



December 2013

Dear Friends,

Madison Adoption Associates has had another busy year as we find loving homes for the waiting children, especially those who are older or have special needs. This year we traveled all over China to meet these precious children. Heilongjiang is located in northern China and has again signed a “One-to-One” agreement with MAA. In so doing, two more orphanages were added to the three we had already established a relationship with back in 2010. We also renewed our agreements with Bao’an, Wuzhou and Liuzhou. We were also asked to establish new partnerships with Longgang and Gaozhou in the Southern Provinces. As a result, we are happily busy, but our work sure is cut out for us in China adoptions!

China’s procedures for placement agencies have changed with a new online system. If this change was not enough, we recently learned that there is now a new Director-General for the CCCWA: Mr. Li Bo. We will await any changes that will be made as the new director puts his slant on the program. MAA also applied for China reaccreditation this year. Currently, agencies are eagerly awaiting the new ratings which should be released soon from CCCWA. As of the last rating period in 2010, MAA was proudly rated the #2 agency in the world! Is it too much to hope for #1 this time? ☺

Our China Camps as are a thing of the past. They were replaced by the “One-to-One Program” in which adoption agencies have partnerships with specific orphanages. Once we signed these agreements, we committed to being responsible for general expenses for medicals, translations and any other necessary costs to help the children in those social welfare institutes. In return, the waiting children from those institutes are placed on our individual list for matching with families. We are allowed 2-6 months to place each child, depending upon the child’s age and severity of special needs. We are also able to place babies who have minor special needs with families who qualify and have a dossier submitted. This program is a gift for children and families alike. Prospective adoptive families are able to get an abundance of information, medicals and updates on their children. The children are able to maintain relationships with friends and have a wealth of information for their Lifebooks.

Through these relationships, MAA has donated almost \$200,000 for the care of children in these orphanages. One very important donation was the *Katie-Mary Project* to create treatment centers for the many children with cerebral palsy. MAA staff members were thrilled to personally visit the treatment center in Harbin made possible by our donations. We were brought to tears when we observed the *Katie-Mary Project* plaque hanging on the wall above the newly purchased equipment. Katie and Mary are surely smiling down on the children and caregivers as these little ones receive the much needed assistance they require.

Harbin Orphanage has moved to a new facility and we were honored to get a guided tour through the building and outside areas. There is a new Director (she calls herself my little sister!) who is so proud of her institute and has put in a garden and planted vegetables for the children at the center. There is also a new Deputy Director of the Heilongjiang Civil Affairs, and her daughter is their new translator. They all have huge hearts and are open to any suggestions we have on how to improve the quality of life for the children residing in these orphanages.

Two of our newly contracted institutes, Longgang and Gaozhou, are located in areas that are closer to our China coordinator, Richard, and his wife Alexa, as well as to the US Consulate. Longgang, like Bao’an (my grandson Chase’s institute) will always have a special place in my heart, since this is the home institute for Allie, my 6 year-old granddaughter who arrived home last year. Gaozhou, another of our new partners, stole our hearts because of their true need for even basic assistance. They desperately need food, toys and monies just to run the daily programs. We have learned that one of the babies we met on our trip has passed away or others are gravely ill. We are looking into ways we can better assist them so that this no longer is a common occurrence. One of these is an upcoming partnership with the incredible **Love Without Boundaries Foundation** to establish a foster care program in Gaozhou. Stay tuned for updates as we work out the details!

This year we have made donations to Liuzhou for desks and computers, and to Wuzhou for vaccinations for the children. The foster care program started by **Half the Sky Foundation** was continued, allowing the children to be raised in a family environment. We are so happy that this decision was made by this wonderful group who has

done so much to help countless orphans in China. Gaozhou needs so many things, but so far we have purchased 10 air conditioners, some of which we personally saw on our trip. On the same trip, we purchased food and toys for the children since their supplies were running severely low. A donation was also wired this week to purchase more food, diapers, winter clothing and Bumbo baby seats.

We love working with Baoan and Longgang, our Shenzhen partners. Though these institutions are more financially blessed than others, we have worked hard to make improvements to these already wonderful facilities. At print time, we are proud to announce that MAA is sponsoring a physical therapy training program, taught by a group of therapists and medical professionals from Hong Kong. This group will travel to Baoan and train staff members of both orphanages to be able to provide therapy with the children. They will be trained to cater to each child's individual needs! The first session will be early next year, but we have prepaid for quarterly sessions to reinforce skills, tweak childrens' treatment plans and keep the information fresh. If this program is successful, we hope to be able to offer it in other institutes. In addition, we recently purchased two "Bye-Bye Buggies" (a fold up stroller holding 6 children each) for Baoan so the kids can go on more outside excursions. We also fully sponsored an English teacher through 2014 in Longgang, so the children can learn English and be taught about adoption and forever families before they come home! We are thrilled with the countless projects we have established with our wonderful partners and can't wait to fill you in as they progress!

During our trip to several cities in China this past May, it was great to see the popular areas that our MAA families are seeing on their adoption trips. We stayed at The Garden Hotel in Guangzhou, which Richard highly recommends. It is an amazing hotel nearer to the Consulate and within the city. It offers more choices for restaurants, and many more stores where typical gifts can be purchased. In my opinion, The Garden Hotel is more exclusive than The White Swan - and The Garden also has red couches! Unfortunately, nothing in China is as inexpensive as it was several years ago and except for souvenir items, shopping in the USA is the way to go!

Our Philippine Orphan Hosting Program, run by our brilliant Michelle McGowan, is hoping to bring several children to Illinois in 2014 for a Winter Hosting and a Summer Hosting Program. The 2013 summer program was an enormous success and all 8 children were matched with forever families. Most of the children hosted in 2012 are also now home with their former host families who pursued the adoption route. Michelle and I traveled to the Philippines in September to evaluate a new group of children who will hopefully be approved for our next round of hosting programs. Additionally on this trip, we attended the 2013 "Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services" where I was able to meet many of the ICAB officials, as well as the Child Care Agency ("CCA") directors. MAA was due for Philippines reaccreditation this year, so in late October two incredible ICAB Board members came to Delaware for our assessment. Both of these visits reestablished the great love and respect that we have for the members of the ICAB Board. MAA has also applied to be accredited for the healthy program in the Philippines. We are hoping to have news on this new venture soon. Please say a prayer for us! ☺

As for Philippines aid, in November, MAA established a partnership with AACAP (Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines) for a new Social Worker training program to prepare Filipino children for permanent placement. We are only in the initial stages of this program, as it was delayed by the typhoon, but we are excited to test it, and hopefully expand it through many areas in the Philippines.

And now, about that storm... Typhoon Haiyan devastated so many places in central Philippines. Sister Corrie, the head of Hospicio de San Jose, has reached out to us for anything that we can do to help the people adversely affected. Although Bohol was the most severely affected, the remote coastal towns of Iloilo, Samar and Cebu were also devastated. Hundreds of fishermen lost their boats, which is their only source of livelihood. They have told us that they can reconstruct their homes using light materials but need boats to be able to provide for their families. One fishing boat costs P25,000 (~\$625) and MAA has collected enough to buy 12 boats so far. MAA launched "Project Pagasa" to match donations for the Philippines. We have matched \$4000 to date. According to a source, the government does not provide aid and they look to organizations and foundations for support. If, during this season of giving, you can give a small donation, 100% will go to this project. I promise that it will help these people who have so little. For those who have already sent donations, thank you so much for the love you have shown.

The Gonzalez family and I continue to stay in touch, praying that an adoption program will again open in Guatemala. At this time, that does not look hopeful. This past summer, both Jose Luis and his new wife faced difficult medical issues. Both are receiving treatments and doing well. Please keep them in your prayers. Grace,

Indira, Luigi, Carolina, Mayana and their families are all faring well and the children are growing up too fast. I hope to get down to Guatemala in 2014 because it has been far too long since my last visit.

Rick Caceres, our El Salvador representative, continues to dedicate his time to help create an avenue to get needy children into safe and loving homes. MAA has decided to close this program to new clients due to the extended waiting time created by the governmental entities. However, we have formed a relationship with a nun from the Philadelphia area who lives in El Salvador much of the year, building up towns in remote areas one by one. MAA wants to continue making donations toward this endeavor to help all of the residents of one particular town, in any way we can.

MAA is continuing to try to build our adoption program in Bulgaria. The closing of international adoptions from Russia had everyone on edge for a while to see if the other Eastern European countries would follow suit. We are still cautious about placing children from Bulgaria but have witnessed several beautiful children coming home to their new families this year.

Our original "MAAWC" Yahoo Group for waiting children and our "MAA Client Families" Yahoo Group continue to be a wealth of information for families. We have moved the referrals of our waiting children from the Yahoo Groups to our website. MAA also has a fantastic blog written by social worker, Katie Brabson. This link can also be found on our website. This year we have added a new person to our internet staff - Brooke Henningfeld, who serves as an adoption advocate for our waiting children. Both Katie and Brooke have previously adopted through MAA and continue to show their devotion to the children through these efforts.

MAA focused part of this year on learning about placing children from foster care. Leonette Boiarski presented training on this to our staff, along with other topics, including attachment, trauma, and post-permanency which is a hot topic in adoption right now.

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member in the Delaware office, Jessica Harrison, who started in July as the Administrative Assistant and has transitioned to the position of Caseworker. Jessica was hired after Margaret Bonella left MAA to pursue a career in the education field. We stay in touch with Margaret and wish her the best in her new employment. We are also thrilled to welcome Bev Guinto as our part-time Bookkeeper. Both Jessica and Bev bring new spunk to the team with all of their creative team building ideas, suggestions to help children and crazy office celebrations, including a Halloween costume contest and the Ugly Christmas Sweater Day.

The rest of the MAA team is also doing well. We are so thankful for the joy we experience daily in our jobs and in our lives. We are thrilled to share with you that the "extended" MAA family is growing! Brooke Henningfeld, our child advocate, adopted her son, Reid, this summer from China, and gave birth to another son, Rowan, at the end of November. They are now a family of ten! Kerry Yeldell, our main social worker in DE/PA, is expecting her fourth child in March. A precious girl will be joining her three very excited big brothers. Caseworker Lydia Stewart, due in early April, is expecting her first child, also a girl! If that wasn't enough, Katie Brabson in IL is also expecting in June! Lots of exciting baby news around here! And Sara Lang added another dog – or two or three... we can't keep up!

I hope you can see that MAA is working hard to fulfill our mission of finding forever families for waiting children, as well as assisting those who will not find a home. We truly believe that we are all one big family, no matter how long it has been since we worked together. So please continue to stay in touch with us because we cannot do it alone! MAA's clients are the best and we would not be able to help these different causes if it was not for you. We cannot express our gratitude enough for the donations we have received that make our work possible. Have a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous year in 2014!



Aleda Madison



If you wish to make a donation toward the humanitarian aid programs of MAA, please complete the form below & mail your check to Madison Adoption Associates, 1009 Woodstream Drive, Wilmington, DE 19810.

100% of all donations go directly to help those in need. All donations are tax-deductible.

If you prefer to use PayPal, our email address for donations is donate.maa@comcast.net

I would like my donation to be used to purchase:

- Grant for Adoption of a Waiting Child**
\$25___ \$50___ \$75___ \$100___ Other_____
- Sponsor Orphan on Hosting Program**
\$25___ \$50___ \$75___ \$100___ Other_____
- Set of Coat, Hat, Gloves for an Orphan in China**
\$20___ \$40___ \$60___ \$80___ Other_____
- Toys for Orphanages in Bulgaria**
\$10___ \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ Other_____
- Clothing for Orphans in the Philippines**
\$10___ \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ Other_____
- Assistance for foster children in Delaware**
\$25___ \$50___ \$75___ \$100___ Other_____
- Where Most Needed**
\$25___ \$50___ \$75___ \$100___ Other_____

Thank you!!

Name: _____

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