



# CCAI CIRCLE

*Building Families, Enriching Community*

2021 EDITION



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# Standing Strong, Serving Orphans

The pandemic has lasted for almost two years with still no end in sight. Its lasting impact on children, families, jobs, everyone's emotional well-being, and the world as a whole is huge and yet to be fully manifested.

As we navigate our own struggles, it's easy to forget another group hit so hard by the pandemic – the abandoned and orphaned children living in orphanages around the world.

Can you imagine the pain, loneliness, confusion, helplessness, and emotional suffering experienced by those with no parents? These vulnerable children should not be forgotten.

This is why CCAI is still here to provide physical and emotional support to those precious children through our charity efforts, and to hold our waiting families'



hands as we all wait together for the re-opening and normalization of many countries' adoption programs. A true charity does not run from those they serve in times of difficulty; it runs toward them.

Every child deserves a family who loves them unconditionally. Every child has the right to be well cared-for physically and

emotionally, to receive the best education possible, and to fulfill their God-given potential.

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our impactful charity outreach possible during this pandemic. Thank you to all the waiting families who, regardless of the painful uncertainties, hold fast to the belief that one day soon they will bring their child home.

*Josh and Lily, Co-founders*

## Cultural Arts Competition Winners

Huge thanks to all of the incredibly talented participants in this year's Chinese Cultural Arts Competition!

**Congratulations** to our Grand Prize Winner, **Nicolette Lecy**, age 24!

Hats Off to all of our talented winning artists:

**Chinese dance, songs, or reading and reciting (solo)**

- First prize: *Maggie Grace YanYan Simmons, age 21*
- Second prize: *Tamasyng Yong, age 10*
- Third prize: *Alice Wood, age 21*

**Chinese writing or calligraphy**

- First Prize: *Julia Butler, age 20*
- Second Prize: *Danilyn Chapman, age 16*
- Third Prize: *May Lynn Steimle, age 16*

**Painting (Chinese-themed) or papercutting**

- First Prize: *Nina Li Weprin, age 17*
- Second Prize: *Grace Emily Milton, age 16*  
*Ana Claire Walters, age 19*
- Third Prize: *Amy Docter, age 27*  
*Kiara Mundt, age 11*  
*Rylee Tischer, age 17*  
*Megan Lei, age 17*



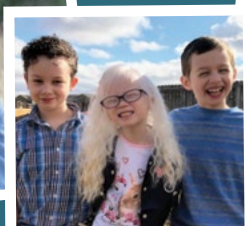
# 13,130

children have found their loving forever families through CCAI!

## 30th Anniversary!

CCAI will celebrate its  
30th Anniversary in 2022!

Stay tuned for announcements on how, when, and where we'll celebrate three decades of building families and changing lives!



# In His Hands

By Dustin & Emily Hughes

Vivien. The name jumped out at us from the screen. We had not been looking for another child to join our family. We were just a little curious. But her eyes -- those deep brown eyes -- and her adorable face! We reached out for initial information, but the process felt like too much. How could we take on another special needs child with the two we already had, bringing our total kid count to five? Lord, is this YOU? Don't tell us that You're asking this of us again! Are You?

Our story of adoption began in 2006. We had tried to conceive for several years with no success, and the doctors ultimately told us that we had one chance out of two million to conceive naturally. This news brought grief and questions about what the best "next step" was for us to grow our family. After much prayer, we felt like God wanted us to pursue adoption. We began to prepare all of the paperwork and schedule our home study, but before we could complete the process, the military deployed Dustin to Baghdad for 15 months during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We had a teenage mother ask us to take her newborn daughter in 2007, only to change her mind when it came time for relinquishment. This made us more determined than ever to pursue adoption. Thankfully, we got the call in November 2008 for a four-month-old baby boy, followed by two more surprises in store, biological sisters who arrived in 2010 and 2011 while we were pursuing the adoption of a child in China. We traveled in 2014 and brought home our Chinese son at the age of two. He was born with a cleft lip/palate.

In 2019, our oldest daughter wrote us a letter and asked for a baby sister from China for her birthday. We laughed it off, but she never relented; finally we consented to pray about it. After six months of "praying," our daughter asked if we were really praying or if we were saying that to appease her. Ouch! We promised to dedicate ourselves to honest and open prayer. In February 2020, we felt the Lord tell us to apply for our third adoption.

Through a unique series of circumstances, the Lord led us to Vivien, that beautiful brown-eyed little girl living in Colombia. We were able to get to know her via Zoom every Friday which made our Adoption Day super sweet. Vivien, now six, had been in the orphanage since the age of two and had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, autism, and severe global and developmental delays. They also told us she was nonverbal and not potty-trained. We arrived in Bogota on June 30, and received our Vivi Lou on July 2, 2021. We came back home to Colorado on August 1.

This adoption has stretched us in ways we could not have imagined. Living abroad with five kids for over a month was challenging. Traveling during the COVID pandemic was also especially hard. We are raising two children with autism, one with a cleft palate, and one with CP. We are in uncharted territory and are learning

more every day about how to function within new challenges. It has stretched our children, our finances, our patience; it has been tiring as well as exhilarating. Several people who know and love us have told us we are crazy.

**Lord, is this YOU?  
Don't tell us that  
You're asking this  
of us again!  
Are You?**

We would love to say THANK YOU beyond what our words can express to CCAI and each of the sponsors who have made this adoption possible. God is so faithful in His provision. We have seen Him show us repeatedly that HE has called us to this sweet girl. We can trust all the challenging moments and an unknown future to God. We are advocates for adoption. And the one thing we want people to know is that it is not always easy, but it is so worth it.

CCAI held our hands the entire way. Show Hope, Both Hands, Tim Tebow Foundation, Open Hearts for Orphans, and Gift of Adoption covered every single penny of our adoption. Our prayer is that families won't let the financial costs scare them away. HE WILL PROVIDE. Look at Vivi's face and see His faithfulness. To God be all the glory!



*Joyful Vivi Hughes*

# 2021

## CCAI Charity Projects



Thanks to a special fundraiser, the Yuanzhou Orphanage in Jiangxi was able to purchase diapers and milk



Nanyang, Henan, children receive toys and televisions from a family's generous donation



Your donations truly make a significant difference. Please remember to donate generously this year.

### Donate Today!

online: [ccaifamily.org](http://ccaifamily.org)  
mail: 6920 S. Holly Circle  
Centennial, CO 80112

Our CFC Code is: 93258



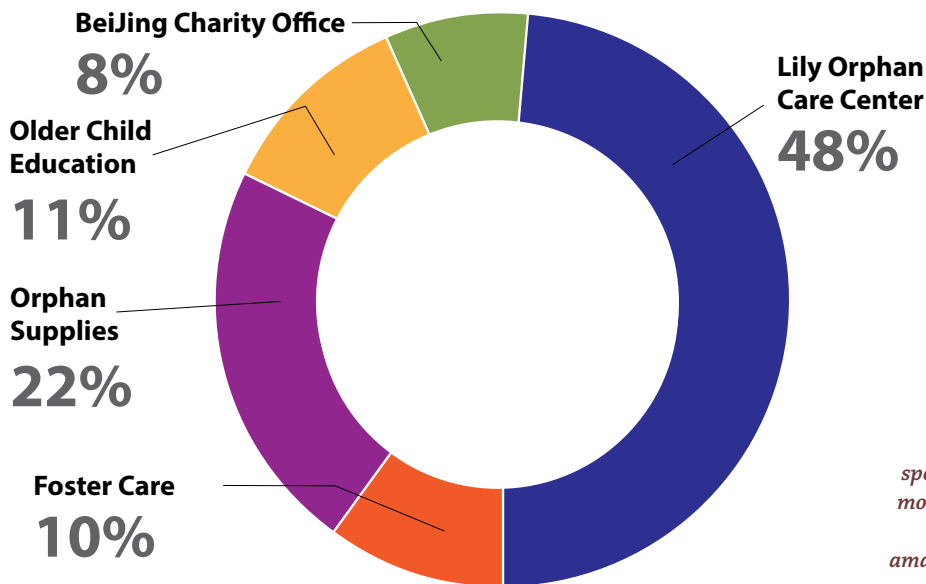
Province	Orphanage	Donation ¥	Project
HeNan	NanYang	2,902.35	TV, toys
	XinYang	2,481.00	Warm clothing
	JiaoZuo	20,340.00	Disaster relief children's supplies
	ZhengZhou	1,820.60	Disaster relief children's food
	ZhengZhou LOCC	504,942.09	Staff salary (year), birthday cakes
	ZhouKou	2,725.00	Diapers
	ZhuMaDian	2,915.00	Toys, books, & misc children's supplies
HuNan	ZhuZhou	106,596.00	Foster care (year)
JiangXi	YiChun, YuanZhou	12,550.00	Diapers, towels, & misc children's supplies
	FuZhou LingChuan	11,960.00	Diapers
	ShangRao	10,867.00	Projectors, desk & chair
	RuiJin	11,911.00	Shoes, warm clothing, diapers
	YingTan	50,300.00	Older child education (year)
	JiuJiang	60,000.00	Older child education (year)
	YuanZhou	19,140.00	Formula
	GanZhou	20,411.95	Rehabilitation equipment & children's supplies
	FuZhou	19,991.20	Rehabilitation equipment
	LiaoNing	ShenYang	7,143.00
GuangXi	BeiLiu	21,000.00	Children's clothing & office supplies
ChongQing	FuLing	33,070.00	Children's supplies
SiChuan	ChengDu	29,907.25	Air conditioner, clothing
HuBei	HuangGang	2,814.00	Strollers
BeiJing	Charity Office	86,508.80	Charity Office rent

TOTAL

**¥1,042,296**  
About \$162,860

# 1,200

Orphans' Lives Impacted in 2021



*CCAI's big-hearted donors continue to sponsor foster care for more than 40 children, including these amazing foster families in Zhuzhou, Hunan*



*CCAI's Zhengzhou Lily Orphan Care Center (LOCC) staff provide professional and loving care to orphan children*



*CCAI's donation brought tables, desks, and projectors to children in Shangrao, Jiangxi*



Twelve-year-old Shan Shan was painfully shy and insecure when we first met her at the Yingtan Orphanage in Jiangxi Province. Every day her friends went to

## One-on-One Education

school while she alone stayed behind due to her paralysis. When CCAI's Charity Team asked for her wish, she said, "I also want to be a student!"

After a discussion with her orphanage director, CCAI began to search for a private tutor willing to come to the orphanage every day and teach her math, art, and language.

In just a few months with her tutor, shy and lonely Shan Shan blossomed into a happy, confident, and social young lady.

"I just love my teacher, and I have been trying hard to be a good student," she proudly writes.

Today, generous CCAI donors sponsor 11 kids like Shan Shan to receive one-on-one education, for only \$600 a month per child. Many young people like Shan Shan urgently need instruction. Would you consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring an orphan's one-on-one education this year? Any amount helps a child to reach their full potential. The gift of an education and future possibilities is priceless!

# Our Unexpected Miracle

By Kristen Clark

Adoption was never on my radar growing up. Sure, it was a wonderful thing...for someone else. And if I'm being brutally honest, the reason was because it scared me to death. I was afraid of the unknowns. The upsets. The potential heartbreak. I just couldn't go there.

And yet here I sit today, brand-new mom to two precious boys adopted from Ukraine, ages ten and six. Two of the greatest gifts in my life.

Standing at the altar on my wedding day in 2011, I distinctly remember thinking, wow, my life is literally perfect. I was young, healthy, married to an amazing man, financially stable, and surrounded by loving friends and family. What could go wrong?

We were excited to start a family of our own, and it didn't take long for our dreams to become reality when I saw

those double blue lines shortly after our two-year anniversary. But sadly, my joy was all too quickly crushed when my pregnancy ended in a miscarriage two weeks later. Devastated and shocked, we slowly moved forward. And then it happened again. Six months later my second pregnancy ended in miscarriage as well. Our dream life was turning into a small nightmare.

The next five years were filled with dozens of doctor's visits and the diagnosis of unexplained infertility. Then shockingly, after our eight-year wedding anniversary, we conceived again out of the blue, but our dreams came crashing down when we lost the baby at 11 weeks.

As we worked through our grief, the thought of adoption lingered in the background. Maybe this was the path God had for us after all...?

One warm Texas day in March of 2020, I picked up a book by Russell Moore called *Adopted for Life*. As I read this book, the fear that had gripped my heart for so many years melted away. Yes, adoption was hard and challenging, but it was also beautiful, compelling, and redemptive.

Over the next few weeks, my husband and I prayed every day about the possibility of pursuing adoption. Then, one morning, we both looked at each other and just knew. We were going to adopt. And even more, we were both excited about adopting more than one child!

We loved the idea of international adoption, and Ukraine quickly became our top country of choice due to their quick adoption process and some personal family connections there. After partnering with CCAI, the journey officially began. Our life was consumed with stacks on stacks of paperwork,

but before we knew it we were headed to Ukraine for our first trip! With my heart pounding, we walked into our appointment at the Ministry of Social Policy in Kyiv, Ukraine, to be matched with our children for the first time.

And that's when we laid eyes on our precious sons. Two adorable brothers, living in an orphanage, waiting for a family in eastern Ukraine.

**“...two smiling boys came running over to us. Wrapping their little arms around us, they squeezed us tightly in the sweetest and most unexpected hug.”**

Tears filled my eyes. Within 24 hours we were on an overnight train headed to meet them for the first time.

As we waited nervously in the orphanage director's office, the door suddenly burst open as two smiling boys came running over to us. Wrapping their little arms around us, they squeezed us tightly in the sweetest and most unexpected hug. There was no turning back!

Five weeks later and one additional trip back to Ukraine, we stood in court and made it official. They were now our sons. I was their mom. My heart could not have been more full.

As I write these words today, I can't help but smile. My floor is covered in Nerf bullets and Legos, and my two Ukrainian sons are running around the living room playing tag speaking half-Russian and half-English to each other. What a beautiful, unexpected life.

Although this wasn't my original "plan" for motherhood, it's better than anything I could have imagined. Adoption is a mysterious and beautiful miracle, one that enriches and changes our lives forever.



*The Clark Family*

# Waiting with Hope & Faith

## Reflections from a Waiting China Family...

By Isaac & Brittany Frisbie

We are the Frisbie family, living in Utah with our 5 princes ranging from ages 8 to 17. They are crazy, rambunctious, loving, and bring us so much joy. We knew that we were missing a princess, so in March 2019 we began our adoption story with CCAI.

October 1, 2019, changed our lives forever. It was the day we saw our beautiful daughter's face for the first time on the waiting child page at CCAI. We knew she was meant to be part of our family the second we saw her cute face. It only took a few short hours and we had locked in her file. Our sons were so happy to finally see their future sister! The wait that we presumed would take two or more years was now probably going to take less than a year. We were thrilled, excited, scared, and hopeful.

The excited rush to get the rest of the paperwork in and dossier to China before the holidays was crazy and amazing. Lots of working hands, emails and phone calls with CCAI, US government agencies, and our social worker, were happening daily. Before Thanksgiving our dossier was at CCAI for translation and by mid-December our dossier had been accepted in China. We began to patiently wait for the next steps that would bring our daughter home. Much to our surprise, we received a Christmas miracle; on December 23rd our LOA arrived. We knew our daughter would be coming home by March or April at the latest!! Our excitement grew as did our rush to get the house and room ready for our princess's arrival. Then it all came to a screeching halt in January 2020 when the COVID-19 virus was detected in China, and then the world. Our short wait has now turned into a two year-plus wait. It is a wait we didn't think we would have to endure. It is a wait that has tested us physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

We feel the loneliness of missing our daughter daily. We feel the pain of seeing her grow up under another's care. We go to our knees often in prayer asking God, "Why?" and "When?" Our family's



Photo credit: Eli Frisbie

*The Frisbie Family*

**“As we continue to wait, we do so with hope and faith. To all those currently waiting with us, we see you and feel the sorrow with you.”**

hearts and minds ache to have her home. The pain of this wait is not something we can easily describe, but at times it is unbearable and tears fall freely and abundantly. After they fall, we know that we have to pick ourselves up and find hope again. Hope that we will hear something. Hope that we will learn something new. Hope that we will see our princess's beautiful face or get a video of her enjoying flowers, songs, or books. It is this hope that gets us through.

We know we must endure because across the world is our daughter. We have hope that she knows her Mom, Dad, and brothers love her and are waiting for her to come home. This hope has helped us endure in faith and find the strength to keep on waiting.

This wait has had its ups and its miracles. We have seen and learned amazing new insights into the adoption community. We have heard from parents both post

adoption and those in-process. We have learned from adoptees and their stories. We have learned about adoptees' struggles and learned about resources to help them. We have had time to learn more about our daughter's culture, language, and world. We have met many families who are enduring this wait with faith and perseverance. They have uplifted us and helped us see that we are not alone in our sorrows and loneliness. We have formed new bonds and friendships all over the country and world. Although these experiences and friendships do not compensate for the loss of time with our daughter, they make this wait an important part of our journey to bring her home.

As we continue to wait, we do so with hope and faith. To all those currently waiting with us, we see you and feel the sorrow with you. We continue to pray for you and all of our waiting children. We look forward to the day when our tears of sorrow turn to tears of happiness, joy, and gratitude as we hold our children in our arms for the first time and for forever. We love you all and are grateful for CCAI and all the adoption agencies advocating for us and our children!

# Bonding Over Brushes

By Nancy Petty

My daughter Gracie and I first attended Joyous Chinese Cultural School (JCCS) in 1997 when she was just two years old. For years, we spent our Saturdays forming a cultural connection to her birth country. Now Gracie is a software engineer and engaged to be married! In the midst of COVID, we returned to JCCS's Online School, this time as adults learning together.



We were excited to see that Chinese Brush Painting was one of the new online offerings through JCCS. We gathered our supplies of ink, Chinese brushes,

and Xuan rice paper in preparation for our Zoom classes, taught by talented artist Geng Mo.

It is hard to describe the feeling of the ink flowing from the saturated brush onto the thin rice paper. We were immediately captured by this ancient and mysterious form of artistic expression, both simple and incredibly complex.

Our classes were an unforgettable experience of bonding over a newfound passion. Gracie and I would sit side by side, at times absorbed in our own paintings, other times chatting about our lives. It was inspiring to see that we each had our own style even as we worked on the same subjects.

When the first session of classes ended, we quickly signed up for the next session. We enjoyed Chinese Brush Painting so much that our small painting table has turned into a full art studio! The introduction to Chinese Brush Painting through JCCS Online was just the beginning of a new and intriguing hobby that we can enjoy together for years to come!



# TH ADOPTIO



Adoptees were BACK in person this July as 52 campers from 18 states descended on University of Denver! Between workshops and groups, campers trekked to downtown Denver, the Denver Zoo, and even found time for a paint war.

21 tweens and 6 mentors attended the October Adoptween Hangout to explore the theme of "Identity." 54 more tweens were served in 2021 through our virtual Adoptween gatherings!



# 4,873 Adoptees Served in 2021



Joyous Chinese Cultural School (JCCS)'s Online School reached 139 students in 2021, including via this springtime virtual Chinese cooking class in which young chefs learned to make their very own delicious wontons and egg rolls.



JCCS's Summer Camps brought together 20 kids over two camps to have fun learning Chinese cultural arts.



# THE PARK

## N COMMUNITY CENTER

### Grounding Work

By Julia Miracle



If you had asked me a year ago how I felt about adoption, I would have said that I felt pretty solid in my identity. However, when the Stop Asian Hate movement started sweeping the nation, I felt so detached and ungrounded, with no one to share these feelings with.

I had visited The Park on a family trip and was in awe of the programs that were offered for kids and young adults like me. I realized an internship at The Park would be the perfect chance to connect with adoptees and gain work experience: an opportunity I wouldn't find anywhere else. When the application asked, "how are you connected to adoption?" it seemed

like such a straightforward answer: I am adopted. But I began to doubt my qualifications. After all, I was raised around white people and white culture. Could I work in an adoption support organization when I barely identified myself as Chinese?

Little did I know how incredibly powerful and grounding it would be to work every day, surrounded and supported by a team of adopted and Asian women.

The Park staff and interns helped me connect with my truest, most honest self, and we did it together. Suddenly, I was graced with the beauty of not having to explain myself. Even better, my unknowns and my feelings were not only understood, but relatable. Learning everyone's stories, sharing feelings and thoughts I had never been able to completely articulate before, and learning how to intertwine Chinese culture with my own upbringing was gratifying.

Internships can be tiring, lonely, and thankless. Interning at The Park was joyful, transformative, and affirming. No matter where I go in life, I know my fellow interns and Amy, Ali, and Claire will forever be in my corner, as I will be in theirs: always supporting each other, laughing together, and eating boba.

## The Park 2022 Event Dates

**January 14-17, 2022**

**Adopteen Midpoint Retreat**  
Orlando, FL, (Ages 13+)

**February 4, 2022**

**JCCS Chinese New Year Celebration**  
Littleton, CO

**March 18-20, 2022**

**Adopteen Leadership Training Retreat**  
Denver, CO

**May 14, 2022**

**JCCS 25th Anniversary Celebration**  
Centennial, CO

**June 14-18, 2022**

**Adopteen Camp-Conference**  
Haverford, PA, (Ages 13+)

**June 22-24, 2022 and July 11-15, 2022**

**JCCS Chinese Cultural Camp**  
Centennial, CO (Grades 1-8)

**July 19-23, 2022**

**Adopteen Camp-Conference**  
Denver, (Ages 13+)

**July 29-August 1, 2022**

**Adoptstronauts Adult Adoptee Retreat**  
Location TBA



*More than 550 students visited JCCS in 2021 to learn Chinese cooking, paper-cutting, kung fu fan dance, and Chinese calligraphy.*



*CCAI co-founder Lily Nie's Tai Chi class was the highlight for older students at JCCS's Summer Camps!*



**Total Confirmed Birth Family Matches!**

# Program Updates

*13,130 children have found their loving forever families through CCAI!*

## Latvia

Latvia primarily serves older children/sibling groups in need of permanency. In 2021, Latvia has continued the practice of allowing the adoption hearing to be held via Zoom! Latvia also extended the care and supervision period from 6 months to a year, to allow for the changes caused by the pandemic. Email us at [latvia@ccaifamily.org](mailto:latvia@ccaifamily.org) to learn more.

## Bulgaria

As in Ukraine, video-conferencing has replaced some trips to Bulgaria, a wonderful program for older children and older sibling groups to find their families! CCAI continues to grow the Waiting Child Program, which serves children ages 2-15 with identified medical conditions. We welcome you to visit some of these sweet faces on CCAI's Child Profiles webpage, and please feel free to email us at [bulgaria@ccaifamily.org](mailto:bulgaria@ccaifamily.org).

## Ukraine

Adoptions have been processing quickly for CCAI's second-largest adoption program in 2021! Thanks to video-conferencing, many adoptions have been completed in two trips instead of three. Ukraine has children waiting from ages 1-18, with the younger children having more moderate special needs. CCAI also continues to support Older Orphan Hosting with Ukraine via our partnerships with several host organizations, including Project 143 and Host Orphans Worldwide. Host children are generally between the ages of 7 and 16, many of them sibling groups. Families interested in hosting a child from Ukraine can find more information on our website or by contacting us at [ukraine@ccaifamily.org](mailto:ukraine@ccaifamily.org).

## China

The China adoption program continues to be heavily impacted by the effects of COVID-19, as families have been unable to travel to unite with their matched children since February 2020. However, the China Center for Children's Welfare & Adoption (CCCWA) continues to do as much as they are able – families can still submit a dossier, review and accept already-waiting children's files, and receive updates on their matched children. We are confident that families will be able to travel when the pandemic eases. Please email [waitingchild3@ccaifamily.org](mailto:waitingchild3@ccaifamily.org) with any questions about China!

## Taiwan


The Taiwan adoption process is running strong, allowing families to be matched to children and complete in-Taiwan steps with minimal delays. We've received new files for precious children recently, so the need for adoptive families remains strong! Please reach out to [taiwan@ccaifamily.org](mailto:taiwan@ccaifamily.org) or visit CCAI's website for more information.

## Colombia

We're happy to announce we've had several families bring their Colombian children home already! Colombian children waiting for adoption tend to be older and/or have special needs, and we also see sibling groups. Hosting prior to adoption is possible through our partner agency Project 143! If you are interested in learning more about Colombia adoption, please visit CCAI's website or reach out to [colombia@ccaifamily.org](mailto:colombia@ccaifamily.org).

# From Taiwan & Back Again

By Mary Tanis



“Looking back, we are now aware of how everything was perfectly orchestrated in the expanding of our family.”

In the fall of 2014, my husband Derek and I decided to adopt a child from Taiwan. We chose CCAI as our agency because they were highly recommended and have a stellar international reputation, but because they didn't have a Taiwan program at the time, we instead began a China adoption. We brought our son Jordan home in June 2016 followed by Judah in March 2018, both from the Henan province of China. Our boys are now each six years old and are virtual (artificial) twins! We are so thankful for our boys, and yet we knew our family wasn't done growing.

We began our third adoption process in the fall of 2018 and chose to pursue domestic infant adoption, before realizing it wasn't a good fit for our family. Our sons gave us the final nudge when they asked that their sibling be Asian “just like them.” How could we argue with that? We began updating our home study and signed back with CCAI in the fall of 2019 for both programs. It felt like we were coming back home!

Then one day that October, we saw a little face on CCAI's Taiwan Waiting Child page and knew we would regret not pursuing her adoption. We worked our tails off and on November 8, 2019, we submitted our intent to adopt the little girl we now

call daughter, not knowing when or if we would be her family. Then we began every adoptive family's favorite thing to do in the world: hurry up and wait. On Monday, January 6, 2020, my phone rang; it was the entire Taiwan team on speaker, calling to tell us we had officially matched! This beautiful, brave little girl was going to be a Tanis! We flew through the next two months and submitted our dossier by the middle of February. Then... COVID hit. Suddenly, adoptions everywhere ground to a halt. Our full speed ahead train was suddenly derailed, and the hopes and plans we had for summer travel drifted away.

Yet because of COVID, our first of two trips to Taiwan was waived. Then one of our sons had to have his pacemaker replaced in a somewhat emergency surgery. This caused us quite a bit of worry to leave him behind while recovering in the middle of a pandemic. However, Derek was able to travel by himself to bring our daughter home while I stayed behind with our boys. He quarantined for two weeks after being one of the last people allowed into the country before it closed again to international travel on 1/1/2021. After quarantine, a week of self-health management, and lots of bubble tea, braised pork rice, and shopping, he traveled to Kaohsiung from Taipei to meet

our daughter and bring her home.

Finally, on January 29, 2021, after over a year of waiting for her, we welcomed Abigail Jade Yen Tanis into our home as a much-loved and longed-for daughter and little sister.

Looking back, we are now aware of how everything was perfectly orchestrated in the expanding of our family. If we had chosen to stay with Taiwan way back in 2014, we wouldn't have our brave fighter Jordan or our lion-hearted Judah. If we had moved forward with Taiwan sooner, we wouldn't have our tiny but mighty Abigail Jade. Because of the extremely frustrating COVID delays, we were both able to be with our son when he needed his surgery (which later turned into two surgeries). CCAI's Taiwan team was in the trenches with us the entire time. They knew our frustrations and longing and helped us stay positive, especially when things seemed so discouraging. There are so many unknowns with international adoption, between program changes and now COVID delays. I can't predict the future and I can only speak to our family's experience, but my wish is that our convoluted story of twists and turns from Taiwan and back again will bring you hope in your own journey, wherever that may take you.