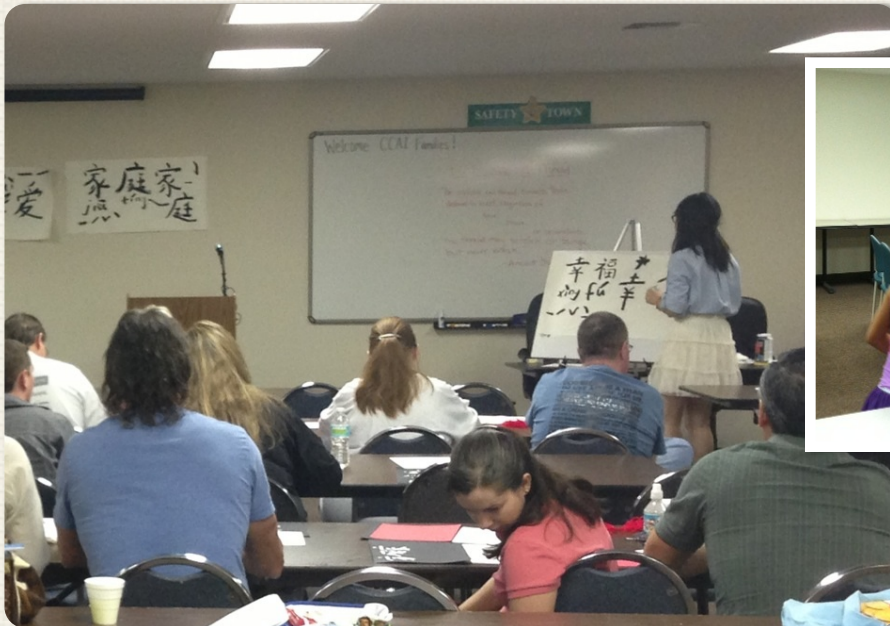


CCAI FLORIDA NEWS



Left: Families learning to write the Chinese characters for Family, Happiness, and Love.

Above: Kat LaMons, former Director of Florida Operations, teaching Tai Chi.

Florida Waiting Families Social

Families throughout the state of Florida gathered together on February 2, 2013 for a Waiting Families Social. With an opportunity to connect with other families who are also waiting to bring their child home, families enjoyed a “meet and greet” with the Florida staff and other Florida families, as well as cultural activities and refreshments. We hope that you will join us next time as we continue to connect with Florida families!



MEET YOUR FLORIDA TEAM!

As of January 2013, Kat LaMons retired from her position as Director of Florida Operations. She will remain in auxiliary capacities, including continuing to serve as Social Worker for many CCAI-FL families. CCAI-FL will now be headed by Ashley Sutton. Ashley joined CCAI in April 2012, and comes with many years of experience in the adoption field. Laura Anderson joined the team in June 2012, and is proud to have adopted her daughter through CCAI. Kelli Wild continues to serve in many capacities, and is also a proud CCAI mom. Meet their daughters on page 3 of this newsletter!

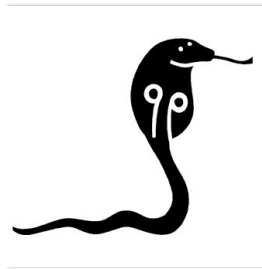
From left to right: Laura Anderson, Case Aide; Ashley Sutton, Asst. Director of Florida Operations; Kelli Wild, Promotional Coordinator

Chinese New Year - February 10, 2013 Begins the Year of the Snake

Beginning February 10th, for 15 days, people all around the world will celebrate the Year of the Snake. There are many different celebrations that will take place. One of the many traditions is the Dragon Dance. Dragons are mythical creatures that represent prosperity, good luck, and good fortune. Generally, the Dragon performs on the 5th and 15th day of Chinese New Year. A favorite amongst the kids is Hong Bao. This is the tradition of the red envelope. Children and unmarried adults with no job are given red envelopes that contain "lucky" money. As with many celebrations, food also

plays an important role in Chinese New Year. One popular dish to make is "Eight Treasures Rice", which contains rice, walnuts, different colored dry fruit, raisins, sweet red bean paste, jujube dates, and almonds. Another favorite is "Tang Yuan", which is a black sesame seed rice ball soup. Also popular are chicken, fish, duck, and pork dishes. On February 10, 2013, begin your Year of the Snake celebration by saying, "Gong Xi Fa Cai!", which means "Happy New Year!"

(information adapted from www.history.com)



**HOW DO YOU PLAN TO
CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW
YEAR? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR
YOUR STORIES!**



CCAI's Be The Voice team is off to a wonderful start for 2013! We are only missing one thing - you!

If you would like to join with other parents who are passionate about advocating for the children that remain waiting to be matched with their forever family, please let us know.

Our members are reaching out in their local communities, to share about the need for adoptive parents, in their own unique ways, including:

- * Using social media to share about CCAI, adoption, and waiting children.
- * Placing a CCAI button on their blog.
- * Hosting a CCAI information table at a local community or adoption event.
- * Hosting a CCAI information meeting in their home or at another location.
- * Facilitating a "Lunch and Learn" at their place of employment.

The ideas are endless and we will provide all of the tools (and support) you need!

Every voice counts! If you would like to join the Be The Voice team, we welcome you! Please email btv@ccaifamily.org to get started.

**TELL US
ABOUT
YOUR TRIP!**

**CCAI-FL WOULD LIKE
TO INVITE YOU TO
SHARE YOUR STORY
IN OUR UPCOMING
NEWSLETTERS.**

**DO YOU HAVE
PHOTOS TO SHARE?
IF YOU HAVE BEEN TO
CHINA AND ARE
HOME WITH YOUR
NEWEST FAMILY
MEMBER, WE WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT
YOUR TRIP!**

**EMAIL YOUR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
CCAI-FL OFFICE
TODAY.**

(CCAIFL@CCAIFAMILY.ORG)

**WE ARE ALSO
BRINGING THE "WALL
OF FAME" TO THE
FLORIDA OFFICE, SO
PLEASE MAIL US YOUR
FAVORITE 5X7 OR 6X8
PHOTO OF YOUR
NEWEST FAMILY
MEMBER.**

NEWSLETTER NAMING CONTEST

CCAI-FL would like to invite you to be a part of the new Florida newsletter! As we launch a new Florida newsletter, we are having a Newsletter Naming Contest. So put your creative thinking skills to the test and email your suggestions to ccaifl@ccaifamily.org. Send as many suggestions as you would like, and the Florida team will reveal the winner in our next edition! The winner will receive a copy of Lily Nie's inspirational book, Bound by Love.



MEET JULIA

JULIA IS FROM CHONGQING, CHINA. SHE RECENTLY ENJOYED A DISNEY CRUISE AND MET SOME OF HER FAVORITE CHARACTERS, INCLUDING MICKEY MOUSE AND CINDERELLA.



MEET SARAH

SARAH IS FROM HENAN, CHINA. WITH TWO BROTHERS AND A SISTER AT HOME, SARAH STAYS VERY BUSY. SHE LOVES TO PLAY OUTSIDE AND SING OUT LOUD.

YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED:

Q. Because the wait has been longer than anticipated, I no longer feel I can accept a 12-24 month old. Is it possible to change my request?

A. YES! You have the option of amending your Adoption Petition, which will allow you to change the age of the child you are requesting to be matched with. Please contact CCAI-FL if you would like more information on this option.

Q. If we've moved, should we inform CCAI?

A. YES! Please inform CCAI-FL as soon as possible of any major changes.

CCAI-FL staff and Social Workers are meeting in Orlando on February 15th and 16th at the Empowered to Connect Conference. Several families are also attending! This conference is designed to help equip families with the tools and knowledge they need to successfully meet the needs of their child(ren). We'd love to see you there! Learn more at <http://empoweredtoconnect.org/conferences/>.

CCAI-FL INFORMATION

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(f) 813-994-1004
(e) ccaifl@ccaifamily.org

Please visit our new website at
www.ccaifamily.org!

