

This Month at a Glance

By The Children's Bridge



June 2020 Edition

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NOTES FROM KARYN'S DESK

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***** Please note that this will be our last update for the summer; however, we will be back with new updates in September! Please contact your program manager for specific updates if needed *****

June 2020

Event Updates

A 6-part anti-racism series designed for adoptive parents of BIPOC kids

About this Event

In late May 2020, George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis. His death sparked a worldwide movement acknowledging deep, painful anti-Black racism in North America. In late May 2020, popular YouTube blogger Myka Stauffer “rehomed” her child, Huxley, a person with intellectual disabilities, after adopting him from China.

If you're parenting a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour) child through transracial adoption, it can be challenging to speak with your children about these incidents. You might be wondering how to take action that positively impacts your child, how to discuss adoption-related topics with your kids, and how to be anti-racist in your life and your family. This six-part series will:

- Educate you on social justice and allyship,
- Guide you through owning your role and responsibility as the parent of a BIPOC child,
- Discuss how to show up as an anti-racist advocate in your life, family, and community,
- Provide insight on how to shape your child's community as one that is anti-racist and inclusive, and
- Have conversations with your child about social justice, human rights and the history of adoption.

DELIVERY FORMAT:

- 6 sessions via Zoom (live & interactive discussions and presentations)
- 1.5 hours each session
- Group setting
- Max. 6 participants/families in a group

COST:

- \$450.00 + taxes per family (maximum two participants per family)
- \$400.00 + taxes per person

COURSE MATERIALS:

- A resource list and study materials will be distributed via a secure link. A course outline is available below.

Please see Eventbrite for facilitator bios, course schedule, and for more information:

<https://bit.ly/AdoptiveParentsBIPOC>



Staff Phone Numbers

As part of our efforts to ensure we are able to continue to work remotely during this time, our team has moved from landlines to cell phones. Please see our website or the list below for a how to reach us:

Lenore – Office Coordinator: 613-226-2112

Darlene – Thailand Program Manager: 905-836-6776

Bruno – Korea and USA Program Manager – 613-807-4238

Karyn – Executive Director/India Program Manager – 613-226-2814

Long Weekend:

Our offices will be closed from Wednesday July 1st until Monday, July 6th. We hope every enjoys a safe and healthy Canada Day!





INDIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

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 (613) 226-2814
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India

Any families who wish to understand more about CARA's role in the adoption process and in other areas of child protection in India can follow their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/cara.nic.in/>

General Program Information

India is slowly lifting restrictions in place due to COVID, but as cases continue to rise, they are doing so very cautiously. Domestic travel is occurring in some regions, but at this time international travel is still not possible. We have two families who are waiting for travel to resume in order to complete their adoptions from India.

CARA is now approving dossiers and assigning child proposals at this time. The India High Commission in Ottawa is still only processing urgent matters and is not yet ready to accept adoption dossiers for legalization.

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 31 families in process to adopt from India and can 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 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.

If you would like more information about the process to adopt a child from India, please contact the India Program Manager at Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com, or see our website for requirements, cost and estimated timelines.





THAILAND ADOPTION PROGRAM

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June 2020

Thailand

*Please note that there will be no update in July and August.

During this time, any new, critical information will be posted on the main page of the website under "Important Notices".

Summer Hours

I will be on holidays the week of August 3rd.

Our office will be closed the week of August 31st.

Please note that as of July 6, 2020, my regular work hours will be Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 4:00.

I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful summer! Stay safe, stay healthy and wear a mask 😊

Adoption Program News

Thailand ranks first in Asia for Global Covid-19 recovery however, it is unlikely that international flights will resume any time soon. In a newspaper article published in The Phuket News, it was reported that "A senior director of civilian aviation recently said that international flights are **not** likely to resume in Thailand until **late September**."

In any case, even if flights resume, there is no point in travelling until The Child Adoption Board begins scheduling interviews. We have not been given any indication of when interviews will begin again other than it will depend on Covid-19.

The Department of Children and Youth fall under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. As such, many of the staff from the Department of Children and Youth have been temporarily transferred to a different Ministry to assist families in need (answering calls on the HOTLINE). As well,



most are working from home and do not have access to files. This means that it is unlikely that we will see much movement in files until the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Currently, we have 3 families with proposals who are waiting (patiently!) to travel. If, at all possible, we will try to schedule all 3 with the same interview date so they can travel together.

We will keep families up to date by posting critical information to the main page of our website.

Dossier Preparation

We are still able to process home studies and updates electronically although families (in some provinces) who are in the home study process who have not completed one home visit will not be able to proceed.

The Thai Embassy has opened for certain things, so we are now able to have a dossier completely processed.

File Translation

We have been advised by the Department of Children and Youth that they will no longer be translating files for us. Luckily, we have a translator, Pitch Sookmark, who currently translates the birth certificate and house registration for each family. Khun Pitch has agreed to also translate the proposal documents.

In addition to the in-country fee and post placement fees that are due at time of proposal, we will also be adding a translation fee.

Hire a Photographer!

I was chatting with one of our families, Brooke, who recently returned from Thailand. While in Bangkok, Brooke and the family participated in a photo shoot at a park near their hotel. The pictures are stunning! Brooke highly recommends getting this done and she also recommends the company they used. Info below.

www.flytographer.com

Type in your destination and a list of photographers and their portfolios pops up. Brooke chose Natasha who she said was very personable and professional.

Thanks for sharing Brooke!



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. The DCY continue to match in about 3 years and the TRCCH still quicker than that (but longer wait to travel).

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	March 2, 2020
A & B	December 2016 (DCY)	ON	January 21, 2020	March 29, 2020
P & R	February 2017 (DCY)	ON	January 21, 2020	TBA
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, 2020
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	Feb. 19, 2020	TBA
JK	Oct. 16/18 (DCY)	AB		
H & K	Nov. 19/18 (TRCCH)	ON	October 23, 2019	TBA



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		
D & R	Dec. 16/19 (DCY)	ON		
K & C	Jan. 13/20 (TRCCH)	AB		
H & J	*Feb. 3/20 (DCY)	ON		
C & S	Feb. 6/20 (DCY)	AB		
M & N	Feb. 17/20 (TRCCH)	ON		
R & Y	*Feb. 28/20 (DCY)	ON		
A & A	TBA (DCY)	ON		

*Not part of quota.

Three 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. It is taking much longer than usual for us to receive a family's letter of Invitation. We should get it about 8 - 12 months after Thailand has received the final post placement report but, in some cases, it is taking more than 18 months.

Post Placement

The DCY have indicated that it is acceptable for Adoption Practitioners to complete post placement report visits via Zoom, Skype, or teleconference. The scanned reports and pictures will be emailed to the DCY.

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.

We held our first ZOOM AdopTALK this month and it was very successful. We do not have a date set yet for the next one but will post that info as soon as we have it.

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.

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

Due to the current situation regarding Covid19, all China homeland tours have been put on hold.

If you'd like more information, please contact Darlene Catton at darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com



SOUTH KOREA ADOPTION PROGRAM



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SOUTH KOREA

I hope all of you are staying safe and well during these gradual phases of getting back to our daily lives. Moving forward, all communications pertaining to the changes in the adoption process including timelines, dossier guidelines, policies and regulations will be provided to you via email. This is due to the changing needs of the program and nature of these communications which should be provided to you promptly. Thus, monthly updates for the South Korea program will only include news about recent referrals, court hearings, and placements, as well as information that is not time-sensitive.

Please note that Social Welfare Society, Inc. (SWS) changed its organization name to Korea Welfare Services, Inc. (KWS) as of April 2020.

Referral News:

We had 3 child proposals in the past few months which have all been finalized. Families are excited to meet their child-to-be and preparing for their first trip to Korea. Congratulations!

Court Hearing News:

We had 4 families attend their Court Hearing in June. Due to COVID-19, there were significant hurdles to get through, but all of them managed to get to Seoul for their Court Hearing and their visits with their child-to-be. They are now home resting after a long journey and preparing for their second trip to Korea (placement).

Placement News:

A family took custody of their son in June. The child is now in his permanent home adjusting well with his adoptive parents and older brother. The family is now in the post-placement stage. Our team is looking forward to seeing post-placement reports and photos.

How is COVID-19 affecting the adoption process?

For the South Korea program, there have not been significant changes other than those cases requiring trips for the Court Hearing and placement. Since all staff at TCB are still working remotely, the review and finalization process for application dossiers and home studies may experience some delays. KWS is currently working under some new structures and reduced staff capacity; there may be some delays in managing child cases on their end.





USA ADOPTION PROGRAM

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USA (ASC)

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Referral News:

One family received a proposed match for twins back in May. The couple accepted the match happily and is preparing to travel as the expectant mother's due date is coming up soon. Congratulations!

Placement/Finalization News:

One family who came home with their newborn in January recently received a court order which officially finalized their adoption. Our team is looking forward to seeing exchange letters and photos.





USA ADOPTION PROGRAM

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USA (HAI)

I hope all of you are staying safe and well during these gradual phases of getting back to our daily lives. Moving forward, all communications pertaining to the changes in the adoption process including timelines, dossier guidelines, policies and regulations will be provided to you via email. This is due to the changing needs of the program and nature of these communications which should be provided to you promptly. Thus, monthly updates for the USA (HAI) program will only include news about recent referrals and placements, as well as information that is not time sensitive.





HIV+ KIDS ADOPTION PROGRAM

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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 can 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 or 1-613-2112 ext. 2.



ZAMBIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

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(613) 226-2814
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****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 Arnauld-Bakelaar at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-226-2814.





**CHINA HOMELAND
VISIT PROGRAM**

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*****Due to the current situation regarding Covid19, all China homeland tours have been put on hold.***

If you'd like more information, please contact Darlene Catton at darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com**

