

Passport



to the International Adoption Center

February 2012

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/iac

The IAC's Annual Fundraiser – Passport to Forever – Raises \$100,000 for the IAC

The eleventh annual Passport to Forever benefit dinner took place on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Oscar Event Center at Jungle Jim's International Market in Fairfield. Nearly \$100,000 was raised to directly benefit the International Adoption Center (IAC).



More than 400 people attended the event – Passport to Latin America – and enjoyed carnival games, dinner and a children's fashion show, as well as silent and live auctions. Live auction items included a Staycation Package for a Family of Six, An Outrageous Kid's Birthday Party, a Family Trip to Washington D.C., and a Chinese Cultural Package.

Music during dinner was provided by the Catholic Hispanic Choir of St. Charles Borromeo of Cincinnati, as a preview of the World Choir Games coming to Cincinnati in July. Kit Andrews of Local 12 News was the night's emcee.

Dr. Mary Allen Staat, IAC director, thanked attendees for their support, saying that the proceeds from the event are vital to the center. She said, "Thanks to your support, we have added mental health services for our families including a school intervention specialist and this year, due to the need of our families, we will be adding another therapist to our team. Thank you for sharing my vision and supporting the IAC."

Names and photos from the children's fashion show are included on pages 4 and 5.

The 2011 Adoption Tax Credit Ten Things You Should Know

Nancy Burns, Esq., Mother of Four Internationally Adopted Children

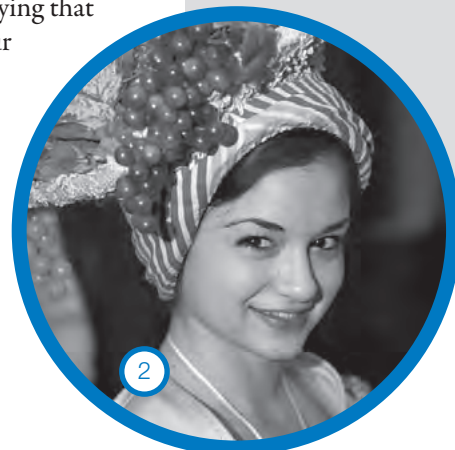
An adoption tax credit is tax credit offered to adoptive parents to encourage adoption. In filing your tax return this year, please keep the following in mind.

- 1 The maximum adoption tax credit for 2011 is \$13,360. The purpose of the adoption tax credit is to offset "qualified adoption expenses" of taxpayers who adopted a child in 2011.

Continued on page 3...

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IAC STAFF MEMBERS

Tracy Byrne, RN
registered nurse
Robin Gordon
post-adoption coordinator
Kelly Hicks, RN, MSN
nurse coordinator
Irina Parkins, PhD
staff psychologist
Christina Ramey
pre-adoption coordinator
Sister Susan Ruedy, MA
school intervention specialist
Mary Allen Staat, MD, MPH
IAC director
Tisha Way, LISW-S
mental health therapist
Tracie Williams
customer service representative, billing

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IAC Volunteers:

Nancy Burns
Anne Chambers
Bobbie Jo Ehlers
Heather Focht
Kate Furlong, board president
Maggie Gieseke
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Nancy Kayes
Victoria Nymberg
Brandy Pence
Herman Rumpke
Autumn Schmidt
Paul Sparling

IAC MISSION

The mission of the International Adoption Center is to uniquely address the health and wellness needs of internationally adopted children, their families, and their communities so that international adoption will be more widely embraced as a way to build families.

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Passport is published three times each year. To be added to or removed from the mailing list for this newsletter, contact Christina Ramey at christina.ramey@cchmc.org or 513-636-2877, opt. 2.

To give feedback about the newsletter or if you have a story idea, contact Jane Howie at jane.howie@cchmc.org or 513-636-0158.

Save the Date – Mark your Calendars!



Victoria Nymberg,
2011 Passport live
auction chair, with
her children Yodeet
and Kaleb

2012 Passport to Forever

When: Saturday, November 3, 2012

Time: 6:15 pm: Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction
8:00 pm: Dinner and Program

Where: The Oscar Event Center at Jungle Jim's International Market

Join TEAM IAC at the Cincinnati Children's Walk

Walk with our team, enjoy a festive day, and raise money for the IAC. In 2011, TEAM IAC raised \$1,600.

When: Saturday, October 2012 (date to be announced)

Where: Coney Island

International Adoption Center Contact Information

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www.cincinnatichildrens.org/iac

For overnight deliveries: 3333 Burnet Ave., Building Location S8.600
Cincinnati, OH 45228

Phone: 513-636-2877; Toll Free 1-800-344-2462, ext. 62877

Fax: 513-636-6936

- Pre-adoption services: Option 2
- Post-adoption services: Option 3
- Post-adoption appointments: Option 1 to speak with the Call Center
- Medical Questions: Option 4
- School Intervention Services: Option 5
- Mental Health Services: Option 6
- Billing or Insurance Questions: Option 7

The 2011 Adoption Tax Credit

Ten Things You Should Know *continued*

- 2** “Qualified adoption expenses” are reasonable and necessary adoption fees, including court costs, attorney fees, travel expenses including airline tickets, meals, lodging, and other expenses directly related to the adoption.
- 3** The adoption credit in 2011 is refundable. This means that the credit can be used to reduce the amount of tax you owe to zero and you will receive a refund for the remaining amount. For years prior to 2010, the credit was nonrefundable. Any unused credit amount could be carried forward for up to five years. In 2010, the credit was made refundable and the ability to carry forward the credit expired.
- 4** The adoption credit amount begins to phase out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income of more than \$185,210 and completely phases out at \$225,210.
- 5** You must complete and attach Form 8839 – Qualified Adoption Expenses, to your return. If the foreign adoption is from a country governed by the Hague Convention, you must also attach The Hague Adoption Certificate, the IH-3 visa, or a foreign adoption decree translated into English. If the foreign adoption is from a country that is not party to the Hague Convention, you must also attach a foreign adoption decree translated into English or an IR-2 or IR-3 visa.
- 6** The IRS may review your return and require additional documentation, including copies of receipts for your claimed expenses, entry visas, final decree, certificate, or order of adoption, and the home study by an authorized placement agency.
- 7** You cannot electronically file your return because of the documentation you are required to attach to your return. You must file a paper return.
- 8** In nearly all cases, if you are married, you must file a joint return to claim the credit.
- 9** If your employer provided adoption benefits, you may be able to exclude those benefits from your income as well as take the adoption credit. However, you cannot take the adoption credit for expenses covered by your employer-provided adoption benefits. The adoption credit and the exclusion for employer-provided benefits are each \$13,360.
- 10** Your state may also provide an adoption tax credit. Ohio's credit is \$1,500 and can be carried forward for two years.

See IRS Form 8839 and Instructions for Form 8839 for detailed instructions. The information provided in this article is general in nature and is not meant as advice for your particular situation. Please consult your tax or legal advisor.

Have Questions about Adoption Tax Credits?

Contact Nancy Burns at nburns@smrslaw.com or 513-345-1411.



Nancy Burns, with her children from left to right: Andrew, Emily, Ailsa and Will

Nancy Burns and her husband Mark Bever are the proud parents of four children from Kazakhstan. They are also attorneys with the same Cincinnati Law firm - Schwartz Manes Ruby & Slovin.

The 11th Annual Passport to Forever - continued

Donations are still being accepted. To give, please contact Britt Nielsen at britt.nielsen@cchmc.org or 513-636-5647 for more information.

Save the Date:

2012 Passport to Forever – Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Oscar Center at Jungle Jim's International Market

How to Get Involved:

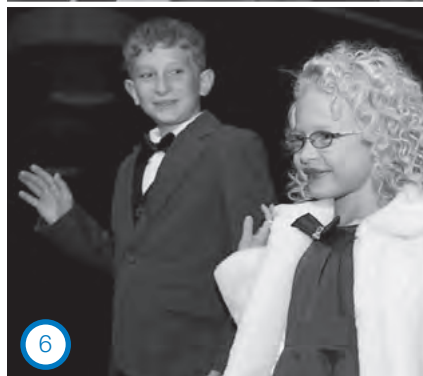
- Volunteer to help with the auction events, raffle or fashion show
- Bring back unique items from your child's country of origin to donate to the silent auction

Details:

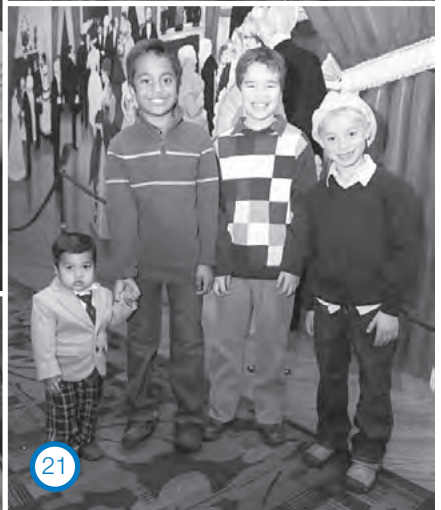
For more information about how to get involved, contact event co-chairs Nancy Kayes at kayesfamily@cinci.rr.com or Karen Sparling at karen.sparling@cchmc.org.

1. Elliott Venter with her mother Emily Venter- front page
2. Volunteer Stephanie Gerard sells raffle tickets- front page
3. Lily Williams (Bulgaria), Ailsa Bever (Kazakhstan), and Mia Schnell (Russia)
4. Henry and Jamie Gieseke (Guatemala)
5. Emmy Schmidt (China), Lily Mullin (China) and Mary Helen Strasser (Russia)
6. Pasha and Olya Pence (Kazakhstan)
7. Rosie Gieseke (Ethiopia) and Ryan Barnes (Guatemala)
8. Kenneth and Natalie Sparling (Russia)
9. Vedika Ehlers (India), Jenna Sinetra (volunteer), and Nicholas Johnson (Russia)
10. Nathan (Korea) and Susannah Boerner (China)
11. Elliott Venter (Ethiopia) and Caterina Kenet (Guatemala) with volunteer
12. Peter and Mary Catherine Sebralla (Thailand)
13. Daniel Barkdoll (Honduras), Sibella Russell (China) and Gus Staubitz (Romania)
14. Xavier Nichols (Colombia)
15. Alena Koenig (Russia)
16. Maria and Reina Haas (Guatemala)
17. Emily and Will Bever (Kazakhstan)
18. Emma and Ava Zigmunt (China)
19. Alex English (Siberia)
20. Elli Focht (Taiwan) and Ellie Davis (Vietnam)
21. Rickson Herrell (The Marshall Islands), Gavin Bangert (The Marshall Islands), Andrew Bever (Kazakhstan) and Jace Jones (Siberia)
22. Nancy Kayes, Passport co-chair, Mary Allen Staat, IAC director, Kit Andrews, Local 12 anchor and event emcee, and Karen Sparling, Passport co-chair pose with holiday gift baskets

Photos from the Passport



to Forever Fashion Show and Dinner



A special
THANKS
to everyone who
participated in
making this year's
event a success!

From the IAC Experts

Executive Functioning Skills

Sister Sue Ruedy, School Intervention Specialist



What comes to mind when you hear the words ‘executive functioning’? What picture do you have in mind? For me, I see an executive sitting at their desk – functioning in the workplace!

Executive functioning skills are brain-based skills that help us perform, or execute tasks.

These skills are sometimes referred to as the command center of the brain, or the secretary of the brain. Executive functioning skills help us plan and direct our activities. They also allow us to regulate our behavior in order to reach a goal.

How are executive functioning skills developed? Are we born with them? When we are born, executive functioning skills, like language skills, are present, but not developed. Executive functioning skills develop over time, in a specific sequence, as the brain grows and matures. These skills are not fully developed in our brains until young adulthood.

What are these skills? Researchers have identified 11 skills considered to be

EF skills: response inhibition, working memory, emotional control, sustained attention, task initiation, planning/prioritization, organization, time management, goal directed persistence, flexibility, and metacognition.

The first skill to develop is response inhibition. This is the ability to think before we act, and decide when and if we will respond. It includes the ability to stop a behavior when a behavior is inappropriate, as well as the ability to stay focused when there are many distractions. Like driving a car, response inhibition allows us to “put the brake on” an action when needed.

Do these skills have an impact on my child’s behavior and success in school? Yes! Let’s consider how response inhibition alone impacts learning.

In the classroom, children of all ages are expected to listen while the teacher is talking, raise their hand to answer a question instead of blurting out the answer, not interrupt one another, and keep their hands and feet to themselves. In the primary grades, some schools use a color card system where every child starts out ‘green’. Children change the color of their card if they misbehave; those who stay ‘green’ all day are rewarded. For many children, especially those with impulsive behaviors, staying ‘green’ all day is not a realistic expectation. In turn, a difficult morning will likely result in a difficult afternoon, as the child has no incentive to correct the behavior. Ask the teacher to divide the day into 2 or 4 segments. This will give the child multiple opportunities to be successful throughout the day.

Older children are expected to focus their attention and keep their comments about peers, teacher, and/or work load

to themselves. Encourage your child to remove themselves from distracting situations by sitting away from their friends and in close proximity to the teacher. Ask the teacher to identify situations that are more difficult for your child, and then assist them in developing possible solutions.

Where can I get more information? Watch for future articles in this newsletter and for more immediate information, contact Sister Sue Ruedy at susan.ruedy@cchmc.org or 513-803-0775.

About Sister Sue Ruedy:

Sister Sue received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary and Special Education from the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati. She has a Masters of Arts in Special Education and Learning Disabilities from Marshall University and has over 30 years of experience in education.

As the IAC school intervention specialist, Sister Sue serves as a primary resource to parents and schools to address issues that affect the academic, social and emotional functioning of an internationally adopted child in the school setting. Some of the services she provides include:

- Child advocacy at school
- Educational record reviews
- Classroom observations
- Parent workshops
- Educational law expertise

What is Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)?

Tisha Way, LISW-S, Mental Health Therapist



PCIT is an empirically-based parent-child treatment program that assists parents of children 2 to 7 years old who exhibit behavioral problems. PCIT was originally developed by Dr. Sheila Eyberg at the University of Florida. Often parents will present concerns that their child has significant tantrums or is aggressive, controlling, defiant, attention seeking, etc. They have had difficulty administering discipline because there does not appear to be a consequence severe enough. PCIT can be very effective for these behaviors, as it focuses on promoting positive parent-child relationships and interactions, while teaching parents effective child management skills.

This therapy involves two program components: relationship enhancement and strategies for compliance.

- In the relationship enhancement phase, parents are taught and coached how to decrease negative behaviors while strengthening the quality of the relationship. Through this, children learn how to effectively seek attention and regulate their emotions.

- In the compliance phase, parents are taught and coached the elements of effective discipline and child management skills.

PCIT is a trauma-informed therapy that has been adapted as an intervention for many different types of families.

Due to their history of developmental traumas and attachment insecurities, I have found PCIT to be a particularly effective strategy to consider for children who have been internationally adopted.

In addition to improving behavioral problems, there is empirical evidence that PCIT also supports language development, fine motor skills, attention, and concentration.

What if I am interested in learning PCIT strategies, but my child does not fit the age or behavioral criteria?

Relationship enhancement strategies can be valuable tools for all IAC families. The CARES model (Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement) was derived from PCIT to serve as a tool for older children and children who do not exhibit extensive behavioral problems.

How can I begin PCIT or CARES?

Contact the IAC Call Center to schedule a Diagnostic Interview (513-636-2877, option #1). The first visit is for parents to discuss your child's history and concerns. Future sessions will include direct observation of interactions with your child, extensive education about the PCIT interventions to be used at home, and direct coaching with you and your child.

About Tisha Way:

Tisha graduated with a Masters of Social Science Administration (MSW) concentrating in Mental Health from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH.

She completed her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work at Xavier University.

As the IAC mental health therapist, Tisha conducts diagnostic assessments of children recently adopted and counsels children and parents to foster post-adoption support and enhance well-being. Her areas of focus include:

- Anxiety
- Adjustment issues
- Attachment issues
- Trauma
- Executive functioning skills
- ADHD
- Depression

The IAC at a Glance

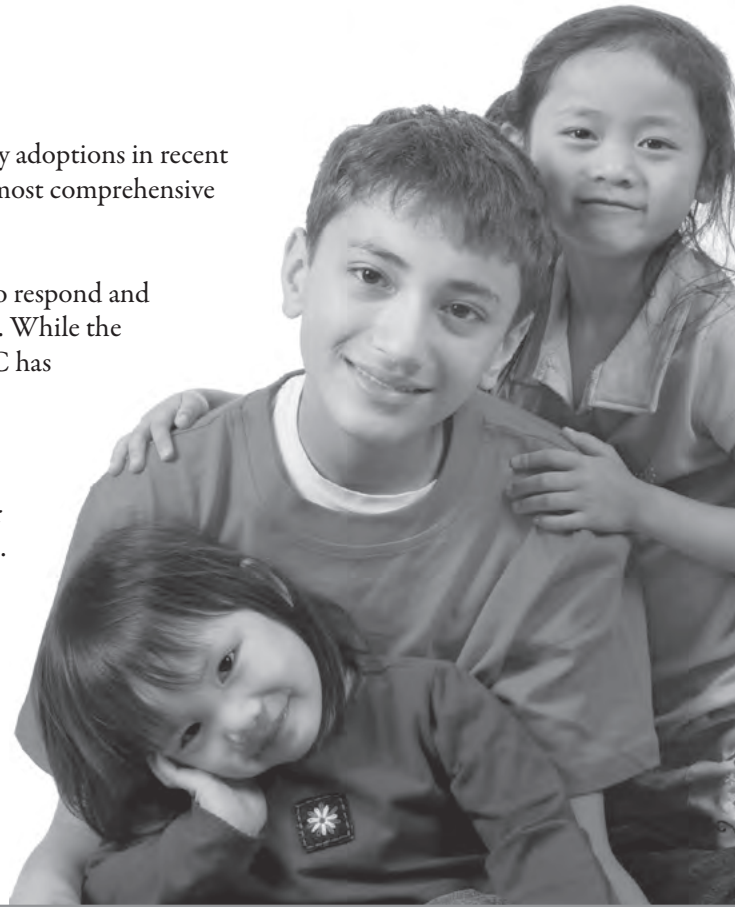
Update from Dr. Mary Allen Staat, director

Although there has been a steady decrease in international or intercountry adoptions in recent years, with your support, the IAC continues to be one of the largest and most comprehensive international adoption centers in the United States.

The IAC has been quick to react to new trends and remains committed to respond and adapt to the needs of adoptive parents in this ever-changing environment. While the center continues to promote its traditional pre-adoption services, the IAC has made tremendous progress in providing post-adoption services.

This year, we will:

- Add another mental health therapist to the team to join Tisha Way, our current mental health therapist, in response to the needs of our families.
- Continue to look at ways to enhance our services and provide the most optimal care for our families, including strengthening our school intervention services.
- Offer educational programs, workshops and seminar offerings to families, as well as agencies and healthcare professionals.
- Advance our research program to further examine the health status of internationally adopted children.



Address Service Requested

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Adoption Center

International

