

BRIGHTENING THE FUTURES OF ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

WACAP Today

FALL 2010



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:
China
India

OUR MISSION

WACAP (World Association for Children and Parents) provides life-changing aid and adoption services to orphans and other children who need families.

CONTENTS

CEO's Letter	2
India	4
China	5
Honored Children	6
Family Album	7

ON THE COVER

Lola came home in July of 2004. Thanks to The Art Institute of Seattle Photographer Camilla Maston for the use of this photo.



Lillian Thogersen

Dear Friends,

The WACAP office is, appropriately enough, located just across the street from a school, so it's impossible not to know when school is back in session.

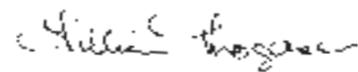
It's not uncommon for us to look out our windows and see children hurrying down the street in the morning trying to get to class on time. In the afternoon, when the final bell rings, we can see kids practicing football, cheerleading or soccer.

Some of them carry musical instruments with them as they walk past our windows, headed towards a home where they'll likely eat dinner with their families, practice their instruments, do their homework and eventually drift off to sleep. In a way, we start the school year with these kids; their return marks the end of the freedoms of summer and the coming of crisp air and fall leaves. Seeing them reminds us that there are still so many children out there who do not have the privilege of a good education, much less the support of a loving family that is so key to achieving one's full potential.

Many of the children WACAP works to find families for are around the same age as the kids we see pass our windows everyday. School can be a difficult place for orphaned children who are already behind developmentally and who don't have the home support to help them succeed—and for those who are old enough to understand that they don't have families or those who have special needs, school can be especially hard. One girl's story in this issue, found on page 5, highlights this point. Kaylina was one of the first kids to come home through our Journey of Hope project. Her history is a heart-rendering reminder of the difficulties children face as well as the power of adoption and the resilience of the human spirit. It underscores the fundamental importance of family in any child's life, no matter how old the child is. Thank you for helping us bring children from toddlers to teenagers home to families that love them.

All the best to you and yours.

Sincerely,



Lillian Thogersen
President & CEO

THE AUCTION IS COMING UP!



The WACAP Children's Hope Auction, which falls on November 13, 2010, is fast approaching, and we're excited to celebrate at a new venue this year—downtown Seattle's fabulous W Hotel. The auction's theme is "10,000 Reasons to Celebrate," as we placed our 10,000th child this year! We hope you'll be able to join us for our premiere fundraiser, whether in the room or online. (Our annual online auction, which reaches our supporters around the world, begins October 25 and runs until November 7. Please check it out!) For more information, visit our Web site at www.wacap.org.

We'd also like to invite you to consider offering an item or experience for our 2010 WACAP Children's Hope Auction or our online auction. If you'd be willing to donate the use of your timeshare, boat or vacation home we would love it! And we're not just looking for experiences in the Seattle area: Because our online auction reaches all of our supporters, we welcome donations for experiences across the United States and around the world. We're also looking for tangible items such as tickets to sporting events or the theater; baskets of specialty foods; electronics, like digital cameras or iPods; or anything fun for an auction. The proceeds will benefit children!

If you have an item to donate or have any questions, please contact us at wacapauction@wacap.org. Please note that all items for our live auction must have a retail value of \$50 or more, and all tangible items must be new.

THANK YOU

This year's Kids Day was a great success, and we'd like to thank **Cougar Mountain Baking Company** and **Tim's Cascade Snacks** for providing tasty snacks and treats for the day. We'd also like to extend a huge thanks to **Wizards of the Coast** for sponsoring Kids Day for the second year in a row.

The following organizations and charitable partners have also contributed to our mission for the world's children over the last year:

Northwest Children's Fund, **RBC Foundation USA** and **TJX Foundation** provided us with grants to support our QKids: A Family for Me initiative, foster/adopt program and US Kids program.

Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound wired WACAP with a new phone system in May.

The International Foundation and **Stanley Smith Charitable Trust** provided grants to support WACAP's Stay-in-School project in Ethiopia.

VOLUNTEER ON OUR BOARD

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, WACAP depends on the commitment, energy and expertise of our Board of Directors. Our Board is made of members of our community who care deeply about WACAP's mission and provide excellent leadership through governance and financial stewardship. We currently have positions open in Washington state. If you are interested in learning more, e-mail wacap@wacap.org or call 206-575-4550.

WACAP BOARD & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Norton, Chairperson
Laura McMillan, Vice Chairperson
Lisa Weil, Secretary
Phil Rosnik, Treasurer
Ellenore Angelidis
Linda Hildreth
David Janssen
Barbara Manning
Shelly Ngo
Natalie Shirley

ADMINISTRATION

Lillian Thogersen
President & CEO

MaryAnn Curran
Vice President, Social Services

Mary K. Duncan
Vice President,
Development

Mary Moo
Vice President,
Adoption

WACAP TODAY

Lindsay Dygert
Communication Manager

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 88948
Seattle, WA 98138

MAIN OFFICE

315 S. Second St.
Renton, WA 98057
Tel: 206.575.4550
Toll Free: 800.732.1887
www.wacap.org
wacap@wacap.org

India

“I’m really thankful WACAP hung in there with her as a Promise Child for so long . . . God has something special planned for her.”

Cathy Reed
WACAP Adoptive Parent



Shruthi and her mom, Cathy.

THE PROMISE OF A FUTURE

Cathy Reed’s daughter, Shruthi, was 4 years old when Cathy picked her up from an orphanage in India last March. At that time, Shruthi weighed 17 pounds and had eye issues, club feet and what was thought to be arthrogryposis. But Cathy wasn’t fazed—this was her daughter. “When I held her, she just stared at me and stroked my face and said, ‘Mama,’” remembers Cathy.

Shruthi had waited for a family for years. Unable to care for her special needs, her birth parents had brought her to an orphanage as an infant. WACAP Family Finders staff began searching for a family for Shruthi when she was a baby, but they knew it wouldn’t be easy. “Shruthi had some pretty significant special needs, which we knew would be difficult for many people to handle,” says Waiting Child Case Supervisor Jo Reed. “We knew it would take some very special people to be her parents, but that daunting task didn’t make us give up.”

Cathy and her husband, Robert, could also tell that it was going to take some very determined individuals to be Shruthi’s parents. “I know many people looked at her file and it just seemed like too much, but we were just drawn to her,” Cathy says. Shruthi had been assigned one of WACAP’s Promise Child grants, which help families pay for some of the costs of adoption. For the Reeds, the grant got them over the final hurdle to begin the process to adopt Shruthi. “We were ready for her, but we could not have adopted her without the help of WACAP’s Promise Child fund,” Cathy says.

In the days and weeks after Shruthi came home, she began to transform. “It’s just been remarkable how far she’s come,” says Cathy. “She’s gone from being a very skinny, timid child to being so outgoing. She really only grunted in the orphanage, and now she nonstop talks. Shruthi’s a little sponge—you’ve got

to watch what you say around her, because she’ll repeat it! And her little personality is just emerging. She’s got a personality that grabs you and holds onto you.”

Medical care has also drastically changed Shruthi’s life.

U.S. doctors were able to identify her condition as Larsen syndrome, which affects just one in 100,000 people.

Miraculously, one of Cathy’s best friends has a teenage daughter with the same diagnosis, which has helped the family learn how to best help Shruthi. Doctors are now aggressively treating Shruthi’s issues, which, as Cathy admits, “is a lot of hard work,” but is starting Shruthi down the path to recovery and good health.

Cathy is working with Shruthi to get her on track developmentally and hopes she’ll be ready for kindergarten in the fall of 2011. “We’re working on getting her into an early childhood preschool this fall,” she says, a prospect that just one year ago would be well beyond the grasp of possibility. “I don’t think that Shruthi would have had a future in India,” says Cathy, “and I’m really thankful WACAP hung in there with her as a Promise Child for so long. I hope that other prospective parents realize that disabilities can be handled, and that waiting kids really need families. That’s what their special need is—that they need a family. Everything else can be taken care of.”

As for Shruthi, Cathy is excited to see what is in store for her. “She is such a resilient child,” Cathy says, “and God has something special planned for her.”

WACAP’s Promise Child fund has help bring thousands of children like Shruthi home to their families. To learn more about the fund, visit our Web site at www.wacap.org.

China

“I love my mom and dad and my new family. And they love me and my no-good leg.”

*Kaylina Anderson
WACAP Adoptee*



Kaylina and her brother, Alex, together at home.

ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL

Just a few months before Tina Anderson traveled to China to pick up her new 12-year-old son, Alex, WACAP’s Family Finders team contacted her and her husband, Dale, with information about another child who desperately needed a family. The 13-year-old girl would turn 14 in October, rendering her ineligible for adoption. She had a corrected club foot and cerebral palsy. She’d entered the orphanage as a 1-year-old, and years of state care compounded with surgeries to correct her club foot had left her far behind her peers in school; the 13-year-old was repeating fourth grade for the second time. Unable to determine the extent of her medical needs, the Andersons worried that she may need full care throughout her adult life, but, “In the end, we knew we couldn’t say no, because if we did, what kind of life would she have?,” says Tina. “Didn’t she deserve a chance too?”

Tina brought Alex and her new daughter, Kaylina, home from China just days after Kaylina turned 14. Over the next few months, Kaylina adjusted to her new life. “When we first arrived home she tried to stay to herself in her room as much as she could,” remembers Tina. “We really had to work hard to get her to start integrating into our family.” Kaylina and Alex started school a week after coming home and worked with an ESL tutor to develop their English skills. They made friends and Kaylina started getting more and more comfortable. She evolved into a “. . . pretty typical teenage girl,” says Tina. “It’s all about the social times with friends and making sure she is looking stylish.”

Eight months after coming home, Kaylina and her mom sat at a table with some family friends after a long day of swimming. The friends were also adopting a Journey of Hope child—a girl who had been one of Kaylina’s best friends in China. As their

discussion turned to the adoption, Kaylina began to speak about her own past. “She told us about how when she was in grade four, she had her legs cut, meaning she had surgery for her club foot, and she had to do fourth grade two times because she was gone from school so much,” remembers Tina.

Kaylina went on. She talked about how she and other children from the orphanage were teased at school about not having parents, and how kids with visible special needs like hers were teased the worst. She shared that an orphanage worker talked with her about what it meant to be abandoned and why it often happens to kids with special needs—because her parents may not have been able to deal with her leg, because she may not have had a father, or because her parents may have not been able to afford to get her the medical help she needed. “My teacher tell me that it’s OK to have a leg that no work right,” Kaylina said. “My teacher tell me that it better to have leg that no work than to have no leg or no arm. Those kids get teased more than me.”

Then Kaylina turned to Tina. “Here, Mom and Dad love me, even with no good leg,” Kaylina said. “Here, kids nice. They no tease me about no good leg. They be nice. They like me for me. It so awesome here. Here my life very very good. I love my mom and dad and my new family. And they love me and my no-good leg.”

Kaylina has continued to grow and is, in many ways, the typical American teen. However, “her words that night proved to me she is much more than that. She is wise beyond her words and we are so happy and lucky that she is part of our family.”

Visit www.wacap.org to learn more about our efforts to find families for children who are older or who have special needs.

IN HONOR OF THESE CHILDREN

Donations have been made in honor of the following children and other members of the WACAP family. These funds will be used to continue adoption services and humanitarian aid to children who need families in all the countries WACAP serves. We welcome your donation to WACAP. It's easy. Just visit www.wacap.org, or use the envelope included in this issue of *WACAP Today*.

Adam Zhao Yue Hales	Figir Mac	Kristina Duda	Noah McKay
Alex Dugdale	Gregory Bottjen	Liatris Kachi Abbott	Opal Violet Sutton
Amanda Ashley	Gurneelam Nijjer	Lior Hemmat	Patrick Yue Sutton
Andrea Spencer	Hank Spencer	Lola Richmond	Pearl Lilly Sutton
Anna Brandenstein	Hannah Jing Henrikson	Lucas Yuri Douglass	Ptarmigan Abbott
Ari Currera	Irina Nicole Day	Lucy Yi Mayer	Rachel Nikitha Sunderaraj
Ava Xiang Buchanan	Jade Rose Sutton	Lyndon Toews	Roopa Konakanchi
Benjamin Michaels	Jaine Huenergard	Manjula Kuriyan	Rosemarie Fuxia Webster
Bonnie Claire Seham	Jessica Spencer	Margaret Kilbane	Ryan Clabby
VanZile Wise	Joel Ivan Peter Brennan	Margaret Sheela Redden	Sai Jetter
Brent Pathompon Wood	John Duda	Mariya Bridget Redden	Sara Eden Frank
Bridget Marie Jieyan	Joshua McKay	Matt Sturges	Sara McKay
Bremenour	Justin Rocha	Matthew Aaron Hagen	Sarita Toews
Celia Kilbane	Kanmani Kuriyan	Maximus McKay	Sera Huenergard
Chloe Choi	Kara Anthony-Price	Meghan Elizabeth Xiao	Shruthi Toews
Christopher Spencer	Katherine Elizabeth	Ge Moore	Sonja Boersma
Clark Ashley	Douglas	MiLee Jan Reid	Sophie St. Jacques
Dee Jetter	Katie Rocha	Ming Rose Cooke	Tessa Anthony-Price
Deepa Konakanchi	Katya Stowell	Molly Bottjen	William M. Crowe
Ellen Gable	Kayla Sturges	Nathan Gable	Winter Abbott
Emily Boersma	Keng Allison Guerra	Nicholas Boersma	Zai Xi Hildreth
Emily Bottjen	Kimiko Ann Reid	Nicholas Pan Wa Hales	Zoe Bailey
Emily Dugdale	Kip Bailey	Nina Gable	Zohar Hemmat

Please note that you can also build a bridge to the future of other children just like those listed here by including WACAP in your will and legacy planning.

DO YOU HAVE A WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGN?

Would you like to help children without ever having to write a check or charge your credit card? Contact your employer to find out if workplace giving is available to you.

Workplace giving takes donations directly out of your paycheck, and many businesses in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the country offer it. At The Boeing Company employees can sign up through the Employees Community Fund of the Boeing Company (ECF) and designate donations to go directly to WACAP. Boeing employees may also donate to the ECF general fund, which provides larger grants to nonprofits. Last year we were thrilled to receive a \$40,000 grant from the Boeing ECF to help our aging phone system! At Microsoft, the corporation will match up to \$12,000 of an individual's donation dollar-for-dollar each year if

the employee signs up for the Microsoft Employee Giving Campaign.

State and federal employees can sign up for payroll deduction donations through the Combined Fund Drive or Combined Federal Campaign. University of Washington employees can participate through the Washington State Combined Fund Drive. If you are a state or federal employee, just ask your human resources department for help. And, if your employer does an annual United Way campaign, you can designate your gifts to go to WACAP.

Check with your employer to see if workplace giving is available to you. Work place giving is an easy way to support WACAP's work. Together, we can make a difference for orphaned and vulnerable children around the world.

FAMILY ALBUM



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 Spencer, Andy and Abbie (CH)
- 2 Holden (ET)
- 3 Max (CH)
- 4 Ruby (T)
- 5 Sam and Briana (ET)
- 6 Raveena (I)

ADOPTING THROUGH WACAP

Since 1976, WACAP has helped 10,000 children find loving homes. We currently help families in all 50 states adopt children from six countries: China, Ethiopia, India, Korea, Thailand and the United States. We are fully accredited and strive to meet the highest ethical standards in all of our endeavors. If you are interested in learning more about adoption, call us at 206-575-4550, or e-mail wacap@wacap.org. You can also request an information packet via our Web site, www.wacap.org.



WACAP has received dual accreditation by COA (Council on Accreditation) and is approved to complete Hague Convention adoptions.



Children pass the time with a homemade Mancala board in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

WACAP Today is distributed quarterly to donors and key supporters. For a base donation of \$25.00 annually, contributors receive this magazine free of charge.