

MAPS WORLDWIDE

opportunities for *children & families*

e-news

mapsadopt.org

Winter 2009

MAPS WORLDWIDE: A GLOBAL IDENTITY IN 2009



Helping families at home and around the world...

We are still MAPS, but this year we are adding to our name to better reflect our mission. So starting soon you'll notice that our website and written materials will reflect our new name: MAPS Worldwide.

This change is in keeping with our commitment to women, families and children around the world - from domestic adoption and residential programs here in the US to our overseas humanitarian aid and international adoption programs that over the years have reached from Asia to Eastern Europe to South America and beyond.

HUMANITARIAN AID: IMPROVING FOSTER CARE IN RUSSIA

Training Russia's Caregivers

Recently we were invited to Russia to provide training to Russian adoption/foster care professionals working in the country's new child welfare system. Because of this training, we know that the complex social, educational, medical and emotional needs of the children will now be better met. [Click here to read about this exciting new initiative that is helping improve the lives of children in foster care and orphanages in Russia](#)



STEPPING STONES RESIDENTS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER



Cookies for the community

The goal at Stepping Stones, a comprehensive residential program for young women, is to help residents gain the skills necessary to safely parent their children and to successfully move children to permanency through reunification with their parents. In addition to intensive parenting training, we assist the women in meeting their educational and vocational goals and teach them to set up and manage a household while making safe choices for their children.

But it's not all hard work. Every December, the Stepping Stones residents gather in the kitchen and make hundreds

of cookies that they package up and deliver to community agencies in rural Maine, including local police and fire departments and all of the places where the parents volunteered during the past year.

FUND RAISING NEWS

Hope's Angel: Keeping a friend's memory alive

Every year we are honored to receive donations from many individuals and organizations. But this year the spirit behind one gift has special meaning. Mayan S., a young woman from Colorado, chose MAPS to receive the proceeds from a 5K walk/run that she organized in memory of her friend Kayla, who died in a car accident just before high school graduation. Mayan says, "Kayla was the president of our school's key club and was very passionate about helping others and making a difference. It was important to me and my friends to be able to start something that would keep her caring spirit alive." Thank you, Mayan, for supporting MAPS' work around the world in Kayla's memory.



MAPS receives Rines/Thompson grant MAPS has received a \$2,500 grant from Rines/Thompson Fund through the Maine Community Foundation to support our Maine Homeless Children's Program, which helps children staying with their mothers in our Portland, ME shelter. Luetta Goodall, our Director of Residential Programs, says, "This helps us give homeless children the stability they need grow and learn while their mothers receive support and counseling. The grant will make a difference in the lives of the children staying in our shelters - the difference between going hungry and having proper nourishment, between being cold and having warm, comfortable clothing, and between uncertainty and stability." [Read more about our shelter here.](#)

KIDS HELPING KIDS!

A message to our younger friends

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in the world? MAPS Kids Helping Kids Humanitarian Aid is the perfect opportunity to get together with your friends and make a difference in the lives of children and teenagers in need around the world. This is also a great way to complete your Community Service requirements for school or other clubs and organizations. Helping fundraise for one of MAPS Humanitarian Aid Projects is a fun way to give back to your community and learn about other children around the world. Projects can be anything from a dance-a-thon to a carwash to a bake sale to a spaghetti dinner. We can help you with ideas and getting organized. Just call Meghan O'Brien at (617) 267-2222 or email her at familycircles@mapsadopt.org



ADOPTION NEWS

Russia program needs families!

We were the first US adoption agency licensed in Russia in 1991 - and 18 years later the program is alive and active and going strong. We are currently seeking adoptive families, so if you'd like to hear more about adopting from Russia, give us a call at (207) 775-4101 or visit our [website](#) for all the details.

Waiting for news on Nepal

Watch our [website](#) for news about the reopening of adoptions from Nepal. We have received our enlistment to proceed with accreditation and hope that adoptions will be reactivated this spring.



MAPS is a multi-service, non-profit organization serving children, women and families worldwide. Our residential, counseling, adoption and humanitarian aid work is based on innovative services that promote permanency for children through building and strengthening families.

To support our efforts in the year to come, please visit http://www.mapsadopt.org/hum_aid/howyoucanhelp.html,

call us at (617) 267-2222, or email us at familycircles@mapsadopt.org.

Wishing your family health and happiness in 2009,

The MAPS Team