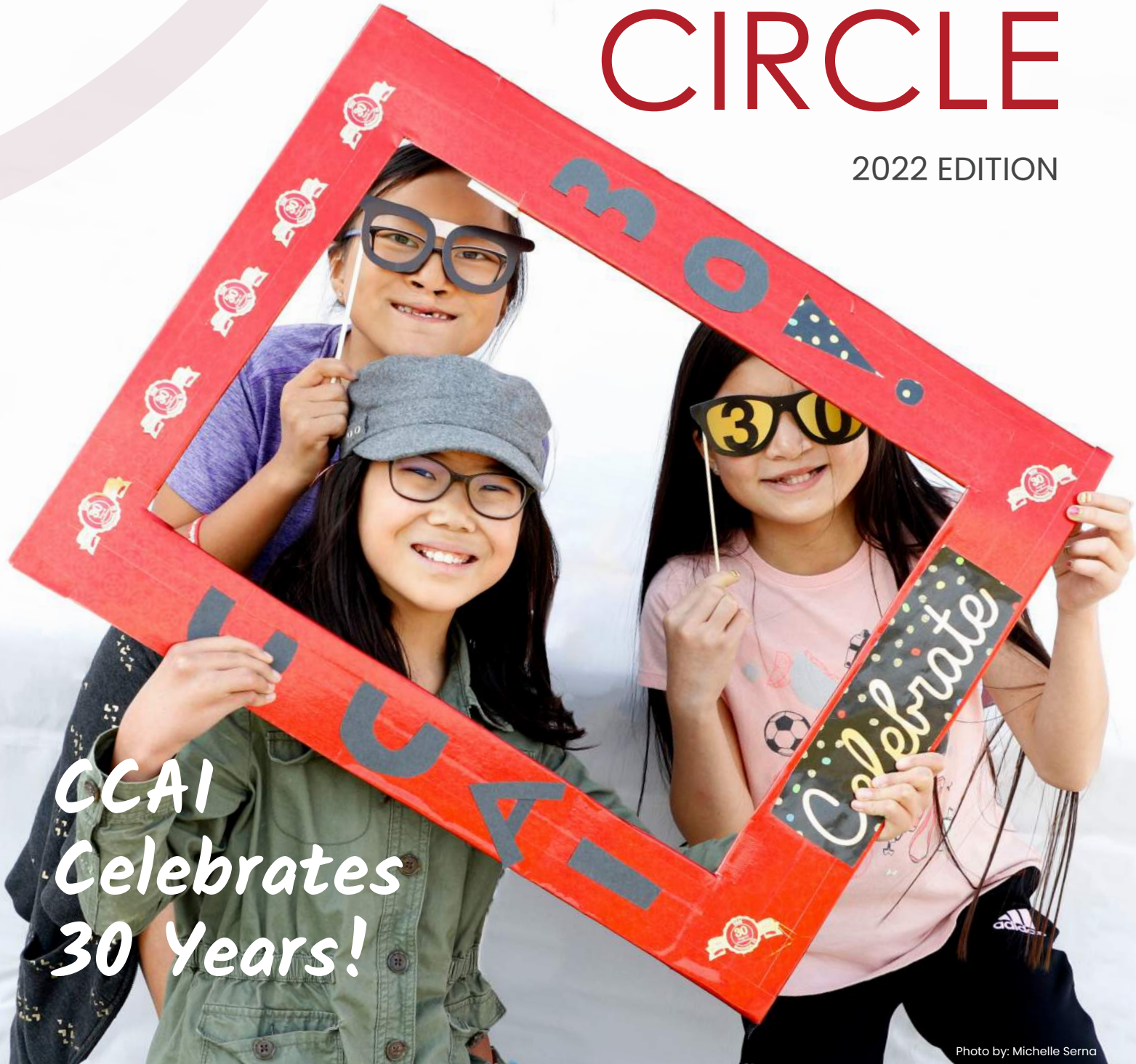




CCAI CIRCLE

2022 EDITION



**CCAI
Celebrates
30 Years!**

Photo by: Michelle Serna

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Celebration**

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Dear CCAI Friends and Families,

September 15, 2022, was CCAI's 30th anniversary.

Lily and I never thought that CCAI would come this far. To us, our 30th anniversary is both amazing and sad. It is amazing that more than 13,200 orphans from seven countries have found their forever families through CCAI's tireless labors of love. That accomplishment is truly incredible and humbling. But it is also sad that there are still many, many abandoned, orphaned, and vulnerable children around the world today who do not have a loving home of their own.

So we can't quit yet.

As Lily and I traveled around the country to attend the CCAI 30th Anniversary Celebration events, we rejoiced in unforgettable opportunities to thank adoptive parents for their love, courage, passion, patience, and sacrifice. It brought Uncle Josh and Auntie Lily so much joy to see children feeling loved, growing up, doing well at school, graduating from college, enjoying their careers, getting married, having babies, and enjoying their lives. Even more so than ever, our thoughts and prayers go to those children and parents who have been experiencing struggles and challenges related to parenting, attachment, identity, and emotional and physical health.

The global pandemic and war have put a pause on China and Ukraine adoption, but our Bulgaria, Colombia, and Taiwan programs have been growing steadily. We pray and hope that China and Ukraine will reopen soon so waiting families will be able to unite with their long dreamed-of children.

The more exciting news is that our Park Adoption Community Center has become a go-to place for adoptees around the country. A secure and fun space where adoptees find understanding, friendship, and peer support, the Park plays a unique role in instilling positivity, confidence, pride, and a strong sense of community in adoptees' lives.

It is truly a blessing to have served thousands of children and families over the past three decades. We feel such heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all those who have placed their trust in CCAI. Here's to another 30 years!

Truly yours,
Josh & Lily



LIVES TOUCHED IN 30 YEARS



7,200

Adoptees served through The Park



10,180

Forever families



13,215

Children have found loving homes *as of 11/10/2022*



100,000+

Orphans served through charitable action



A JOURNEY OF LOVE

- 1992** • September 15, CCAI is born
- 1993** CCAI receives 501(c)3 tax exemption status
- 1994** (April) CCAI's first group of babies comes home
- 1995** CCAI Circle Newsletter published
 - CCAI celebrates 100 adoptions
 - CCAI launches Charity Fund
- 1996** CCAI opens the Joyous Chinese Cultural Center
- 1997** CCAI sends first medical team to orphanages
- 1998** CCAI becomes the largest China-only adoption agency
- 2000** CCAI launches its Parent Training Program
 - CCAI opens its first Lily Orphan Care Center (LOCC)
- 2001** CCAI launches the Waiting Child Program
- 2002** CCAI rolls out the American-Chinese Family Connection Program
 - CCAI celebrates 10 years and 3,000 adoptions
- 2003** CCAI launches the Foster Care program
 - Josh and Lily receive U.S. Congressional Angels in Adoption award
 - CCAI opens Florida and Georgia Offices
- 2004** Josh and Lily adopt their daughter Anna
- 2005** CCAI sends its largest medical mission team to China
- 2006** CCAI sponsors China's first National Orphanage Care Takers Training
 - Josh and Lily receive Colorado Parents of the Year award
 - Love of Older Kids Project launches
- 2007** Blankets for Babies project launches
 - CCAI becomes the first U.S. agency to be recognized as a charity by the Chinese government
 - Three Mei Orphan Therapy Project launches
 - Xpress Yourself program for pre-teens launches
- 2008** CCAI rolls out its first Adopteen Camp & Conference
 - CCAI becomes the first adoption agency in the U.S. to receive Hague accreditation
 - CCAI-Henan Partnership is established for children with special needs
 - CCAI pioneers the Orphan Higher Education Program
 - CCAI launches online Parent Training
 - Lily is inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame
 - China's first Orphanage Leadership Training is made possible by CCAI
- 2009** CCAI launches Haiti adoption program
 - CCAI leads first Heritage Tour back to China
- 2010** Bound by Love, a book about Lily, is published
 - Lily receives an award for Women Who Changed the Heart of the City
- 2011** CCAI is officially ranked the #1 adoption agency in the world by the CCCWA
- 2012** CCAI organizes its largest Heritage Tour to China
 - CCAI celebrates 20 years and 10,000 adoptions
- 2013** Adopteen embarks on the first Adoptees Giving Back Orphanage Service Trip
- 2014** CCAI launches Latvia and Ukraine adoption programs
- 2016** CCAI launches Bulgaria adoption program
- 2017** CCAI launches Taiwan adoption program
 - CCAI becomes the first agency to be recognized by the Chinese government as a U.S. NGO
- 2019** CCAI opens The Park Adoption Community Center
- 2020** CCAI launches Colombia adoption program
 - CCAI reaches 13,000 adoptions
 - CCAI launches Masks for Orphans
- 2022** CCAI launches Ukraine Relief Fund
 - CCAI celebrates 30 years of family building and life changing!**





EST. 1992

CCAI

CCAI celebrates 30 years of family building and life changing!

CCAI families and friends from around the country gathered at five regional events to celebrate the joy of adoption and the love that links us all in the CCAI Family. From pandas at the Atlanta Zoo to a chuckwagon supper in Colorado, each gathering was filled with great fun and great friends. Finally able to celebrate in person once again, Josh and Lily treasured all the smiles, hugs, and handshakes that we've missed over the past few years!

Our deepest thanks to all of the regional coordinators and volunteers who made these incredible events possible!



Thank you to our volunteer photographers: Meg Billy, Silong Chen, Paul Lovette, Michelle Serna, Brian Harmon, & Yiping Zhang



Making a Difference, One Life at a Time

Relief for Orphans in Ukraine

The Russian war in Ukraine has had a devastating effect on orphans. In response, CCAI quickly established a Ukraine Relief Fund to deliver urgently-needed food, clothing, medicine, and school supplies to several orphanages via our Ukraine representatives. Thus far CCAI has sent humanitarian aid to children from Mariupol, Toretsk, Izumrudnyi, Phmelnitskyi and Pluxhne Orphanages.

In October we received a request from the Director of the Center for Social & Psychological Rehabilitation of Children in Toretsk to help transfer children from an unsafe area in danger of bombing to a safer orphanage in Kyiv. The children arrived safely in Kyiv by train, and the Toretsk orphanage director was incredibly grateful for the support of CCAI and its generous donors.



A Place for Teen Moms in Colombia

Maria's House by La Casa de la Madre y el Niño in Bogota, Colombia, has given protection to around 3,000 teen mothers with "unwanted pregnancies or pregnancies in conflict." These young moms are cared for by an interdisciplinary team including a nutritionist, a psychologist, a social worker, the nursing team at La Casa, and a support gynecologist. CCAI sent funding in May to help upgrade all the bedding so the mothers and their precious babies may enjoy comfortable and colorful living spaces.



Building a Dream in Jiujiang, China

My name is Xiu Jing. I am 16 years old and I was born with joint malformations. I felt so excited when I learned that loving people from CCAI would hire a private teacher for me to learn to play the flute. It was a huge challenge for me initially, but I did not give up, and I finally got a chance to perform at Children's Day in front of all my orphanage friends. I was so nervous, but when I finished and saw admiration in the eyes of the audience, I felt so proud and happy! Thank you all for enabling me to have a talent of my own!



Staying Strong in Zhengzhou, China

This is the 12th year we have operated the Lily Orphan Care Center (LOCC) in Zhengzhou. Nominated as the Best Child Care Model, our award-winning LOCC is still going strong and making a difference every day! The children under LOCC's care range in age from newborn to 4 years old and all have significant special medical needs. Our extremely dedicated caregivers walk the extra mile 24/7 to ensure every child receives the most personalized care. The nannies' love for the children has been an inspiration to orphanage staff and has resulted in a continued rise in the overall standard of orphanage care.

2022 CHARITY PROJECTS

| | PROVINCE | ORPHANAGE | DONATION (USD) | PROJECT |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| CHINA Total \$194,619 | Henan | Xinyang | \$450 | Clothing |
| | | ZhengZhou LOCC | \$95,091 | Staff salary and birthday cakes |
| | | Zhoukou | \$450 | Formula |
| | Hunan | Zhuzhou | \$13,020 | Foster care |
| | | Changsha | \$7,390 | Field trip |
| | Jiangxi | Nanchang | \$900 | Children's supplies |
| | | Taihe | \$2,956 | Children's supplies |
| | | Shangrao | \$8,569 | Older child education, field trip |
| | | Xingguo | \$2,949 | Children's supplies |
| | | Yingtian | \$7,703 | Older child education |
| | Guangdong | Jiujiang | \$13,844 | Older child education |
| | | Maoming | \$3,600 | Children's supplies |
| | Chongqing | Yangjiang | \$1,170 | Children's supplies |
| | | Fuling | \$5,250 | Older child education |
| | Gansu | Wuwei | \$1,170 | Children's supplies |
| | Beijing | Charity Office | \$28,307 | Staff salary, Charity Office rent |
| | | CCAI Representatives | \$1,800 | Support for China reps still struggling |
| COLOMBIA Total \$11,200 | | Casa De La Madre Y El Niño | \$600 | Pregnancy Center supplies, cribs |
| | | Casa De La Madre Y El Niño | \$600 | Orphanage equipment |
| | | PI43 | \$10,000 | Colombia orphan ministry support |
| ROMANIA Total \$2,000 | | Film Collaborative | \$2,000 | Romanian orphan support |
| UKRAINE Total \$23,400 | | PI43 | \$9,000 | Ukraine orphan ministry support |
| | | CCAI Representatives | \$10,000 | Support for Ukraine reps affected by the war |
| | | Cherkasy Baby House | \$600 | Heaters for basement bomb shelter |
| | | Mariupol and Toretsk Orphanages | \$3,000 | Children's supplies |
| | | Donetsk regional orphanage | \$800 | Evacuation to safe area |
| \$231,219 Total Donations in 2022 | | | | |



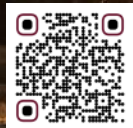
DONATE NOW!

Your donations truly make a significant difference. Please remember to donate generously this year.



ccaifamily.org
6920 S. Holly Circle
Centennial, CO 80112





Read more
about their story



The Amazing Amacks

By Sarah Amack

We started talking about adoption early in our marriage. International adoption has always been on our hearts, but life got in the way and it faded to the background for a while. We always assumed we'd have one or two...or maybe even three or four kids, then we'd adopt. When we decided we were ready to start our family, several months turned into several years, until we found ourselves in our thirties, celebrating our twelfth wedding anniversary, and unable to get pregnant. We grew in our faith during those challenging years, as our friends and family around us kept having babies. **We held onto our conviction that God had a plan for our family, and that His timing was perfect,** even when we couldn't understand it. After several years of infertility treatment we were blessed with the birth of our son Lincoln in October of 2018. He brought our family so much joy, and was the answer to our and so many others' prayers. Shortly after he was born we started talking about adoption once again - and found ourselves ready and excited to take the leap of faith into what began our adoption journey.

After much prayer and research, combined with the advice and recommendations of friends who had adopted before us, we decided to pursue an adoption from Bulgaria through CCAI. We submitted our initial application towards the end of 2020. We planned to pursue adoption via the traditional route, and expected to wait years - we never could have imagined that we would be preparing to welcome our son into our family a short 18 months later.

We finally submitted our dossier to Bulgaria and settled in to wait for a match in October of 2021. Just a few short weeks later, we received a waiting child file from CCAI. We had been praying that whenever we received a match, we would somehow know that this was the child God had for our family. He absolutely answered that prayer, in ways we never could have anticipated. We didn't expect to feel an instant connection to a child - but we did. The first thought that crossed my mind when I saw "Sam's" photo was "He looks like us!" The little boy in the photo reminded me of our son, Lincoln, and of my brother as a child. After seeing his photo and reading his file, Nevada and I both agreed without hesitation that we needed to apply to adopt him. The process for a waiting child looked different than the "traditional route"

"God had been preparing us to be the family this little boy needed."

we had expected. We scrambled to update our paperwork and complete the application, and read everything we could get our hands on about his medical needs, while at the same time trying not to get our hopes up, knowing we weren't the only family applying.

We received the life-changing call about a month later that we had been selected to be matched with the little boy we'd already started to fall in love with. The next nine months are a bit of a blur, filled with more paperwork, meeting our little one for the first time through early morning zoom calls, and planning for his arrival.

So many small things happened during that waiting period that confirmed for us that God had been preparing us to be the family this little boy needed. We were so thankful for CCAI throughout the process - their obvious care and concern for our family, and their kindness, professionalism, and expertise have been invaluable. We could not have asked for a better agency to walk through this process with us. Grayson arrived home on August 10. Adoption is most certainly one of the most difficult things we have ever done, but equally one of the most rewarding. We had, and continue to have challenging days. Learning to manage Grayson's medical needs related to his severe hemophilia, in addition to the lifestyle modifications his diagnosis requires, have been a huge learning experience. **But we can hardly remember what life was like without him.**

Our boys are four months apart, and have both been slowly adjusting to life as brothers. Grayson has grown and changed so much already in the short months he's been with us. He has endured so many challenges in his short four years, but he continues to amaze us with his strength, resilience, and zest for life. Daily life with two four year-olds definitely keeps us on our toes, but we wouldn't trade this life for anything. Grayson brings us so much joy, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to be his family.

The Bright Light at the End of our Tunnel

By Rebekah & Patrick Engleright

We never imagined that expanding our family through adoption would be a seven-year journey, but everything turned out exactly how it was supposed to.

It's funny we can say that now, but during those seven years, we dealt with frustration, disappointment, and doubt. Re-filling out paperwork, hearing no positive updates year after year, and reading about the disintegration of Haitian law and order was challenging to endure, but it forced my husband and me to put our trust in God's plan for our family. That whole time we were experiencing setbacks, God was setting us up for a little boy on the other side of the world.

We officially applied for the Haiti program in March 2015 after months of research and prayers. Our family dove into loving and learning the Haitian culture and preparing to raise a black child. The anticipated 2-3 year process turned into over five years of waiting. **At a certain point, we'd waited so long and invested so much emotionally, that we felt like we couldn't walk away, as if we were abandoning a child we hadn't even met yet.** Our kids were getting older, my husband and I were getting older... I remember shedding so many tears

during those 5+ years of waiting for good news from Haiti and picturing them in our family, buying things in threes, only to hear nothing. Through it all, CCAI was there with empathy, honesty, and understanding.

Even though the Haiti process ultimately was not successful for us, it brought our family an appreciation and understanding of Haitian culture, took us a mission trip to Haiti, and afforded us a greater awareness of racial injustice for black Americans. It caused us to rethink how our toys, books, movies and more should reflect people of color. It created many opportunities for us as parents to have conversations with our son and daughter about race, inequality, and being an upstander.

It was an emotional decision to close our Haiti file in 2020, but CCAI was so supportive in helping us switch to the Taiwan program. The light at the end of a dark tunnel! We loved that the Taiwan program was stable and the information about children was plentiful. In December of 2020, we finally found a child who we believed was a great fit for our family. Because he was nine, he had the opportunity to give his consent to join our family as well. A powerful decision for such a little boy.

"That whole time we were experiencing setbacks, God was setting us up for a little boy on the other side of the world."

Finally in June of 2022, after Skyping for over a year, we were given the green light to travel and thus began our 21-day adventure to beautiful Taiwan. We had 7 days of quarantining in a small hotel room (one room. With two kids. We all survived.), then a week of exploring Taiwan, before finally meeting our newest addition! High fives were given (his plan for our first greeting), he showed us around, said his goodbyes, and happily joined his new family. Such



a surreal moment, like, "Are they really letting us take him home?? Have we finally done it?!"

In recapping this story, I am remembering all the ways that God was moving for us. Whether it was getting our special entry permits back in time to actually fly to Taiwan, not getting COVID while traveling, flights being on time, paperwork being cleared, government agencies filling things out quickly for us – so many things that we stressed about ended up coming through just fine.

Our newest son, now 10, is a bright light in our home with his infectious laugh, sweet nature, and genuine enthusiasm for life. While we experience normal bumps in the road occasionally, we have CCAI to thank for preparing us for the road ahead and Cathwel for preparing our son as well. Like it says in the song Waymaker, **"Even when I don't see it, You're working,"** we learned that God was putting all the right people in place to help this adoption journey happen and for a little boy on the other side of the world to find a forever family to call his own.



Read more about their story



THE PARK

ADOPTION COMMUNITY CENTER

Embracing Every Identity *By Cathleen Daly*

My adoption is not the most important fact about me, but it has been one of the most impactful aspects of my identity journey. I was adopted from Zhejiang Province, China, at 18 months old by my amazing family - my mom, older brother, two older sisters, and little sister. Growing up as a Chinese adoptee in Rio Rancho, NM, meant that I was the only Chinese adoptee in my community. I didn't feel that I fit in anywhere because I looked different from everyone, including my own family, and I despised it. However, as I entered my teenage years, I began to open up to learning more about my story. My curiosity led me to Adopteen.

At my first Adopteen event in 2012, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I quickly realized it was everything I needed and more. There was something so special about this community; so much acceptance and celebration of everyone's individual personalities, strengths, and stories! So, I got involved. And I mean, really involved. I attended every camp, retreat, service trip, and leadership opportunity I could throughout the rest of my high school career.

Because of Adopteen, I learned how to develop and celebrate my identity beyond my adoption. I grew in my faith, my relationships, my interests, and, later on, my professional career. I learned that my identity story was more than just my adoption story.



Read more about Cathleen's story



Leadership Training Retreat

The Adopteen Leadership Training Retreat is a weekend of dedicated training to help those in leadership positions at Adopteen gather more knowledge and tools to better support the adoptee communities they work with. This year's training focused on adoption education, community sustainability, and mental health support strategies.



Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®)

The Park offers virtual, biannual TBRI® Caregiver Trainings. These trauma-informed classes allow families to work through scenario-based discussions and exercises as a group, with a licensed professional counselor. 26 couples accessed our trainings in 2022.



Pop Up Events (FOUND, Professional Development Series, Exploring China)

Every year The Park offers a variety of unique Pop Up events to support and connect the adoption community. In 2022, The Park held a FOUND event, Professional Development Series, and Exploring China Series.

CHAPTERS ARE BACK!

Adopteen Chapters provide the perfect opportunity for a quick meet-up with other adoptees, ages 13 and up, in your local area! Scan here to learn more or to start a chapter near you!





2022 IMPACT

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 3,014 Total Participants | 11 Event Sponsors | 5 Countries (U.S., Canada, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Belgium) |
| 88 Volunteers | 13 Workshops | \$8,075 Total Scholarship Money Awarded |
| 27 Leaders Trained | 18 Events | |
| 28 Speakers | 41 States |  <p>Visit theparkcenter.org</p> |



Beyond Adopteen (Seattle)

Beyond Adopteen is programming for adoptees 18 years and older. This year, we introduced a summer retreat, held in Bremerton-Seattle, that brought together 44 adoptees, ages 19-45, from 19 states and two countries.



Camp-Conferences (Haverford & Denver)

Adopteen Camp-Conferences were back in full swing this year, with two Camp-Conferences in Denver, CO, and Haverford, PA, bringing together 109 adoptees, ages 13-21, from 32 different states and two countries. The event is programmed, coordinated, and run for adoptees by adoptees and includes excursions, rotating workshops, and all around good times.

My 15-year-old son has been struggling with his adoption for years and has never had any friends with whom he could identify or share his feelings... My son came home from an amazing, fun-filled week glowing with tales of all the activities he participated in and the friends he made...This experience has opened a world to him that will surely **change his life.**

-Adoptive Dad, Son Age 15

I think that Adopteen and Beyond Adopteen have stepped up in a big way for a small/unseen community...This helps me immensely in my personal adoption journey, giving me more **validation and confidence** in this identity and that there is always light at the end of our struggles.

- Female Adoptee, MN, Age 21

2023 EVENTS

Leadership Retreat

JCCS Chinese New Year Celebration

TBRI Spring Session

AdopTween Day Camp

JCCS Summer Camps

Adopteen Camp-Conferences

Beyond Adopteen Retreat

TBRI Fall Session

Holiday Bazaar



Visit our events calendar for dates



Summer Camp Bliss

A favorite children’s song sung enthusiastically by our amazing JCCS Summer Camp campers brought tears to our teachers’ eyes.

“I would like to thank you, yes you. Because of you, all four seasons are warm. Because of you, the world is more beautiful.”

In just three days, the Chinese words jumped out of campers’ mouths eagerly

and anxiously, reaching the ears of proud parents and family members looking on, unknowing subjects of the sweet, earworm melody.

Joyous Chinese Cultural School spent a wonderful 2022 summer sharing and celebrating China’s beautiful culture with 36 campers, ages 6-12, from 6 different states over two JCCS Summer Camps. Whether it’s cooking dumplings and learning traditional children’s songs, or making traditional imperial robes, studying the history behind China’s

opera masks, and munching on ramen and boba, JCCS Summer Camp is always the highlight of our year. These small-format day camps are wonderful opportunities to not only introduce children to China’s vibrant cultural history, but also to connect with fellow adoptees and families hoping to reinforce a strong cultural connection to their/their child(ren)’s birth culture.

Dates are still incoming for 2023, but we hope to meet even more bright, new faces ready to explore all that China’s colorful culture has to offer!



Community Cultural Blast!

More than 1,700 new friends came through our doors this year to participate in our Chinese Culture Field Trips! Visiting groups ranged from boy scout troops and PTO groups to high school culture clubs and homeschool groups. We are very proud to be able to share our adoption-minded cultural programming with so many through these many afternoon retreats!



Same Tradition, New Honor

For the first time in our JCCS Chinese New Year Celebration history, our very own Lion Dance Club students were able to hold the awesome honor of ushering in the Year of the Tiger with family and friends looking on! The club members (ages 8-18) are eager to thrill audiences again in 2023!



Mark Your Calendars!

2023 JCCS Chinese New Year Celebration will be Friday, January 20, 2023. Families unable to join in person are invited to join virtually through our OneCause portal! Last year, our Chinese New Year Celebration was able to raise over \$18,000 for our cultural school, with audiences attending in person and virtually from 23 states. More information coming soon.



Colombia

A New Opportunity to Serve Children

In Colombia, there are **over 577,000 children who are considered vulnerable** as a result of alcohol and drug abuse, parental neglect, poverty, family separation, and teen pregnancy. When there is no realistic opportunity to be adopted domestically, children for whom parental rights have been legally terminated may become available for intercountry adoption.



CCAI launched our Colombia adoption program in 2020 with the help of our service partner P143. CCAI co-founders Lily and Josh, together with Judy Winger, CCAI Director of Adoptions, had the privilege to travel to Bogota this April to meet with our wonderful in-country facilitator Martha and to pay a visit to Colombia's central authority, ICBF, and partner orphanages La Casa and FANA. They also visited Maria's House for teen moms and babies, the Dream House that supports orphans to attend college, and the Imagina Home, where children matched with an adoptive family are waiting for their families to arrive.

The love and dedication of the caregivers, social workers, and leadership everywhere we visited was obvious and touching. They care deeply about these children and are all trying their best to provide for them through daily care or adoption. CCAI is honored to be part of this amazing family-building and dream-fulfilling program!

A Chance to Shine!

CCAI's latest endeavor this year brought 10 older Colombian children to 9 American host families to spend a month together this December!

Many host children have never had, or cannot remember, a positive family life, a warm embrace, a family vacation, or even a game of catch. They may very well not know what it is like to have a loving, caring family. The hosting program allows Colombian children who are eligible for adoption to spend time with a loving family, while also experiencing American culture and learning some English. Host families spend four weeks with their host child to get to know each other and consider if adoption will be the right next step for everyone after the hosting session.

This program was made possible with the financial support of the host families, as well as CCAI's Charity Fund and Here I am Orphan Ministries.

Shine on!





Phantastic 4 to Phabulous 5

By Morgan Phaneuf

Adoption has always been a part of our family planning dreams, even from the time we began dating. However, as tends to happen, time passed quickly and before we knew it, we had two children that were already 11 and 9! We couldn't imagine "starting over" with a younger child, but older child adoption seemed very scary...Had we "missed the window"?

One Monday evening a blog found its way into my inbox about Project 143, an orphan hosting program. Color me intrigued. By the time my husband Justin came home, I basically had a PowerPoint Presentation about why we should jump in with both feet! We had no idea what we were doing, but we were doing it as a family!

We both agreed that the best thing to do was look at the photo listing separately, pray about it, and then come back together to see if any of our children matched. If they didn't match, we would consider hosting another season. We pulled up the photo listing and both pointed to the SAME kid! He had a big mischievous grin and seemed playful, goofy, and fun. When I called and they told me that he was officially "on hold" for the Phaneuf Phamily, I remember that I said out loud, "What are we getting ourselves into?"

We really had no idea the answer to that question would be a 4-month delay in hosting because of Covid combined with a shortened hosting period. How would we get to know him in only 27 days? What happened next was the beginning of the greatest adventure!

We welcomed Favian at the Atlanta airport and had a whirlwind of wonderful 3 weeks! Putting him back on the plane was an incredibly hard day. Favian insisted that I had to stop crying. It was still high Covid precaution times and my mask was dripping tears by the time he waved goodbye one last time.

Our next step was to make a Spirit-led, prayerful decision about adopting Favian. Our daughter Tannis wasn't so sure about changing our dynamic, but after talking about her concerns, five days later at the dinner table, Tannis, unprompted, casually said, **"God told me I am going to like having two big brothers."** And that was that, Operation Phantastic 4 to Phabulous 5 was a GO!

Like all adoption journeys, it was a bumpy road! We had some of the "typical" hiccups like passports taking longer than usual and paperwork getting delayed in the mail. We also had some very unusual ones, like the doctor who did our Psych Evaluations disappearing for 6 weeks! It took 14 months and 10 days (but who's counting?) from submitting our application to landing in Bogota, Colombia. We absolutely could not have done it without CCAI's staff. We are blessed to live in Florida where CCAI has an office, so our social worker Ryan Fontaine was able to do our home study and be available to share inevitable tears and frustrations. The Colorado team was always professional and efficient and also kind and sympathetic. We never felt like we were "just another adopting family" with them. We just cannot say enough about how special the CCAI team really is; they're in it for the kids and parents 100%.

"He was completely himself and we loved him for it!"

The day we picked up Favian was full of excitement and nerves – would he remember us, would he still want to come with us? I was shaking so hard I was practically vibrating, but Justin couldn't stop smiling. The door opened and in walked Favian, the same goofy kid who still insisted on wearing a ball cap backward! He was completely himself and we loved him for it! The next 3 weeks were a pleasant blur, thanks to CCAI's incredible in-country rep Martha and her team of wonderful drivers, and on July 22 our adoption was finalized! Favian was a Phaneuf! It felt completely surreal that the mischievous-faced stranger from the photolisting was now our son, forever!

Favian is now in school with Drake and Tannis. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have an event, meeting, practice, or class every night of the week and weekends are all about Phamily Phun. We spend a lot of time at theme parks, watching movies, and cooking together. We are so incredibly happy and the best part is, this is only the beginning!



Read more
about their story

PROGRAM UPDATES

Finding Loving Families for Children Around the World

Bulgaria

As one of CCAI's fastest-growing programs, Bulgaria offers both a traditional and Waiting Child "track." This program presents an amazing opportunity to be matched to older children, older sibling groups, and younger children with identified medical conditions. We welcome you to visit some of these sweet faces on CCAI's Child Profiles webpage, and please reach out with questions to bulgaria@ccaifamily.org.

Taiwan

We are excited to see families continue to be matched with and bring home their precious children from Taiwan. We've received new files for precious children recently, so the need for adoptive families remains strong! Please reach out to taiwan@ccaifamily.org or visit CCAI's website for more information.

Ukraine

Given the war in Ukraine, all adoptions in this country are currently on hold. Along with many other adoption service providers and humanitarian organizations, CCAI is prioritizing children's safety above all and working toward any options to support evacuated children. Families who would like to be kept informed of opportunities that may arise to help the children of Ukraine are welcome to email us at ukraine@ccaifamily.org.

China

The China adoption program continues to be heavily impacted by the effects of COVID-19, as families have been unable to travel to unite with their matched children since January 2020 and adoption paperwork is not currently being processed by the CCCWA. However, CCAI does continue to hope and expect that China adoption processing will resume in future. Please email china@ccaifamily.org with any questions about China.

Colombia

Our Colombia adoption program is strong, with families submitting dossiers, receiving official referrals, and traveling to Colombia to bring their children home regularly! Colombian children waiting for adoption tend to be older and/or have special needs, or are part of a sibling group. Hosting prior to adoption is a unique opportunity families may participate in as well, allowing them to connect with their prospective adoptive child(ren) before the adoption is complete. If you are interested in learning more about Colombia adoption, please visit CCAI's website or reach out to colombia@ccaifamily.org.





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Mark your calendars!

CCAI Open House & Reunion - June 24, 2023

Josh & Lily celebrate CCAI's
30 years with Group 1043!

