

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Date: 2/9/2010

To: IAG families

From: Robert McCall, Emily Merz, and the Child Development Research Team

Subject: New studies!

Your support has been absolutely vital to increasing our understanding of the health and development of adopted children, and we hope that you will continue to collaborate with us. We are now requesting your participation in a couple of new research studies:

1) Benefits of orphanage interventions post-adoption & development of adopted children

We are continuing to investigate the longer-term benefits of the orphanage interventions and the development of adopted children by mailing another round of questionnaires. It's important for everyone to respond, whether your child is doing great or facing a few challenges, because only then can we obtain balanced, representative, and accurate answers. Also, if you responded before, please do so again. This helps us chart the progress children make in their adoptive homes. Of course, participation is entirely voluntary, for both you and your child. This research can highlight the importance of improving orphanages around the world and also contribute to preparing adoptive parents and designing services to assist children with the transition to a family environment. As with past questionnaires, \$30 compensation is provided for time and effort.

2) Cognitive development of adopted children

We also request the participation of parents of 8- to 12-year-old children in the greater Pittsburgh region in a new study of the development of cognitive and learning skills. A member of our team will visit the home and have children take several computerized assessments, similar to educational games, while parents complete a questionnaire. The visit should last about 2 hours, and \$30 compensation will be provided to both parents and children for their time and effort. Families eligible for the study will receive a letter and follow-up phone call inviting them to participate. Assessing learning skills is important to developing effective instructional support services and facilitating strengths-based programming for children. If you have any questions about this study or would like to participate, please contact Emily Merz at ecm17@pitt.edu.