

Dear Perspective Adoptive Families,

Our family began our adoption journey around April of 2008 when we contacted Carol to ask if she would be able to help us build our family by doing a US Foster Care adoption. After patiently and thoroughly answering our questions over the next months, we decided that we would sign the contract and begin working with Adopt Abroad. We were concerned because our family lives in China, but Carol assured us that even families who live outside the US can, in fact, adopt children. While sometimes it took her some time to respond to e-mails, she always gave thorough answers to our questions and concerns.

After beginning our home study, our social worker decided to join the Peace Corps just before the home visit, and so we e-mailed Carol asking her advice because it is hard to find social workers willing to do home studies for families in Asia. Carol then told me of a family who had just contacted her. It was a Nepali mother who was studying in China and had just had a baby; her family didn't know about the child and she was trying to do an adoption as secretly as possible. She needed a family immediately; otherwise the child would have entered the already-stressed orphanage system where she would have most certainly died because she is a foreign child.

Our daughter, still our foster daughter, Abhisneha, changed our lives on September 19, 2008 when she came to Shanghai to live with us. Carol told us that as soon as we contacted the family the only help she could offer was to put us in touch with some attorneys because this sort of adoption is well outside of her realm of expertise and jurisdiction. So, through her lawyers, they were able to put us in touch with some of our international lawyers league and have been able to direct us in what to do next.

Because we are dealing with the governments of four nations (America, China, Nepal, and Palau, the country where we will soon finalize the adoption), it has been a slow moving process. Even though we are no longer clients of Carol's, she sends periodic e-mails to check our progress and to give kind words of encouragement (while still remaining realistic that this is an adoption with a lot of legal risk). She helped our family to be whole.

It has taken us a long time, almost a year, to process our feelings about the direction that this has taken and our opinions about the services offered. At first, it seems silly now, but we felt abandoned by our agency, even though we had been told we would be alone. Now, we realize it is what Carol had to legally do, and should we choose to adopt again from a country with which Adopt Abroad, Inc has ties, we will certainly be in touch because even though we've been alone, they gave us our beautiful daughter.

They could have written this Nepali family off and let Abhisneha enter the Chinese orphanage system, but instead they gave her a chance for life. They could have instead taken our money for the "tip," but Carol wanted nothing other than for

this child to have a home. We'll forever be grateful to Adopt Abroad for giving our daughter a chance to have a life.

Best Wishes in Your Family's Adoption Journey,

The Jones Family

Britt, Alicia, Abhisneha, and Gideon