



**CARING HOMES
FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN**

HOMeward BOUND

The Caring Homes for Orphan Children
Newsletter



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CHOC Family Fun in Ottawa

Celebrating their common experience, a group of Ottawa-area families helped by CHOC got together on August 10 for a backyard pool party and barbeque in Nepean. Co-hosted by the Pellizers (left) and the Dottos (centre), this day was a perfect opportunity for adoptive families to mix and mingle, and for the children to play together, strengthen their friendships, and celebrate their common heritage and new life in Canada. Agency Director Arnie Gotfryd (bearded) drove up with some of his clan to join the fun. Based on the response, this group expects to grow and to meet more often.

Photo credit: Ear-shot Productions, Vancouver



Charities Helping Russian Orphanages

The moral strength of a society is best judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members: The aged, the infirm, the young. No one is more vulnerable than an orphan. Given the resources available, Russian orphanage children receive very good care up until school age.

In part this due to the integrity and dedication of orphanage staff as well as the assignment of doctors and nurses to regional

government child health and welfare programs. The second major factor in the relatively good care the younger orphanage children receive is the humanitarian aid rendered by charitable organizations and individuals.

Here we cite some examples of groups (including ours) who are actively involved in improving the living conditions in Russian orphanages.

Tzivos Hashem Canada. Our non-denominational, humanitarian aid program

"Caring Homes for Orphan Children" is a trade name of Tzivos Hashem Canada, Inc., an intercountry adoption agency
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Moshiach is on his way. Make the world a beautiful place with acts of goodness and kindness.



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helps orphans in such areas as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Nizhny-Novgorod, Kudimkar, Kazan, Omsk, and Ulan-Ude. We provide food, vitamin supplements, hepatitis vaccines, medical equipment and supplies, clothing, sports equipment, developmental toys and games, appliances and vehicles. Canadians can donate to our charitable program, but receipts can only be issued to parties who are not directly or indirectly related to someone adopting through our program.

In addition to the above, we have a separate fund which goes specifically to Jewish orphanages run by Chabad-Lubavitch in Moscow and Dnepetrovsk in the Ukraine.

Children's Hope Chest. This American organization was founded in 1994 and works with orphanages around the world. The first center, built in the Vladimir region of Russia, focuses on two main principles: Easing the lives of children in the orphanage system, and assisting teenage orphanage graduates in their transition to independent living.

The impressive health care program consists of dental, personal hygiene, and sex education services. Money is raised to bring in medicine, vitamins, and medical equipment: donations are gathered to provide supplies, while medical professionals around the world have volunteered their time in the orphanages.

The Family Centre program is also noteworthy. Teenagers live in a traditional home setting with a parental role model. They are situated near colleges and have personal psychologists to mentor them in their new lives.

Maria's Children is a non-profit organization that was created as an arts rehabilitation centre for Russian orphans. In addition, the organization offers a Summer Arts

Camp taught by international volunteers. Here, 70-80 lucky orphans join a 2-week riverboat ride. During this trip, the children learn mural painting, theater, circus arts, music, and dance.

Citizenship Bill for Adopted Children

Bill C-18 is a citizenship bill that would allow children adopted abroad by Canadians to gain Canadian citizenship "upon application".

Such a bill would remove the need for internationally adopted children to live for some three years in Canada before obtaining citizenship. It should be noted that parents would have to apply for citizenship on behalf of their children.

The House will resume on September 15th with deliberations continuing at the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. Let your MP know that you care.

More Facts on Citizenship and Adoption

- Canadians living and adopting abroad will also qualify for citizenship for their child.
- Bill C-18 applies only to children whose adoptions were completed abroad.
- In Quebec, international adoptions are not considered complete until the child arrives in Canada and a tribunal approves the adoption.
- Children adopted abroad by US citizens receive automatic US citizenship.

Back to School

Now that school is back in session, you may be interested to check out the Family Helper post-adoptive guides for parents and teachers in understanding the unique educational/social needs of an adoptive child.



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Adoptive Parents Guide to Your Preschool Child – By Jennifer Smart, BHScOT

This guide covers how adoption impacts the developmental stages for the preschool child (from ages three to five years old). The contents consist of: Introduction, Development of Preschoolers, Support Groups, Life Books, Sex education and Adoption, Understanding Adoption Issues, Self Esteem, and Culture.

Adoptive Parents Guide to Your Child in Primary School – By Jennifer Smart, BHScOT

This guide was created to prepare both adoptive parent and child for school. The contents consist of: Your Child in School, Language Development, Teacher's Pamphlet, Learning Disabilities, and Resources.

Adoption Helper's Teacher's Guide to Adoption – By Robin Hilborn

This 8-module guide is intended as a basic resource for elementary and secondary school teachers concerning adoption. The Modules cover: Welcoming the child of a non-traditional family; How to introduce adoption in elementary school; Biased class assignments; Learning the language of adoption; Answers and options for the pregnant student; Adoption research and resources for teachers and students.

For more information on how to order these guides contact: helper@familyhelper.net

Upcoming Events

Sept. 13, 2003, Toronto -- International Adoption Seminar. Prepare for adoption and travel; meeting your child; medical issues; attachment and bonding; talking about adoption with your child; mixed race adoptions. One-day seminar includes videos, presentations and

hand-outs; breakfast and lunch. \$240/couple; \$175/single; plus GST. Sofie Stergianis, International Adoption Centre, 416-483-0003, sofie@ica.net

Sept. 20, 2003, Toronto -- "How to Adopt / Getting Started in Adoption", 10 am-12:30 Held twice monthly in Toronto, etc. **Sept. 21, -- Families in Adoption support group** 2-4 pm. Friendly, supportive discussion of adoptive family life issues. Pat Fenton, Adoption Council of Ontario, 416-482-0021, aco@adoption.ca.

Sept. 24, 2003, Burnaby, B.C. -- Attachment and Adoption. The 2003 Parenting After Adoption Lecture Series co-hosted by Sunrise Agency and AFABC, 604-320-7330.

Sept. 27 and/or 28, 2003, Markham, Ont. -- How Children Understand Adoption. Dee Paddock. contact Children's Bridge, 613-226-2112, or jsforsyth@rogers.com.

It Happened Once

My husband and I are the lucky parents of six amazing kids. Three of our children are foster children that we have adopted. One day a neighbor was discussing the upcoming birth of her baby when my four-year-old daughter cheerfully announced, "I know where babies come from!"

I silently cursed her older brothers for sharing too much information and said, "Really, honey?"

Her reply was "Yes, mommy; they come from Social Services"!

(Adoption Week e-Magazine)

