



Adoption Connection

Spring 2011

a publication of Infant of Prague Central California Adoption Service

Exciting Changes at IPAS

Since 1953 our agency has provided adoption services to eleven Central Valley counties. The State of California has recently granted IPAS license to complete home studies in six new counties. Along with the entire Central Valley, we can now provide full adoption services to: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Benito, Toulumne and Calaveras Counties.

We are thrilled to have presence in communities where there have been so few services available. In the coming months we will be involved in outreach efforts to introduce Infant of Prague to our new counties. With the expansion into Central California came the opportunity to examine our agency name.

As you may know, almost 60 years ago our agency was established under the umbrella of Catholic Charities. The agency was named for a popular devotion to the Infant Christ Child of Prague, Czechoslovakia, dating back to the 16th century. Since the devotion stressed special blessings for children and families, it seemed an appropriate name for our agency.

When IPAS became independent of Catholic Charities, we kept the name for its tradition and recognition in the community. As the years passed, however, sometimes our name was confusing. People who were not Catholic and not familiar with the tradition, didn't understand the context of our name. Many thought

we were simply an international agency that adopted children from Prague.

Others thought that we only provided services to Catholics. Needless to say, our name was commonly followed with explanation.

As we now expand to new areas of the state, we understand the need to make our name a bit more secular and recognizable. Members of our board gathered recently to discuss a name revision. Finding common ground between tradition and branding can be a challenge, but our members met the demand. Our name is now:

Infant of Prague Central California Adoption Services

(Still lovingly referred to as IPAS)

A Toast to the Children

On October 7, IPAS celebrated its 8th annual A Toast to the Children at Weber BMW in Fresno. The evening was a tremendous success with over 300 people present.

Of course none of this could have happened without the support of Yrma Rico, the owner of Weber BMW, who graciously opened the doors of their showroom to host our event. The sleek architecture provides the ambiance of comfort and class. We are grateful to Ms. Rico and the Pajouh

family for supporting this event, as they have for the last several years.

On one side of the showroom was our silent auction, displaying over 120 items, including a wine dinner and a two night stay at the Awhanee Hotel, courtesy of DNS Parks and Resorts; at the other end of the showroom was a beautifully displayed hearty buffet provided by Pardini's Catering. Guests could step out to the front patio, our beer garden, and sample domestic and imported beers provided

by Donaghy Sales.

Or they could cool their pallets with delicious ice cream treats served by our dear friends from Cold Stone Creamery.

Guests shopped and tasted to the tunes of a jazz trio, thanks to the talents of Hilda Warren, Beverly Henson and Kenny Akin.

We had a wonderful variety of wines for guests to taste this year. Wineries present included: Ficklin Vineyards, Englemann Cellars, CRU Wine Company, A Nonini

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Our sincerest thanks to the Candlelight Guild of Fresno whose generous donation of \$2,500 helped us purchase two laptop computers, a projector, a printer and speakers. This equipment allows us to update our presentations in class trainings and orientations. We so appreciate the thoughtful women in this guild for honoring the work we do and partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of birth parents, adoptive parents and children.



2010

Parade of Stars



Jace Perez



Fiona Michelle Taylor Flitcraft



Daniel Josiah Atilano



Joseph Andrew



Juliana Renee Orsburn



Kurt Neimi



Liam Joseph Tiago Moreir



Lillian Athena Marie Moareira



Rylee Kathrine Payton Montagna



Sophia Hope Stevie Arbios



Infant of Prague
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Adoption Service

A Toast to the Children

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Winery, Quady Winery, Milla Vineyards, Treatch Cellars and Fresno State Winery. In addition we had a "taster's choice" table where guests could sample wines donated by individual supporters of IPAS. Be sure to watch for a profile on each of these wineries as we spotlight them in our monthly newsletter.

This year's Toast to the Children was especially exciting as we celebrated two legendary women of IPAS; Judy Casson & Judy Luft. What a delight to honor these lovely women who have touched so many lives through the years. The occasion gave us the opportunity to present certificates of service from political officials, but also to pay tribute with the presentation of our Birth Mother Assistance Program which has been named in their honor.

Again we thank all who helped make this event such a success. **Next year's event will be held on September 23rd at the Fresno Art Museum.**

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Campaign Contributions

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

Each year generous donors make a plan to contribute to IPAS through charitable giving campaigns. They arrange to have an amount set aside each fiscal quarter that is matched by their employer or a managing organization. These types of donations provide a stream of financial assistance throughout the year the helps us continue to thrive. We want to thank those individuals who give, their employers who support these campaigns, and the organizations who match their donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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Paul Smith and Family

Gifts to Honor

In honor of the baptism of Leonard Carlo Russo

Martin & Marianne Weil Family



Infant of Prague Adoption Service

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Come to the 14th annual adoptive family picnic!

Our celebration will be held on April 30th
at Woodward Park from 11:00am until 2:00pm.



Make your reservation today by calling
(559) 447-3333

Director's Note

We are so thrilled to have expanded our services to all of Central California. We know the positive impact that adoption has with so many individuals and families we have worked with over the years. With some of the media hype that focuses on dramatic and often negative adoption experiences there are common misconceptions and bias regarding the effects of adoption on individuals.

We have the honor of working with the faces of adoption every day from newborn to middle-aged. In fact, successful adoptees are represented on our board and our staff.

Over the next several months we would like to high light some of the amazing adoption stories that we have the privilege of being connected to. Please feel free to share your own positive stories with us. You can do so by writing to us, sending us an email or posting on our face book page. We would love to hear from you. Without a doubt we know that there are incredible adoption connections taking place every day. As advocates who witness these healthy relationships and individuals that are involved in the process we feel it is vital to get the message out.