



Adoption Advocates International Families for Children

June 2008

Dear friends,

This newsletter is written just after the kick-off party for AAI's 25th Anniversary. The celebration was held here in Port Angeles. Photos, newsletters and albums from AAI's history were on display. People who had been associated with AAI over the years made the effort to get here and we had a nice time sharing memories with old friends. Over 3000 children have found permanent families through AAI and we hope there will be many more to come.

Many of you have given generously to our 25 for 25 Anniversary Philanthropy Campaign and we are so grateful. We are asking each of our families to donate a symbolic \$25 per adopted child to be used for humanitarian projects this year. Given the recent earthquake in China and the famine in Ethiopia, we hope that our adoptive parent community will consider this special request. And, of course, we invite other friends, grandparents, etc. to contribute and honor a special child/person in their lives. We will be happy to send an acknowledgment if your gift is made in honor of someone---just supply a name and address or e-mail address to the office or enter it in the space provided on the [Donate Now](#) page.

The Ghana program is growing very nicely and considering that it was only last June that Eban House, our facility there, opened its doors, it is amazing. Twenty children have joined new families and as of today there were 32 in residence at Eban house. We especially need families open to siblings, many in the 5 to 6 age range.

The other rapidly growing program area for AAI is placement of HIV positive children. The oldest child at the AHOPE home for HIV+ orphan children, a 15 year old boy, has been chosen by a family and the case is in court.

Happy Anniversary AAI!

I was in Ethiopia in May and was pleased to see things operating so smoothly despite the difficulties. Because of water problems there was electricity only two days out of three but

On a personal note, Ted and I were surprised to learn a few months ago that we had two grandchildren living in foster care in Alaska. We were asked to take custody of them. At first it seemed impossible, but the more we thought about it the more possible it seemed and this week they will join us. Technically it is considered a visit as there is still paperwork to be completed but we are busy making plans for our future together. Parents again at our ages??!! Unbelievable. Expect to hear more on this subject in future newsletters.

I hope you are all having a good start on summer. We are waiting for warm weather to get here, it is late but it usually does come!!

Thanks as always for your help and support, without your help we could not accomplish all the things we set out to do!

Sincerely,

Merrily and Ted Ripley
Adoption Advocates International

coping. We have purchased four generators which power the Opportunity House, Layla School, Computer Lab and the area where the babies are cared for. Inflation is a serious problem and, sad to say, many folks on the streets looked very thin.

Dessie's Dream, the project to raise money for a building project in a poor and rather remote area of Ethiopia, is going well. The first phase, finishing the buildings that had been started by the villagers, is now nearly complete. We hope to devote some of the money raised by the 25 for 25 campaign to continuing our aid to this impoverished area. Click [here](#) to see the powerful video produced by an AAI parent, Dave Shoup, and his high school students. They have already raised more than \$3000 for the Dessie project.

A family has come forward for the HIV+ baby that Ky and I found in China when we were there. This will be the first agency placement of an HIV+ child in China and a breakthrough we hope. HIV is a larger issue than the Chinese government wanted to admit at first and it seems like real progress that they are allowing this child to be adopted. Currently orphaned HIV+ children in China do not receive the antiretroviral medicines.

Janelle was in Thailand in May and that program also continues to grow slowly and steadily. Janelle traveled with the Thai social worker to orphanages in villages to the north. This type of travel, to the countries where we work, is so important in maintaining relationships and keeping the process running smoothly.

Join Our Mailing List!



T-shirts with our beautiful 25 for 25 logo are available from the office in adult sizes S, M, L, and XL. They are \$15 apiece (\$3 shipping and handling, \$1 for each additional shirt in the same order). Contact kathy@adoptionadvocates.org to order.

Meet Natnael and Yeski, a lovely brother and sister who have been waiting for a family for 1.5 years at Layla House. Yeski is 12 and a great help around Layla; she loves reading and crocheting. Natnael is 10 and an excellent student who loves soccer and swimming. We would love to find them a family soon.

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