



Fall 2003

www.AdoptionAndYou.com

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WELCOME TO www.AdoptionAndYou.com

**SURF OUR NEW WEBSITE:
www.AdoptionAndYou.com**

Welcome to our new website! We are now officially under construction. Please visit the new site and keep it book marked so you can watch it grow and develop. The website includes a bulletin board with the latest information on local classes and seminars, a look at some very special families and their successful adoption stories, articles on adoption related topics as well as links to other helpful sites. See you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE TENNESSEE ADOPTION LAW SEMINAR TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2003:

The Family Law Section of the Tennessee Bar Association and TNNBARU will hold a day long seminar on Tennessee Adoption Law at the Ridgeway Inn in Memphis on November 18, 2003 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. This seminar is for lawyers and other adoption professionals. For more information, or to register go to www.tba.org/registrar.html or telephone them at 1-800-899-6993.

"MEASURING YOUR EMOTIONAL ADOPTION INTELLIGENCE- ARE YOU PREPARED FOR ADOPTION?"

Ellen Rardin will speak on preparing yourself emotionally for adoption. Come to Christ United Methodist Church 4488 Poplar Avenue Memphis Tenn on November 12 at 6:30 PM to hear and discuss this important topic

that is sometimes overlooked by prospective adoptive parents.

Please contact Katherine Naifeh at 761-5296 for more information. See you there!



ADOPTING FROM COLUMBIA



Commonwealth Adoptions in Tucson, Arizona has a strong Columbian adoption program. There are sibling groups and some young children that are available for placement with qualified adoptive families.

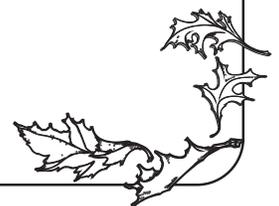
The "wait time" is generally about one year for very young children. Jackie Semar of Commonwealth observes that much information is available to prospective adoptive families on the children's health and social history. The dossier, or "paper chase packets" that must be completed for international adoptions, are very simple compared to many other countries. If you would like more information on this program and the requirements, you can access Commonwealth's website at www.CommonWealthAdoption.org or call Jackie at (520)-327-7574.

LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR WE'RE BACK!!

The newsletter has been missing from your mail boxes for awhile as your faithful editor attended to day to day matters at Adoption Services. Now the Memphis Adoption Review is back in circulation, so look for the newsletter twice annually. I hope it will be chocked full of useful information and allow us to stay in touch.

Please update me on any change of address and let me know if any friends are interested in receiving the newsletter. You can call or email me with any new information. Have a great fall!

Sincerely,
Ellen Rardin



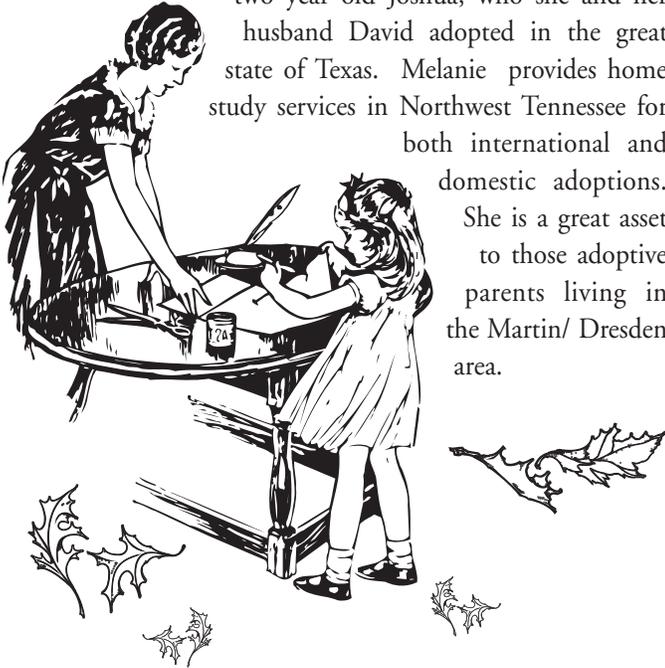
MEET MELANIE PARHAM,

NEW ASSOCIATE!

Anyone who has had the opportunity to work with Melanie Parham, our new associate, knows she is not only bright, bubbly and FUN but also organized, conscientious and helpful! Melanie has a Bachelors in Social Work from the University of Tennessee. She is the proud mom of adorable

two year old Joshua, who she and her husband David adopted in the great state of Texas. Melanie provides home study services in Northwest Tennessee for both international and domestic adoptions.

She is a great asset to those adoptive parents living in the Martin/ Dresden area.



LAW CHANGES REGARDING HOME STUDIES

Home studies have a new expiration date and for that we are all grateful! Prior to a recent change in the Tennessee law, home studies could not be more than six months old at the time a child was placed with the adoptive parents. Now, home studies (and this applies only to Tennessee, remember that all states have different requirements) may be up to a year old before the required update of the original document. That's good news as that six month period comes very quickly for those parents "in waiting".