

International News:

Heritage successfully transferred our international families to wonderful adoption agencies who are pleased to help them complete their adoption process. It was very difficult to let go of families we had grown so close to. What helped tremendously was knowing the families would be in experienced and competent hands, and would work with the compassionate and caring people at The Barker Foundation (China) and Children's House International (Haiti). Heritage is still available to provide home study updates & addendums, and post adoption services to our families who live in Alaska, Montana, Oregon & Washington.

Post Placement Reports:

It is very important to honor your commitment for post placement reports and pictures. The countries rely on these reports to be assured your child is thriving with their new family. Families who have adopted from The People's Republic of China should send their post placement report and four current pictures to: **The Barker Foundation, Attn: China Department, 7979 Old Georgetown Road, First Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814**. Families who have adopted from Haiti should send their post placement report and pictures to **Children's House International, Attn: Haiti Department, PO Box 1829, Ferndale, WA 98248**. Families, who have adopted from Kazakhstan, please continue to send your post placement reports and pictures to Heritage.



Kathy Wang:

Hello from Kathy, I am doing very well. I am studying another favorite thing beside adoption, English! I hope to teach English someday.

Zhao Yu:

Many families may remember Zhao Yu, the little girl Heritage asked for donations to help CCAA pay for surgery on her club feet. We are happy to report that along with her nanny, Zhao Yu was brought to Beijing orphanage and received successful surgery in April, 2009. Above is a photo of Kathy Wang visiting Zhao Yu in the hospital. Kathy reports that although Zhao Yu has a lot of healing ahead of her, she will be able to walk and run in the near future! Thank you to all who donated on behalf of this little girl, you have made a profound difference in this child's life.

Hello from Lynne Ammu:

Heritage has been busy since our introduction to the domestic adoption program in Alaska. Heritage was contacted by five birth mothers, four of whom placed through Heritage. Sharing the journey with these courageous young women and their families was an honor. Being part of the matching process, the birthing and placements were joy tinged with sadness.

In addition, to continuing work with birth mothers and domestic adoptions, there are home studies being written for families utilizing other agencies to adopt internationally. International adoption is a much longer process, yet equally exciting to share the wonder of those children becoming part of their new Alaskan family.

Heritage is continuing to offer families the support and services needed in a state where few agencies are licensed. We are working to provide adoption workers in areas all over the state, so that adoption will be more accessible to families outside the Anchorage area, as we strengthen services in the south central area. The Heritage staff appreciates the opportunity to work with those who live in a variety of Alaskan life styles and family constellations and are interested in expanding their family through adoption.

We continue to be excited to offer excellent programs for the many families in Alaska who have adopted through Heritage programs and the families who will adoption with us in the future.

HERITAGE ADOPTION SERVICES

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FRIENDS

A Publication of Heritage Adoption Services

Oregon - Washington - Montana - Alaska

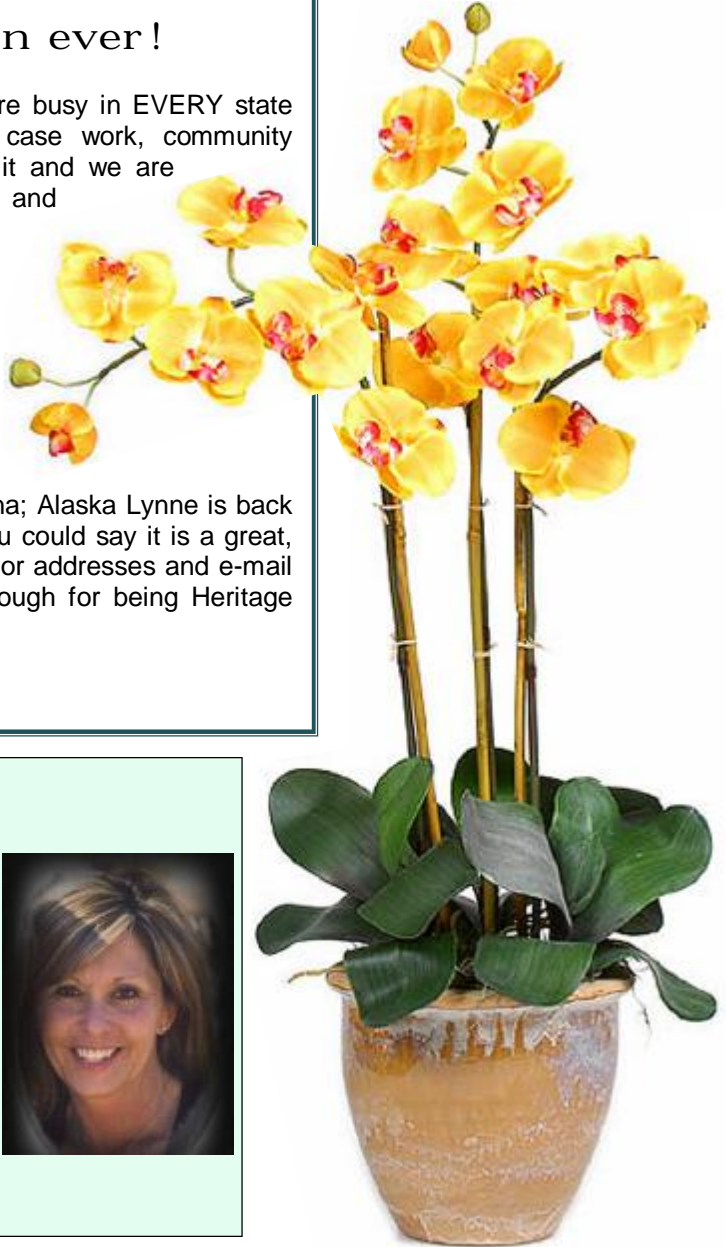
Heritage is stronger than ever!



Heritage is humming along. We are busy in EVERY state with Home Studies, birth parent case work, community relations development...you name it and we are busy. No one is more surprised and thrilled about this than I am.

Please remember that we are conducting International Home Studies for both Hague and non-Hague countries. Oregon has a new education requirement for families and Cindy has developed a great curriculum. Thessie has returned to us, Kerri is becoming firmly entrenched in Montana; Alaska Lynne is back from Turkey. New staff to meet, new work today. I guess you could say it is a great, new day! We invite you to update your contact information for addresses and e-mail and to continue to watch us grow. We can't thank you enough for being Heritage families.

- Deborah



Hello from Montana -

My name is Kerri Wells and I am the new Montana Coordinator for Heritage Adoption Services. I began working with adoptive families and birthparents ten years ago as a caseworker for the State of Montana. My husband's career relocated our family to the south, there I worked for an adoption agency in Dallas, Texas for several years. I am very happy to be back home in Montana and part of the Heritage family. Heritage continues to expand throughout Montana providing domestic adoption services, training, home studies and post placement reports for adoptive parents as well as support and counseling to the courageous women choosing the loving option of adoption.



HART:

Heritage Adoption Services would like to inform you of new Oregon Adoption Regulation changes that will affect all prospective adoptive families who plan on getting a homestudy, even folks who have gotten a homestudy in the past. The State of Oregon is now requiring all people seeking an Independent Adoptive Home Study to receive 10 hours of Adoptive Parent Training. This went into effect October 17, 2008. Each prospective adoptive parent will now need to receive this training.

Six of the training hours must be completed before a Home Study can be finalized. The remaining four hours may be completed after the Home Study is finalized. The State has laid out the exact content of the training. Some of the topics include child development, the attachment process in adoption, grief, the effects of trauma or other events on child development, effects of prenatal exposure to drugs/alcohol and issues related to race or culture.

In response to this need, **Heritage Adoption Services has developed a Domestic Adoption Training** that will meet all the requirements.

- This will be a six hour training
- It will occur one Saturday a month
- The remaining four hours will be outside work such as taking a free online adoption related class, reading a book that has been recommended in class, listening to a podcast lecture, etc.
- The fee for this class will be \$235

At the completion of the course, a certificate will be sent to the participants.

For more information, please email info@heritageadoption.org or give us a call at 503-233-1099. We are happy to answer all of your questions.