

Las Noticias

Concern for Children
Newsletter

October
2009
Issue

CELEBRATE ADOPTION MONTH!

NOVEMBER 2009

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join CFC in celebrating Life on Dia de los Muertos!

Come to CFC's Second Annual Day of the Dead Celebration & Celebration of Adoption Month

Bring your Friends, Family & Neighbors!

Sunday, November 1, 2009

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Gates Mills Towers, 6809 Mayfield Rd., Mayfield Hts., Ohio

(just east of the I-271 exit at Mayfield Rd.)

Free and open to all!

Come and enjoy the Fun!!! Games, dancing, food, crafts, face painting, prizes!

Wear your Halloween costume! Bring a favorite dish to share!

Bring a photo of a relative or pet to honor at the Day of the Dead display.

Please RSVP: strausscathy@yahoo.com or call 330-405-1228 or 216-406-7143.

For more information on the Day of the Dead tradition in Latin America:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead

<http://www.dayofthedead.com/>

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Parent Group of the Year Award

Calendar of Events...

Renew your membership	-	Now (See form p. 5)
Day of the Dead Celebration	-	November 1, 2009
Mother's Meeting	-	November 13, 2009
CFC Board Meeting	-	November 19, 2009
MI Pueblo Culture Camp	-	June 21 - 25, 2010

Concern for Children, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donations are tax deductible. For more information about CFC and our
programs go to www.concernforchildren.org or call Bill Gruber at
216.371.3570.

CFC Board News

At our August Board meeting, the Board approved spending \$1,842.50 to cover tuition expenses for a child that CFC brought to the US for medical treatment originally, in order to allow the child to attend school while the adoption process is finalized in El Salvador. The Board discussed possibly holding a future fundraiser for this purpose.

The Board also voted to accept a donation of \$1,000 for a group to provide eye care in El Salvador, since the group is not a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization yet, and needs CFC to serve as the group's fiscal agent.

The Board discussed an Internet service by which donations could be made to CFC by credit card. The service is found at guidestar.com.

It was reported that the 2009 MI Pueblo Latin American Culture Camp was successful. The number of campers and volunteers has remained steady over the past 7-8 years (i.e. about 75). Bill was asked to write an article for magazine, which he submitted. Kellie Rico provided photos for the article.

The Air Show fundraiser was discussed. Cindy Palus organized the volunteers for the event which helps CFC raise funds, as the Show pays CFC for each volunteer CFC provides.

It is time to renew membership! The CFC website is about to be revamped. Bill Gruber was re-elected as Chairperson of the CFC Board for 2009-2010. Anyone may attend CFC Board meetings. The meetings will be held: 11/19/09, 1/8/10, 3/11/10, 5/7/10, 7/8/10, 8/27/10. Call me if you'd like to attend to verify the date, time and place of the meeting.

Bill Gruber -- 216-371-3570



Announcing: Colombia Return Tour - 2010!

We are planning a group trip to Colombia for adoptees and adoptive families in the Summer of 2010 (probably early August). If you may be interested in joining this trip, please email your responses to the following questions to Bill Gruber: gruberWL@aol.com, or call him at 216-371-3570.

1. Name and contact information (address, phone, email)?
2. Number of family members interested in going?
3. Adoptees names and ages?
4. Best dates for travel in the Summer of 2010?
5. How long of a trip do you prefer? 7 days? 8 days? 10 days? 14 days?
6. What orphanage(s) would you like to visit?
7. What type of hotel(s) do you prefer--family style? regular large hotel? Other?
8. What are your priorities for a trip to Colombia? (List as many as you wish.)
9. Would you wish to try to find or contact birth family?
10. Provide any other comments, suggestions, questions and concerns.

Thank You,

Nancy Cooper and Bill Gruber

Country Updates

El Salvador Program Update

International adoption, as most of us have known it, has changed tremendously in the last year. The implementation of the Hague Convention guidelines has led Concern for Children's El Salvador Program to a partnership with the Adoption Center of Bellefaire JCB. Long recognized as a committed, ethical agency with a rich history and local roots, Bellefaire is Hague approved as a primary provider through the Council on Accreditation. Bellefaire, founded in 1868, has evolved into a well respected, multidisciplinary agency of providers and innovators recognized throughout the US. In addition to adoption services, Bellefaire has programs in foster care, residential treatment, the Monarch School for autistic children, youth programs for at risk teens, and support programs for children and families in crisis. CFC is honored to be partnered with Bellefaire and looks forward to the growth of the adoption program in El Salvador.

In other El Salvador news we say a sad goodbye to Dr. Tung Trang and his wife Ingrid and their two children. Dr. Trang, a Metro Hospital ENT specialist, was a miracle worker in the planning, implementation, and success of our 2008 El Salvador Medical Mission. He and Ingrid and kids have moved to California, Ingrid's home and the land of sunshine. I'm sure the move had nothing to do with Ohio's dismal gray sky in winter. Tung assures me he will work with us on the next medical trip. I can't imagine doing the trip without him!

In El Salvador changes continue to unfold as the new government brings on new staff. It is hoped that the changes will be in place soon so that work can begin on our next Homeland and Service Project. Watch the newsletter for more info about Tour VII.

If you are interested in adoption call Bellefaire at 1-800-205-8534 or 216-320-8716.

Pat Burns, El Salvador Program Coordinator

Colombia Program Update

The Colombian program at this time continues to be slow. There have been no applicants to the program for some time. We have no one on our waiting list at this time. Babies are still available at Los Pisingos, as well as older and special needs children who really need families.

Anyone interested in special needs or older children can let me know and I will find out what children they are looking to find families for. If you are interested in any special needs or older children, please give me a call and I can get further medical and social information on these children.

It becomes increasingly difficult to get donations to Bogota, as we have had no families traveling. At this time I am not accepting any donations for Colombia, until we can find a way to get them there.

Anyone wishing information about the Colombian adoption program or special children, please give me a call at any time.

I am hopefully trying to plan a trip sometime in the near future to see all the new things happening in Colombia.

We are in the planning stages of starting to discuss a homeland tour for the summer of 2010. Bill Gruber and I will start trying to put something together. If you are interested in a trip in 2010, you can email me so I can start to keep a list of names of those who may want to travel.

I am also still working on trying to get Bellefaire licensed in Colombia, so we will have a local agency able to help us with home studies and post-placement reports.

Please keep Los Pisingos in your thoughts and forward letters and pictures for them. They are always anxious to hear about your children and how they are growing and what they are doing.

PLEASE, PLEASE SEND LETTERS AND PICTURES. I HAVE LITTLE TO NO MAIL FOR SOME TIME TO SEND TO COLOMBIA.

Nancy A. Cooper

Colombian Program Director

10398 North Pond Lane

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

(330) 405-1357 - (330) 405-1366- FAX CooperNanc@aol.com

Where Are They Now?



By Brandon Coleman, Son of Gary & Janet Coleman

October 1983 seems like a long time ago. That is when my parents brought me home from El Salvador. As I grew into adulthood, I quickly realized the opportunities I would have missed had I not been adopted & lived in America. Without my parents, I believe my life would have been like a crumbled bridge.

I have much appreciation for the adoption community. The hard work of these people have given so many children the opportunities they deserve. Thanks to my parents I have had a fruitful life which continues today.

My fiancé' Linda and I live in Parma with our 9 year old son Eriq and our 2 year old daughter Faith. I work at K-Mart in Broadview Heights. We enjoy outings with our children and family time.

Meet a CFC Member... Kellie Rico

Kellie resides with her husband Joe in Macedonia. They are both very thankful to Concern for Children, and Los Pisngos for helping to form their family. They have two children - Sara (12), and Cole (9) who both attend Nordonia Schools. The children to this day and unforeseeable future refer to Nancy Cooper (Colombian Coordinator) as Aunt Nancy!

When Kellie isn't running the kids to dance, soccer, baseball, church school ... she is busy with her own home based business "Gracefully Announced." She creates both digital and tradition style scrapbooks for her customers, as well as custom made invitations. For the past nine years Kellie has volunteered at Concern for Children's, Mi Pueblo camp and done all the camp photography and a scrapbook for each year.

Kellie also holds a part time job for Current Sales/Chris-Tec Marketing in Solon.

Mother's Group.. "You Get By with a Little Help From a Friend"

Join our mother's group, "You're Not Alone", for a little camaraderie and support. Shawn Rech, an adult adoptee, will speak at our next meeting on November 13, 7 p.m. at the home of Cathy Strauss, 9490 Andrew Drive, Twinsburg, (330) 405-1228, about his experience in locating his birth family and his view on attachment disorders. Shawn is a member of Adoption Network. For more information, please call Claudia Madden at 440.539.8592. R.S.V.P. to Cathy at strausscathy@yahoo.com or call the above number.



El Salvador Foster Families Mail

FOSTER FAMILIES - We are now collecting letters, small holiday gifts and small items for your sponsored girl. Please send these gifts to Claudia Madden, 1997 Deer Meadow Boulevard, Streetsboro, Ohio 44241.

Opening Doors

Four years ago, while visiting El Salvador, it was apparent that a vocational program was necessary for the girls of Hogar Moraga. This program was designed to teach the girls how to sew and cook. When leaving the hogar, the girls would have viable skills to obtain employment and be capable of taking care of themselves.

I am happy to report that our sponsorship program, Opening Doors, is very successful and continues to be vital to the young women of Hogar Moraga.

There are two girls in need of sponsorship. If you, friends or an organization would be interested in sponsoring one of these girls, please contact Claudia Madden at 440.539.8592.



Evaluations of Mi Pueblo Camp

Here are some of the comments from parents and Campers from the 2009 Mi Pueblo Culture Camp:

"Wanted it to last all year."

What did your children like the most and least?

"Most - Meeting friends like them."

"Least - Some of the food."

"Very fun, busy and tiring. Great classes and food."

"Great way for the kids to develop self-identity and learn Spanish and Latin American culture."

"Loved the bond between the kids."

"I think it's great that they eat Latin American foods."

"Loved the Market idea. We thought (as usual) the program was creative, fun, well structured and clearly so much pre-planning and thought went into it."

Camper: "Liked the tacos, chicken mole and quesadillas and dessert."

Camper: "Loved dance."

Critiques/Suggestions: better discipline; better organized, controlled transitions and free time; keep volunteer teens from visiting other teens; clear rules for behavior and consequences; training for volunteers.

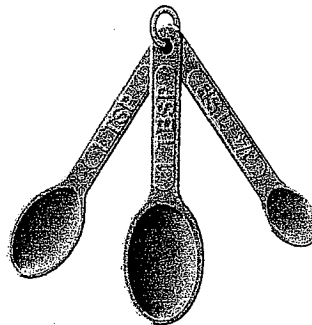
Thanks to all those who gave comments--and please feel free to provide more comments and suggestions for a better Camp!

Bill Gruber, Director

Great Recipe from Mi Pueblo Culture Camp!

Chicken Quesadillas

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced
- 1 (1.27 ounce) packet fajita seasoning
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 green bell peppers, chopped
- 2 red bell peppers, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 10 (10 inch) flour tortillas
- 1 (8 ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon bacon bits
- 1 (8 ounce) package shredded Monterey Jack cheese



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the broiler. Grease a baking sheet. Toss the chicken with the fajita seasoning, then spread onto baking sheet. Place under the broiler and cook until the chicken pieces are no longer pink in the center, about 5 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Heat the oil in a large sauce pan over medium heat. Stir in the green and red peppers, onion and chicken. Cook and stir until the vegetables have softened, about 10 minutes.

Layer half of each tortilla with the chicken and vegetable mixture, then sprinkle with the Cheddar cheese, bacon bits and Monterey Jack cheese. Fold the tortilla in half and place onto baking sheet. Bake quesadillas in the preheated oven until the cheeses have melted, about 10 minutes. Cut into wedges and serve with sour cream and salsa. The leftovers can be frozen and reheated.

Concern for Children Membership Form

Please complete this form and mail to:

Concern for Children

Claudia Madden

7213 S. Galahad Place

Concord Township, Ohio 44077

Family Member \$30.00

Associate Member \$10.00*

The undersigned understand that Concern for Children is a non-profit organization that distributes information to its members and educates applicants with respect to adoption procedures for children residing in foreign countries. Concern for Children is a parent-support group and not an adoption agency. It makes no placements and no decisions concerning placements. It cannot guarantee the placement of a child nor accept responsibility for the health, intelligence, development, appearance and/or beauty of a child placed for adoption.

Concern for Children is not a law firm. Accordingly, Concern for Children does not give legal advice or opinions nor does it attempt to practice law in any manner, specifically, it does not represent its members or other individuals in any adoption proceeding or other matters which could be construed as practicing law.

While Concern for Children believes that all information it provides is true and accurate, it cannot guarantee such information. Accordingly, as a pre-requisite to membership, the undersigned, on behalf of his/her heirs, executors, and administrators, releases, acquits, and forever discharges Concern for Children, its Officers and Trustees, of any and all claims actions, causes of compensation whatsoever, which the undersigned now has or which may hereafter accrue in any way growing out of and all known and unknown foreseen and unforeseen consequences resulting from the undersigned becoming a member of Concern for Children and the services and information provided by Concern for Children to the undersigned.

The undersigned agrees to abide by the Code of Regulations of Concern for Children. A copy of the code of regulations will be mailed to you at the address listed below upon completion of the membership requirements. This form will remain in effect until August 31st of the next year and every year thereafter that you renew your membership.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail Address _____

Please check here if you do not want your phone number listed in the CFC directory _____

Please check here if you do not want your mailing address given to adoption related groups _____

In addition to our membership dues, I/We would like to make a donation of \$ _____. All donations are tax deductible. Please designate this donation for the following purposes: _____

Associate Membership is for young adults 18-25 years of age.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS PAGE EVEN IF YOU HAVE GIVEN THIS INFORMATION IN THE PAST. THIS INFORMATION IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

Family Name _____

Please list the names, birth dates, and country of origin for all of your children.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Country</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parent(s): Please tell us where you work, what type of work you do, and what your interests are:

Name _____

Place of Employment _____

Type of Work _____

Hobbies, Interests, Talents _____

Name _____

Place of Employment _____

Type of Work _____

Hobbies, Interests, Talents _____

VOLUNTEER SECTION

Yes! I/We will consider helping with the following CFC events/programs/functions. Contact us with specific details. This does not commit me/us to any programs, and I/we can change my mind and help in other areas.

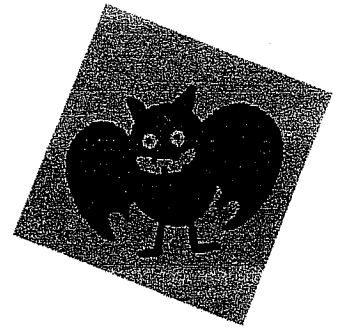
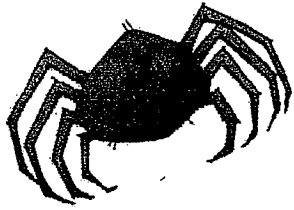
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|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| _____ General Meetings | _____ Heritage Day | _____ Culture Camp |
| _____ Picnic | _____ Holiday Party | _____ Fund Raisers |
| _____ Telephone Chain | _____ Nominating Committee | _____ As Needed |

You're Invited to our

2ND ANNUAL

"Day of the Dead"

Celebration



bring your
Favorite dish to
Share

games

Face
Painting

When?

November 1, 2009

Why?

So you can wear your
costume again!

Time? 2:30 - 4:30

Where?

Gates Mills Towers

6809 Mayfield Rd.

Mayfield Hts, 44124

R.S.V.P. by October 23

330.405.1228 or

216.406.7143 or

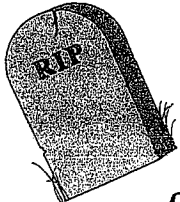
strausseathy@yahoo.com

Costume
Contest

Prizes

Crafts

treats
dancing

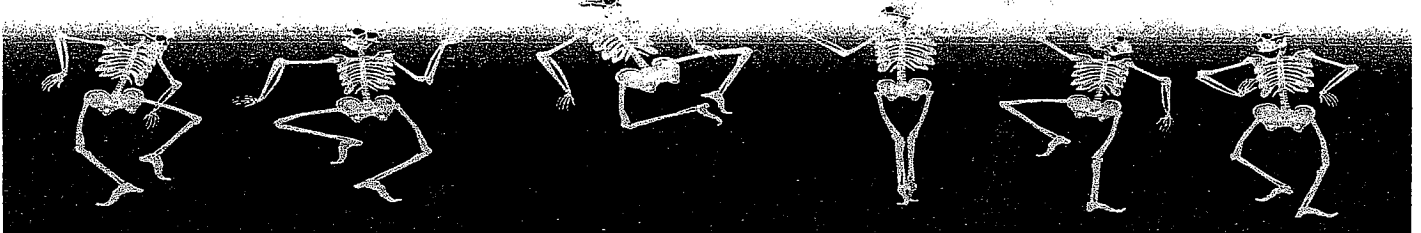


FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



VOLUNTEERS Needed, contact:

Cathy Strauss 330.405.1228 or Michelle Madden 216.406.7143



Irwins & Kissigs Visit Colombia 2009!

"It was the best vacation we've ever been on!", "I'd like to live there someday", "When are we going back?". These were some of the things we heard from our combined five teenagers, Alissa (19) and Rachel (14) Irwin, Christian (18), Samantha (16) and Cameron (15) Kissig, after an eight day visit to their birth country. Our two families, the Irwins and Kissigs, traveled to Colombia in July. The kids are at ages at which they could understand and appreciate this cultural experience.



**Cameron, Christian & Samantha Kissig,
Jorge Rico, Rachel & Alissa Irwin**

Their overall impression was that everything was better than expected. Colombia was more modern and safer than they had anticipated but they were also saddened by the poverty they encountered. All agreed that "Colombia 2009" was a memorable and fun experience.

We stayed at Betty's Place, a six bedroom residence in the northern part of Bogotá. Betty, the owner, grew up in New York City and speaks fluent Spanish and English. She was very caring and hospitable, as was her staff. We felt safe and comfortable at Betty's Place which is located in a nice area from which we could easily walk to a number of places – restaurants, shops, Uni Centro shopping mall, and a new Carulla grocery store just a block away.

Our sight-seeing guides for the week were Jorge and Patricia Rico. They were excellent -- very knowledgeable, friendly and enthusiastic. They were excited to show us the sights and tastes of the Bogotá area and to teach our children about their birth country.

Our first trip was to Los Pisingos, the orphanage from which we adopted our children. At Los Pisingos we were graciously welcomed by the director, Carlos Murando, who is the son of Nora, one of the directors during the years we adopted our kids. Carlos sat down and talked with us and then gave us a wonderful tour of the orphanage. It was clear to see that he is well-loved by the children at Pisingos, as they gathered around and hugged him during our tour. Los Pisingos provides a family atmosphere for the children and it felt good to see the children smiling and happy. Carlos also allowed time for all of our kids to look through their files – large binders filled with all of their paperwork and the pictures and letters we have sent over the years.

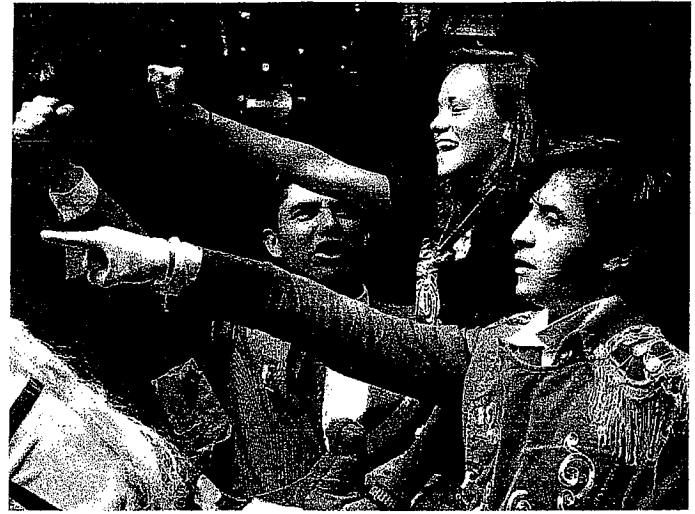
The week was filled with great tours. We traveled to the colonial town of Zipaquirá where we visited the Salt Cathedral, an impressive underground salt mine into which are carved depictions of the fourteen Stations of the Cross and a massive, beautiful church. We visited the largest fruit and vegetable market any of us had ever seen and then went to Café Coloma, a lovely, lush coffee plantation. We took a cable car to the top of Monserrate, a white-church-topped mountain peak that rises to 10,000 feet above sea level. From the top we enjoyed spectacular views of Bogotá. In La Candelaria, a historic part of the city, we did a walking tour. We visited an archeological museum and saw Plaza de Bolívar. There we met an elderly, homeless gentleman who did quick pencil sketches of each of us and offered some "words of wisdom" to our kids (translated by Jorge). Later in the week we hiked a beautiful trail to a lakeside hilltop from where we saw the scenic Laguna de Guatavita, the site of the legend of El Dorado.

We were fortunate to be in Colombia on Independence Day. On that day we went to a unique restaurant called "Andres Carne de Res" where we feasted on steak while enjoying the holiday music and festivities. Samantha even had the honor of proclaiming "Independencia" with Simon de Bolivar! Another interesting restaurant was Hacienda la Margarita where a horse show and dance performances take place right in the center of the restaurant.

Irwins/Kissigs Visit to Colombia, contd.

The Colombian food throughout our stay was delicious but we also felt the need to eat lunch one day at McDonalds, just to say we did! We noticed a lot of positive changes in Bogotá since our visits fourteen and fifteen years ago. The military presence is still there but is definitely less. The air pollution doesn't seem to be quite as prevalent. The taxi cab system now runs on natural gas which probably contributes to the decrease in pollution. It was good to see a lot of new development in the city. There were new buildings, newly planted trees, and many open-air restaurants. Bicycle and pedestrian paths run down the center of some roads; and on Sunday mornings, some of the main roadways are closed to motor traffic so that they may be used for bicycling and roller-blading. We saw many people take advantage of this as we walked to the outdoor flea markets.

All of our kids came back home with a positive impression of Colombia. The trip was so much more than a vacation. They saw where they were cared for the first few months of their lives, they saw the incredible beauty of the country and met the warm, friendly people of Colombia, they experienced the rich culture and had an opportunity to practice their Spanish. They learned more about who they are and left with an enhanced pride in their birth country. All are looking forward to their next visit.



**Samantha Kissig proclaims
"Independencia!" with
Simon de Bolivar**

Janet Coleman Wins Parent Group of the Year Award!



Janet Coleman was honored at the 37th annual NACAC Conference in Columbus, Ohio this past August. Janet is a Co-facilitator for the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services Cluster Support Groups. The 18 Clusters placed geographically in Cuyahoga County provide support to adoptive and foster parents. The CCDCFS Cluster Group won NACAC's parent group of the year award.