



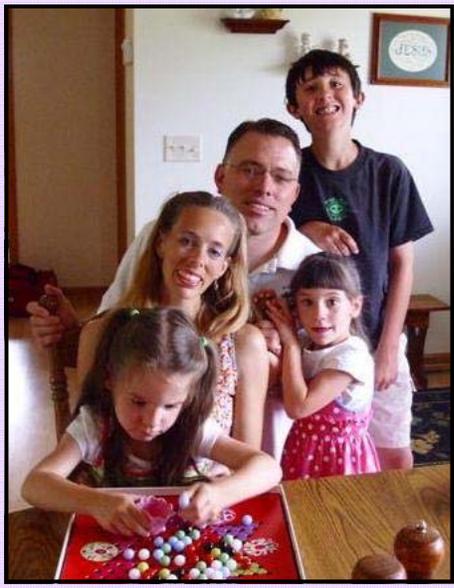
CASI CONNECTION

A newsletter for the families and friends of CASI Foundation for Children, Inc. January 2011

OUR MISSION

CASI Foundation for Children is committed to uniting families through adoption and improving the quality of life for orphans world wide.

Established 1992
A non-profit 501c(3)



Finding Our Forever Family Through Foster Adoption

By Lester Sheneberger

My wife and I were getting settled into our new community in west central Idaho when we began our search over the internet for an organization that would help us build our family. That was about three years ago. We found out about CASI and their foster to adopt program, which seemed to be the right fit for our circumstances. We began reading up on adopting children and getting signed up for the necessary courses. We hit a bump in the road when our required training class was cancelled and rescheduled to a time that did not work for us. Time went by and, eventually, we completed our courses and got our home study completed. We made some connections with other adoptive parents at our training and found out about various websites that had profiles of children waiting to be adopted.

We began searching on our own for children that might fit well into our family. We learned not to get our hopes up too high about any particular child or children as there were often dozens of applicants inquiring. Things moved slowly for awhile. We asked our case worker, who was contracted by CASI to complete our home study, if she could advocate for us. We started to see more progress in getting responses to our initial inquiries on children. CASI was good about e-mailing our information to the various agencies in our region with children waiting.

It was January of last year when we received a call from Oregon that there were three children needing to be adopted. We had initially requested to be considered for up to two children. After reviewing their files we decided to pursue this option. That meant amending our home study slightly. By March, we were selected to be sent to committee for these children. We knew that we were close and started letting our support network know so they could be in prayer for us. Our phone interview lasted about four hours. Then, on April 1, we received the call. We had been selected! Thinking back to that moment still gives us chills. A dream of ours for ten years had finally been realized. We met personally with staff at CASI to review their complete file, which was lengthy. By the middle of April, we were bringing James, Taylor and Lexi home with us. Of course, having them has changed our lives drastically, but we have been adjusting as we go and are glad for a support network of friends and family during this transition. *(Continued on Pg. 2)*

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CASI's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Friday
8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Our advice to prospective adoptive parents is to be patient during the search process. Completing your home study will be the key to showing various agencies that you are serious about adoption. Demonstrating flexibility in your search parameters will also get your name out to more case workers. Getting selected for committee takes time, but once that happens, be prepared for major changes! The most difficult challenge during the process is to not get too emotionally invested in any particular children before you have been selected. Once they were placed in our home, the biggest challenge was helping the kids realize that they are at their final destination now and that we all need to work together to form our forever family. Establishing clear boundaries from the beginning has helped us to keep in touch as a married couple who has gone from zero to three children.

It was good to be able to get to know the kids over the course of the summer and allow them to become familiar with their new community. They have all started school and attend church now in their new community. They are meeting new friends, and are excited about learning new things. James loves playing with Legos and has been involved with baseball and will start scouting soon. Taylor enjoys kindergarten and is the singer of the family. Lexi does afternoon pre-school and is enjoying one-on-one time with Mommy and Daddy in the morning. Our dog, Banjo, has learned to adjust to life in a house filled with the pitter patter of little feet. Because our kids weren't always all together in foster care, they also have had to readjust to life together and we still deal with sibling rivalry issues. Each of the kids sees a counselor each week to work through issues of transitioning to their new home. Although we face daily challenges to work through, we wouldn't trade it for the world!

For more information about CASI's Foster Adoption program please contact the coordinator RuthAnn Howard, RuthAnnH@adoptcasi.org.

To see children currently available for adoption in the foster care system visit:



www.adoptuskids.org

www.photolisting.adoption.com

www.heartgalleryofamerica.com

www.nwae.org

If you would like to share your adoption story please email

veronicat@adoptcasi.org.

CASI CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILY & FRIENDS NIGHT

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 26, 2011 @ QWEST ARENA

DOORS OPENS - 6:00PM - GAME STARTS - 7:00PM



VS



LA LAKERS & LA CLIPPERS
AFFILIATE

Tickets only...

\$7

#1 Family-Friendly Entertainment

Check out the Kids Fun Zone and much more fun for kids of all ages!

Robert Muraine Halftime Show

Watch his unique popping style of dance that landed him on "So You Think You Can Dance" & Cirque Du Soleil's Cirque Dreams: Illumination

Meet the Team & More

Pre-Game High Five Tunnel and Post-game autograph session with the players, dance team & more!

Assist in Creating Awareness for Foster Care & Adoption in the Treasure Valley

To order, fill out this form and return it to **Gary Lalanne** no later than,

Friday – February 18, 2011

Email: gary@idahostampede.com

Telephone: (208) 388-4667

Fax: (208) 388-3845

Mail: PO Box 6525 Boise, ID 83707

Please Check:

of Wrangler Seats: _____ X \$7 (\$14 @ Box Office)

of Meal Vouchers : _____ X \$3.50 (hot dog & sm soda)

TOTAL = \$ _____

ORDER FORM AREA:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: _____ VISA/MC _____ CHECK

*Make checks payable to **IDAHO STAMPEDE***

CC# _____ EXP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

For more information, contact **GARY LALANNE** at (208) 388-4667

Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available at the Will Call Office day of the game.

Tickets are filled on a first come first serve basis and are subject to availability. No exchanges or refunds.

NBA Affiliates:



Win a trip to LA & NBA All-Star Weekend by uploading your "Lexar Memorable Moment" to our facebook!



Recipe of the Month

Super Bowl Party Pinwheels

Ingredients

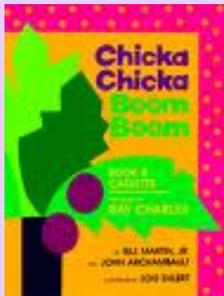
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (1 ounce) package ranch dressing mix
- 2 green onions, minced
- 4 (12 inch) flour tortillas
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 1 (2 ounce) can sliced black olives
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese



Directions

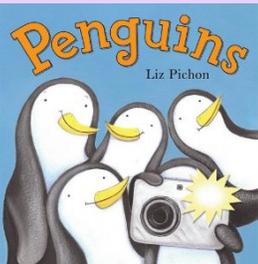
1. In a medium-size mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, ranch dressing mix, and green onions. Spread this mixture on each tortilla. Sprinkle red pepper, celery, black olives, and cheese (if you'd like) over the cream cheese mixture. Roll up the tortillas, then wrap them tightly in aluminum foil.
2. Chill 2 hours or overnight. Cut off ends of the rolls, and slice the chilled rolls into 1 inch slices.

CASI's Favorite Children's Books



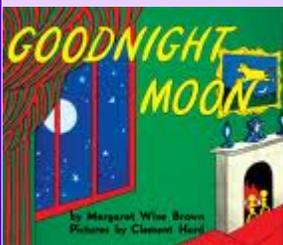
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom By Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault

You're not going to believe this alphabet book - it's bold, bright and beautiful! Brilliant colors fill each polka-dot bordered page as the alphabet begins its adventurous journey to the top of a coconut tree. The rhymes are irresistible and fun to be read again and again.



Penguins By Liz Pichon

Penguins at the zoo lead predictable lives—swimming, eating fish, playing penguin games, looking at people—until the day they discover a camera on a rock. After they have dented it and pushed all the buttons, one little bird realizes what it is and tells the others to smile at it, which they do. Children will enjoy the penguins' photos, and they will delight in the story whether they read it themselves or listen to it.



Goodnight Moon By Margaret Wise Brown

Perhaps the perfect children's bedtime book, *Goodnight Moon* is a short poem of goodnight wishes from a young rabbit preparing for--or attempting to postpone--his own slumber. He says goodnight to every object in sight and within earshot, including the "quiet old lady whispering hush."



Program Up-dates



US INFANT Program: Whether your adoption is in progress, you have just finalized or have been an adoptive parent for years you can never close the door to learning more. Recently, CASI office and field personnel took an on-line training seminar from Heart of the Matter. It provided us with a wealth of information in regards to attachment, bonding and understanding children who have been living in institutional or foster care and how they process the change in setting and becoming part of a forever family. Feel free to call the office if you would like more information or feedback on this training.

Keep your eyes and ears open for the beginning of the CASI Adoptive Parents Support Group. Coming in the next six weeks we will have be announcing the date, time and location for the start of an on-going support group for those who have adopted.

CASI had 13 placements in 2010. There are currently 15 families on the waiting list, five families on hold and several families in the home study process.



FOSTER/ADOPT Program: Our Foster/ Adopt program has been back up and running since June. We currently have two families who are in the Networking process; with seven other families completing their paperwork to start their home studies. We continue to get the word out about the program and receive calls on a regular basis inquiring about the process of foster/adoption. This month, Addie Priest, a student from Boise State University, began he internship with CASI; her primary focus will be helping families network for children within the Foster/Adopt program. Welcome Addie! If you or anyone you know is interested in adopting a child/children from foster care please contact RuthAnnH@adoptcasi.org.



CHINA Program: The CCAA has finished the review of the adoption application documents registered with our office before June 30th, 2010. The CCAA has finished placement for families whose application documents were registered with our office before May 29th, 2006. CASI received one referral.

Effective January 1, 2009, CCAA has increased the orphanage donation fees. The current fees are \$3,000 USD, and CCAA is requiring the fees now be given to the social welfare institute in RMB. The RMB will be \$35,000, and will fluctuate based on the exchange rate. The minimum in USD will be \$5,000 .



CHINA WAITING CHILDREN Program: Several families have chosen to adopt their child from the special needs list and it has been a wonderful experience for them. CCAA typically updates their list the third week of each month. There are no longer individual waiting lists. Children are placed on a shared list, which all agencies have access to.



HAITI Program: The wait time for Haiti still continues to be 18-30 months. The Haiti government has began excepting dossiers again; however the length of time is still unknown. CASI has 2 families being processed in Haiti and we have 2 families who are preparing their dossiers for submission. Agencies and orphanages are adhering strictly to the regulations Haiti has for adoptive families. Please call or email tammyj@adoptcasi.org, if you are interested and would like to review the adoption regulations in Haiti. Although we state that the timeline could be 18-30 months, at this time, it could be longer. Until dossiers begin to go through the Haitian system again, we are providing a timeline pre-earthquake. Updates will be provided if this timeline changes.