not change when a child has special needs. However, as the program tends to have shorter timelines than does the mainstream program, the cost of annual administration fees can be a bit lower. As well, some



families have been able to access grants to help to partially cover the cost of their adoption (A Child Waits Foundation and ABBA are the two main sources of adoption grants and/or loans).

Many older children are also available for immediate placement. There are many older children waiting for families in India, and CARA is able to match families fairly quickly who are open to children over the age of 6 - 8 years old. Sibling groups of 2 to 4 children are also waiting for immediate placement, with the ages of children usually ranging between 3 and 12 years.

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

### **Families Progress**

We currently have 4 families matched with children and are in various stages of the court to travel process. As we are entering holiday season in India (Diwali, Puja, Christmas) we do expect things to slow down a bit, and for families to experience some delays in obtaining court dates etc.

### **OCI Status:**

CARA's guideline's certainly say that adopted children are eligible to apply for and obtain OCI status. More information can be found on the US State Departments website (How to Adopt): <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/India.html>

"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 their child's OCI status here: <https://passport.gov.in/oci/welcome> or through the nearest Indian Consulate or High Commission.

### **Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship**

Once families are home in Canada with their child, they must complete a formal process renouncing the child's Indian citizenship (dual citizenship is not recognized by India's Immigration laws). 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

The Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) process can now be completed online from anywhere in India, and no longer requires an in-person visit to the FRRO office in Delhi. All adopted children must obtain an exit visa from the FRRO office before leaving India, as must 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 process in obtaining an exit visa is contained in the India Adoption Travel Booklet all families will receive upon receipt of a child proposal.

Families have received conflicting information from various sources as to whether completing the FRRO process is necessary. Our agency has confirmed with CARA officials on several occasions that *all adoptive parents* are required to complete this step before exiting the country. This is not an exit visa for the adopted child, as your child will have already been cleared by CARA and IRCC for travel. The FRRO is calling this a No Objection Certificate for the adoptive parents. This will be shown to officials at the airport, upon request, when you depart India. While some families have not be requested to show this document upon departure, most have, and if you have not completed this step you will not be allowed to board your flight and exit the country.





## THAILAND ADOPTION PROGRAM

Darlene Catton, Program Manager  
 (905) 836-6776  
[darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

### General Info

Please note that The Children's Bridge offices will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I'd like to wish those celebrating a lovely holiday!

### For those in the Toronto area

*Forget Me Not – A film about three Korean women who have become pregnant outside of marriage and are now hiding from the outside world until they give birth.*

<https://www.hrff.ca/forget-me-not>

*This is a Hot Docs film showing on December 9, 2019 @ 6:30pm at the Ted Rogers Cinema (Toronto).*

### What's in a Name?

Have you thought about your child's name? Will you change it? Why? Why not?

This is such an important issue for adoptees and I wanted to send out some food for thought to you all. The info below comes from adoptees from a transracial adoption group that I belong to. The adoptees thoughts on their names really resonated with me as I chose to give my girls Canadian names and didn't keep their birth names, which I now think was a mistake. Of course not all adoptees will feel this way but I do believe the majority do.

All quotes below are from adult adoptees (some names I can't provide) on the subject of changing a child's birth name.

*When you change an adopted child's name, you are thinking of your need to make the child yours. You are telling the child the past has no value and is in fact wrong. You are asking your child not to be him or herself. This is one reason adoption costs money. Buying people gives you ownership and a giant eraser. – Anne Heffron*



*As I've gotten older, I've become more and more bothered by the fact that my name was changed. I hate having to introduce myself because I don't know which to use. I've considered changing my name back to my bio one but I think shame/guilt of what my APs will think of it has definitely been a factor that holds me back. – AW*

*This subject has torn at my heart a lot. As an adoptee, my name was not changed (except for my last name) but my brother's was completely changed (he was named after our first dad). He has never expressed any issues with the name change because he felt no connection to his birth name and his "new" name is after our adopted father to whom he is very close, but that's his experience. When we adopted my son, he had been given a name, but his mom told us she wanted us to name him ourselves and we did. I have done a ton of questioning about whether it was the right choice. We have decided that we will let him decide what he wants. In the moment, I was selfish and also felt like I was following his mom's wishes, I didn't think about how he might feel. It was my first major adoptive parenting checking. My intent or my perceived whatever doesn't matter, everything I do needs to be first seen through his eyes and with his perspective and experience in mind. – KM*

*My aparents say they didn't know my birth name and if they had they might have used it. I don't really know what to believe about my name but once I heard it for the first time, it felt like me. Still I waited 14 years to change it back because of guilt. The biggest piece of baggage was choosing which last name to use. I finally decided I wouldn't use anyone's last name but use my middle name as my last name. - AL*

*I don't think I can change my name back to what it was on the limited adoption paperwork I have. I have not been able to easily connect with my Taiwanese heritage and changing my name would be uncomfortable. That being said, it's damn uncomfortable with a white name because of the 40 years of crud I've had to deal with when they see my name via email or we talk on the phone and they expect a white lady and I show up. - AP*

## Adoption Program News

### Referrals and Travel

Congratulations to Jonathan and Karen on the referral of their son! He is almost 4 and is residing at PakKred Babie's Home in Nonthaburi province. Jonathan and Karen will likely travel in February 2020.

Family LG booked flights and will be leaving on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Two families arrived safe and sound in Thailand and both have met their children. All seems to be going well. Three other families have referrals and are completing paperwork and waiting to travel.

### Matching

Please remember that files are not matched in the order that they are received. Matching is based on the children currently waiting, the number of files on hand and of course the age, sex and special needs a family is open to.

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Log-in-Date	Province	Referral Received	Home
J & C	March 2016 (DCY)	NS	October 1, 2019	December 18, 2019
J & K	August 2016 (DCY)	ON	November 22, 2019	
A & B	December 2016 (DCY)	ON		
P & R	February 2017 (DCY)	ON		
T & P	February 2017 (DCY)	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017 (DCY)	MB		
G & I	June 30, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
W & N	Aug. 28, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
A & K	Dec. 25, 2017 (TRCCH)	ON	May 7, 2019	December 18, 2019
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017 (DCY)	NS		
LG	Sept. 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON	October 29, 2019	January 18, 2019
KS	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
JB	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
J & A	May 3, 2018 (DCY)	AB		
E & K	Sept. 14/18 (TRCCH)	ON		
JK	Oct. 16/18 (DCY)	AB		
H & K	Nov. 19/18 (TRCCH)	ON	October 23, 2019	
M & C	Dec. 24/18 (DCY)	ON		
J & K	Jan. 23/19 (DCY)	AB		
JL	Feb. 22/19 (DCY)	ON		
T & M	March 21/19 (DCY)	ON		





R & J	April 17/19 (DCY)	ON		
M & J	May 27/19 (DCY)	ON		
R & L	June 10/19 (TRCCH)	ON		
C & K	July 8/19 (DCY)	ON		
J & S	Oct. 21/19 (DCY)	AB		

**Nine** families have sent in their retainers and are working on their dossiers.

#### Finalization

Adoptions are finalized at the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver.

#### 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 workshops 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 in Ottawa on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### Ontario Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they continue to process home studies and updates in 4 – 6 weeks and proposals in 5 – 10 business days; however, we have seen an increase in this timeline. To process a home study/update the Ministry is currently taking about 10 - 12 weeks.

#### Alberta Ministry

Families will need to complete an addendum to their home study every 12 months. I have recently been advised by Alberta Human Services that they will send the approval directly to a family's coordinating agency and to the family. Once you receive this letter, kindly scan and email me a copy.

#### Waiting Children Program

If you are interested in adopting an older child (over 4 years of age) or a child with special medical needs, this type of adoption will not count 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).

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.

### **Homeland – China**

The March 2020 tour registration package is on the website.

This tour will take place from March 13 – March 27<sup>th</sup> and will include a visit to Xi'an to see the Terra Cotta Warriors as well as a trip to Guilin!

We have also determined the date of the May 2020 tour and this will take place from May 8 – May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The itinerary has not yet been finalized but should be on the website within a few weeks.

If you'd like more information, check out the registration package on the website or contact Darlene Catton at [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)





## SOUTH KOREA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Bruno Jung-Millen, Program Manager  
(613) 226-2112 ext. 4  
[bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com](mailto:bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com)

**\*\*\*There are no updates for this program at this time – see you in the New Year!\*\*\***

### Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TCBSouthKorea/>

This group is ONLY open to past and current families in the South Korea Adoption Program with The Children's Bridge.

It is a "closed" group which means only members can see who is in it and what they post. Member requests are only approved by the TCB staff. You will be required to answer three simple questions, so that our staff can verify your identity prior to approval.

This virtual group has been created to foster building a safe and supportive community network for past and current families in the program. Families are welcome to share information regarding the adoption process and support each other throughout their adoption journey. Please do not share any sensitive information pertaining to your child or prospective child.

Any questions or concerns regarding your application status should only be directed to the South Korea Adoption Program Manager.

### Timeline Overview (approx.)

As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019:

- Home study review/processing time: 2 – 4 weeks
- Ontario Ministry *Letter of Approval* (LOA): 6 – 10 weeks
- Dossier review/processing time: 2 – 4 weeks
- Referral: 3 – 14 months (after submitting dossier)



- Court hearing: 7 months (after accepting referral)
- Placement: 1 – 1.5 months (after court hearing)

### **Korean Language and Cultural Classes**

#### Toronto Area

- Korean Education Centre of Korean Consulate
- Korean Canadian Cultural Association

#### Ottawa Area

- Korean Cultural Center Canada

### **Korean Canadian Adoptee's Association (KCAA)**

Website: [www.kcaa.me](http://www.kcaa.me)

Phone: 647-963-2740

Email: [info@kcaa.me](mailto:info@kcaa.me)

The Korean Canadian Adoptee's Association (KCAA), formerly known as Korean Canadian Children's Association (KCCA), is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the Canadian adoptive families with Korean children. John Lim founded this organization after attending a 'Canadopt' summer camp in London, Ontario, 1991.

Our most anticipated event of the year is the heritage summer camps in August. Families come together from all across the country to enjoy a weekend away with other adoptive families. Delicious Korean food is served and various Korean cultural events take place during the three-day camp. Programs include family games, cooking contests, water-gun fights, dancing, movie, campfire, Q&A with youth speakers and more.

Depending on participation, we also hold motherland tours for adoptive parents and their children to visit Korea in May. In addition, we hold our annual Christmas Dinner Get-together in early December and Korean Lunar New Year celebrations in February. All throughout the year, we hold language classes, cooking classes, Korean drum lessons and more. All adoptive families and prospective parents are welcomed to come to our events.





## USA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Bruno Jung-Millen, Program Manager  
 (613) 226-2112 ext. 4  
[bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com](mailto:bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com)

**\*\*\*There are no updates for this program at this time – see you in the New Year!\*\*\***

### Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TCBUSA/>

This group is ONLY open to past and current families in the USA Adoption Program with The Children's Bridge.

It is a "closed" group which means only members can see who is in it and what they post. Member requests are only approved by the TCB staff. You will be required to answer three simple questions, so that our staff can verify your identity prior to approval.

This virtual group has been created to foster building a safe and supportive community network for past and current families in the program. Families are welcome to share information regarding the adoption process and support each other throughout their adoption journey. Please do not share any sensitive information pertaining to your child or prospective child.

Any questions or concerns regarding your application status should only be directed to the USA Adoption Program Manager.

### Families with a Dossier in Florida

If your dossier was submitted a year ago or getting close to the timeline, please contact me immediately to ensure that you are following the guidelines in Florida. Your home study must be updated (not a formal process with Ontario Ministry) along with supporting documents.

Also, it would be a great idea to review the risk factors information booklet while you are waiting to be chosen by an expectant mother. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.





## HIV+ KIDS ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager  
(613) 226-2112 ext. 2  
[karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

### HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

This program is available to families who are considering adopting a child living with HIV. It is not a program on its own but runs in conjunction with whichever country/adoption program the family has chosen to adopt from. The Children's Bridge is able to offer information, education, support and resources to families in process to adopt a child living with HIV.

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



## ZAMBIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager  
(613) 226-2112 ext. 2  
[karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

## NOT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

### Republic of Zambia

We are not accepting applications for our Zambia program at this time. This section will be updated once more information becomes available on Zambia's progress in implementing The Hague protocols in its adoption policies.

If you would like any information on the Zambian 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.





## CHINA HOMELAND VISIT PROGRAM

Darlene Catton, Program Manager  
(905) 836-6776  
[darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

The March 2020 tour registration package is on the website.

This tour will take place from March 13 – March 27th and will include a visit to Xi’an to see the Terra Cotta Warriors as well as a trip to Guilin!

We have also determined the date of the May 2020 tour and this will take place from May 8 – May 22nd. The itinerary has not yet been finalized but should be on the website within a few weeks.

If you’d like more information, check out the registration package on the website or contact Darlene Catton.





nurture.  
inspire.  
empower.

## December 2019 Strengthening Your Family Webinar

### Helping Kids with Trauma Histories Get Through Their School Day

*presented by Elizabeth Emen, LMHC, NCC*

Join us for the LIVE event  
Thursday, December 5th, 2019  
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Extended Access Available  
Dec 5, 2019 - Jan 4, 2020

Free registration is still available!  
Use coupon code **SCHOOLDAY** at checkout.

[Register Now](#)

All registrants will receive 30-day extended access  
and complimentary material  
only available through this webinar!

**NEW!** We are pleased to now offer **Category II  
Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** for  
those participating in C.A.S.E.'s SYF webinar  
recording **extended access**. [Learn more.](#)



**Elizabeth Emen, LMHC, NCC**  
C.A.S.E. Adoption-Competent Therapist

[Learn more about Elizabeth Emen,  
LMHC, NCC](#)

Children and adolescents in foster and adoptive families with complex trauma histories often bring emotional, behavioral, social and learning challenges into the school setting. Traditional approaches to learning and classroom behavior management are not only ineffective in helping kids with their difficulties but can exacerbate them. In this webinar, Ms. Emen will help parents and professionals to:



**Children's Bridge**  
making families happen



- 1) gain a deeper understanding of what the children are experiencing at school.
- 2) learn the trauma-informed approaches and strategies that provide the kind of school environment, support, and relationships that help these youth thrive in the school setting.

[Register Now](#)

Free registration is still available. Use coupon code **SCHOOLDAY** at checkout.

After free registration fills it is just \$15 to attend and/or receive extended access.

**For professionals only:**

Professionals can qualify for 1.5 Category I Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by participating in C.A.S.E.'s SYF live stream webinars.

**NEW!** We are pleased to now offer **Category II Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** for those **participating in** C.A.S.E.'s SYF webinar recording **extended access**.

To receive Category I or Category II Continuing Education Units (CEUs) **we require you to pay the \$15.00 webinar registration fee** for each webinar. The coupon code **cannot** be applied to the registration fee to receive CEUs. [Learn more.](#)

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) and Certificates of Attendance available.



[adoptionsupport.org](http://adoptionsupport.org)

