STAY CONNECTED... Through the Years, Across the Miles

As the years pass and the kids get older, it may feel more difficult to remain a part of The Cradle community. But it’s easy to stay connected! Following are just some of the ways in which our families have stayed connected to The Cradle and to each other despite time and distance.

It may be as easy as... Facebook!

The Cradle's Facebook page is full of photos, articles and announcements so you can keep up-to-date on all the news. It’s also a wonderful way to watch The Cradle family grow. You can welcome new members, encourage waiting members and catch up with old members when you visit the page.

Watch Cradle kids celebrate birthdays, holidays and other events, and even enjoy Chiberia! (Go to pg. 3.) As photos are posted and stories are told, other Cradle families, Cradle adult adoptees and birth moms join in the conversation.

Forever and ever and ever, I will be so grateful for our connection. I know we came together out of the hardest circumstances. But this love!

- posted on October 24, 2013 by Cradle parent Anna Bonick, mom to Elise (Class of 2011)

33 years ago today, also a Friday the 13th, my parents got a phone call from The Cradle informing them that they were the new parents to a proud baby girl, me. Thank you Cradle for giving all of us the best gift in the world!

- posted on July 13, 2012 by Cradle alumna Jessica Appleton Tesch ('79)

Join The Cradle’s Facebook community by liking our page, sharing your own photos and interacting with other families with “likes” and comments. It’s all just a mouse-click away!

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheCradleAdoptionServices

(Continued on page 2)
Sayers Families of Lake County

It’s just as easy to create Cradle communities close to home. Sayers Center families in Lake County, north of Chicago, started a social group last fall to bring their kids together with other Sayers adoptees. While the kids play, the adults are able to talk about adoption and the joys and challenges they face as adoptive parents.

“This group was started as a way to encourage families that have adopted black or biracial/multi-racial children,” explains Georgia Hogan, mom to Cradle baby Rex, 6, and bio son Henry, 9. “The families that attend are from predominantly white communities, so this is an opportunity for the kids to play with other children of color and develop some lasting friendships.”

These Sayers families have found a way to connect with other families like theirs and form bonds that will help their children as they grow.

To learn more about the Sayers Families of Lake County, contact founder Jim O’Brien at lizandjimobrien@gmail.com.

Lifelong Friends

When Cradle mom Kim McLean and her husband, Jon Kirn, decided to adopt a baby from Cambodia, they looked to The Cradle to help them meet other adoptive families in Chicago. “The Cradle convinced us of the importance of our child having friends whose families looked like hers,” said Kim. “Little did we know that these connections would turn out to be as important to us as to our daughter.”

Kim and Jon joined with several other Chicago area families who had adopted children from Asia. The group hosted playgroups at each other’s homes and the kids grew up together. Fourteen years later, the toddler playgroup has morphed into a less regular, but still important connection. “My daughter still considers those playgroup girls among her best friends, even though we don’t live in Chicago anymore and only see each other a few times per year,” Kim says. “I have come to rely on the moms as we weather the challenges of adolescence together!”

Connecting with a Purpose

For many families who adopted Cradle babies from the agency’s earliest years through the 1990s, The Cradle Auxiliaries offered an excellent way to stay connected and help The Cradle. There were nine Auxiliaries throughout the Chicago metropolitan region as well as groups in Detroit, New York, Philadelphia and Southern California.

Ginny Uhlenhop first became involved with the Winnetka Auxiliary when she brought her daughter home from The Cradle in 1971. “It was a way for Cradle families and other supporters to raise funds for The Cradle,” Ginny recalls. “We wanted to show our children that The Cradle was a special place and wonderful organization to be part of.”

The Auxiliaries raised funds through a variety of means, from a high end fashion show that was attended by celebrities and more than 1,300 guests in Chicago’s largest hotel ballrooms, to publishing and selling cookbooks and holiday cards. The Auxiliaries raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for The Cradle in the 70+ years they were active. Some continue to be active: the Winnetka Auxiliary when she brought her daughter home from The Cradle in 1971. “It was a way for Cradle families and other supporters to raise funds for The Cradle,” Ginny recalls. “We wanted to show our children that The Cradle was a special place and wonderful organization to be part of.”

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Having Fun

Another great way for Cradle families to connect in a fun, relaxed setting is through our Cradle Connections events. Coming up soon is our annual Open House on May 18, followed by The Cradle Family Picnic on August 9 in Elmhurst. Whether you live near or far, we value our connection with you and look forward to seeing you – or hearing from you!

RSVP for the Open House or Cradle Family Picnic at www.cradlefoundation.org/events.
Dear Friends,

At last! We have emerged from a long and dreadful winter that chilled us to the bone and challenged our patience (not to mention our sense of humor). But leave it to young children to find joy where we grown-ups find misery. I hope you will take as much delight as I do in the photos below of some of our Cradle “snow babies” at play.

Many of our Cradle babies make their “debut” on our Facebook page. It is just one way that we celebrate these beautiful children and stay connected to our families and friends. You can read about other ways of connecting in the cover story.

Beyond social media, The Cradle has been featured in local news media in recent months, both on TV and in print. This has provided an excellent forum to discuss the ongoing threats posed by for-profit, out-of-state providers and reiterate the need for state officials to enforce provisions of the 2005 Adoption Reform Act.

Last November I was interviewed at The Cradle for a Fox News Chicago segment on the adoption environment. I talked with reporter Dane Placko about how internet providers are targeting pregnant women and prospective adoptive parents in Illinois, even though it is illegal for them to advertise in the state. In February I had the opportunity to discuss these issues in depth – as well as The Cradle’s work – with Chicago Tribune reporter Janet Kidd Stewart.

We are seeing a few positive steps. Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed a suit against a California agency which is not licensed to operate in Illinois but continues to target potential clients here. Letters of warning have been sent to other out-of-state providers.

You – our families and friends – are The Cradle’s best ambassadors. Thank you for the messages you post, the stories and pictures you share, and everything you do to help us safeguard ethical adoption.

Warm regards,

Julie S. Tye

Cradle Babies Make the Best of a Brutal Winter

Here in Chicagoland, we’re all pretty sick of talking about the winter of 2013-14, with its Polar Vortex and never-ending piles of snow. We endured the third coldest and snowiest winter on record (since such records have been kept, that is, beginning in 1884). Total accumulation of the white stuff was 79.1”, just one snowfall shy of the second place mark of 82.3” set in 1977-78. The average temperature from December through February was a brisk 18.8°, and according to one report, we had the most days ever at or below zero: 26.

But that didn’t keep many of our Cradle kids from bundling up, heading out and having a blast. We invited parents to post snow photos on our Facebook page – the response was priceless!

Massachusetts Cradle baby Casey Crannell, 3, is all ready for a snow hike near his woodsy home.

Liv McManus, 4, is swingin’ in the snow… what a glorious feeling!

18-month-old Belicia Thomas demonstrates the art of snow sliding.

Marshall Wigstone, 2, came home from China to the NW Chicago suburbs with his family at the end of December and experienced his very first snow!
SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS You Won't Want to Miss

Sunday, May 18th: CRADLE OPEN HOUSE

We love to open up our doors on a spring Sunday afternoon to welcome Cradle families, friends and neighbors. The children will delight in the petting zoo, balloon animals, face painting, games and crafts, fire truck, Nursery visits and popcorn! Parents will enjoy catching up with other Cradle families, relaxing in the courtyard and seeing how much fun their kids are having. The Open House is from noon to 3 p.m.

Monday, June 9th: THE CRADLE CLASSIC

Cradle dad and Cradle Foundation Board member, Jim Connelly, has supported The Cradle Classic since its inception in 2001. Here, he is demonstrating his swing at last year’s event at the premier Knollwood Club in Lake Forest. We are returning to Knollwood this year for our 14th annual tournament. The day begins at 10 a.m. with registration, practice time and lunch, followed by a noon shotgun start, 18 holes of golf, on-course contests and beverage carts. You’ll return to the clubhouse afterward for a cocktail reception, awards ceremony and enticing silent auction.

Thursday, July 17th: SAYERS SUMMER SOIRÉE

Cradle moms Catherine Jones (Caleb ’08), in red, and Dawn Porter (Collin ’09) had a wonderful time at last year’s inaugural Sayers Summer Soirée. Our 2014 Soirée – an evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, music and mingling – will take place from 6-10 p.m. at the new River Roast (formerly Fulton’s on the River) in Chicago. Proceeds from the evening will benefit The Cradle’s Sayers Center for African American Adoption.

Saturday, August 9th: CRADLE FAMILY PICNIC

As we discovered last year, the Hub at Berens Park in Elmhurst is a great place to have a summer picnic, with its large outdoor tent, air conditioned pavilion, fantastic playground and a “Spray Ground” for cooling off. Plan to join us from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 8/9 for good food and friendship. Cradle kids (and pals) Tallulah, Noah and Keira, left, had lots of fun at the 2013 picnic!

For more information, including how to RSVP or purchase tickets, visit www.cradlefoundation.org/events.
A commemorative brick is a wonderful way to celebrate your family, your child's birthday or adoption day, honor a birth parent, or pay tribute to the memory of a loved one. And, it will become a lasting part of The Cradle courtyard and garden, where over 2,100 inscribed bricks have been installed to date.

___ standard brick(s) (4" x 8") at $150 each......$_______
(quantity)

___ deluxe brick(s) (8" x 8") at $300 each......$_______
(quantity)

My total contribution .................$______________

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you!

IMPORTANT!
Please provide contact information so that we may reach you if we have any questions regarding your brick(s).

Name: __________________________

Phone: _______ / _______ - __________________________

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Kelly at 847.733.3230 or mkelly@cradle.org.

Please use the space below to let us know how you wish to list your own name, your family name, or the name of a loved one you wish to honor or remember.

STANDARD BRICKS: Up to 3 lines of 13 characters

DELUXE BRICKS: Up to 5 lines of 13 characters

Order by June 30, 2014, one of three ways:
• online at www.cradlefoundation.org/brick
• fax your completed form with credit card info to 847.475.5871
• mail form with payment to The Cradle Foundation, 2049 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201

THE CRADLE FOUNDATION ACCEPTS GIFTS BY:

Check: Please make your check payable to The Cradle Foundation and return it with this reply form.

Credit card:  ❑ Visa       ❑ MasterCard       ❑ Discover

My account # __________________________

Expiration Date____ / _______ Security code_________

Signature __________________________

THE CRADLE NEWSLETTER | 5
The Cradle has been very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park for the past six years. Established in 2000 with $100 million resulting from the merger of Evanston Hospital and Highland Park Hospital, the Foundation has awarded $80 million to over 50 organizations to date.

While the Foundation is an independent entity, separate from NorthShore Highland Park Hospital, around 60% of the $6.5 million it grants annually supports indigent care at the hospital. The remaining 40% is granted to community-based healthcare programs and services in the area served by the hospital, as well as an area extending north to the Wisconsin border and south to the Chicago city limits. Grants have supported services for children and adults with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault, hospice care, mental healthcare and health education, among others.

“We always talk about The Cradle with pride,” said Steve Vasen, who with his wife, Maxine, adopted two children, Stephen and Sarah, through The Cradle in the 1960s. “It is wonderful to see how the programs have changed and adapted over the years, and yet the mission has always focused on what is best for the babies.”

Steve operated a property asset management firm in Atlanta where the family has lived since Sarah was a young child. Today she is a Realtor, also working in the Atlanta area. Tragically, Stephen died at age 10 from cancer.

Maxine and Steve recently shared their intention to help The Cradle through a bequest in their wills.

“We don’t expect Sarah to precede us in death, we needed to consider the possibility in thinking about our estate,” said Steve. “Should that be the order of things, we’d want The Cradle to receive part of our life savings given the large role it played in building our family.”

There are many ways to include The Cradle in your will, including a contingency plan as chosen by the Vasens. Please go to www.cradlefoundation.org/plannedgiving to learn more and discover suggested language options to use.

The Cradle has applied for and received grants of $15,000 every year since 2008 in support of our Nursery and Special Needs Infant Care Program. These funds have had a significant impact on our ability to welcome and nurture every baby referred to our care.

Two remarkable facts about a foundation of this size and scope: it doesn’t seek additional funding and it is entirely volunteer-run. Board Chairman Jim Styer, who is also Managing Director at Mesirow Financial, knows a thing or two about prudent fiscal management. “In a good market we can make back what we give away every year,” he said. “Because we’ve invested wisely, we’ve more than been able to support our cause.” The Foundation still has around $60 million in assets.

We are truly grateful for the steadfast commitment of the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park to the health and well-being of our Cradle babies.

**Donor Profile: The Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park**

**Providing for The Cradle... Proudly**

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The Cradle and The Cradle Foundation mourn the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Bonnie Krasny, who passed away in March following a valiant battle with cancer.

During her nearly decade-long tenure as Events Manager for The Cradle Foundation, Bonnie worked with volunteer committees to expertly organize several major fundraising events each year, including The Cradle Classic, Day at the Races, First Look for Charity and The Cradle Ball. The newest event, Night of Promise, began in 2006 under Bonnie’s direction. She was always a great Cradle champion and her efforts made a tremendous contribution to the organization.

Personally, Bonnie was known for her superb taste and sense of style. We also know how proud she was of her two adult children, Alex and Britt, and how much she loved being “Nana” to her four young grandchildren. We extend our sincere condolences to Bonnie’s husband Phil and their kids, to her extended family, and to everyone who loved her.

**Remembering Bonnie**
With Gratitude to Cradle Dad, Richard Hartle

Nine years ago we interviewed Cradle adoptees Tom (’66) and Molly (’68) Hartle for the Summer 2005 issue of The Cradle Newsletter. They had lost their mother, Joyce, a decade earlier to cancer, and their father, Dick, had given a major gift to name The Cradle courtyard in her memory.

In honor of Father’s Day, we had asked Molly and Tom to share some thoughts about their dad. Both talked about always feeling very supported and loved. “The idea of having kids is a lot more than the idea of procreation,” said Tom, “and I think our parents really understood that. Dad is now a 74-year-old man and he’s still as affectionate, warm and caring as ever. He’s just an incredible guy.”

Sadly, Dick Hartle passed away last November at the age of 82 following an illness. He died peacefully at his home in Birmingham, MI, his beloved second wife, Terri, by his side. Dick had served in Korea in the U.S. Navy and had a long career in publishing as owner of Hartle and Heth, an advertising sales rep firm for magazines such as *Smithsonian* and *Rolling Stone*. For more than 20 years he served on the board of Boys Hope Girls Hope of Detroit.

Dick generously supported The Cradle every year from the time he and Joyce brought Tom home until just a month before his death, when he made one final and very special gift. In the note accompanying the check, Terri wrote, “As you know, The Cradle has been near and dear to Dick’s heart for many, many years, as it was to Joyce’s. Please accept this gift from Richard H. Hartle. He knows you will keep up your wonderful work.”

We are deeply saddened by Dick’s passing – and sorry for his family’s great loss – but truly grateful for his friendship and support for so many years, and for thinking of The Cradle’s future.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES for Parents

**Workshop and Webinar: You’ve Adopted an Older Child…Now What?**
Saturday, May 31, 2014, 9:30 am – 11:30 am CT
at The Cradle or via webinar

Join adoption therapist Judy Stigger, LCSW, as she addresses issues that concern many parents who are raising children they adopted at an older age (over 18 months), including:

- Your child’s history and how it impacts development and behavior
- Sibling relationships
- Sleeping and eating habits
- Quick tempers and defiant behavior

**Workshop: Caring for Afro Textured Hair and Skin**
Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
at The Cradle

If you have questions about how to care for your child’s skin and hair, this “hands-on” seminar will help. You’ll learn basic hair care techniques, differences between naturally textured and chemically treated styles, and which hair tools and accessories are appropriate. You’ll also learn about caring for the skin of African and African American children, and how to address issues such as dry skin and eczema.

**Workshop and Webinar: Tackling Tough Adoption Talks**
Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm CT
at The Cradle or via webinar

A complicated story, a lack of facts, or information that’s hard to share with your child can make talking about adoption difficult. Join adoption therapist Dori Fujii, LCSW, as she helps parents learn how to tackle tough talks when:

- Kids don’t want to talk
- The story is hard to share
- You don’t have many answers or facts
- You have waited for the elusive “right time” and now feel like it’s too late

Pre-registration and pre-payment required; go to www.cradle.org/adooption-workshops or call 847.733.3224.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SIGG FAMILY – DAD ERIC, MOM SABRINA AND BIG SISTER JORDYN (CRADLE ’09) – WHO TOOK HOME BABY JACOBY ON MARCH 6.

*For fee and registration info, go to www.cradle.org/adoption-workshops or call 847.733.3224.