

# The Family Partner

Almost Home Kids ~ Summer 2010 Newsletter



## The Long Road Home

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**Stephania**, or “Stephy” as her family calls her, came to Almost Home Kids after a surgical procedure that released her contracted leg muscles due to cerebral palsy.

**Nancy and Steven Yuan**, Naperville residents, had been considering adopting a child from Haiti ever since friends introduced them to Stephy’s orphanage. Through the orphanage website and blog, the Yuans noticed something special about Stephy. They soon started asking questions about adoption and learned that the process typically takes years.

Then, the devastating earthquake hit Haiti. Through the preparedness and hard work of the orphanage staff, in less than a week, Stephy found herself in the states on Humanitarian Parole. The Yuans soon became her temporary guardians. Shortly after, Stephy underwent surgery and came to Almost Home Kids. She will soon begin the process of learning to walk, while her five sisters and extended family at AHK cheer her on!

Nancy and Steve Yuan shared the positive results Almost Home Kids has had on Stephy and their family and we would like to share their comments with you.

## Will You Be Our Friend?

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Friends of Almost Home Kids commit to sharing our story with five of their friends in order to increase awareness of AHK in the community. As our friend, you will receive a quarterly e-mail with the latest news, event notifications, volunteer and advocacy opportunities.

Become our friend in three easy steps:

1. Visit [www.almosthomekids.org/help/friends](http://www.almosthomekids.org/help/friends) to sign up
2. Share our story with 5 others
3. Ask them to become Friends

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“AHK has given Stephy the opportunity to meet a lot of new people who care for her, have fun with her, and also nurse her, which is preparing her for the transition to heavy duty rehab. AHK has also made it possible for Stephy to follow the instructions that the ortho surgeon requested for her, that she stand or be on her tummy all day. AHK has allowed our family to be able to balance spending time with our other girls with Stephy time. We have been blessed by being able to spend time as a family, not only going to see and care for Stephy, but also to spend some quality time helping out and being around other special needs children.

We have told our family and friends about the wonderful care Stephy and others receive at AHK. We highly recommend AHK for anyone needing special care for their child. The staff made our family feel very welcome and at home.

Thank you so much for your love and care these past four weeks! The staff at AHK really went above and beyond the call of duty to make our family feel at home and for that we are very appreciative. Please extend our gratitude to the rest of the staff!

Steve, Nancy, Stephy, and sisters :)”

# Message from the President

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Dear Friends,

Wow, the last few months really flew by - somehow we've already plunged into summer!

I'd like to start by extending a huge thank you to all of our volunteers. Without you, there is no way Almost Home Kids could be an effective transition and respite care facility and we are so grateful to have you.

In addition to our volunteers, the **Naperville Jaycees** chose us as the featured charity at their 10th annual Mardi Gras Charity Ball and donated over \$8,600 to Almost Home Kids. Also, we continue to receive wonderful comments about the Christmas Party hosted by **Heritage Harley Davidson of Lisle** and the **Fox Valley Harley Owners Group**. Their hard work and generosity really helped to make the season bright for our children and families.

One organization, though, has gone above and beyond in helping us continue to fulfill our mission, the **Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club**. Since "adopting" us two years ago, they have contributed countless hours and thousands of dollars to Almost Home Kids.

The Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club is a community service organization that strives to enrich the community and the lives of their members and their families. HJWC's mission is to offer members a network of resources and opportunities and serve as a leader of volunteer and philanthropic service. The Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club Charitable Foundation seeks to identify, support and financially contribute to charities and organizations in need.

The women at HJWC have served us to the point that it feels that HJWC is like a big sister to Almost Home Kids. Whatever we have needed, they have always been willing to help out, including such tasks as planting and landscaping; providing meals for meetings and celebrations; making birthday kits so we can celebrate the children's birthdays; creating a kid-friendly family cookbook for the parents; donating clothes for AHK children in need; and more. Additionally, they hosted two annual benefit events that raised a combined total of \$129,000 for AHK. Unfortunately our tenure with them has come to an end and it feels like our big sister has gone away to college. We greatly appreciate everything these women have done for us and will dearly miss working with them.

To the HJWC and all of our volunteers, we are so grateful for the many ways you help AHK. You are treasured by our children, families, and staff. If it weren't for all you do for us, we wouldn't be able to provide the care that the Almost Home Kids' children and families need.

Thank you all,  
Deborah A. Grisko

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