

THE SACRED PORTION CHILDREN'S OUTREACH

A Child Caring Ministry

Fall 2011

"And you...shall rejoice in all the good which the Lord your god has given you and your household. And you...shall say before the Lord your God. I have removed the sacred portion from my house, and have given it to...the orphan according to all thy commandments which thou has commanded me...I have listened to the voice of the Lord my God."

Deuteronomy 26: 11, 12, & 14

Our Mission



The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing for the needy children of the world who are without homes or families.

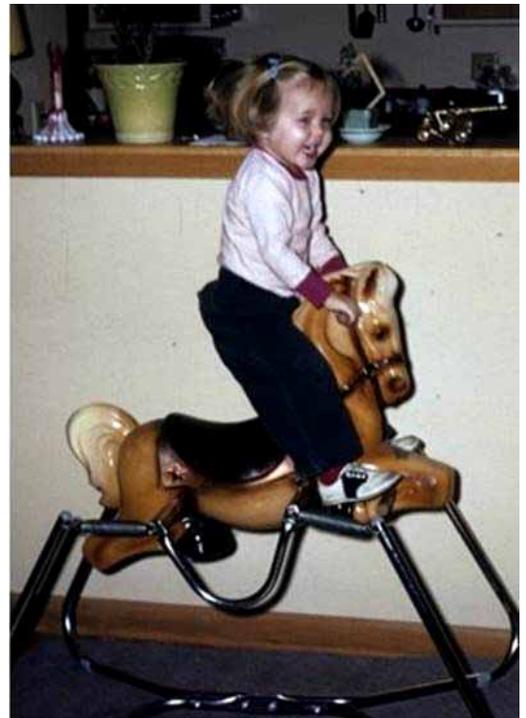
Formerly known in our community as Southwood Child and Family Education Center, the organization was directly involved for 22 years in the development and operation of an early childhood program. In 1997 the organization passed the care and continuation of that program into another's hands and the founders, Craig and Jan Druckenmiller, turned their hearts to serving a more needy population of the world's children.

With a new name and a new mission, the organization seeks to provide better environments for children living in orphanages and to ultimately move them on to brighter futures through adoption.

In Memory of Bonnie

By Jan Druckenmiller

I did not know Bonnie Burgard as a child, nor as a teenager or even as a young adult. My personal acquaintance with Bonnie spanned only a segment of the 49 years of her life, beginning with a relationship through church and later expanding into a common interest in adoption and orphan care. As we moved in this realm with Bonnie and her husband, Mike, I came to know Bonnie for the woman that she was. Her passion for children needing families was profound and played out in her own life through the adoption of seven children. When she passed away in June 2006 from cancer, a sizable memorial gift gave rise to the vision of a new baby home built in Bonnie's memory as an expansion of the Rehoboth Children's Home. That gift combined with other contributions made it possible to acquire a piece of ground in Sampaloc, Philippines as a first step towards the realization of a larger and more adequate facility to care for the infants and toddlers at Rehoboth. Memorial gifts designated for Bonnie's Heart Baby Home trickled in over the next few years, but it seemed that it would be forever in raising the \$100,000 needed for the construction of this facility.



Continued on page 2



Bonnie's parents, Dick and Muriel Hill, and her sister, Betty Hill, must have felt the same way and decided to get serious about raising the money. The Hills from Virginia launched a Family and Friends Campaign on February 14, 2011. Five immediate family members pledged \$20,000 with hopes that other relatives and old friends of Bonnie's would join them in raising an additional \$20,000. That amount combined with the \$10,000 in gifts that had been received since 2006 would take us halfway to the goal of \$100,000. The hope was that the money raised would then bring forth a matching grant to complete the funding needed for the construction of the Baby Home.

People responded and, as each month went by, the spreadsheet tracking donations and pledges inched closer to the Hill's goal. By May 2011, the total had crossed over the \$50,000 mark and continued to increase in June and July. Then, in August, we received a "mystery check" that bumped the funds up to \$95,000, just \$5,000 short of the

total amount needed for the Baby Home! We are amazed at what God has brought forth through the Hill's determination to see Bonnie's Heart Baby Home become a reality.

Now that we are almost guaranteed to have the \$100,000 necessary for construction, the Hills have shifted their focus towards equipping the Baby Home and raising funds for operating costs. To assure construction of an excellent building as designed by Engineering Ministries International (eMi), they also want to have an additional \$10,000 available as a construction contingency. In response to the love and generosity that has been shown in the first eight months of what began as a 24-month campaign, the Hills have now lifted their objective to \$125,000 which will provide \$110,000 for construction and \$15,000 for furnishings. All funds raised above \$125,000 will be applied to the operating budget of the Baby Home.



The Burgard Family in June 2004

We are so very grateful to the Hills for taking this project to heart and are astounded at how God has expanded their timid goal of \$40,000 beyond what any of us ever imagined. We are thankful for the people who knew and loved Bonnie and have given so generously from their personal resources. We are equally thankful to those people who perhaps did not know this amazing woman, but whose hearts have been touched by this project and have responded accordingly. The Rehoboth Children's Home is constantly full to capacity. Bonnie's Heart Baby Home will meet a great need in allowing us to serve more children and to care for the youngest of these children in a more adequately designed facility. How exciting that it is actually going to happen!



What's Next?



With the success of Bonnie's Heart Baby Home Family and Friends Campaign, construction of the Baby Home is scheduled to begin in the early part of 2012. We, the Druckenmillers, have plans to move our family to the Philippines in June of 2012 for a nine-month stay to oversee the construction of the Baby Home. There are so many day-to-day decisions that have to be made during the construction process and it is very important to us that the Baby Home be built in a way that will make it an excellent facility for caring for infants and toddlers. This upcoming adventure is very daunting to us as a family. Yet, we know that it will be a rich experience and have long looked to the day when we could become a part of the daily heartbeat of the Rehoboth Children's Home rather than just travelers coming and going. I have posted the following inspirational words by my desk in the office and look at them whenever the thought of transporting a family of six overseas feels too crazy and overwhelming!

Fear not the risks of braving the wilds and unknown in your service for God. Fear more the regret of never having the opportunity to serve Him in that special way again.



Rehoboth Expansion Project Time Table

Finalization of blueprints for Baby Home	December 2011
Druckenmillers travel to Philippines to finish details of Medical Clinic	January 2012
Spring break work team	March 9 - 17, 2012
Break ground on Baby Home	March 2012
Grand opening of Medical Clinic	April 1, 2012
Druckenmillers move to Philippines for nine months	June 2012
Construction of Baby Home	March 2012 to April 2013

Rehoboth Medical Clinic Nearly Complete

The construction of the Rehoboth Medical Clinic is nearly complete, lacking only bathroom fixtures and cabinetry. A grant for \$1 million has been applied for through USAID for equipping the clinic and three years of operating expenses. It is our hope and prayer that this grant comes through so that the clinic can get up and running as soon as possible. The clinic will be a great benefit to the community of Sampaloc in providing affordable, accessible medical



services. It will also allow for the children residing at Rehoboth to have free medical care, significantly helping the budget for the Children's Home. The clinic will utilize local doctors, but will also be an opportunity for medical mission teams to come and serve.

We are grateful for the crew of local Filipino workers who did a commendable job in building the clinic. It's beautiful! We are also very appreciative of the Lion's Club International Foundation for providing a grant for the clinic.

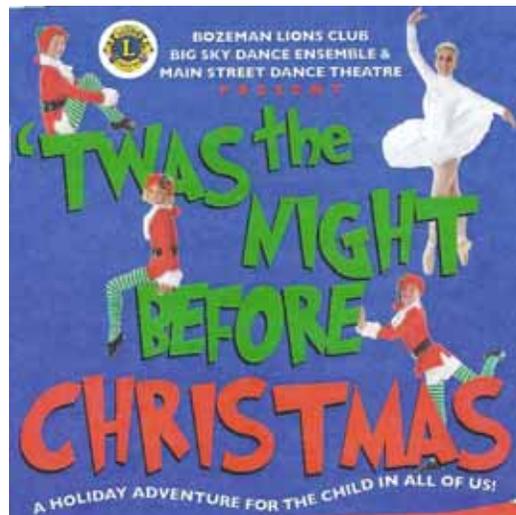


The Bozeman Lion's Club, Big Sky Dance Ensemble, and the Main Street Dance Theatre will once again be presenting **T'was the Night Before Christmas** holiday show and donating the proceeds to the Rehoboth Medical Clinic. Money raised from this Christmas production will be used to purchase cabinetry and bathroom fixtures and to landscape the front of the clinic.

Saturday, December 17
Shows at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Wilson Auditorium

Ticket Prices: Before Show:
\$15 Adults; \$7 Children 4 - 12; ages 3 & under Free
Day of Show: \$17 Adults; \$9 Children 4 - 12

Tickets can be purchased at Cactus Records and Main Street Dance





Summer of Hope 2011

This was our 9th summer to do the Summer of Hope program. Our annual Hope Walk was a success and generated the funds needed to cover the cost of bringing the children from overseas for the summer program.

A total of nine children were hosted in Montana which included four children from the Philippines and five children from Ethiopia. Two children were hosted by families in Billings, one in Big Sky and the rest in the Bozeman area. This was our first time to bring children from Ethiopia which was very fun and exciting! It was also the first summer to have all single children participating in the program as we normally have quite a few sibling pairs or sibling groups.

The children from the Philippines arrived on July 6 and the children from Ethiopia on July 8. The children participated in the usual summer program activities and had a great time. We had record attendance at our weekly community picnics with 120 to 140 people at each event which included past host/adoptive families and other interested persons. It is so encouraging to see the adoption community that has developed over the years as a result of the summer program.

The children were graciously served once again by the medical community with each child having a basic physical exam, dental exam, vision and hearing screening.

The children returned to their respective countries and orphanages on August 6 and August 8. We are pleased to announce that all nine children have families moving forward with adoption! Thanks be to God!

We are very grateful to all of the families who opened their hearts and homes to the children, to the volunteers in our community who helped us organize the Hope Walk and other aspects of the summer program, and to all of the businesses and people who generously donated to make Summer of Hope 2011 possible.



THANK YOU TO TIM AND MARY BARNARD FOR GENEROUSLY SUPPORTING SUMMER OF HOPE FOR SEVEN YEARS RUNNING!

A special thank you to the following medical professionals who donated services

BOZEMAN

Dr. Joel Sayre/Gallatin Valley Pediatric Dentistry

For providing dental exams for seven children

Dr. Jeff Squire/Eyes on Main

For providing vision screenings for seven children

Dr. Cathy Waterman-Grace & Dr. Collette Kirchoff/Family Practice Associates

For providing basic medical exams for seven children

Trang Rogers/Big Sky ENT

For providing hearing screenings for seven children

BILLINGS

Dr. Brian Starr/Billings Clinic Pediatrics

For providing basic medical exams for two children

Dr. Lughton Jones/Wicks Dental Clinic

For providing a dental exam for one child

Dr. Rob Currence/Beartooth Vision Center

For providing a vision exam for one child

Dr. Douglas Rehder/Rehder Hearing & Balance Clinic

For providing assistance to one of the SOH children with hearing aids



Summer of Hope 2011 Host Families

We are very grateful to each of the families who participated in Summer of Hope 2011, making it possible for a child to enjoy a fun, summer vacation and have the chance to find a permanent family through adoption. Due to Ethiopia's strict regulations on posting any pictures or identifying information on the children, we are not able to show pictures here of the families and hosted children from Ethiopia. Our heart-felt gratitude is extended to the Davis family of Billings, MT, the Koroiyale/Olson family, Herzog family, and Shultz family all of Bozeman, MT, and the Heaton family of Belgrade, MT.



The Wilson family of Big Sky, MT hosted John Levy, age 7, from the Philippines.



The Platt family of Billings, MT hosted Noel, age 8, from the Philippines.



The Andriolo family of Bozeman, MT hosted Joyce Ann, age 10, from the Philippines.



The Jardstrom family of Bozeman, MT hosted Sheila May, age 10, from the Philippines.

After the Airport

By Jen Hatmaker

I'm going to tell you something; a little confession, if you will. Some of you will pull your hair out and smear your faces with ashes and put all my books on eBay and quit believing in God, but I'm willing to take that risk:

I'm really, really glad all my kids are back in school.

There, I said it. The three children that I birthed and nursed and raised from scratch, and the two children we begged and cried and screeched for and fetched from Africa...all five of these kids are in school. And I am happy, so happy, happy, happy, happy, hip-hip-hooray Mary Poppins happy.

For my friends and readers who homeschool, I tip my hat and say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servants." And believe me, I have a couple of besties who paddle in that stream, and paddle it well. For some kids in some cities in some families in some districts, this is the very right thing. The end. Why people feel the need to make a fuss about how other parents decide to educate their children is beyond me. Let's live and let live, y'all. For the love of Pete.

But I cannot educate my own children, people, unless I am OK with us all becoming homicidal.

Plus, we're in a nice little Bermuda triangle where our kids feed into fabulous schools with vested teachers that make me want to weep with gratitude. The language resources for my Amharic speakers is over the top, and I have a free pass to attend school each and every day, which I have exercised with zero

restraint.

But this is not a post about homeschooling or public schooling. The reason I am happy my kids are in school is not because I lack the organization to educate five kids (which I do), it's not because I've chosen a career with a moderate workload (which I have), and it's not because I'm a little sloppy on details and my kids would likely graduate with a sixth-grade education (which they would).

It's because parenting right now is EXHAUSTING and the mental break is keeping me afloat.

On July 22nd we came down the escalator at the Austin airport with Remy. On August 21st we came down the same escalator with Ben. These were two of the happiest days of my life. After an arduous adoption journey, our kids were safe in our arms, tucked into their bunk beds their dad built with his own two hands, surrounded by the dearest, most sincere community we have ever known. God delivered them from poverty and abandonment back into a family, no longer alone in this big world; now wanted and loved and welcomed with great fervor.

The end.

Not.

Remy gave us about 12 hours of honeymooning until her terror burst onto the scene. Sometimes her fear is so palpable, it literally takes my breath away. New places: terror. New faces: total

insecurity. Transitions: help us, Jesus. She has asked us every single day since July 22nd if she is going back to Ethiopia. Every. Single. Day. When I discovered cashews to be a winning legume for her impossible palate, I told her: "Yay! Good job! Cashews are good for you and will help you grow big and strong!"

"Big? Ah-Rrrremy? Big? Cashews?"

"Yes!"

She pushes them away and starts crying. Once again, I am bewildered and befuddled.

"No! No Ah-Rrrremy grow big! Me big, then go back to Ethiopia! No! Dis is no!"

When a child fears that cashews will once again leave her abandoned on this earth because she will grow out of the age we might still want to parent her, you are dealing with heartbreaking fragility.

Her fear comes out as 1) defiance, 2) terror, 3) catatonic disassociation, in that order. We've been spit on, kicked, disobeyed, refused, clung to, begged for, adored, ignored, and rejected. Triggers are unpredictable. Yesterday, we entered an hour-long Armageddon because she wouldn't put her bike up. This turned into defiance and disrespect, deal breakers as we establish safe boundaries. When at long last her angry, dark face relented, and she finally uttered in the smallest voice: "I'm sorry Mommy. I'm sorry Daddy," the dam broke and she cried for thirty minutes, telling us over and over

that we don't love her and she is going back to Africa.

Meanwhile, Ben sidled up quietly next to me as Brandon held Remy's flailing legs, and asked in a whisper: "Mom? Forever?"

Is this family forever, even with this hysterical girl? Are you forever, even though she is draining the lifeblood out of you and Dad? Am I forever, once my junk starts coming out that I'm holding in? Are you forever to her? For me? Should I be worried that you'll only put up with this level of chaos for so long?

God love them.

We are parenting damaged, traumatized children; don't let the pictures fool you. We're in the weeds. Every minute is on; there is no off. We've arrived late, cancelled altogether, hunkered down in therapy mode, missed appointments, failed to answer hundreds of emails in a timely manner, left voicemails unlistened to, texts unread, we've restructured, regrouped, replanned, reorganized, we've punted and called audibles, we've left the bigs on their own, hoping they are functioning well on auto-pilot after a lifetime of healthy stability, and sometimes, we put "Tangled" on for the eleventh time and cry in the bathroom.

We are exhausted beyond measure.

I know what you're thinking. You asked for this. Yes we did. And we'd ask for it again, with full disclosure and foreknowledge. We would. We would say yes to adoption, to Ben, to Remy. We would do it all over again. We might do it all over again in the future.

That does not mean we are not exhausted.

I know what else you might be thinking: Are you trying to scare people away from adoption? Because this is pretty good propaganda for turning a blind eye to this mess. No I'm not. While adoption is clearly not the answer for the 170 million orphans on earth, it is one answer, and I'll go to the grave begging more people to open their homes and minds and hearts to abandoned children who are praying for a Mom and Dad and a God who might still see them.

But Brandon and I decided some time ago to go at this honestly, with truthful words and actual experiences that might encourage the weary heart or battle some of the fluffy, damaging semi-truths about adopting. Because let me tell you something: If you are intrigued by the idea of adoption, with the crescendoing storyline and happy airport pictures and the sigh-inducing family portrait with the different skin colors and the feely-feel good parts of the narrative, please find another way to see God's kingdom come.

You cannot just be into *adoption* to adopt; you have to be into *parenting*.

And it is hard, hard, intentional, laborious work. Children who have been abused, abandoned, neglected, given away, given up, and left alone are shaken so deeply, so intrinsically, they absolutely require parents who are willing to wholly invest in their healing; through the screaming, the fits, the anger, the shame, the entitlement, the bed-wetting, the spitting, the rejection, the

bone-chilling fear. Parents who are willing to become the safe place, the Forever these children hope for but are too terrified to believe in just yet.

But "yet" is a powerful word in the context of faith, if we are indeed to believe in the unseen and hope for what has not materialized.

I followed a God into this story who heals and redeems, who restores wasted years and mends broken places. This God specializes in the Destroyed. I've seen it. I've been a part of it. I have His ancient Word that tells of it. I love a Jesus who made reconciliation his whole mission. My children will not remain broken. They are loved by too good a Savior. I will not remain exhausted and spent. I am loved by too merciful a Father.

So today, I'm writing for you who are somewhere "after the airport." The big moment is over and you are living in the aftermath when the collective grief or euphoria has passed. You lost a parent, a sibling, a friend, a child. The experience mobilized every single human being who loves you and they rallied, gathered, carried you. And now it's three months later on a random Tuesday, and the sting has worn off for everyone else, and you are left in your sorrow.

I'm writing for those of you who had the oh-so-wanted baby after the cheers and showers and Facebook fervor, and now you're struggling with a depression so dark and deep, you are afraid to say it out loud. To you who moved across the country in obedience - you left your family, church, community, your jobs - and now the headline has passed and you are lonely and unanchored. For my friends

who've brought their adopted children home and the media frenzy has died down, and you are holding a screaming toddler, a fragile kindergartener, an angry teen, trying to catch your breath and make it through the day without bawling while everyone else has gone back to their regularly scheduled programs...I'm with you today.

More importantly, God is with you today. He remains in the chaos long after it has lost its shine. When the delivered meals have stopped and the attention has waned, Jesus remains. He sticks with us long after it is convenient or interesting. If you feel alone today in your new normal, would you please receive this bit of beauty: this simple Scripture recited billions of times throughout the ages, perhaps without the poetry of David or the precision of Paul, but with enough truth to sustain the weariest traveler:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut. 31:6)

He will never leave.

Never forsake.

Never.

For my readers who love someone living "after the airport," the big moment - be it a blessed high or a devastating low - is never the completion. The grief and struggle, the work and effort, the healing and restoring comes later. Will you call your friend who lost her mom to cancer five months ago? Will you check in on your friends who adopted this spring? Email your neighbor who took a big risk and moved or changed jobs or quit to stay home. For the love of Moses, do you have a friend who stepped out and

started a church last year? Bring him a lasagna and do not be alarmed if he sobs into his French bread.

We are still in the thick of hard, exhausting work, so if you ask me if these are the happiest days of my life (which a ton of you have), and my eyes kind of glaze over and I say through a tight-lipped smile like a robot, "Yes. Sure. Of course. This is my dream life"...I am lying. I am lying so you won't feel uncomfortable when I tell you, "Actually, I haven't had a shower in three days, I lost my temper with my uncontrollable daughter this morning and had to walk outside, I'm constantly cleaning up pee because uncircumcised tee-tee goes sideways onto walls, and sometimes when my two little ones are asleep and we're downstairs with the original three kids who are so stable and healthy and easy, it creates a nostalgia so intense, I think I might perish. But enough about me. How are you?"

But that would be weird. So I say, "Yes, I am so happy."

If you are living "after the airport," how I wish I could transplant my community into your life; friends who have loved us so completely and exhaustively, I could weep just thinking about it. Maybe one of the most brilliant ways God "never leaves us" and "never forsakes us" is through the love of each other. Maybe He knew that receiving love from people with skin on is the most excellent way, so He gave us an entire set of Scriptures founded on community and sacrificial love for one another. I guess He realized that if we obeyed, if we became more like His Son, then no one would every want for mercy when their chips were

down. No one. Good plan.

Oh let us be a community who loves each other well. Because someone is always struggling through the "after the airport" phase, when the chords of human kindness become a lifeline of salvation. Let us watch for the struggling members of our tribe, faking it through sarcasm or self-deprecation or a cheerfully false report. May we refuse to let someone get swallowed up in isolation, drowning in grief or difficulties that seem too heavy to let anyone else carry. Let's live this big beautiful Life together, rescuing each other from the brink and exposing the unending compassion of our Jesus who called us to this high level of community; past the romantic beginning, through the messy and mundane middles, and all the way to the depths.

Printed with permission of Jen Hatmaker. If you are interested in reading more of Jen Hatmaker's writings, visit her blog at <http://jenhatmaker.com/blog>. Jen has also authored a number of spiritual books for women and does speaking engagements.

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. Take some time this month to wrap around an adoptive family that you know:

- **Take them a meal**
- **Offer to run errands or do some shopping**
- **Do their laundry or clean their house**
- **Provide a respite break**
- **Lend an ear**
- **Pray for them**

EQUIP

A Support Group To Equip Parents As They Begin The Adoption Journey



- WHAT:** 9-month Parent Support Group Free of Charge*
WHO: For Pre-Adoptive, New Adoptive Parents & Interested Others
WHERE: Evangelical Free Church, S. 19th St. Bozeman, MT, Room 102
WHEN: The second Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

This group is designed for parents who are interested in adoption, in the process of adopting, those who have newly adopted, and interested others. EQUIP is a structured, psycho-educationally based group lead by a licensed therapist. Each month, we will concentrate on a specific topic relevant to adoption and have time for both teaching and discussion. This group is designed to support those beginning the adoption journey who would like information and the camaraderie of other families at the same early stage in the process. For parents who need the support of other families in dealing with specific challenges usually encountered once their adoptees are settled in (~ 1 year or more into the adoption), we offer the CONNECT group, also available once a month. Please contact Jan Druckenmiller or Kate Cremer-Vogel for more information about this option. We hope you'll join us as we launch EQUIP for the first season this fall 2011! We look forward to seeing you there!

Child care will be available if this is determined to be a need of the group.

*Insurance billing is optional if a family is insured and wants to use their insurance to help defray the overhead of providing this group for the community. Please contact Kate Cremer-Vogel at 582-5480 or by email at cremervogel@theglobal.net if you would like more information about this option.

Topic Agenda 2011-2012

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| September | Introductions & Overview |
| October | What is Attachment & How Does Secure Attachment Develop? |
| November | "Under the Hood" Brain Development & Nature/Nurture |
| December | When Something Goes Wrong: What Can Be Done? |
| January | What Does the Adopted Child Need First? Your Child's Underlying Needs |
| February | Keys to Therapeutic Parenting |
| March | Translating Behavior: Teaching Your Child Who He/She Is |
| April | Prevention Gems: How to Prevent Challenging Behaviors from Arising |
| May | Taking Care of Yourself |

There will be an option of continuing this group during the summer months if there is enough interest.



EQUIP is sponsored by:

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach &
Encompass Ministry



CONNECT

A Support Group To Connect Parents As They Navigate the Challenges of Adoption and Parenting



- WHAT:** Ongoing Parent Support Group Free of Charge*
WHO: For Adoptive Parents, Parents with Challenging Children & Interested Others
WHERE: Evangelical Free Church, S. 19th St. Bozeman, MT, Room 102
WHEN: The last Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

This group is designed for parents who are dealing with specific challenges usually encountered once their adoptees are settled in (~ 1 year or more into the adoption), for parents with challenging children and interested others. CONNECT (formerly Together in Parenting) is a process-based support group lead by a licensed therapist that gives parents a venue in which to form an emotional connection with other parents experiencing similar issues with their children. Each month, we address concerns of parents who are present via peer support and therapeutic suggestions. Parents who are experiencing challenging times with their children find the support of other parents who have been on the adoption and parenting journey for some time to be invaluable. Therapeutic suggestions are offered when appropriate and helpful. For parents who need the support of other families who are at the beginning of the adoption journey and who would like information and the camaraderie of other families at the same early stage in the process, we offer the EQUIP support group, which also meets once a month. Please contact Jan Druckenmiller or Kate Cremer-Vogel for more information about this option. We hope you'll join us as our CONNECT group enters its 4th year of supporting adoptive families and families raising challenging children in the Gallatin Valley! We look forward to seeing you there!

Child care will be available if this is determined to be a need of the group.

*Insurance billing is optional if a family is insured and wants to use their insurance to help defray the overhead of providing this group for the community. Please contact Kate Cremer-Vogel at 582-5480 or by email at cremervogel@theglobal.net if you would like more information about this option.

CONNECT is sponsored by:

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach & Encompass Ministry



Adoption Respite Care Training

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach has been working on developing a volunteer-based adoption respite care ministry in recognition that adoptive families sometimes need a physical and emotional break from parenting their adopted children. We view respite care as an essential post-adoption support service in helping to maintain healthy families.

Our goal in developing a respite care network is to have a group of respite care providers who can be called upon to provide a planned break for adoptive families and who are also available in emergency or crisis situations. Because adopted children can present with some unique challenges, it is very important that those persons providing respite care have been adequately trained. Respite providers need to be knowledgeable about the issues and behaviors that are a result of the trauma and loss that many adopted children have suffered in their past.

On October 7 and 8, 2011, The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach held an Adoption

Respite Care Training for persons interested in becoming respite care providers. The training was presented by Brenda Quillen, Area Director for Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Community Based Services. Participants were given an overview of what respite care is and the goals of this type of service. They were encouraged to explore their motivations for becoming a respite provider and how they envision themselves being a supportive resource to adoptive families.

Brenda Quillen presented a wealth of information, more than could be covered in the time allotted for the training! Discussion took place on some of the challenges or barriers to respite care, responsibilities of a respite family, what to expect when a child is in respite care, the importance of structure and consistency within the respite home, and clear communication of family rules and expectations. Brenda also covered important information for understanding a child's

behavior, grief, and anger, the process of forming attachments, the goals of misbehavior and manipulation, limit setting and de-escalation techniques. A child's behavior in a respite care setting is often very different from what a family experiences at home with their child. A key element in respite care is the ability of respite care providers to provide support to adoptive families without judgment or criticism.

A follow-up to the respite care training was held in November to help participants assess where they are at in their commitment to becoming a respite care provider. Some of the particulars to operating a respite care network were also addressed such as procedures for information exchange between the respite care provider and adoptive family.

We are very excited to have people involved who want to serve in this capacity and look forward to the Adoption Respite Care Network becoming a viable service to adoptive families in our community.

If you are interested in being a part of the Adoption Respite Care Network as a respite care provider, please let us know your interest.

If you are in need of or know an adoptive family that is in need of respite care, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Anna Graham Lindeen at 570-6210 or info@MontanaRespite.org.

SPCO Completes Hague Accreditation Self-Study

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach received \$60,000 in grants the latter part of 2010 and first part of 2011 for the purpose of going through the Hague accreditation process. The Hague Convention which took place in 2000 was a movement to standardize adoption practices and reduce child trafficking. More than 70 countries around the globe have ratified the Hague Convention which means that adoption agencies placing children from those countries must be Hague accredited. Through the accreditation process, agencies must show that they are in compliance with specific standards that address the overall functioning of an agency as well as the agency's adoption services.

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach began a nine-month self-study process in January of 2011 which involved the development of a myriad of policies and procedures, forms and documents to demonstrate compliance with and implementation of the Hague standards. A compilation of this work was sent to the Council on Accreditation on September 26. A team of two evaluators arrived in Bozeman on November 5 and spent the next three days interviewing SPCO's Board of Directors, staff and adoptive families served by the organization. They reviewed our file records and verified that the policies and

procedures developed during our self-study process have become operational. If it makes you feel tired just reading about this, then you can understand how we are feeling at the end of what has been a very intense and, at times, overwhelming nine-month process!

Our accreditation site visit went well and we are feeling confident that we will be granted accreditation. The evaluators' ratings on each of the Hague standards will be sent in a report to be reviewed by a Commission that will then either approve, defer or deny an accreditation decision. We expect to receive the Commission's decision sometime in January 2012.

Once we are Hague accredited, we will be able to apply for international licensure with the foreign countries from which we wish to place children. This will take us to a whole new level of being a complete agency for the families we serve. Rather than just being able to do home studies, we will be able to have a seamless relationship in working with families through the entire adoption process.

A secondary outcome of all of this will be sustainability for the ministry. As an outreach organization for orphaned and abandoned children, we

are adamant about keeping that ministry focus. In other words, we do not want to become an "adoption business." However, the fees gained from the adoption work that we do will create a revenue stream that we desperately need to support our General Fund and provide the administrative support that we need to carry out all of the focuses of this ministry.

Thank you to all of you who prayed through our accreditation site visit. We also covet your prayers for a positive accreditation decision in January!

Thank you once again to the following foundations for making it possible to us to even pursue this goal:

The Cora Foundation

**The Gianforte Family
Charitable Trust**

**The Gilhousen
Family Foundation**



Rehoboth Children's Home Update

This has been a good year for the Rehoboth Children's Home. Aside from a broken bone, the children have been relatively healthy and there were no significant typhoons that affected the area of Sampaloc. For that we are thankful!



Maia's Market in Australia

Also on our list of things to be thankful for is that the Rehoboth Children's Home will be finishing out the year 2011 without a deficit! This is a bit of a miracle given that we had projected a \$40,000 shortfall for 2011 at the beginning of the year. We made the need known back then and people responded by becoming child sponsors or generously gifting from their personal resources. Those gifts combined with fundraising efforts in the U.S., Australia, the U.K., and the Philippines throughout the year made up the difference in what we were lacking.

Although we are relieved to finish out 2011 without a deficit, the grim reality is that we will be completely out of funds by the end of December with nothing to start 2012. So, I am calling on the help of all of our friends and ministry partners once again and ask that you would consider what level of support you might be able to commit to for the Rehoboth Children's Home in the coming year. Perhaps you would consider sponsoring a child for \$25 US per month if you are not already doing so. If you would rather not sponsor a child, a monthly commitment to Rehoboth's general fund would be equally effective. If a monthly pledge of support is not possible for you, a one time gift of any amount would be very much appreciated.

We feel a sense of accomplishment in that we have been able to broaden our support base a bit more each year and have moved away from being so reliant on several main sponsors. We need to keep the momentum going in that direction and hope that you will all be with us again in 2012 doing what you did so well in 2011!

The Rehoboth Children's Home saw eleven children come through its doors in 2011. Thirteen children were also discharged in 2011 including one transfer to another institution, three children reunited with family, three local adoptions and six inter-country adoptions. It certainly is a revolving door! Rehoboth is a temporary haven where children can be restored to health and a plan made for their futures. Our goal is to move them back out through that door into the arms of a permanent family as quickly as possible. Your generosity and support is what keeps that door spinning!



Akiko at home in the Netherlands

Your donation can be conveniently made through Paypal by going to the Rehoboth web site at www.rehobothchildrenshome.com and clicking on the Donate button. A page will come up where you can select either General Fund or Sponsor a Child as ways to designate your support. We also have the capacity to set up automatic payments through Paypal from your bank account which you can cancel at any time. Paypal donations come through The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach, Rehoboth's partner organization in the U.S. We then wire the funds to Rehoboth on a regular basis. Donations can also be mailed to The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach address.

The Revolving Door of Rehoboth



Our Rehoboth Family

Trip to the UK

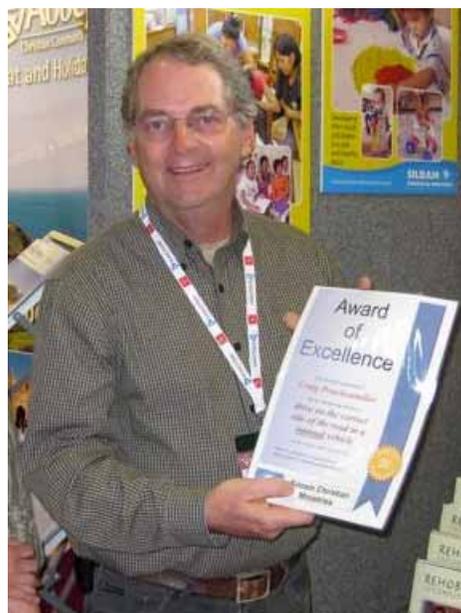


In May 2011, Craig and Jan Druckenmiller had the privilege of traveling to the UK to participate in a Christian Resource Exhibition held in Esher, England. Siloam Christian Ministries of the UK has been one of the main supporters of the Rehoboth Children's Home since its inception and also supports many other charitable causes throughout the world. Siloam had planned to devote its booth at this particular exhibition to the Rehoboth Children's Home and invited us to make a personal presence there in an effort to raise interest in and support for the Home. Knowing that we would probably never have this opportunity again, we

scheduled our trip to include some time for traveling through the Cotswolds prior to the exhibition and two days of sight-seeing in London before returning home. The rolling green countryside dotted with sheep and the quaint little villages were as picturesque as we had imagined. And it was thrilling to stand in such notable places as Stonehenge and Westminster Abbey, and to tour the underground cabinet war rooms from which Winston Churchill directed England's involvement in World War II. Of course, fun was balanced by work and we stood for four days in the exhibition booth passing out brochures on the Rehoboth Children's Home and talking to people who stopped long enough to give us their ear. Although there is no way to measure what the impact will be of our participation in this exhibition, we hope it sparked some interest and that Siloam Christian Ministries will experience an increased level of giving designated for the Rehoboth Children's Home.



During our stay in the UK, Siloam Christian Ministries graciously gave us the use of their ministry van. Having the steering wheel on the opposite side of the car



and driving on the opposite side of the road from what one is used to was a scary challenge. In lieu of traffic lights, roundabouts direct the flow of traffic in the UK so that was another huge learning curve. Craig mastered the roundabouts in a matter of a few days, but I could never get past the feeling of being on the "wrong side" of the road. At the Christian Resource Exhibition, the cops from the "Christian Cops" booth presented Craig with an Award of Excellence for "his outstanding ability to drive on the correct side of the road in a manual vehicle."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Gifts Received from 4/10/2011–11/14/2011

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Gordon & Gay Gallup
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Evangelical Free Church
John & Kristine Corcoran
Allied Electrical Services
Art & Joy Shellenberg
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CR Bard Foundation
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John Christiansen
David & Molly Thompson
Carla Waters
Robin Zetzer & Steven
Fladhammer
Jack & Sharon Boston
John & Harriet Tamminga

Adoption Assistance

Fidelity Charitable Trust
Mark & Lori Sarti
Damon & April Boucher

Summer of Hope

We simply do not have room in this newsletter to acknowledge all of the people who donated to Summer of Hope and our annual Hope Walk to make Summer of Hope 2011 possible. We are so very grateful to all of you for supporting this cause!

Thank You!



Rehoboth General

Gabriel & Asuncion Boratgis
Paul & Shari Reasoner
Tim & Lorna Hayes
Joel & Carolyn Dykstra
Jeff Van Dyken
CR Bard Foundation
Brent & Jessica Powell
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November is National Adoption Awareness Month which is a time to celebrate adoption and encourage families throughout the United States to open their hearts and home to children in orphanages and in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

Inside This Issue:

IN MEMORY OF BONNIE

MEDICAL CLINIC

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS

SPRING BREAK WORK TEAM
2012

SUMMER OF HOPE 2011

AFTER THE AIRPORT

ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUPS

ADOPTION RESPITE CARE

HAGUE ACCREDITATION

REHOBOTH UPDATE

TRIP TO UK