



JUNE 2013 FAMILY CONNECTIONS CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS E-HEARTBEAT



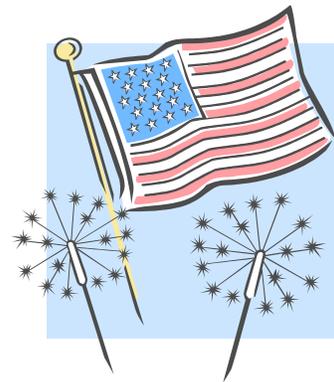
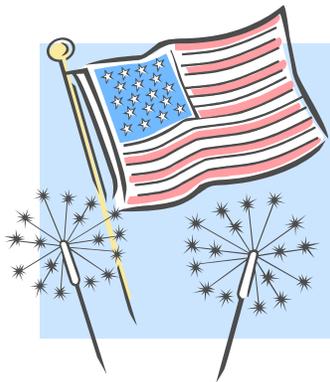
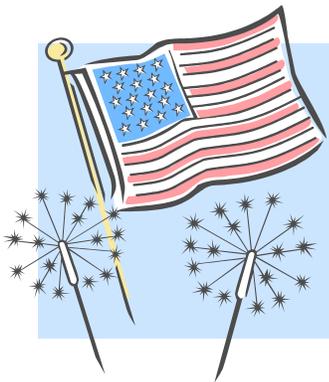
A GREAT LIFE

My name is Davidson Borgmeyer. I was adopted from Cantho, Vietnam on October 18, 1995. I was raised in Truckee, California where I spent 14 years of my life living and growing up in the mountains. I later moved to a smaller town not far away, where I carried out my high school career at Portola High.

I love living in the mountains. I am an avid outdoorsman, and I love to fish, hunt, and hike in my free time. I love volleyball! I play football, baseball and basketball. Growing up in the mountains has helped shaped my future career goals. In my senior year I was assigned a senior project where we spend 20 hours with a mentor and a job shadow to explore your likes and interests while reaching out to the community. This project has helped shape my future career goals.

I will attend San Diego State University for the fall of 2013 where I will pursue a degree in Biology, and a minor in Wildlife Management. I plan to become a field biologist and later a game warden. This gives me the best of both worlds because I can study the animals and environment, to later go on to protect them by enforcing the law. A biology degree will open new doors and opportunities. I am really interested in radiology and I hope to get into an accredited school to possibly become an ultrasound technician or a physician's assistant. I set my dreams big, so big in fact that I am almost afraid of them. But I know in my heart that my dreams are perfect and very legit.

Being adopted is the best thing that ever happened in my life. I believe my parents gave me a golden opportunity to experience the "American Dream." They gave me the opportunity to thrive and perform in the greatest country on earth, and I can't thank them enough for this opportunity. The best thing I can do is to make them proud. I do this by doing my best in everything, especially in school. Being from a small town has really shaped me to become a well-rounded person. I get the opportunity to become friends with everyone in my school and I get to play and start on all three sports of the season. I truly have a great life and wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.



SISTERS OF THE HEART

By Faith Emmert

I am Faith Aperna Emmert-Sanchez. I was born in Calcutta, India on June 29th, 1995, and I arrived in the San Francisco Airport to my parents on December 24th, about six months later. My parents still tell me I was the best Christmas present they have ever received. Since my arrival, I have lived in Sacramento, CA with my mother and father. I have been blessed with the most loving and supportive parents. They have supported me through all my endeavors, be it singing, figure skating, or dancing, and especially school. I attended high school at St. Francis, a college preparatory for young women. There I was a member of the choral program all four years; I immersed myself in the English and History programs, and made many wonderful friends. Despite my passion for more liberal studies, my hope is to earn a Bachelors in Science in Nursing from Sacramento State, then go on to be certified as a Nurse Practitioner from U.C. Davis. At Sac. State, I hope to join one of their choirs. I also hope to keep up with my other hobbies, figure skating, and swing and blues dancing.

Through my adoption process, my mother met one of her most dear friends, Janet Hoffman. It was only natural that their daughters would be dear friends as well. I have known Katie Hoffman for what seems like my whole life. As a young child, I would refer to her as my "twin"; now I refer to her as my Sister of the Heart. Ever since we were three years old, our mothers have made sure we have the chance to see each other at least once a year. Some of my most fond and prominent memories take place with Katie: Disneyland, Heritage Camp in Colorado, and many trips to the beach. It is so refreshing to have a friend with whom you can always pick up where you left off, a friend with whom you can discuss anything, and a friend who effortlessly knows you so well. Just as I am thankful for how my adoption brought me together with my parents, I am thankful that my adoption brought me together with Katie Hoffman.

Editor's Note: Faith and Katie were in the same orphanage in India; they made the journey home to California the same day on the same plane.



Faith Emmert-Sanchez and Katie Hoffman

Double Celebration of the 4th of July By Shauna Barton



July 4th will forever be an important day for our family. Yes, the importance of our country's independence. But, it is also the day we became a family. After three years of an emotional roller coaster and feeling many times like we would never see the day, we were in India and meeting our son, Nathaniel. In an instant, our lives changed.

In just a year and a half, we have watched him grow and show off his personality. We definitely learned what our India coordinator meant when he said Nathaniel was "an active little boy." He loves to sing and dance. He likes to make funny faces and take visits to the library. He also knows exactly how to melt our hearts when he will wrap his arms around us and say he loves us out of the blue. We have certainly had some challenging days, but always ending with a reminder of patience and love.

On the morning to meet our son, our India Coordinator had told us, "It has taken a long time to get here, but God always had this day planned for you." So, now on the 4th of July when the spectacular colors of fireworks are dazzling us, we like to think part of that is a celebration of that special day.



Ani Shamshoian, born June 6, 2011 and adopted from Armenia in 2012, brings much joy into the life of her mother, Mary. "She is such a blessing to my life," says Mary, who waited almost five years to successfully adopt from Armenia.

(We are so sorry we missed putting your picture in the 2012 Yearbook, Ani).

Congratulations Graduates!



Davidson Borgemeyer, a graduate of Portola High School, will pursue a Biology degree from San Diego State University. Davidson was adopted from Vietnam in 1995 by April Shepherd and David Borgemeyer. Read more about Davidson on page 1.



Kelsi Macklin received a B.A. degree in Asian Studies from the University at Berkeley, Ca. Proud parents are Rob and Dena Macklin, who adopted Kelsi from China in 1992.



Faith Emmert was adopted from India in 1995 by Barbara Emmert and Michael Sanchez. She graduated from St. Francis High School and will attend Sacramento State college to pursue her B.A. in Nursing. Read her article on page 2.



Katie Hoffman has graduated from Mission Vista High School and will attend Palomar Community College to study for a career in Occupational Therapy. Janet Hoffman adopted Katie from India in 1995.



Ben Neuburger will attend Bennington College in Vermont. He is interested in History and Cultural Studies. Ben is a graduate of El Camino High School. He was adopted from Vietnam by Cathy Ewing and Noel Neuburger in 1996.



Seetha Ana Ream-Rao has graduated from Cal State East Bay, majoring in Political Science/Pre-Law. She plans to go to Law School in the next years. Seetha's parents are Bob Ream and Shaila Rao; they adopted her from the U.S. in 1992.





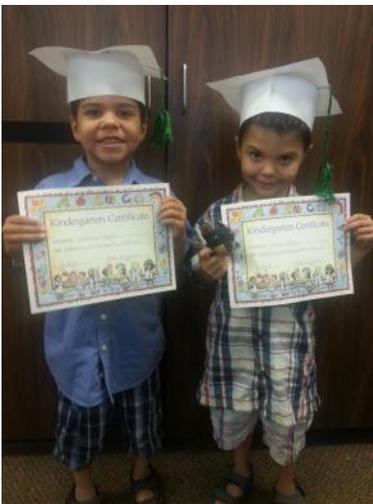
Steven Jones, son of Brian and Mickie Jones, graduated from 8th grade Charter School.



Angel Bunker, daughter of Daniel and Whitney Bunker graduated from kindergarten. Here she is getting a hug from one of her kindergarten teachers at Fig Garden School. Angel finished at the top of her class in reading.



Brian Clement graduated from the eighth grade at Big Valley Christian School. He is the son of Tim and Linda Clement.



Jeffrey and Masen Hogue graduated from kindergarten at Webster Elementary School. The two boys are full biological siblings, ten months apart. Their proud parents are Chad and Michelle Hogue.



James Richardson graduated from pre-school. His parents, Eric and Shannon Richardson let us know that James has done very well since starting preschool a year and a half ago when he was almost four. At the time he did not know his colors or any numbers. Now he is at the top of his class and can read and spell! James loves learning and is eager to go on to Kindergarten.



MAURICIO QUINTANILLA displays his graduation certificate. Mauricio is the son of Gerardo and Cecilia Quintanilla. He graduated from John Adams School Kindergarten.



ISABELLA QUINTANILLA has completed the Early Start Program at Madera Unified School. She is the daughter of Gerardo and Cecilia Quintanilla.