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## Newsletter

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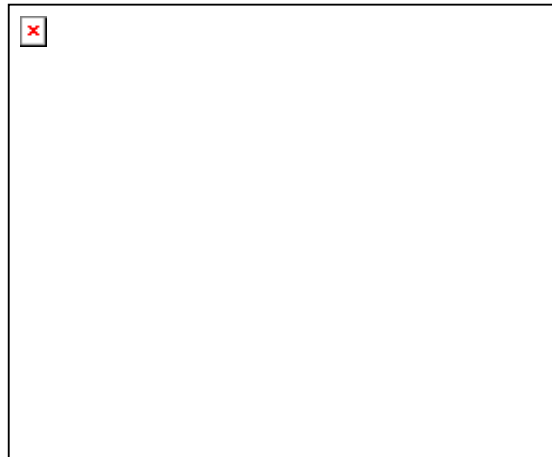
## News From Americans Adopting Orphans—Seattle Main Office

### Americans Adopting Orphans becomes a Not-For-Profit Agency

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, **Americans Adopting Orphans** began operating as a not-for-profit agency. This change came about for several reasons; the most important being that the China Center of Adoption Affairs has formally announced that it only work with not-for profit agencies. Another reason is to be in compliance with the new Hague legislation regarding international adoption, which requires that agencies be not-for-profit to be accredited. By this summer, we anticipate that we will be granted 501c3 charitable organization status. This means that your donations to **Americans Adopting Orphans** will be tax deductible.

### New Social Worker Joins our Staff

To better serve our client families, and in the spirit of offering choice and freedom in your adoption, **Americans Adopting Orphans** is proud to announce that Miri Murayama, MSW has joined our staff. Miri, along with Jean Chen, MSW, will be conducting the home studies for our Washington families who request this service. In addition, Miri will be conducting group home



study meetings with local adoptive families to fulfill the new home study requirements of the China Center of Adoption Affairs.

Our clients are fortunate to have Miri as a resource person. She has years of social work experience with families and children, and she is the adoptive parent of a Chinese born daughter. Exploring cultural issues is also an area where Miri shines. Being from Hawaii of Japanese descent, she values cultural awareness in both her professional and personal life.

### Still Many Good Classes Coming Up!

If you miss out now, you'll be waiting until Fall to see some of our full schedule of classes at the Education Center. As usual we will have a few classes this summer, but on a much smaller scale. Sign up now for the last of our Spring offerings.

The 3-part *Infant Care* class taught by a Registered Nurse will *have you proficient in changing diapers, making bottles, and safety proofing in no time!* *Planning Your Adoption Trip* is a must for adoptive parents before travel. Too old to adopt? Think again! *Adopting After 40* will give you food for thought. Bring your preschooler for a morning out—Chinese style, with *Chinese Culture for Preschoolers*. Roll up your sleeves and have fun with music, arts and crafts, and language activities.

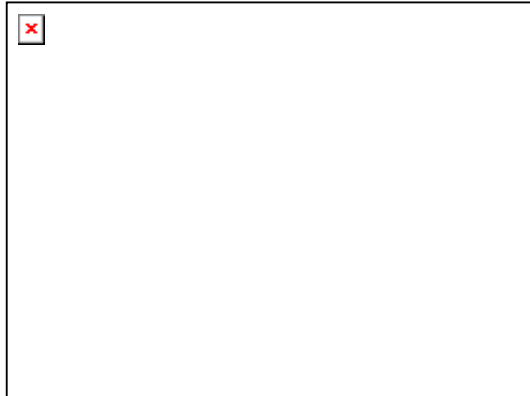
See Spring & Summer Calendar of Events in Seattle on the last page of this newsletter for dates and times. Send in your Registration Form today!

### Year of the Snake Party

Once all the at-the-door registrations were counted, this year's party was our biggest ever with 280 people attending! Cindy, Co-Founder and Co-Director of **Americans Adopting Orphans** MC'd the affair and introduced the Americans Adopting Orphans' staff including

visiting St. Louis branch manager Susan Eilenberg. As always, there were door prizes galore, several of which were donated by adoptive families for the occasion.

For days after this event, many people commented to us how much they enjoyed the location, the food, and how the evening turned out. We were very impressed with the attentiveness of the



restaurant staff and the quality of the meal they served. Everything was piping hot, very tasty, and in generous portions. In contrast to last year, this year's party was a rousing success with fabulous food, prompt service, and room to allow parents to mingle and children to cavort. To those of you who came, be sure to tell your baby buddies what a great time they missed! Without a doubt, we will be going back to the Chinese Jumbo Restaurant next year! (and probably even a few times before then!) Check out our web site for more Kodak moments. Proud new mom with our youngest attendee, and Amy

## **News From Americans Adopting Orphans—Missouri Branch Office**

### **Seattle Sights and Hospitality Add to Benefit of Training Week**

Branch Manager Susan Eilenberg flew out from St. Louis for some training in February and took home with her the most inspiring vision possible...the sea of smiling faces from all who attended our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chinese New Year Banquet. Susan commented that all our talk about paperwork and procedures paled in comparison to the thrill of seeing so many happy people enjoying the benefits of adoption.

### **St. Louis Information Meetings**

On the first Thursday of every month, Susan will be conducting information meetings for those interested in adoption from China and Vietnam. The meetings will begin at 7 pm and will be held at 8045 Big Bend Boulevard, Suite 109, St. Louis. Call 314-963-7100 for details or driving instructions.

## **News from the Net**

### **Adopted Child Citizenship Act Takes Effect**

It's official! Once you've adopted your child and enter the US with your child, he or she becomes a US citizen through the Child Citizenship Act. The Child Citizenship Act grants automatic citizenship to all foreign-born children who are under 18 years of age, admitted to the US as lawful permanent residents, and in the legal and physical custody of at least one US-citizen parent. This includes children already adopted abroad, as long as they are under 18 years of age.

According to the INS, "In the past, adoptive parents had to apply for naturalization for their foreign-born children, who did not acquire citizenship until the INS approved the application. On occasion, delays in the old application process left adopted children subject to deportation from the United States. The change made by the Child Citizenship Act to automatic acquisition of citizenship by operation of law permanently protects the adopted children of US citizens from deportation."

While you are not required to document your child's citizenship status, **Americans Adopting Orphans** strongly recommends parents complete the simplified and streamlined procedure for obtaining a Certificate of Citizenship being developed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Note, we said "*being developed*" since the INS has not yet announced the new procedure for obtaining proof of citizenship. We realize that many of you are anxious to get this part of your adoption behind you and get on with parenthood, and as soon as we learn of the new procedure, we will make this information available in our Step 6 Instruction Pack. Current Step 6 users will be mailed our recommendations and instructions for how to proceed.

### **Your Responsibilities do not end with Obtaining Citizenship for your Child**

Just because your child became a US citizen doesn't mean you are done with your adoption paperwork. Citizenship and readoption are separate issues in the processing of your adoption. Doing one does not release you from the responsibility of doing the other.

If you haven't readopted your child and completed your post-placement study requirements you're not finished. For China, that means post-placement reported at 6 months and 12 months once you're home. For Vietnam, frequently scheduled reports in the first year, followed by a post-placement report annually until the child is 18 years of age are required.

Foreign governments feel very strongly about follow up with the children that they have placed in the care of others. Some, like Vietnam, occasionally stop making referrals to new families until past families fulfill their obligation to send in their post-placement studies. It is extremely important that you honor your commitment to those who entrusted you with your most precious gift, your child.

### **China Announces Documentation Requirement Changes**

In January, the China Center of Adoption Affairs announced changes to dossier requirements. The new requirements took effect on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, giving families and their agencies little time to respond. Although the list of documents required is still basically the same, changes have been made to contents of several. Many of the changes affect single adoptive parents, who are coming under closer scrutiny.

Client families of **Americans Adopting Orphans** using our Step 1 Instruction Pack level of service who had already begun document gathering were sent a supplement to our Step 1 Pack, which told what they needed to do. However, it wasn't just Step 1 families who were affected. The folks who had moved on to Step 2 Document Legalization had changes to make too and were also given instructions for how to proceed. Those families with documents nearly done were encouraged to complete their dossiers and get them in to us as quickly as possible. We then sent two separate batches of dossiers to China in January, instead of our usual single batch, in an attempt to accommodate as many families as we could before the changes took effect.

Still there were families that could not make the cutoff for the new dossier requirements who had to regather documents before their dossiers could be sent to China. With our guidance and support, they are bringing their documents into compliance without too much trouble. New clients will not notice an appreciable change in documentation as the changes have already been integrated into our Step 1 Instruction Pack.

Although changes like this don't happen very often, when they do there are always families who get caught in the transition. Ultimately, we believe that these changes are an understandable and reasonable way for the CCAA to enhance the protection of the rights of children.

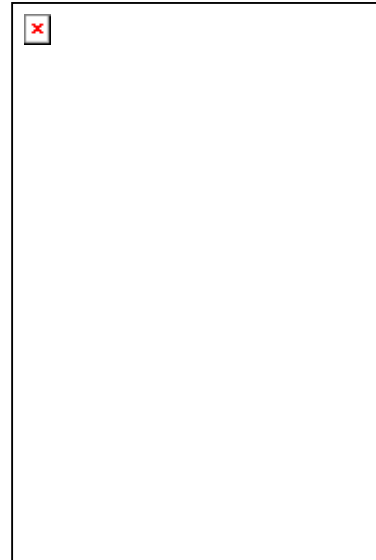
### China Processing Times

Within a system that expands and contracts over time, families are experiencing longer waits than in previous months. The time from dossier submission to referral has stretched to 10 to 11 months. Currently, families whose dossiers were sent to China in May 2000 are next in line for assignments. It is expected that wait times will decrease in the future. Ages of children are varying from 6 to 11 months for most families requesting infants.

### Vietnam Processing Times

Referrals for both boys and girls are taking about 6 months these days. At the time of this writing almost all families who sent dossiers to Vietnam August have received referrals. International Mission of Hope reports they are beginning to refer September families. Occasionally, families may wait longer if they are interested in a special needs placement, an older child placement, twins, or if there are other unique circumstances. Families who already have one or more children may specify the gender of the child they wish to adopt. However, families without children may not specify a gender preference. Many families are adopting children under 6 months of age.

Right: Isaac is the newest baby assigned to one of our client families. is 7 months old and, from his photo, quite a charmer!



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### Vietnam Closing Its Doors to Single Parents?

Due to concern over rumors that the Vietnamese government will be changing its stance on adoption by single parents, International Mission of Hope (IMH) temporarily stopped accepting applications from single parents for several weeks. IMH had hoped that it was simply “something in the wind” and that there would be no long term problems, but they want to be ethical in not raising parents’ hopes as well as commit them to huge sums of money when the outcome might not be a positive one.

According to IMH, the status of single adoptive parents came into question after a prominent physician, and her lesbian partner were profiled in a major US magazine where they announced that they were about to become the parents of a baby from Vietnam. After that article appeared, representatives from IMH spent weeks traveling to the provinces meeting with Vietnamese government officials to protect the status of single adopters. For a time following those meetings, IMH felt that they could start accepting applications from singles again. However, in spite of counseling the doctor about the harm she had caused to adoption, she “came out” again in another article about herself and her partner’s Vietnamese adoption in Adoptive Families Magazine. So IMH’s concerns about single parent adoptions continue.

It is also affecting processing of dossiers from couples. When the situation came to the attention of the Vietnamese government, there was a period when NONE of the dossiers sent to the Vietnamese Embassy and Consulate received stamps. To protect themselves and all adoptive parents, IMH is now requiring that single parents submit a notarized certificate stating that the applicant is not homosexual. We’ll keep you posted of any further developments with this issue.

## **Reports of Widespread Visa Refusals Unfounded**

Over the past few months, there has been quite a bit of discussion on a-p-vn (adoptive parent Vietnam group) regarding difficulties at the US Consulate in Vietnam. Rest assured that it is not a wide spread problem nor some plot of the INS to restrict or interfere with issuing visas to adopting families. However, there have been a number of cases lately that have been requiring further investigation. The INS admits that it doesn't take many field investigations to hold up other cases, particularly "when the INS office is fairly small and the realities of travel and working with local officials limit how many cases can be done at any one time." While there have been some visa refusals, there has not been a big increase in the number of refusals. The great majority of the cases being rejected involve cases of adoption abuse such as direct relinquishments from birthmothers to adoptive parent. This has not affected families of either **Americans Adopting Orphans** or IMH. This kind of professionalism and preparation are why we chose to work with IMH.

## **News from the East**

### **Are You Seeing Spots?**

If you were at the American Consulate in Guangzhou on February 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>, you may have been exposed to the measles. Fifty-five adoptive families from 15 adoption agencies, Consulate staff, numerous flight attendants and passengers were all in contact with a 10-month old Chinese adoptee during her communicability period as she made her way to the US where she arrived with an active case of measles.

Orphanage administrators at the Xiangtan Social Welfare Institute in Changsha, Hunan were notified and reported no recent health problems there. However adoptions from this orphanage have been suspended until the outbreak is over.

Since the initial case, 8 other cases of measles have been confirmed, most associated with the same orphanage in Changsha. This has resulted in many individuals (including both adopted children and their new siblings, and in one case a parent) from Texas, Georgia, Missouri, Minnesota, New York, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio contracting the disease.

Adopted children are excluded from the requirements for immunizations usually imposed on immigrants. However, it is imperative that adoptive parents protect themselves and other family members from childhood illnesses and other more serious diseases to which they could be exposed through their new child. Before making a trip to Asia to adopt, make sure your own immunization are up-to-date. Get a polio, measles, and tetanus booster before you leave. Complete your series of Hepatitis a and Hepatitis B immunizations.

Although you may be given a "shot record" for your child from adoption officials in Asia, do not rely on it as proof that your child is immune to any disease. Children have been tested for the diseases they have supposedly been immunized against only to find they were in fact unprotected. Recording errors happen. We do not believe these errors are done maliciously; errors in a system as large as China's orphanage system and our own child welfare system are bound to occur. Your child's record may contain incomplete information or information mistakenly written about another child. We have seen shot records detail immunizations for children on dates before the child was even born!

Do not jeopardize your child's health by relying on a foreign immunization card. Your child should be treated as if he or she had *never* been immunized. Upon returning to the US, your child should be examined by a physician and begin a schedule of immunizations to protect their health.

## **Oatmeal Bath Anyone?**

That's what the parents of our most recent group to China are asking. Just as their adoptive parents were preparing to leave for their trip, we learned that all the babies in the group had contracted chickenpox! Fortunately, with a nurse on our staff, we were able to advise the new moms and dads to stock up on Calamine lotion, oatmeal bath packets, benadryl, and triple antibiotic ointment. We also recommended taking extra mittens or socks to cover tiny hands and prevent scratched up faces. Another reason to make sure your immunizations are current before you travel. Grown ups can be pretty miserable contracting what would typically be a childhood illness. Even the smallest of children share well—they love to pass along germs!

## **International Politics and Adoption**

You may have never paid much attention to the relationship between the US and China before you were involved in adoption. But now that you have a vested interest in your child's birth country, any news of China, no matter how big or small, is sure to grab your attention.

Any time there is so much as a hint of discord between our two countries, preadoptive parents get a little twitchy. That's when the calls to adoption agencies become more frequent with worried expectant moms and dads hoping for some words of reassurance that everything will be OK.

While the "China Spy Plane Crisis" has sent chills through some, numerous similar incidents of tension in the past have not affected adoption processing. For instance, when the US accidentally bombed the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia on a Friday, even among all the turmoil, the China Center of Adoption Affairs put our next batch of assignments into the mail on the following Monday.

Both the US and Chinese governments support adoption. It is our prediction that this incident, too, will also be kept separate from adoption. There are no indications that this latest event will have a significant impact upon adoption.

## **Parents' Zone**

### **Miscommunication at the Speed of Light**

While the Internet is a very popular and effective method of disseminating information these days, for adoptive parents it can be a double-edged sword. Parents-to-be can be up to their eyeballs in facts, figures, and fanciful dreams in the blink of an eye. One can be immersed in adoption for hours yet still be scratching the surface. Good news for those beginning the baby quest, but mixed news for the waiting parent with frazzled nerves.

There seems to be a pattern that when waiting times get longer, the number and variety of rumors that surface also increase. Sometimes they are just staggering.

If you are on the ap-c (adoptive parent-china list serve), you see the same postings of referrals that we do. At this writing Aprils are coming out, not Mays. Yet there is a rumor that all dossiers "through May 25<sup>th</sup>" have "been matched". Many of our clients have been calling us about this, hoping and sometimes believing that their assignment is about to come. They ask us what we make of it. Our answer is, it depends on what you mean by "matched". This could simply be some agency saying that May assignments have been sent to the matching room, and one of their clients interpreting this a little loosely. Our impression is that when matches are made, they are sent pretty quickly to the US.

Until then and in any case, there is absolutely nothing that anyone can do about it. You can guess, you can plead, you can whine, you can pack your bags, but it will happen when it happens.

We understand the stress that adoption can cause, particularly towards the end of a long wait. It takes nerves of steel to make it through the wait without "getting a little funny." If you find yourself getting a little more than crazy, the rumor mill of the Internet may be contributing to your state of mind. Most clients have found relief by getting away from the Internet boards during times of unusual stress. (If you're not already on the Internet, getting online during a stressful time is definitely not a good idea.)

Another great thing to do is talk to your social worker. That's one of the reasons that you have one, to help you through the tough parts of an adoption. If you don't have a good relationship with your social worker, and can't tear yourself away from the boards, give your agency a call and tell them you need a pep talk. Remember, you are part of the most ethical and consistent international adoption program in the world. Your turn will come. China builds families.

### **Something to Crow About**

**At Americans Adopting Orphans** we are very proud of our adoptive parents and children. You're a great bunch of folks that we want to share with the world! Send us (by e-mail or regular mail) a copy of your child's referral photo and a recent photo and we will add them to our web site photo gallery.

Please include a few words regarding your adoption through our agency as a testimonial to go with your photos. Spread your joy and encourage others to adopt so that more children can find homes! If you like we can include a link to your e-mail address or web site.

### **A Letter from a Waiting Mom**

OK - this wait IS getting long! Since I have made it a habit to not post to the Internet, I thought I would share a few things that have been effective to do during this long waiting time.

- 1) Gut and redecorate kitchen
- 2) Have water damage in dining area, so now that is under construction too!
- 3) Search for Panda coins on ebay for the year your child was born.
- 4) Sell beanie babies on e-bay (that are now worth practically nothing), to pay for the Panda Coins!
- 4) Decorate nursery in "ladybugs," then decide you do not actually like "bugs" and start with something new!

Please call me very soon, "operators are standing by!"

Sincerely,  
C.—a waiting mom

### **Your Recipes Needed**

With your help, we may be able to offer The Americans Adopting Orphans Cookbook for sale at the annual summer gathering in July. But we need your recipes in order to do it. There is still time to submit your entries and share your family traditions, favorite family dishes, and kid friendly concoctions. Asian, American, green eggs and ham, it doesn't matter. Whatever your specialty, we want it all! Adoptive families are hungry families!

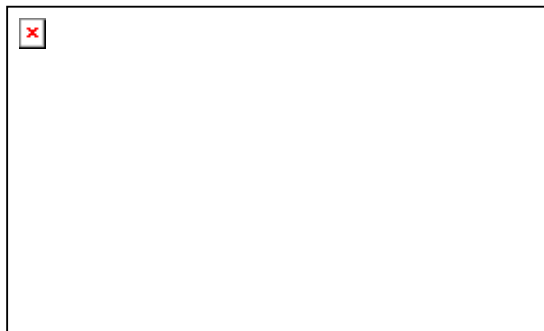
### Jennifer's Place West

Chances are, if you're the adoptive parent of a Chinese child, you've been to Jennifer's Place in Guangzhou, a shop where you could lose yourself in jewelry, clothing, paintings, and the like. If you've been kicking yourself for not purchasing that special necklace or silk top from Jennifer while on your adoption trip, you have another chance!

Jennifer and her husband have moved to the US and have opened a shop at Alderwood Mall in Lynnwood, WA. If you're in the area, stop in and see her and recapture a little bit of China. By the way, we hear she gives discounts to adoptive parents!



Jennifer's Place Guangzhou



Jennifer's Place West

### Take Advantage of these Americans Adopting Orphans Services

- Wondering about current processing times and the newsletter isn't due for a while? Call our *Update Line*—just give us a call *after* hours (we're normally open 11 am to 9 pm) to hear the latest news from China and Vietnam on our voice mail.
- Want to register for that class, buy that book, or order that Instruction Pack NOW? Give us a call and use your VISA or MasterCard.
- Needing a little pep talk about your adoption? Come to our monthly support group meeting (always the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month) and meet other parents-to-be!

### New Brochure Introduces Potential Clients to our Agency

For clients and past clients, enclosed with this newsletter is our new brochure. We hope it will help us get the word out to more couples and singles about adoption from Asia. Many of you have asked us to send you a stockpile of information packs to give to friends or to people who have approached you when you've been in public with your child. We're more than happy to send info packs to anyone who asks. However, our new tri-fold flyer is a lot easier to put into your diaper bag or purse to have handy when someone asks you about your adoption or Americans Adopting Orphans. Let us know if you need more!

*The following story was first printed in our newsletter in 1997. It is our hope that our newer readers will benefit from reading it for the first time and that repeat readers will enjoy it once more.*

### **That Special Someone**

My daughter is special. She is special for a variety of reasons depending upon who you ask. Back in 1992, in the eyes of China, she was just another abandoned baby in need of a home, but because she had what Chinese adoption officials determined to be an “asymmetrical face,” a deep scar on her abdomen, and “hyperextended thumbs,” she was labeled as having “special needs.”

As her Mom, these so-called special needs have been merely cosmetic and inconsequential to me. Her “asymmetrical face” turned out to be that one side of the back of her head was flattened due to bottle propping in her crib at the orphanage, which, after getting her off her back for extended periods, rounded out nicely. The only scar she had was on her temple under her hairline. Her rotund little belly was unblemished. And the “hyperextended thumbs” are sweet little double jointed fingers which function fine but will undoubtedly be a source of amusement for entertaining her friends as she grows up. While my daughter is an attractive and charming little girl with an absolutely radiant smile, I would love her no matter what her appearance. And I do with all my heart.

There is another reason that she is special. In spite of the trivial “special needs” label she had been given in China, she has a very real special need, an underlying neurological condition, undiagnosable at the time of her adoption, which was not apparent for several months after we got her home. Had we been aware of this condition when we first received our child assignment from China, we might have been uncomfortable with the diagnosis and rejected the referral. Rejected my daughter! To think that I might have missed out on the past 5 years of being this little girl’s mom brings me to tears. I know now how naively limiting my thinking was back then. We could have chosen not to accept the referral and ended up with another, totally different child. Perhaps a child closer to our narrow idea of perfection. Since that time, our eyes have opened a little wider and we know that perfection can be a little boring. We’ll take a challenge over boredom any day.

Our lives began the day she became our daughter. Adopted at 4 months of age, she was developmentally a two month old. Bundled in layers of clothing and spending a good deal of her day in a crib, she had little opportunity at the orphanage to practice the physical skills and social interaction her American counterparts enjoyed. Still, I was not alarmed as this was something I had expected. She caught up leaps and bounds with the love and attention her daddy and I lavished upon her. She blossomed and thrived in our care. The bigger she got, the stronger our bond as a family grew. But by 18 months of age we knew something wasn’t right. Her walking gait and speech were a little different from other kids her age.

It took several months and changing doctors to figure out what was going on. Formal physical therapy, speech pathology, and cognitive evaluations determined that my daughter was at the low end of normal for fine and gross motor skills, at the low end of normal for expressive speech, but at two years of age, she was at the level of a four and a half year old for her understanding of speech and overall intelligence.

Along with those evaluations came a diagnosis: mild right-sided hemiplegia and dyspraxia. Simply put, her right side is weaker and not as coordinated as her left side. Her doctor speculated that it may have been the result of a small stroke while she was still in the womb. It explained her total left-handedness and her walk. Dyspraxia is not as easy to explain and is often misunderstood. Basically, it involves a failure of the nervous system to fully integrate with the

motor system. Children with dyspraxia know what they want to say, but cannot always get the muscles used to produce speech to do what they want in order to make the correct sounds. It was recommended that our daughter enter physical therapy and speech therapy which would not “cure” her problems with motor planning but would help her develop alternate ways of doing things.

It has been 3 years since we first learned about my daughter’s condition. Since that time, she has been enrolled in “the” model preschool program for the rest of the country that specializes in children with dyspraxia. It is only 5 minutes from our home. To think we adopted a child from half way around the world to end up in the exact neighborhood as the school she needed is phenomenal. She has made terrific strides in this program and next year will be ready for regular kindergarten. Her hemiplegia and dyspraxia has, and will continue to create challenges for her as an individual and for us as a family. Our daughter, as we have, accepts this as part of life.

At times, it is difficult for her to keep up with her younger brother, also adopted from China. She tires a little more quickly than he does, expending more energy to get the right side of her body to perform. However, having the competition around keeps her striving to give it her all. When learning a new skill, she sticks with it until she has it down cold despite set backs and trying circumstances. Such has been the case with toilet learning.

When even the most resistant of toddlers is usually proficient at toileting by age 3, in spite of an overwhelming desire to “be like the big kids,” at 4, she was still in diapers. Oh, she could “hold it” to keep herself dry, but the hemiplegia and motor planning problems conspired against her and she was unable to consciously make herself urinate when her bladder needed to empty. She simply did not know how to pee, but it wasn’t for lack desire or for want of trying. Even without external pressure from us, (we made a special effort to follow her lead), she was driven to succeeding. She wanted to learn to use the potty more than anything in the world.

As she struggled with learning to use the potty, in a two-month period of time, she required catheterization 6 times. Let me tell you, it doesn’t take too many times trying to comfort your frightened and hurting child while she clutches you and screams as a team of nurses places a tube into her over full bladder for you to vow, “I don’t care if she wears diapers to her graduation, just let her find a way to learn to do this without so much trauma!” I was afraid for her self-esteem as much as her physical well-being. But, as with so many other things, when she commits to a task, this kid persists until she has it right. Within another couple of months, she had it all figured out and proudly joined the ranks of “big kids.” The first time she peed was in a public restroom at a mall. Believe me, we marched right out and bought a well-deserved package of super hero underwear. She has not worn diapers since that day!

At only 5 years of age, my daughter is one of the most resilient and persistent people I know. She has had some tough challenges in her short life and has met them head-on with grace and determination. I know there are more rough waters ahead but my daughter has proven to be a resourceful and strong little person. Physical therapy has vastly improved her strength and coordination, but sometimes it has been her sheer force of will that has helped her prevail. Speech and language therapy have pretty much brought her up to speed with her peers. Her doctor has told us that by the time she is in junior high, only she will know that she has any sort of special needs. But he is wrong. *I will know*. I will know of all the obstacles she has faced and overcome. And I will be as proud of her then as I am now. I love her to pieces. After all, she is my daughter, and she is special.

Written by Cindy Ptasnik, Co-Director of **Americans Adopting Orphans**. Kate is now 8-1/2 years old and going strong!

## Spring & Summer Calendar of Events in Seattle

March 1 <sup>st</sup> to May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Seattle Art Museum Long admired Chinese calligraphy, poems, essays, and sutras will be on display (SAAM)
April 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> , & May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Care & Medical Considerations, 1 – 4 PM Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	General Orientation and Information Meeting Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	BAT II *
May 10 <sup>th</sup> to August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Seattle Asian Art Museum Treasures from a Lost Civilization: Ancient Chinese Art from Sichuan (SAM downtown)
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Your Adoption Trip, 1 – 5 PM Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese Culture for Preschoolers, 12 – 1:30 PM Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	General Orientation and Information Meeting Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Adopting After 40, 2 – 4 PM Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Adoption from Asia General Support Group Meeting Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	BAT I *
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chinese Arts and Dance Festival Seattle Center
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Digging to China! Sichuan Family Festival Music and dance, artist demonstrations, hands-on activities, and a virtual reality archeological dig Seattle Art Museum
June 24 <sup>th</sup> July 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	BAT II* Chinatown/International District Summer Festival, Seattle Main stage Hing Hay Park—martial arts and dance performances, arts & crafts, food vendors, lots of fun

\*Basic Adoption Training Classes (BAT) are a series of 3 classes that provide adoption education to home study clients and helps families meet the new requirements for additional social work visits for those undergoing a home study for China. BAT classes are held once each month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. You must be a home study client of **Americans Adopting Orphans** to attend.

Call 206-524-5437 for details.