

CHAC COMMUNITY REPORT 2014 (Excerpts)

1. Opening Letter with 2014 Highlights

Hope truly abounded from Children's Hope Adoption Center in 2014.

*Our Highest
Adoption Record*

We placed **354 infants and children from around the world into loving families** – an 18 percent increase from last year, and the largest number of annual adoption placements in our 83-year history!

*Programs &
Services Expanded*

Our programs and services also abounded in 2014. CHAC is now able to serve special needs infants at our on-site nursery due to new medical equipment received from **Children's Medical Foundation**. We also launched a new international adoption program in Thailand with a \$100,000 grant from the **California Asian Children's Foundation**.

*Awards for
Exceptional
Services*

But that is not all. CHAC also received the **2014 Service Award from the International Adoption Coalition** in recognition for building new interagency data networks and support services in China, Japan, and Thailand. We also received the **2014 Service Award from the National Adoption Center** for exceptional performance and client support programs.

*Because of You
Hope Abounded*

Yes, hope abounded in 2014 for the infants, children, birth parents, and adoptive parents served at CHAC. Each one represents a unique adoption story, **the miracle of a new beginning** accomplished through the courage and unselfish love of birth parents and adoptive parents alike.

As you read our feature story, **The Adoption of Catherine Anne**, please remember that CHAC's donation-based services are available because of your charitable gifts and volunteer support.

Thank you. Thank you. Because of you, CHAC 2014 brought new beginnings to more children and adults than ever before.

Christina Marcet

Christina Marcet
CHAC President & CEO

Robert Conley

Robert Conley
CHAC Board President

2. Featured Article

The Adoption of Catherine Anne

May 22, 2014

Written in Three Parts

Birth Mother
Adoptive Parents
CHAC Case Worker

Part I: Birth Mother (Lisa)

“My parents divorced when I was ten, and my mother died when I was sixteen. I somehow completed high school last year, and began working two part-time jobs while living with my grandmother.

When I discovered I was pregnant, I knew that I could not properly care for a baby by myself. I also knew I could not burden my 83-year old grandmother with a child. It was painful to think about adoption, but my caseworker, Jane, helped me to consider my options.

When I met Mark and Karen, prospective adoptive parents, I began to feel hope. They were very loving and I could easily talk with them. Yet, I still was not sure. It was a hard decision.

Then, for a few short months, the birth father re-entered my life. I was elated. I thought we would marry and keep the baby. During this time, Mark and Karen kept in touch. **I could tell they genuinely cared about me, and not just the baby.** This made all the difference.

When the birth father left me for the second time, I no longer had any doubts. It had finally become clear to me that Mark and Karen were the ones to raise my child.”

Part 2: Adoptive Parents (Karen and Mark)

“The emotional roller coaster ride of infertility was tough on us individually and as a couple. However, after two years, we finally came to peace about our loss. And to our surprise, we discovered that we both wanted to adopt from Children’s Hope.

(Continued)

The Adoption of Catherine Anne (Continued)

Our caseworker, Jane, was the best, earning our trust as she skillfully guided us through the application process. And from there we began taking the center's great preparatory workshops knowing that the waiting process could take months or even years.

Six weeks later, we received a phone call to meet Lisa. We were excited and nervous at the same time. Little did we know what a strong connection would take place at those early meetings. Lisa was so intelligent and beautiful, inside and out. How could we not want to adopt her baby? She was so open about her struggle to do what was right for her child. We were also so deeply touched by the depth of her sacrifice.

Therefore, it was challenging when Lisa thought she would marry the birthfather and keep the baby. Although we were disappointed, we let go and trusted that the right baby would come in time. Meanwhile, we were happy for Lisa, and wanted her to know she had our full support.

Two months later, we received a surprise call from Jane. The birth father was not ready for a commitment, and Lisa had chosen us to be the adoptive parents. We could hardly speak through our tears."

Part 3: CHAC Case Worker (Jane)

"Every adoption is different. I am always humbled to serve in such an intimate and life-changing process.

In this case, **I was so impressed with Lisa's courage. She was not afraid to explore her feelings** and express herself, a hard thing to do when so much is at stake.

Mark and Karen were also impressive. They had such trust that the right baby would come to them. And they gave Lisa such unconditional love and understanding.

Currently Lisa is attending college in the evenings. She wants to become a social worker and help other birth mothers. I tell her she still has plenty of time to decide. But between you and me, I believe she would make a great one!"

WRITING SAMPLE: SOPHIAJOHN Writes
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