

Tree of Life Adoption Center

It is with great pleasure that we announce:

Per our application and request we are pleased to share the following notification!

Hague Accreditation/Approval UND Notification



June 13, 2008

.....I am extremely pleased to notify you that the Council on Accreditation (COA) has granted Tree of Life Adoption Center's application for 2-Year Temporary Hague Accreditation pursuant to the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA). Your achievement of 2-Year Temporary Hague Accreditation demonstrates your commitment to the children and families you serve both here and abroad.....

On behalf of COA's staff and volunteers, congratulations on your achievement

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Klarberg".

Richard Klarberg

President & CEO

News from Client Kay Coordinator Kay J:

This month we are bringing you an update on Andrey. We have been following the remarkable transformation of this courageous young man as he undergoes facial reconstructive surgery. Next month we should be able to share with you pictures of his new face.

Also in the newsletter is an article explaining IR-3 and IR-4 visas. When you bring home your child, he will come home on one of these two visas. Each has different implications for once you return home. I hope you find this article educational.

We have also included information about a child in need. This is a very special young boy who is looking for his forever family. If you feel that you may be a fit for him, please contact Kay Montes at kay@toladopt.org.



Abram

Welcome Home!

Anne and her new son Luis home from Guatemala

Karen and John with their son Garret home from Kazakhstan

Diane and Dale and their son Jake from Guatemala

Nathan and Cynthia with their son Abram from Kazakhstan



Anne and Luis



Karen , John and Garret

2007-2008 Primary Project: Help for Andrey

Over the past several months, we have been sharing with you the story of Andrey. Andrey was born with a cleft lip and pallet. He has spent his life growing up in orphanages in Eastern Europe. Now, thanks to the generosity of many of the Tree of Life Family, funds were raised to bring this young teenager to America to have facial reconstruction. Following are two brief updates on Andrey provided by his host family. If you missed the beginning of Andrey's story, it is available in our December 2007, January / February 2008 and March 2008 newsletters.

Andrey is doing soooo good. We are waiting for the next surgery. His palate looks like he never even had a problem. He learned to ride a bike two weeks ago. That is a miracle in itself. In December he sat on the bike and expected it to move like a motorcycle. On April 23rd I have his next follow-up appointment. We will then determine if the next surgery can be the first weeks in May. This week we are in the process of finalizing the steps for his catheritization of his hole in his heart. That will be outpatient surgery.

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Whew! Finally, the next step! Well, I finally have some news on Andrey. We had our appointment today at Dr. Jackson's office. They are going to do the next big surgery on May 27th. This will bring the nose down and close up the hole. For the next 30 days he has to have his two upper lips tapped together to stretch the skin and muscles, etc. This will enable the skin to attach easier to the nose piece. Andrey actually likes the tape across his upper lip. He can now see a little bit what he will look like. He keeps smiling at himself in the mirror. I am cracking up! Andrey is really doing well. He loves the spring weather and is very proud to be riding a bike! With some love and encouragement, he cranked it out in a day! He spoke with his friends at his orphanage and is very proud of all that is going on for him. He told them he is saving money to buy bikes for them to use! I love it! That's about it in a nutshell.

Andry's surgery was June 3rd. Photos will be included in our next newsletter!

Immigration and Visas

Starting this month, we are going to take some space in our newsletter to explain some of the more confusing aspects of international adoption. This month we are focusing on IR-3 versus IR-4 visas. If you have a topic you would like us to cover, please send me an e-mail at cliencaarecoordinator@toladopt.org.

If your child enters the U.S. on an IR-3 visa, they automatically receive Certificates of Citizenship instead of Permanent Resident Cards.

Who qualifies for an IR-3 Visa?

To receive an IR-3 visa, you must (1) finalize the adoption in the orphan's country (2) all adoptive parents have to meet the child before the adoption is finalized. If neither parent, or only one parent of a two parent home has met the child during the adoption procedure, the child will come home on an IR-4 visa.

Is an IR-3 visa better than an IR-4 visa?

A child who enters the U.S. on an IR-3 visa does not need to be re-adopted in the United States. The child automatically receives U.S. citizenship upon entering the country with an IR-3 immigrant visa. If your child entered the United States on an IR-4 visa, you must finalize your child's adoption in a U.S. court to satisfy Child Citizenship Act requirements and secure U.S. citizenship for your child. Your child automatically will become a U.S. citizen on the day the adoption is finalized in the United States.

Note: Some States do not recognize foreign adoption decrees, even when the adoption has been finalized before the child has left his or her country of origin. These States require adoptive parents to readopt the child in a State court once the child arrives in the United States regardless of the type of visa issued. Please check with your home study agency to see if your state requires re-adoption and how to compete this process, as it differs by state.

What is a Certificate of Citizenship?

The Certificate of Citizenship is a document issued by the United States government as proof of U.S. citizenship. If your child comes home on an IR-3 visa, you should receive this within 45 days of returning home.

What is a Permanent Resident Card?

A United States Permanent Resident Card, also known as a green card, is an identification card attesting to the permanent resident status of an alien in the United States of America. *Green card* also refers to an immigration process of becoming a permanent resident. The green card serves as proof that its holder, a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), has been officially granted immigration benefits. If your child comes home on an IR-4 visa, you will receive this card.

If your child entered the United States on an IR-4 visa, you can apply for a Certificate of Citizenship after the adoption is finalized in the United States by submitting Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship. It is possible to obtain a passport from the Department of State for a child before receiving the Certificate of Citizenship, but the adoption must be full and final according to Federal law. The Social Security Administration will assign your child a social security number before you obtain proof of U.S. citizenship. However, records will not show your child is a U.S. citizen until you provide this proof.

A Tribute to Toddlers, their parents and their parents to be!

I AM TODDLER HEAR ME ROAR! Author Unknown

If it is on, I must turn it off.
If it is off, I must turn it on.
If it is folded, I must unfold it.
If it is a liquid, it must be shaken, then spilled.
If it is a solid, it must be crumbled, chewed or smeared.



If it is high, it must be reached.
If it is shelved, it must be unshelved.
If it is pointed, it must be run with at top speed.
If it has leaves, they must be picked.
If it is plugged, it must be unplugged.



If it is not rubbish, it must be thrown away.
If it is in the rubbish, it must be removed, inspected, and thrown to the floor.
If it is closed, it must be opened.
If it does not open, it must be screamed at.
If it has drawers, they must be rifled.

If it is a pen, it must write on the fridge, television, or table.
If it is full, it will be more interesting emptied.
If it is a pile of dirt, it must be laid upon.
If it is a pushchair, I must under no circumstances ride in it without protest. I must push it instead.
If it has a flat surface, it must be banged upon.

If Mummy's hands are full, I must be carried.
If Mummy is in a hurry and wants to carry me, I must walk alone.
If it is paper, it must be torn.
If it has buttons, they must be pressed.
If the volume is low, it must go high.



If it is toilet paper, it must be unrolled on the floor.
If it is a drawer, it must be pulled upon.
If it is a toothbrush, it must be inserted into my mouth.
If it has a tap, it must be turned on at full force.
If it is a phone, I must talk to it.
If it is a bug, it must be swallowed.
If it doesn't stay on my spoon, it must be dropped on the floor.
If it is not food, it must be tasted.
If it is food, it must not be tasted.
If it is dry, it must be made wet with drool, milk, or toilet water.
If it is a car seat, it must be protested with arched back.
If it's a Mummy, it must be hugged.



A Child in Need

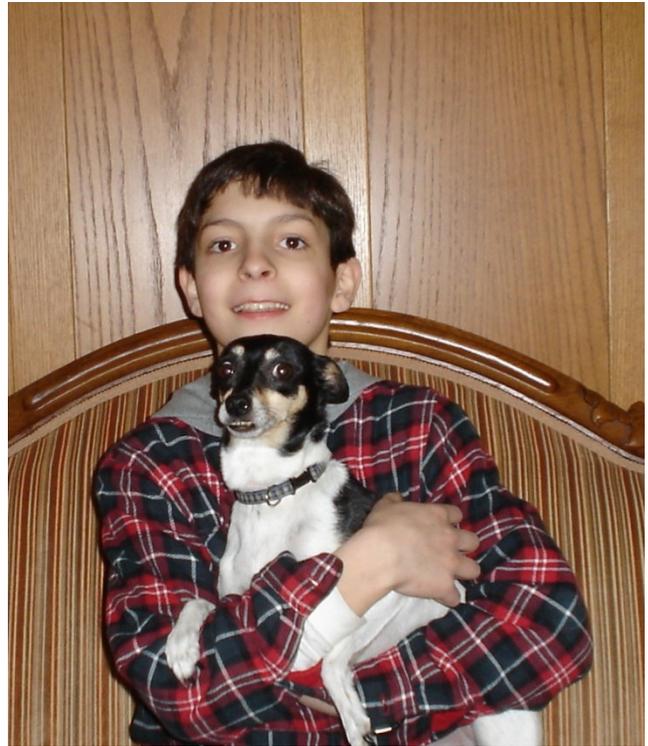
Occasionally a child does not fit well into his adoptive family. Regardless of how hard people try, and the love and attention given to the child, after time it is evident that the current family setting is not the best one to ensure the child's proper growth and development. This is the case for Cameron. As you will read in the following letter from his adoptive mother, Cameron is a bright boy with much potential. To realize this potential he needs the right adoptive family. If you feel you may be a fit for Cameron, please contact Kay Montes at kay@toladopt.org

Cameron is now 11 1/2.

Cameron is a child with a difficult past. He grew up in an orphanage until he was 6, and then went to one family, then to another, and then he went to a different household within the same family. Everyone has worked hard to help him cope with his past losses and accommodate himself to a family setting. At this point, we have seen tremendous progress even though he still has some of the troubling behaviors of the past. He has made a very good friend. He has learned to play the trumpet, is proud of his ability, and plays in the school band. He is placed in a regular classroom where he complies with classroom rules. He has worked hard to improve his performance in math and reading, with variable success. He is a member of a local swim team and participates in Boy Scouts well. What we have learned is that it is very difficult for Cameron to tolerate siblings near to his age. My mother is in her late 70's, and no longer has the energy for an 11 year old child. We sincerely want the best for Cameron, and are sorry that despite concerted effort and good intentions he was unable to adapt to us. Over the years we have become more and more convinced that he may have been more successful if he had entered a different kind of family. He needs a family that will love him just for who he is (he can be very compassionate and gentle with much younger children). He needs a great deal of external structure, but resents it at the same time. He can be very stubborn and resistant to helping around the house, at other times, he is an excellent working companion. He is very bright and competent. He keeps himself dressed neatly and is proud of his appearance. Helping him adjust to a new family will require time and patience, but we firmly believe that in the right circumstances things would be easier for him.

A new family for Cameron would have him the only or much younger child. (Although he can be very sweet with younger children, it's possible he would also be too controlling of them or jealous.) He loves to learn new things, and would love to spend much of his time with an adult. He loves building models and home repair type projects--he is a real thinker, always looking to improve something or other. He enjoys bike riding. For a long time, Cameron couldn't play at all, and would seek out television or someone to help with a task. During the 3 years he has been with my mother, he has been able to make a few close friends and plays successfully with them. His abilities to entertain himself are weaker, although he enjoys model making and has become good at it.

Cameron has had a hard life, and deserves to feel successful in a family. He has great reserves of goodness and compassion which are often hidden under his panic about being accepted and loved. We are sorry that we have not been able to be the correct family for him.



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