





chsfs.org



East Office 8555 16th Street, Suite 600

Agency Headquarters

thrives. We work to give every child nurturing home is a child who

Founded in 1889, Children's Home

knows that a child in a safe,

family.















Officers

















Thank you to all of the families that contributed their photos for this report. Every picture represents a child who has found their forever family.



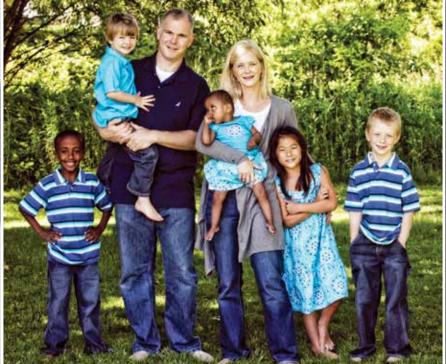
















Mom Araminta Montague writes:

This was a family photo shoot that we did in my hometown in Canada where we go every summer to visit family. It was about three weeks after Lovie came home, and she finally got to meet her 86-year-old great grandma!

I had Googled photographers and found Jillian Bickle. We got to talking during the session, and she found out that George has a heart defect and had undergone open heart surgery at three months old; Natan was diagnosed with autism six months after we brought him home from Ethiopia; and Lovie has severe brain damage, is blind and hearing impaired—we knew that when we accepted her referral. (As a family, we decided, "She is the one for us!")

We have learned since first dealing with George's issues that you can handle what comes your way, even though the journey is sometimes surprising and not always easy. It certainly makes you appreciate every little thing more.

The photographer was pretty moved by our family dynamic, and did the whole thing for free...for a large family like ours with a stay-athome mom, free is always a gift.

We don't always make it out the door looking put together—in fact, one or more kids are often wearing mismatched shoes! It was nice to have a cleaned-up moment captured, especially in a place that our kids consider their second home.

We home school and chose homeschooling for the simple reason that we love hanging out together. We purposely waited seven years to start our family, and now we want to be together! As a former teacher, I am fortunate to be able to give this to them (I hope they look back and feel as fortunate). Dad Jason has a 5-second walk to his school where he teaches music. We are a tight, family unit. And we're not done adding to our brood—the more the merrier!

Letter from Children's Home Leadership

Dear Friends,

As Maureen, Jennifer and I reflect on a momentous Fiscal Year 2012 for Children's Home Society & Family Services, we present an Annual Report that embraces our future. On July 1, 2012, Children's Home signed a management agreement with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Our organizations are now partnering to provide a broad array of complementary adoption services that unite our strengths, our common values, and our shared commitment to serving children and families.

In this most turbulent time in the history of international adoption, the board of directors and management team of Children's Home have acted with singular wisdom, maturity and courage to protect the reputation and assets of this organization to ensure its long-term future. I commend our board members, leadership and employees for their fine stewardship of the mission of Children's Home.

LSS is Minnesota's oldest and largest human service nonprofit—with a comparatively small adoption operation. We are so pleased that we have been able to offer the strength and stability of our organization to continue the legacy of Children's Home here in Minnesota and around the world. I'm proud to lead Children's Home, with its rich heritage, into a bright future.

In my work, I have had the rare privilege of meeting and developing relationships with donors and philanthropists who have taught me the true meaning of generosity. None has touched me more deeply than the experience I have had of walking with friends from my church who adopted one of Minnesota's Waiting Children at the age of 15. At LSS, we work with foster parents, host families, and others. Those who go on to offer a child—whether an infant from Minnesota, siblings from Colombia, or one of Minnesota's Waiting Children—a place in their family forever are truly special.

Our 2012 Annual Report features "The Faces of Children's Home" children who will grow up knowing the love of a family, and families whose lives have been forever changed because of your gifts.

We invite you to continue to walk side-by-side with us as we shape the future of this work and continue to unite children with loving, forever families.

Thank you for all the ways that you help children thrive, and thank you again for your generous support for Children's Home.

Sincerely,

Jodi Harpstead Chief Executive Officer

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Jodi Harpstead **CEO**

Jennifer Martin **Board Chair**

Maureen Warren President



Maggie and Ella grew up together in an orphanage in China. After Maggie was adopted in 2007, she continued to ask about Ella and wish for a family to bring her home. In 2013, the girls will officially become sisters, forever.

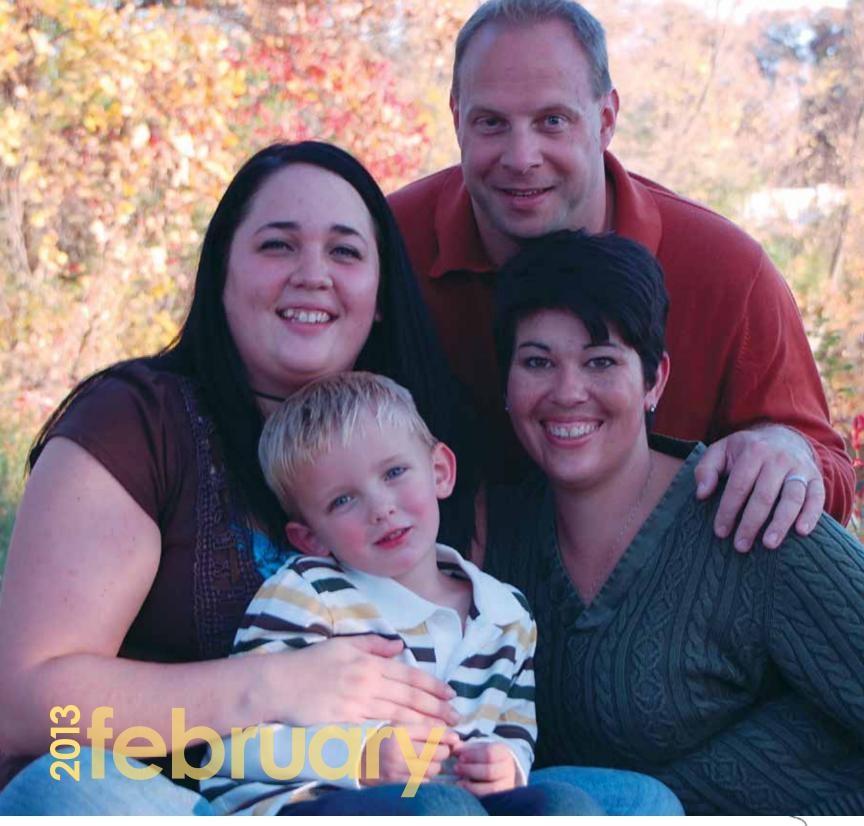
Thanks to you, families will grow in 2013!

299 children joined permanent, loving families through international and domestic adoptions facilitated by Children's Home during Fiscal Year 2012. Financial support from our generous donors ensures hundreds more children will come home in 2013—including Maggie's sister, Ella.

Prospective adoptive parents Jamie and Danielle hold a photo of the child they are adopting from Korea. "Already in our hearts, someday in our arms."

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4	5
			New Year's Day				
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
_	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
_	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
_		Martin Luther King Jr. Day					
	27	28	29	30	31		





Aiden sits on his birthmother Cathy's lap, surrounded by his adoptive parents, John and Deb. He joined his family as an infant through domestic adoption in 2006. Open Adoption is a unique relationship created between birth parents and adoptive parents with love for a child at its heart.

Like us on Facebook Find Children's Home news, photos and events all year long at facebook.com/chsfs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	dren's Home helped p Social Service are now	1	2			
	4			-	•	Groundhog Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Chinese New Year				Valentine's Day		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Presidents Day					
24	25	26	27	28		





Born in India, Sanjay was adopted through our Waiting International Children program in 2008 at age 15 months. "When he first came home, we were not sure he would speak but after he started wearing hearing aids at 19 months, his language grew quickly," mom Karen says. "He received a cochlear implant at 5 years old and this fall, he started first grade, where he enjoys reading, music and math."

Sanjay and his family returned to India to bring 19-month-old Asha home in 2010. "She was quick to learn English and has become a book lover," Karen says. "Now, she is building snowmen, learning to ride her 'big girl' bike and takes care of her dolls."

Aubrey was born with no left fibula. Thanks to the prosthesis she received in September 2011, she can now run circles around her five older

siblings! She was adopted from Korea in 2009.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Waiting Internationsibling groups and old recruiting families wh	nal Children found fo der children often wa	1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					International Women's Day	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time begins						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day			First Day of Spring			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Passover				

31

Meet Waiting Children: View profiles with photos and descriptions of a child's personality, favorite activities and known special needs, right on our website: chsfs.org/waitingchildren.





6-year-old twin sisters Wubbie and Aster picking salad greens in Wisconsin. "They love to help with gardening at home and at my school garden," says mom Claire. "They were 2 years old when we became a family in 2008 and we've been having fun ever since!" The girls were born in Ethiopia.

International Child Welfare

Support for our International Child Welfare efforts helped 850 children in rural Ethiopia attend school. 300 Korean children in foster care received winter coats. Children in Guatemala, Colombia, China and Russia benefited from improved nutrition, education, medical care and orphanage renovations. We supported projects in 13 countries worldwide during FY2012.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	April Fool's Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
-		No	 ational Volunteer Wee 	k		
	Earth Day				Arbor Day	
28	29	30				





Little sister Kiya, adopted from Ethiopia in 2009, and big sister Kaiden, adopted from Guatemala in 2004, holding photos of their birthmothers on Mother's Day.

At right, the girls are pictured with their forever family: Mother Mollie (second from the left), older brother and sisters, brother-in-law, niece and nephew.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	For all and sto	our Community I of the latest Children ories from adoptive fa nunity Blog at chsfs.or	n's Home news amilies, visit our	1	2	3	4
•	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Mother's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

Honorary & Memorial Gifts Make a contribution to Children's Home in honor or in memory of a loved one for Mother's Day or Father's Day. This meaningful gift is a thoughtful way to pay tribute to your mom or dad, grandparents, birth parents, a sibling, your child or anyone else whose life has been touched by adoption. Give online at chsfs.org/honor.





Sunday Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Saturday Children's Home Adoption Day Camp **Adoption Day Camp!** 116 kids attended our first week-long Adoption Day Camp in 2012, held in partnership with YMCA Camp Streefland. Their birth countries include China, Korea, Ethiopia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Haiti, Slovakia and the United States. 2 3 6 7 8 World Environment Day 10 11 12 13 15 9 14 **22** 16 **17** 18 19 20 21 Adoption Day Camp Tour Korea! Dragon Tour begins First Day of Father's Day Summer 24 **25 27** 29 **23** 26 28





Photo: Jess Sandager/Olive Ave. Photography

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	Tour Korea! Tiger Tours begin	St. Anthony Park Parade Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9 Ramadan begins	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Parents' Day	29	30	31		en's Home and Luther mmunity and promote	

Minnesota's Waiting Children: 37 of Minnesota's Waiting Children joined permanent adoptive families during FY2012. At present, Children's Home is recruiting families for 27 more youth living in foster care and under state guardianship.





In August Barak, Cynthia, Ruth and Emmanuel celebrate their one year anniversary as a family. Siblings Ruth and Emmanuel are the first children adopted from Costa Rica through Children's Home since 1989. This photo was taken in Costa Rica, right before the family went home to Alabama together for the first time.

Ruth and Emmanuel
meeting parents
Barak and Cynthia
for the first time in
August 2012. "An
unforgettable first
moment together—
at last!"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Adoption Sup Children's Home awa in FY2012, helping to welcome 21 children	rded \$41,975 in grant remove financial ba	rriers to adoption so	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Eid al-Fitr begins		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31







Valeria, adopted from Ecuador in 2010, enjoys a visit to the Teddy Bear Park in Stillwater, Minn. A closer review of her referral file revealed a severe hearing loss. "She can now hear with the help of some high-tech hearing aids," writes her mom, Carol, "and is learning to speak! Her progress has been nothing short of a miracle."

Volunteer with Children's Home

Hundreds of Children's Home volunteers and interns devote their time and talents to help children thrive. You can join in—find an opportunity at chsfs.org/volunteer

Brothers Aklilu and Teketel, adopted from Ethiopia in 2010, climbing and having fun at home in Virginia.

Marshall Islands, and together we are exploring opportunities to help children in additional countries.

o help children thrive	e. You can join in—fi	nd an opportunity at	chsfs.org/volunteer.			181-422
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Labor Day			Rosh Hashana		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Grandparents' Day						Yom Kippur
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Stepfamily Day					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
First Day of Autumn						
29	30	Children's Home Ethiopia, Hondur		tional adoptions of ch ia and Thailand during ping families adopt ch	g FY2012. Through o	our new partnership





"Connor and Taylor are typical boys," writes their mom, Diane. "They never miss an opportunity to be silly and rough house. It's a shame the photo doesn't capture the giggles that went along with it as they tackled each other in the leaves."

Connor was not quite 4 months old when he came home from Korea in 2006. He traveled with parents Diane and Scott to bring little brother Taylor home in October 2011. "Taylor was just under 18 months old at that time, so his adjustment was quite different compared to Connor's to say the least," Diane says. "Seeing the boys so happy and laughing a year later is miraculous to us!"

Adoption-Related Webinars Children's

Home offers practical, informative webinars ideal for adoptive parents. Join in live or view recordings at your convenience. Find a schedule at chsfs.org/webinars.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Columbus Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
				Halloween		

Post-Adoption Services

Children's Home hosts a variety of Post-Adoption activities uniquely designed to support families as their children grow. 26 mentor matches participated in our M&M Program for adopted youth during FY2012, and dozens of families attended children's activity groups and team building events, parent support groups, webinars and camp. Learn more at chsfs.org/postadoption.





"Birthdays and 'Gotcha Days' are a big celebration in our home!" say parents Ann and Ryan. "We have four amazing children that are the love of our lives. We are humbly blessed." They've adopted four children born in four countries—Gabriella (Russia, age 9); Jocelyn (Korea, 7); Ahnya (Ethiopia, 4); and Magnus (China, 2½). In this photo, the family is celebrating Ahnya's 4th birthday.

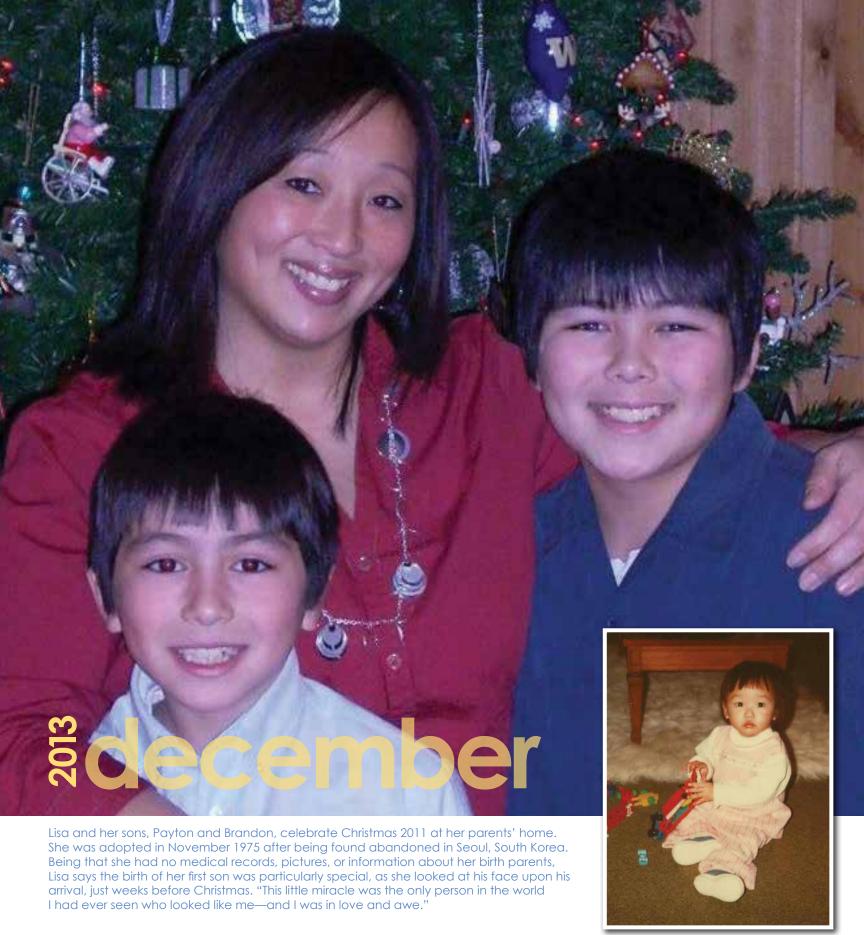
November is National Adoption Month

Celebrate and advocate! Share your adoption story and help bring awareness to children in need of permanent families.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Children's Home Adoption Celebration	volunteers! Families t	attended our 2012 Ac raveled from as far as	loption Celebration, in Maryland and Monta other adoptive families	ana to experience	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Saving Time ends		Islamic New Year				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Veterans Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						National Adoption Day
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Hanukkah		
				Thanksgiving		

Come to our party! Celebrate with Children's Home and Lutheran Social Service during National Adoption Month for a day of family-friendly cultural entertainment, tasty food and hands-on activities. Buy event tickets or join us as a volunteer. For date and location, visit chsfs.org/events.





In this photo from 1975, Lisa celebrates her very first Christmas with her new parents, Roger and Susan, at home in Minnesota.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
_	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
-	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
							First Day of Winter
_	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Christmas	Kwanzaa		
-	29	30	31	<u> </u>	Red Stocking		
				FY2012		grams and mission. W	gn raised \$300,000 in We are grateful for the My sponsors:
			New Year's Eve	,	Target • Freedom Va	alu Centers • Bachm	nan's • comcast

Children's Home Society of Minnesota

Thank you!

Children's Home extends our sincere gratitude to every one of our financial supporters. Your thoughtful, generous contributions are helping children thrive—you make it possible for our vital work to continue year after year. We have made every effort to include in the following list all persons and organizations that have contributed \$250 or more during our Fiscal Year 2012. If we have erred or have not

\$200,000+

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Anonymous Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

\$100,000 - \$199,999 **United Ways**

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\$10,000 - \$14,999

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* Indicates deceased

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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