



December, 2007

Nihao Sunny Ridge-China Families,

Happy holidays to all of you from the staff here at Sunny Ridge Family Center!

New Families Home

We are pleased to report that two families (one through our special needs program and one expedited) traveled to China in November for the placement of their children. The trips went smoothly and we celebrate with them as they were united with their children!

Status of dossiers

We are still waiting on the referrals for our next two dossier groups who have LID's in December 2005. CCAA has completed the review of all dossiers logged in through September 30, 2006 and have issued referrals for all dossiers logged in through December 8, 2005.

Hague Convention

Many of our waiting families have asked us how the implementation of the Hague Convention will affect their adoption. On Friday, November 16, 2007, President Bush signed the final instrument of ratification for the Hague Convention. This means that the United States is in the final stages of implementing the Hague. The date of implementation is currently set for April 1, 2008. Sunny Ridge Family Center has applied to be a registered Adoption Service Provider which means we can continue to operate our China program as we are today. While we will not find out the status of our accreditation until March 12, 2008, we are confident in the services we provide and feel we will receive this Hague status.

So what does this mean for you? We do not believe that your adoption process will be affected. China has already implemented the Hague and our program should not be interrupted. However, there is one area that all of our adoptive parents will need to be vigilant. One of the Hague regulations mandates that all adoptive parents have ten (10) credits of adoption education *prior* to travel. Most likely, the majority of you have these credits due to your readings during the home study process and possibly from attending our adoption preparation series or outside seminars. We will need to ensure all of you have the required credits prior to your travel and we are asking for your help in completing your education. If you are unsure of how many credits you have, please speak with your social worker!

Concurrent Adoptions

Another question that we have been receiving frequently is will Sunny Ridge now allow concurrent adoptions? Many of you know that CCAA has recently released a statement stating they would allow concurrent adoptions. Due to this change, Sunny Ridge understands that we may now have families interested in pursuing a concurrent adoption. We are currently trying to determine a few of the "unknowns" surrounding this policy, such as what will happen to your current dossier in China while a second adoption is being pursued. In the mean time, for those of you that are interested in pursuing a concurrent adoption, either internationally or domestically, we ask

that you speak with your social worker. Since there are so many unknowns surrounding concurrent adoptions at this point, we ask that you discuss the risks with your social worker before proceeding. As more information becomes available, we will send out further updates.

National Visa Center

TO BE COMPLETED BY BERNIE

Special Needs

Would you ever consider a child from our China Special Needs program? There are many children available in our special needs program and we are always looking for families who have a heart for these amazing children. If you are interested, please contact your social worker.

Looking Ahead

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Open House and Dedication of our new office space on December 13, 2007 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. Please come to celebrate our new home and to take a tour of the space!

Don't forget to put February 10, 2008 on your calendar. We will be hosting our annual Chinese New Year Celebration and you are all welcome to attend!

We realize that the ever increasing wait is frustrating and wearisome for all of you waiting families, especially around the holiday season. Please know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers as you continue to wait for your children.

Happy holidays to all of you this holiday season.

Sincerely,
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