



We are pleased to be sending you the second of CHOICES quarterly newsletters. Please contact our office if you would like to receive our newsletter by email.

New Staff

CHOICES would like to welcome Rachel Warren, social worker. Rachel will be working with families in the process of adopting and with many of our inter country programs. CHOICES also welcomes Jeannette Champagne, medical social worker, who will be completing her MSW practicum with us.

CHOICES welcomes new members to the Board of Directors.

CHOICES welcomes Linda Lucas, Peter Berrang and Elaine Monds to the board as of June 2003.

If you are interested in joining the board, please contact the Chairperson, Sandra Scarth at sandrascarth@shaw.ca

CHOICES is moving

On November 1, 2003, CHOICES will open its doors at a new location, Suite 100 - 850 Blanshard Street (Quality Inn Downtown), Victoria. Drop in and see us.

Our numbers will remain the same,
Phone (250) 479.9811 Fax (250) 479.9850
Toll free 1.888 479.9811 www.choicesadoption.ca

FEATURES ON THIS ISSUE

- 1 New Staff and Board Members
- 1 Adoption Awareness Month
- 1 CHOICES new office and Open House
- 2 New Inter-country programs
- 2 Bradley needs a family to call his own
- 2 Pre and Post Adoption Support Groups

Lots of new information on the CHOICES website! Our website is updated weekly. Please log on to www.choicesadoption.ca

New inter-country programs available 9 new country programs are now available!

We have partnered with CAFAC (Canadian Advocates for the Adoption of Children) to offer the following countries: Haiti, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Brazil, and Bulgaria.

We have partnered with St. Anne Adoption Centre to offer El Salvador

Bradley needs a family to call his own!

Bradley, 7, who is in Grade 3, is personality plus. He is outgoing, talkative, affectionate and bright. He has many interests, including sports, music and learning. He is musically and dramatically talented. He currently takes horseback riding lessons. His reading and arithmetic skills are well above average. (He was reading Harry Potter by himself at the end of Grade 1.) He thoroughly enjoys doing things with adults, even if it's just helping out with chores. Bradley is a good-looking, physically healthy boy. He faces some challenges in his social development and in learning to control his impulses and aggression. He is doing well at learning to notice when he is becoming overstimulated and will usually take himself away to a pre-designated quiet spot rather than lash out. He has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and tentatively with Bipolar Disorder. He is on medication for both with good results. Bradley would benefit from a flexible family that is up for the adventure of parenting a bright, active child with a family history of significant mental health problems. He needs a family that can provide lots of structure and a calm environment. He would do best as an only child or with older siblings. Bradley has a very supportive, easy to get along with grandmother and birthmother with whom he should maintain contact. Race/Ethnicity: French/German. Please contact our office if you would like more information.

Would you and your family like to share your adoption story on TV?

If your family is adopting in the near future, and you are interested in having your experience showcased in an Adoption Stories episode, please read the attached flyer.

Between Two Worlds – Inter-country Adoption

On November 1st, 2003 AFABC will be hosting an informational evening in Vancouver. Find out about medical issues, race, culture, heritage, institutionalization and attachment as it relates to adoption. You should be referred by your agency and must have an understanding of inter-country adoption. The process, countries or laws will not be discussed. Cost is \$75.00 per person. Call AFABC at 604-588-7300.

November is ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH!

A month to celebrate Adoption both local and international, and to remember that hundreds of children in BC still need a permanent home and loving family

- One in three British Columbians are touched by adoption
- Almost 500 children joined their families through adoption last year in BC
- Adoption is a very real way to build a family!

"Adoption shows there is love in the world"
11 year old girl

A special "Thank You" to THRIFTY FOODS our corporate sponsor for Adoption Awareness Month!

Special Presentation

Dr. Brenda McCreight, Adoption Expert, will be speaking on "Demystifying Children's Issues in Adoption" from 7:00 - 8:00 pm during our Open House. *Join us for an amazing evening!*

CHOICES is hosting an Open House

on November 17th at our new office: Suite 100 - 850 Blanshard Street (Quality Inn Downtown), Victoria from 5:30 - 9:00pm. We look forward to seeing you!

TIP: Highly recommended website by a family physician, for excellent medical information, visit www.mayoclinic.com

Kids' Fest, Fall 2003

Will be held on Saturday, November 1st, at Franklin Elementary School, 1402 S. Lawrence St., Tacoma, WA, from 1:00pm to 3:00p.m. This is a chance for families to meet with social workers and waiting children in Washington State. Most children are between 6 and 12 years old. All have some special need. CHOICES works with Washington State to help find a permanent home for these waiting children. **If you have an approved home-study and are interested in meeting some waiting children who are available for adoption, please phone CHOICES to complete a family registration before October 20, 2003.**

Pre and Post Adoption Support Groups

PARENTS OF TEENS & TWEENS: "The Unique Parenting Challenges of the Adoptive Family"

The Parents of Teens & Tweens Group held their fall meeting on **September 16** in the QA Room at Pearkes Community Recreation Centre in Victoria. The meetings are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested, come to the meeting or call Susan at the VIHA Adoption Support Program for more information (250)721-6798.

PARENT NETWORKING & EDUCATION

This group is for adoptive parents of children 6 - 12 years of age and focuses on support, education and advocacy. We meet every **third Wednesday of the month** at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital in "The Classroom" at 7:30 pm beginning September 17, 2003. Contact Karen at (250) 652-0727

EARLY STAGES

This group provides a great opportunity for people who are planning to adopt or who have recently adopted, to maintain a network after the pre-adoption education program is over. We meet on the **third Thursday of every month** at 7:30 pm beginning September 18th in the Bell-Irving Room at Pearkes Community Recreation Centre in Victoria. Contact Denyse at (250) 727-2762

Adoption: Strategies for Overcoming Unique Parenting Challenges by Dr. Brenda McCreight

- Friday, November 28, 2003
- Queen Alexandra Centre-Auditorium, 2400 Arbutus Road, Victoria, BC
- Luch provided, pay parking
- \$25 per person, \$35 per couple
- To register, call 250-721-6751 before thursday, November 20, 2003
- Sponsored by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Vancouver Island Health Authority Adoption Support Program