

APRIL, 2009

Bethany Christian Services
N14W23755 Stone Ridge Drive, #265
Waukesha, WI 53188

Special points of interest:

- Waisman Center Language Study
- Support Groups-Help For Dads
- Kids Corner
- Children's Hospital Expands
- Celebrate Adoption with Style 2009

Spread the word.....

Know someone who is not on our email list who is adopting, or considering adoption and you think might enjoy our newsletter?

Have them go to www.bethany.org/wisconsin and at the bottom of the page click on "Subscribe Now"

Did you hear the news? Bethany's Lending Library *OPEN HOUSE* was March 19, 2009. What a great afternoon filled with story time, hand painting, toys and books! Bethany's resource library is available to families or the community interested in adoption and multi cultural resources. You are welcome to check out the libraries at both our Waukesha and Fond du Lac offices M—F 8:30—5 pm or visit our website to view a list of resources available at www.bethany.org/wisconsin "resource library".

What great strides we have made to establish our own lending library in both the **Waukesha** and **Fond du Lac** Wisconsin offices.

Check out **two** new resources found at our lending libraries:

The Connected Child, and, *Forever Fingerprints*. The *Connected Child* is a wonderful resource for parents who have welcomed children from other countries and other cultures, from troubled backgrounds and children with special behavioral or emotional needs. **Dr. Karen Purvis**, one of the authors will be speaking at the Post Adoption Conference held at the Cornerstone Church, Delafield WI on October 10, 2009.



(Please see our website for more information and registration.)

Forever Fingerprints is a wonderful children's book that uses a common occurrence—a pregnancy—as a springboard for discussions on birthparents where adopted children are before they are born, and how that makes one little girl feel about it. The tools offered in this book help her to create a unique connection to her birthparents, allow her feelings to surface and be discussed and give the parents the chance to reinforce their love for her, to empathize with her feelings and to honor her past.

2009 Post Adoption Education Workshops

CPR—Saturday, April 25, 2009, 1:30-4:30 pm

Discipline: Does Adoption Make a Difference?
Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 6-8 pm

Child & Infant massage: A Tool for Bonding
Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 6-8 pm

CPR-Fond du Lac-Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 6-9 pm

**For more information on the above contact:
Danielle Nelson, 262-547-6557**

For a complete listing of all our Post Adoption and Pre-Adopted Family Education Series, please see our web site at www.bethany.org/wisconsin

Kid's corner



Let's READ

Reading, one of the best things we can do with our children. Make it more fun with an easy made bookmark!

Ages: 3 and up

Time: About 20 minutes

You will need the following:

GREEN craft foam

A pipe cleaner

Wiggle Eyes

Ribbon

Fine-tip black marker

Craft Glue

Scissors

For the body of the worm, cut several circles out of the green craft foam, about 6 with the biggest being about 2 inches across and the others go down in size. The smallest at about an inch. Using dabs of glue, assemble the worm body with the biggest circle as the head and the smallest at the bottom. Shape the pipe cleaner into a pair of glasses and cut off any extra stem. Decide where you want the glasses on the face and glue in place. Glue the wiggle eyes into the glasses. Using the marker draw a mouth on to your worm. Cut several pieces of ribbon about 1/2 inch in size and glue on the back of the worms head. Let glue dry! After, write your special message on your worm.



Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you. ~ **H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**

Waisman Center Language Study

The Infant Learning Lab at UW-Madison's goal is to understand how babies learn language. They are starting a new study that is focused on how infants learn tone languages like Mandarin, Cantonese, Hmong, Thai, Vietnamese, etc. They are seeking families with infants between 13 and 21 months of age who have had exposure to a tone language. Their studies last 5–15 minutes and involve only a single visit. Children enjoy participating. They provide free parking and babysitting for siblings, along with a small gift as a token of their appreciation. Infants enjoy visiting the lab and engaging in fun learning activities. You can read more about the lab at: http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/infantlearning/infant_research.html If you have an infant between 13 and 21 months of age and would like to learn more, please contact them via email at: tone.language.study@gmail.com or call 608.263.5876.

SUPPORT GROUPS—HELP FOR NEW DADS

There are many different kinds of support groups. And they exist for almost any topic you can imagine. But what are they and what do they do?

Support groups are a place for people to give and receive both emotional and practical support as well as to exchange information, confirm that their feelings are “normal”, educate others or just let off steam. When seeking a support group the most important thing to remember may be: If the group doesn't feel right to you or doesn't match your needs, try a different group. Support groups are made up of people with common interests and experiences. People who



have or are going through a similar experience can sympathize and relate to what you are feeling and keep you from feeling alone. They are a great place to find practical tips and resources. To start a new group can be time consuming. However, in some cases the group you need may not exist in your community. To start one consider the help from local hospitals, doctors, church or temple. After a group is started, members may want to consider listing it through the local paper or an associated organization so that other people can learn about the new resource. New Dads need support with and through out the adoption process, and are at times overlooked. Consider starting one with other local adoptive dads. Get together for burgers, chili, fried chicken. The food may be unhealthy but the company you keep could be “food for your soul”. You can talk about everything from politics, to sports, to children and faith. Sharing your feelings and giving each other advise with people who share similar experiences you have through adoption is comforting and helpful. They will be the people who understand what you're feeling and can identify with adoption while other friends can't.

A six-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service:
"And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

New Resources on the Web.....

Looking for new resources on the web? Check out www.thelittleprince.org. This web site offers resources and information and most importantly a supportive chat room for parents experiencing attachment issues with their children.

What is the Milwaukee Lantern? This is a Chinese Cultural magazine published once a year. Check out the Milwaukee Modern Chinese School, then on the left side of the page under “Information” you can find 2006 and 2007 magazines.

Pick 'N Save “We Care” Program

Want to help promote and support Bethany every time you shop?

Pick 'N Save grocery stores donate a percentage of sales back to the community through the WE CARE program. Bethany Christian Services of Wisconsin is registered as a community non-profit organization that is eligible to receive such donations.

Shop and help. It's as simple as completing a short form at the service desk that will link your advantage card to Bethany's **organization number**, and then you just shop as usual! At the end of each quarter, Pick 'N Save will make monetary contributions to our BSC account. Thank you for considering this endeavor.

PNS Organization numbers:
055825-Metro Milwaukee
055800 (Fond du Lac Area)

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF WISCONSIN EXPANDS SERVICES IN THE INTERNA- TIONAL ADOPTION CLINIC

Announcing an exciting expansion of services offered through the International Adoption Clinic (IAC) at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Samantha L. Wilson, Ph.D. (Clinical Psychologist), joined the IAC team to provide post-adoption support and therapeutic intervention for families who have adopted abroad. Dr. Wilson has specialized training in early childhood mental health and a long-standing interest in supporting international families. Through her work, Dr. Wilson encourages families to attend to the unique developmental and behavioral concerns of the internationally adopted child (including developmental progression, attachment, emotion and behavior regulation, psychological well-being and adjustment, adoption understanding, racial/ethnic identity information). Services include developmental and psycho-educational assessments as well as individual therapy and parenting support. With the expansion of psychological care and therapeutic intervention, the International Adoption Clinic is working to meet a broader range of needs in the adoption community. Families are invited to contact Dr. Wilson at the Child Development Center if they have questions or concerns about their child's emotional or behavioral needs. To inquire about appointments, please call the Child Development Center at 262-432-6600. To learn more about the International Adoption Clinic, please visit www.chw.org/internationaladoption

What Hurts, What Helps

What Hurts Adopted Children:

- "Do you think you'll try to find your *real* mom?"
- "Your parents are saints."
- "You must be so grateful you were not aborted."
- When an adoptive mother feels threatened by or has her feelings hurt when the child wants to contact the birth mother
- Telling the child unkind things about the biological father
- Adopting a child internationally without leaving open a legal channel for the child to re-connect with biological parents

What Hurts, What Helps (Continued)

What Helps Adopted Children:

- Knowing from the start that they were adopted, from whom and why
- Growing up knowing biological relatives as part of an extended family
- Honesty-adoptive parents who risk their own comfort to answer questions and allow children to explore this area of their lives
- A scrapbook that includes: record of every document, name and date, every scrap of personal history, information about both biological parents, journals, photographs, e-mails, letters and interviews
- When adoptive mothers assist children in contacting the birthmother if the children are interested
- Medial history
- Birth mother sending birthday presents
- Knowing about the country of origin in foreign adoptions, and retaining or being taught a native language
- Keeping in touch with loving foster parents
- Having something personal from the birth mother

SAVE THE DATES

UPCOMING BETHANY EVENTS

April 14, 2009, Bethany Banquet

September 18, 2009, Golf Marathon, [New Day and New Location!](#)

October 10, 2009, National Adoption Conference — Post Adoption Seminar with Dr. Karen Purvis

November 14, 2009, Celebrate Adoption with Style

November 27, 2009, World's Greatest Cookie Sale

[Check our website for all the details!](#)

International Forever Families... We have been blessed with 5 children that have come home with their Forever Families since January, 2009! Are you aware of the children with special placement needs? They too, deserve a forever family. Additionally, we have had 4 Domestic Forever Families finalizations. God is Good.

Celebrate Adoption with Style 2009

We are excited to announce Celebrate Adoption with Style 2009! Last year's event included a fun afternoon of celebration and fellowship. We look forward to spending another afternoon honoring families who have been created through adoption. Festivities for Celebrate Adoption with Style 2009 will take place on Saturday, November 14 at the Country Springs Hotel and include a luncheon, fashion show and silent auction. Proceeds from the event will benefit our post adoption services. As we are planning for the day, there are a couple opportunities that may interest your family:

Call for Models: *The models for our fashion show are all children adopted through Bethany! We are currently looking for models, boys or girls, between the ages of 0-18 years old. No previous modeling experience is necessary. Preference will be give to children who did not participate in last year's fashion show, although 2008 models are welcome to express interest and will be considered depending on the number of outfits we have available to model. Responsibilities for models will also include a fitting prior to the fashion show and a dress rehearsal the morning of the event. Unfortunately, we are not able to discount ticket prices for the models. The official list of models will be determined once the clothing stores have been identified.*

Silent Auction Items: *Would your family or someone you know be interested in donating an item for our silent auction? Items both large and small are appreciated (i.e. time shares, tickets to sporting events or family-friendly activities, gift cards or other services or items!)*

For questions, model sign up, or silent auction donations, contact Daniëlle Nelson at Dnelson@bethany.org or by calling the Waukesha office at 262-547-6557. More details about Celebrate Adoption With Style 2009 will be posted on our website in the months to come.



UMOJA A Black Heritage Experience Camp Information!

Dates: October 23-25, 2009

Place: Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI

Costs: Conference fee before July 1, \$60.00 per adult, \$40 per child ages 3-17, free for children 2 and younger. After July 1, \$80 per adult, \$60 per child ages 3-17. Check out their web site at www.umojabhe.com for all the details and to download a registration.