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Vol. 5 No. 2

Newsletter

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News From Americans Adopting Orphans

Our Summer Class Schedule Shines!

Come to the Education Center for classes that are sure to spark your interest. Registration is now open for summer learning. Get ready for some fun field trips and cultural opportunities in addition to a sizzling assortment of classes for expectant and experienced parents alike.

As always, we welcome suggestions for classes on specific topics or issues of interest to you. Likewise, if you have a special talent or knowledge in a particular area that you would like to share, how about teaching a class for us?. Please ask us for our **Instructor Proposal Pack**.

Americans Adopting Orphans on the Road

If you live outside the Puget Sound area, we may be in your neighborhood in July and August when we visit the Midwestern United States and Eastern Washington to conduct adoption information meetings. You will hear about the basics of adopting from China and Vietnam, how you can design your own adoption plan using our flexible program, and see a video of a typical adoption trip (including the inside of a Chinese orphanage). Come meet our family and learn about how you can bring a child into your home and heart! If you or someone you know would like to meet with us to discuss adoption issues or an adoption plan, we'd love to visit after our presentation.

When: Sunday, July 11th, 2 to 4 PM
Where: Normal Public Library
206 W College Avenue
Normal, IL

When: Saturday, August 28th, 2 to 4 PM
Where: Spokane Public Library
906 W. Main Avenue
Spokane, WA

Bar-B-News

Golden Gardens Park is the place to be on Sunday, August 22nd, 12 to 5 PM for the **Americans Adopting Orphans** Annual Summer Cook Out. We're looking for volunteers who can come early to help us prepare the park shelters and our reserved picnic tables for a stampede of little kids. Extra hands will be appreciated to establish play stations, put out the tablecloths, set up cook stations, and pick up litter. Just think, you'll get to enjoy the beach longer than anyone else, and be first in line for a burger!

Americans Adopting Orphans will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and soft drinks. All you have to do is bring an appetite and a dish to share.

Mother's Day Spectacular Bursting with Babies

Smiles were as abundant as babies at the Education Center in late May as we celebrated Mother's Day. There were clusters of kids everywhere! In one corner, a group of toddlers played ring around the rosie. The courtyard was teeming with kids snacking on goldfish crackers and slurping from sippy cups. Parents huddled and chatted about developmental milestones and bedtime challenges.

From the veterans who have been home for two years or more, to those home for only two weeks, to the growing number of parents in the process of adopting a second child, one thing was obvious--they were all forever in the embrace of love. Waiting families proudly displayed photos of their assigned babies. We could see in their eyes they were already smitten, and that they couldn't wait to be the ones showing off their little treasures at our next gathering! Knowing that they could be parents by our next Mother's Day Bash, families just beginning the process were able to visit with those already back and ask about their experiences, as well as cuddle a few babies. It was a great day for everyone!

Have You Had a Technical Review Lately?

Be sure to take advantage of our technical review service for your dossier. This unique and integral part of our services is one way to avoid documents errors and omissions, which means that your documents receive smoother processing at the China Center of Adoption Affairs.

Before documents from our clients are presented to the China Center of Adoption Affairs, they must be reviewed at two different points in our adoption process. The most important dossier review is done for content, formatting, and overall consistency to ensure that your paper work meets the requirements and standards of the Chinese and US governments. It is done after you have gathered your documents but *before* you send them out for legalization (ongoing as each document is collected for Instruction Pack clients, after *all* documents are collected for Technical Review Only clients). This way you can be confident that your documents are correct before you send them off to be legalized.

Documents that are found to be lacking in required information, or that are out of compliance with the regulations of the US and Chinese governments, or with the professional standards of our agency, are returned to the client family for revisions, even if they have already been authenticated. Documents must meet the same high standards regardless of their authentication status. Take advantage of this unique service and have your documents reviewed *before* authentication. It can save you time and money.

Non-Disclosure is a Threat to Your Adoption

Though a criminal record does not automatically disqualify you from adopting, it is something about which your adoption agency should be *fully* informed. Having a criminal history can add an extra bit of paper work to your adoption. However, if known from the outset, it does not necessarily cost extra time to complete an adoption. On the other hand, an undisclosed arrest and/or conviction adds not only extra paper work, but can *significantly* add to the time involved in going back to obtain the proper clearances and documentation. You should be very forthcoming with your agency about *any and all* arrests in your past.

There have been instances in which families did not tell us that they had an arrest history. Whether they had truly forgotten about an arrest, had been told that an arrest had been expunged from their records, or were attempting to conceal an arrest, in each case, the FBI fingerprint check revealed the arrests even when local police clearances did not report the arrests. Frequently the Washington State DSHS check, or similar out of state check, will also catch undisclosed arrests. Remember, if you have been arrested, whether you were convicted or not, there is *always* a record of it somewhere. If someone tells you that an arrest has been removed from your record, do *not* believe it.

News from the Net

January Referrals Coming Soon to a Family Near You!

Americans Adopting Orphans received our September *and* October assignments in Mid-May after a larger, earlier wave. In mid-June, ours were among the first November assignments. We just received our December assignments so we are now expecting our January assignments. A few January referrals are already being posted on the apc list. That's a 5 to 6 month waiting time, folks!

By the way, we received our September/October referrals *after* the Embassy bombing in Yugoslavia. In fact, they had been put in the mail the Tuesday after the bombing and we received them exactly one week after the bombing which is one of the best indications that it is business as usual at the China Center of Adoption Affairs. See page 5 for more details about the bombing and its effect on adoption..

We continue to see infant assignments for adoptive parents under 45 years of age posted on the Internet. Our latest groups of assignments from Sichuan Province varied in age from 5 months to 13 months. Parents are traveling within 2 months of assignment. Exact trip dates depend upon when the CCAA issues adoption permission documents and upon the availability of US Consulate appointments.

Barnes and Noble Brought to their Knees

From an innocent post on the apc list (adoptive parents china), hundreds, if not thousands of people have been calling Barnes and Noble Bookstores in search of a specific atlas of China. What made this tome so popular?

Originally selling for about \$45 retail, the book became available for a mere \$12 through the B & N warehouse. Upon hearing about the great value, adoptive parents nationwide stormed their local B & N to get copies. Unfortunately, as one Seattle B & N told us, there were only a few hundred copies of this now out-of-print atlas left when the announcement hit the apc list, not nearly enough for the sudden demand.

The apc list generated such a large inquiry about this particular book that all B & N stores across the US were notified en masse about the problem. The B & N clerk that we spoke to said that the bookstore chain was planning to contact the publisher of the atlas to see if they would consider printing more. But don't hold your breath and don't expect such a good deal if a second printing does happen. The reason the books were being sold so cheaply was because when they were priced at \$45 no one was buying them. It took a drastic price reduction to get people to take the last few off the shelves. The books in the second printing will most likely *not* be bargain priced!

Writing a Letter could mean Extra Money in your Pocket

The Hope for Children Act (House Bill # 531/Senate Bill #341) now has 125 co-sponsors, up from 46 as reported in our March '99 newsletter. Tom Bliley (R-VA) who introduced this measure into Congress, hopes to gain 150 co-sponsors by July 4th. Your voice could make a difference to the birth of this legislation. If you have not yet done so, please send a letter (with photos of your family if you have completed an adoption) to your US Congressperson. We need to work together for passage of this bill.

For more information contact:

Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-VA
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2815
Staffer: Bill Dolbow

If you do not know who your Congress persons are in Washington, DC, check out web site <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> or call 202-224-3121 and give them your zip code.

If you are a Washingtonian, you may write to both of your senators at the address below:

The Honorable Slade Gorton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3441

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2621

News from the East

IMMEDIATE REFERRALS for Vietnam Adoptions, Families Urgently Needed!!!

There is currently no waiting for families adopting through our Vietnam Program. Very young babies are available. There are more boys waiting than girls, but the wait is about the same for both girls and boys. Couples and single women who are childless must be open to a child of either sex. Sibling groups are occasionally available.

Time from dossier submission to child assignment: *within 2 weeks*
Time from assignment to travel: 2 to 4 months, depending upon the province
Length of adoption trip: 10 to 14 days
Age of children at referral: 0 to 3 months

In August, the American Consulate in Vietnam will open and begin processing US entry visas meaning that travel will become even easier since families will no longer have to travel with their children to Bangkok, Thailand to obtain their child's visa.

Be among the first to adopt through our Vietnam program and receive a \$500 discount off our regular program fees if you apply *before* September 1999. We currently have one pioneer family in our Vietnam program and would like to have a few families to move through the process together. Please call us if you would like to discuss our Vietnam program further.

How New Chinese Adoption Regulations will Effect *Your* Adoption

Assignments are now being processed under new Chinese laws that went into effect on the first of April. Under these new provisions, everyone between the ages of 30 and 50 years is eligible for infants (12 months and under). However, we are still occasionally seeing some toddlers (>18 months) being assigned to applicants over 45 years of age. Families should no longer be assigned children with known medical needs unless they make the specific request for a child with a medical need. All the children assigned to **Americans Adopting Orphans** families since April have been healthy.

Requesting Twins

Dreaming of adopting look alike little ones? It's not as easy as you might think. After subtracting out the twins resulting from infertility treatments, it has been recognized that twins occur less frequently in Asians than in Caucasians. When twin babies are made available for adoption, the China Center of Adoption Affairs looks for families who are exceptionally qualified. We have recently heard from our office in China, that the China Center of Adoption Affairs has outlined the requirements for the adoption of twins. If adoptive parents wish to be assigned twins they must be less than 45 years of age, not have any other children, and an annual income of more than \$100,000.

NATO Bombing—Is the Sky Falling on Adoption?

The accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia by NATO forces led to some violent demonstrations in front of United States Consulates and our Embassy in China. Immediately after the bombing, a scandal erupted over reported Chinese espionage against our nuclear secrets and alleged illegal Chinese contributions to the Clinton and Democratic election campaigns.

Naturally there were many concerns on the part of adoptive parents about the impact of these events on adoption processing but, as we have reported, the China Center of Adoption Affairs continued to process adoption files normally. Families next in line received their assignments mere days after the bombing. Some families from other agencies had a few tense days at the White Swan hotel, while waiting to be processed at the nearby US Consulate in Guangzhou. However, families of all agencies who have recently traveled to China report that the Chinese people still welcomed them, and thanked them for adopting children from the orphanages.

During the two days of protests that the Consulate was closed, and adoptive families were encouraged to keep a low profile, Consular officials met with families in their hotel rooms to complete the visa processing for the children. Families who had not yet arrived in Guangzhou were instructed to stay put in their children's hometowns until things cooled down at the Consulate, which they did shortly. Within days of the bombing the Consulate in Guangzhou was back to normal processing for adoptive families. China has never suspended or slowed adoption processing due to international political turmoil. Politics and adoption have remained separate, and we anticipate that this will continue.

Parents' Zone

Help Your Child's "Grandparents-to-Be" Get More Involved in the Adoption Process!

Aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpas are almost as excited as prospective parents when it comes to a new baby entering the family. Help your loved ones feel more included in the adoption process and connected with your child by giving them a free subscription to the Americans Adopting Orphans Newsletter. Each issue is filled with articles about the nuts and bolts of adoption, Asian culture, and

stories from families about different aspects of adoption and child rearing. Just complete and mail in the attached postcard, and they'll begin receiving their very own issues, including our most current issue.

Our 3K Dental Day

By Cindy Ptasnik

"Honey, these teeth didn't stand a chance," lamented my daughter's dental hygienist. Words no parent wants to hear during a routine dental visit. I felt like snatching Kate right out of the exam chair, paper bib and all. If I could just leave that place with the posters of dancing bicuspids on the walls before hearing another word, I might be able to deny what I'd heard so far, and pretend my daughter's teeth were fine.

But the truth was, Kate's teeth weren't fine. In fact, they were literally rotting out of her head. A condition called hypoplastic enamel had left some of Kate's teeth without their hard outer protective coating so they have little defense against germs that cause tooth decay. Poor prenatal nutrition, maternal infection, fever, and illness can disrupt the formation of enamel on tooth buds, which develop under the gums months before birth. This results in teeth that are soft and discolored. If nutritional deprivation or severe illness occur after a child's birth, the permanent teeth can be affected. Having poorly laid down enamel on your teeth is a bit like being in a car made out of aluminum foil and expecting to withstand a collision. Coming out unscathed is next to impossible.

Even if we had adopted Kate right at birth, instead of at four months of age, we could not have prevented this from happening because her baby teeth had already formed in utero. So no matter how much milk we gave her, we could not change the damage that had already been done. Her baby molars were so riddled with cavities that, by the time she was five, she already had a mouthful of fillings.

Taking her to the dentist for a routine cleaning usually meant another filling, so Kate came to associate going to the dentist with discomfort. Discomfort that increased with her anxiety and which is further magnified by her dyspraxia, a neurological condition that, in Kate's case, causes hyper-sensitivities to normal levels of stimulation such as touch and smell. If she knew she was going to the dentist the next day, she could not sleep at night. She would come to me frequently with tears in her eyes and ask, "Mommy, will it hurt?" There's not much you can do as a parent to disguise pain for your child. So I phrased my answers of what to expect in terms of "no owies", "little owies" or "big owies" and what she could do to help herself relax. I felt pretty helpless. It got so bad that Kate actually told us not to tell her ahead of time that she had an appointment so that she wouldn't endure protracted dread.

Kate understood very well what was happening. We had always given her detailed explanations about everything including what was going on inside her busy little mouth. Though we had never allowed her to go to bed with a bottle and had always vigilantly brushed her teeth, decay was an ever-present threat. Kate learned very early about keeping her teeth clean. We let her know that the problems with her teeth were not her fault. It was just something that had happened to her baby teeth and that we hoped her big girl teeth would be stronger. She was an enthusiastic brusher, imitating mommy and daddy at the bathroom sink. We made a game out of "tickling Kate's teeth" and would "chase out the sugar bugs" with her toothbrush. Though she tried to be brave in making the best of the cards she'd been dealt, she became rather secretive about her mouth, trying to conceal from us when a tooth was tender.

It was during one of these times that one of her teeth abscessed and had to be pulled. Decay had channeled its way to the roots of her tooth and had destroyed the nerve. The gum beside the affected tooth was swollen and oozing. The tooth had to come out before the infection spread to her jawbone. A few months later, another tooth became abscessed requiring extraction. Each time, Kate was premedicated with Valium and given Nitrous Oxide throughout the procedures. I was at her side trying to be comforting and encouraging, but to no avail. Each time she was hysterical and who could blame her! Strapped to a restraint board, she had screamed in fear, pain, and anger until she was hoarse. Her sweat

soaked hair was matted to her head and her face streaked with tears and snot. Small blood vessels in the skin around her eyes had broken because she had cried so hard. When it was over, she was a train wreck and so was I.

Kate came to me heaving with sobs and trembling after being released from the bonds of the “papoose board.” She had been through so much. Clutching a wad of gauze in one fist and in the other a tiny plastic treasure box containing a single bloody tooth, she silently curled up in my lap while I received instructions from the dental assistant. As she clung to me, I promised both of us that this would be the last time she would ever have to endure that kind of violation. There had to be a better way and I would find it. That night, as Kate slept, I laid a trail of “pixie dust” showing the tooth fairy’s path through our house to her bed where I left something special on her pillow.

Kate had but a short reprieve from dental woes before the real trouble began. One of Kate’s teeth, one that had already been filled, was becoming sensitive to pressure and cold. I could not tell, but I thought the filling might be loose. I was concerned that this tooth might abscess and need to be removed, too.

Acutely aware of Kate’s most recent dental nightmares and fearing the worst for her, we wanted her to have a better experience this time. So, we pulled out the Yellow Pages to search for the fabled painless dentist for our daughter. Our criteria: a Pediatric dentist who provided the option of in-office general anesthesia. After about 20 minutes of calls, we found a candidate. Within a week, we were in her office where she delivered both good news and bad news.

The bad news was that decay was working its way under not just one, but five of Kate’s existing fillings. Revising the fillings was not possible for Kate’s already soft teeth, the decay was too extensive. Extracting them would leave her without molars to chew her food. The only practical way to save those teeth was to apply stainless steel crowns (the white ones don’t hold up well in kids) which would help the teeth last until she got her permanent molars in another five or six years. Hearing this gave me visions of that bad guy with the shiny metal teeth in the James Bond movie. I sadly tried to envision my little cherub with that smile. Kate also needed a spacer bar where she had had the two teeth pulled earlier due to abscesses. The spacer bar would prevent Kate’s teeth from drifting into the places where permanent teeth would eventually come in to replace the ones that had been removed. The best news was that the crowns, the impression for the spacer bar, protective dental sealant for the few permanent teeth that had come in, and even the X-rays could be done in about an hour *with Kate asleep!*

We were told that for this extensive amount of work, the fee would be \$3000. We didn’t even blink. Even though we have no dental insurance, and the money would come out of our pocket, this was about sparing Kate true misery. My wallet would recover.

Fortunately for Kate, she was scheduled for early morning so she wouldn’t have to be anxious all day. On the drive to the dentist, she sat in her booster seat with her blanket covering her head, not crying or sullen, but desperately afraid that my promises of no pain would not come true. Even with my constant reassurances that she would not feel a thing, she was as worried as I’d ever seen her.

With little sleep the night before and on an empty stomach, she dubiously slurped down a kiddie cocktail of Versed in the waiting room. Within 15 minutes, she became pretty groggy and a little slaphappy. It was a refreshing change to see her so relaxed even if it was chemically induced. Normal procedure is that parents remain in the waiting room, but because they were aware of Kate’s history and level of anxiety, and because I am a nurse, I was allowed to carry her back to the procedure room, and to be with her while they prepared to anesthetize her.

With her special blanket from home and snuggled in tight, she was at ease in my arms. Quite a change from the tense and frightened child I had seen before. Kate was entirely cooperative as an oxygen monitor was clasped onto her finger and EKG leads attached to her chest. A few moments later I was given a mask to place over her mouth and nose. With a heavy dose of sedative on board, it only took a few whiffs of anesthetic gas to put her out totally.

I put her down on the operating table, where, in her relaxed state, her head lolled to one side, and her breathing became raspy. A sign that her airway was not completely open. The anesthesiologist reacted a split second before me to reposition Kate's head and neck, making her breathing easier. It was good to know that Kate was in capable hands. After an IV had been started and a cardiac monitor applied, Kate was intubated uneventfully. Though she was not hooked up to a respirator for breathing, the tube that went from her nose to her lungs would insure that her airway stayed open during the procedure.

Because I was behaving myself and was not in the way, I was permitted to sit in the doorway of the procedure room during the time it took to complete work on Kate's mouth. I was in full view of the monitors and my daughter the entire time. I could see Kate breathing under her blanket and hear the steady rhythm of her heartbeat on the monitor. One of her hands peeked out so I could even see how she was doing by her color. The dentist worked confidently and quickly. A couple of times I caught the anesthesiologist yawning which was reassuring. Nobody yawns when a patient is in trouble.

Once the procedure was done, Kate was carried to an outstretched dental chair for recovery. She was allowed to wake up on her own as gently as she'd fallen asleep. Still a little loopy from anesthesia, Kate insisted on a ritual visit to the prize box for her reward where she managed to snag a prize for her brother too. Having her leave a dentist office with a smile was the best reward I could've gotten.

We've been back to the dentist since our 3K day and the change in Kate has been remarkable. We are so glad we advocated for our daughter and found a dentist who could better meet her needs for comfort and security. Our decision to make Dr. Kyoko Awamura our children's dentist was one of the most natural and satisfying for us as parents. After seeing 4 dentists in the few short years that we have been a family, we have finally found a match. In addition to being a caring and gentle dentist, Dr. Awamura provides an Asian role model for children.

She is also aware of the ethnic differences between Caucasian mouths and Asian mouths in terms of tooth structure and orthodontics. I remarked that another dentist, upon seeing Kate's permanent teeth still in high in her gums on an X-ray, told us that Kate's front teeth were misshapen. Dr. Awamura said that Kate has what is called "shovel teeth," which is a common and normal situation in Asians and refers to the concave shape of the back side of the teeth. That she understands these differences further confirms our decision to make her our dentist. If you ask Kate, she will tell you she has a dentist worth smiling about!

Protecting Your Child's Smile

Dr. Awamura feels that one of the most important aspects of her job is to evaluate a child's risk status before problems begin and to provide anticipatory guidance to parents regarding their child's dental health. She offers these practical tips for taking care of your child's teeth:

- Begin brushing your baby's teeth as soon as the first one emerges from the gum
- Begin seeing your child's dentist within 6 months of the first tooth coming in or by age one, whichever is earlier
- Never put juice or chocolate milk in your child's bottle
- Never allow your child to go to bed with a bottle
- Do not dip pacifiers in honey, soda, or anything except plain water

Kyoko Awamura, DDS, MPH, MSD practices Pediatric Dentistry in Bellevue, WA. She is currently taking new patients and may be contacted at 425-454-5114.

Hurry Up and Wait

When you're a waiting parent, things can feel out of control while you try to fill the time you had been spending gathering documents with something to distract you from thoughts of your baby-to-be. You've got it bad if you're to the point of making yourself crazy or physically ill.

One of the worst things for some people is the isolation of being a waiting parent. No one knows quite what you're going through except other waiting parents. Either they don't say anything because they're afraid they'll say something wrong or they say too much in their efforts to make you feel better. Even parents who are back with their children can be irritating when they cheerfully chirp, "Oh, once you get your baby, you'll forget all about the torture of waiting!" I remember wanting to strangle the first person who told me that!

To keep waiting parents informed about the trends and changes in processing times, and for the companionship of others playing the waiting game, Americans Adopting Orphans has created 5 resources that are free for our client families and anyone else who is interested. Few other agencies can say that they offer all (or even part) of these of these:

- An update line for families to call day or night for information about current processing times. Of course, this does not replace talking to a staff person about specific processing questions, but is a way for waiting families to keep their finger on what's happening and get a general sense of processing times.
- A two-hour monthly Waiting Family Support Group Meeting (by invitation only--for families whose dossiers are in China and who have not yet traveled even though they might have an assignment). This is the major source of information about processing times, particularly for local clients, although we have had out of town clients come to these meetings. This is where many waiting families get to know each other, hear the most up-to-date information from China, and begin to prepare for their adoption trip and new family members.
- A three-hour monthly Adoption from Asia Support Group Meeting, the first hour of which is reserved for our clients.
- A quarterly newsletter which always includes information about processing times.
- A Web Site which contains our quarterly newsletter in addition to our full Description of Services and Frequently Asked Questions List, as well as our Class and Meeting Schedules.

If you're ever in need of a pep talk or just want to chat, give us a call. We are here for you and never want a client to feel like they are bothering us.

Community Bulletin Board

Americans Adopting Orphans includes these listings as a public service for families to promote socialization, cultural exchange, and life long learning. Being listed is not an endorsement of non-agency events. Parents interested in attending these groups do so at their own risk. We do not assume liability for group leaders or members claiming expertise or credentials in any type of counseling, therapy, social work, or medically related fields.

Families with Children from Vietnam

Washington State Chapter now forming. Meet other families, share adoption and travel experiences, and learn about Vietnamese culture. Contact Lea Ann at 425-489-2828.

WOMAD

When:

Where:

World of Music, Arts, and Dance

July 30, 31, Aug. 1

Marymoore Park, Bellevue, WA

Great Wall Shopping Mall

When:

Where:

Grand Opening of the largest Asian Mall in greater Seattle

Saturday, August 28th

Kent, WA – near the E. Valley Hwy and Route 167

Americans Adopting Orphans Events and Meetings

All **Americans Adopting Orphans** functions are held at our Education Center located at 3212 NE 125th, Seattle, WA unless stated otherwise.

Introduction and General Orientation Meeting	Sunday, June 20 th , 3 – 5 PM
Adoption from Asia General Support Group Meeting	Sunday June 27 th Clients Only 2 – 3 PM General Public 3 – 4 PM
Introduction and General Orientation Meeting	Sunday, July 11 th , 2 - 4 PM, Normal, IL
Adoption from Asia General Support Group Meeting	Sunday, July 25 th Clients Only 2 – 3 PM General Public 3 – 4 PM
Introduction and General Orientation Meeting	Sunday, August 15 th , 3 – 5 PM
Americans Adopting Orphans Annual Cook Out	Sunday, August 22 nd , 12 – 5 PM, Golden Gardens Park, Seattle
Introduction and General Orientation Meeting	Saturday, August 28 th , 2 - 4 PM, Spokane, WA

Americans Adopting Orphans is a medium sized adoption agency that specializes in adoption from Asia. You have the choice and freedom to design your own adoption plan with our unique program. We offer adoption and language classes, as well as free informational and support group meetings at our **Education Center**. Please ask for our free introduction packet and a schedule of our meetings and classes if you would like more information. Hours are Monday thru Friday 1 - 10 PM and 1 - 5 PM on Saturday.

Mailing address:

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12345 Lake City Way NE

Suite 2001

Seattle, WA 98125

Tel: 206-524-5437

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e-mail: aao@orphans.com

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