



May 2008

Nihao Sunny Ridge-China Families,

### **Families are Home**

We are so pleased that eight families returned home from China with their children in April. The trip went well and everyone is home safe and sound! Seeing children join their forever families is a highlight of our job here at Sunny Ridge and we are thrilled that these eight children and families are now home together. Please keep them in your thoughts as these children and families continue to adjust to one another.

### **Referrals**

We are very thankful to have received referrals for our dossier group logged in on January 11, 2006! These families have waited 27 months for their referrals and the children are from two different provinces. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers as they wait for the next step in the process!

We are also pleased to report that one family will be leaving for China this week to adopt their child through the special needs program! We are thrilled that their little girl will be home with them soon.

### **CCAA's Website Information**

As of today, the website states CCAA has finished the review of the adoption application documents registered before December 31, 2006 and has issued referrals of children for the families whose adoption application documents were registered before January 12, 2006. We continue to check CCAA's website on a daily basis and will update the tracking section of our website as we see changes.

### **The Ever Growing Wait**

While we rejoice with the families that received their referrals this month, it is with heavy hearts that we see CCAA only referred three log-in dates this month. At this rate, wait times will easily reach 3 years and will likely grow longer. Many of you have asked if Sunny Ridge has any information about what is going on and why the wait is getting longer each month. The short answer is no, we don't. At the recent JCICS conference, the agencies with direct placement China programs met to discuss the situation in hopes that someone had insight. Every agency present was at a loss as to what was going to happen with the wait. No one is being told anything concrete by the one entity that truly knows – CCAA.

When Robert McNeill met with CCAA officials in February 2008 he was told that if families are willing to wait, they will receive a referral. We realize during this time of uncertainty, a referral may feel like it will never happen and understand that families may be frustrated and upset with this unknown. We wish we had more information for you because we know how precious any information at all can be to families waiting in this process. We know there are rumors out there that speculate what may happen or what is causing this wait to continue increasing. However CCAA has not confirmed these speculations. Rest assured if we hear anything from CCAA, whether it is good or bad news, you will be notified.

**Older children**

Due to the increasing wait, many of our waiting families have inquired about possibly updating their dossier in China to show they are now open to an older child. For families wanting to now request an older child, Sunny Ridge will communicate your request to CCAA. Please note that requesting an older child will in no way decrease the amount of time you will wait for a referral. Your log-in-date will not change if you request an older child.

In addition, Sunny Ridge cannot guarantee that CCAA will abide by this request for an older child. We can submit the request but do not know if CCAA will keep this in mind when matching referrals. With that said, we will do what we can to notify CCAA of a family's request. In addition, any family that wishes to request an older child will need to complete additional educational requirements. Please speak to your social worker if this is an option you would like to pursue.

**Waiting Family Event**

The first Waiting Family event was a success! We were so pleased to see several of our waiting families attend. We enjoyed the documentary, "Found in China" and had good discussion about the issues that it addressed. If you have not planned on attending the next movie event coming up this weekend, it is not too late to RSVP! Let us know if you will be coming. We will be showing the movie again this Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 10:00-12pm at our Bolingbrook training room. We look forward to seeing you there! Several of you have inquired if you can bring your children. At this time, we are requesting families leave their children at home. Due to the sensitive material in the movie, we would prefer parents viewed the movie prior to making the decision regarding their children watching the movie. We appreciate your cooperation.

**Upcoming Event**

Sunny Ridge will be offering an Adoption Preparation Seminar on Saturday, June 7th. If you were previously invited to a seminar and unable to attend and would like to be invited to this session, please let your social worker know. If you are in the April 11, 2007 log-in group, the August 28, 2007 log-in group or the February 25, 2008 log-in group, you will receive an invite in the mail shortly.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Augsburg, MSW/LCSW,  
Intercountry Adoption Social Worker

**Bernie  
Laszewski  
Ext. 526**

**Jessica  
Augsburger  
Ext. 532**

**Julie Forgue  
Ext. 530**

**Pam Gaston  
Ext. 512**

**Bob McNeill  
Ext. 518**

**Amy Trotter  
Ext. 514**