Kids In Between...

...Families and Borders
In 2011, ISS-USA continued to make many meaningful advances. None were more profound than our efforts to protect children who are abandoned by social and legal services unprepared to work across borders. That is why we have entitled this annual report, *Kids In Between*.

*Kids In Between* has become a rallying point for our organization—one that energizes us to provide training, write articles, facilitate family connections overseas and serve as a dependable source of technical assistance for inquiries from all over the globe.

In 2011, almost 1/3 of all of our casework involved Latin American and Caribbean countries. Because of this, we are particularly motivated to strengthen our services throughout Latin America, and in particular, in Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

To that end, ISS-USA’s *Kids In Between campaign* attracted renowned experts from Latin America, Central America and Mexico to our highly successful conference at Georgetown University. In addition, we hosted an event at the Costa Rican Embassy, and initiated a fundraising campaign that will establish an ISS branch in Costa Rica that will tackle international child protection issues in the Central American region.

ISS-USA’s work has grown in scale and prominence. These past twelve months have seen the provision of services to more people than any time in the past five years. Along the way, and through our ability to measure outcomes with the help of a *Fostering Connections Discretionary Grant*, ISS-USA has established itself as an expert in providing cross border social services so that U.S. children can find permanency with families here or abroad. ISS-USA was asked to serve in an advisory capacity for *The Way Forward Project* in Africa, provide our expertise to many national and international conferences, and write several important articles and book chapters.

ISS-USA also received the wonderful news that we will coordinate the U.S. Repatriation Program for five more years, building upon our 15 years of experience assisting U.S. citizens who are destitute or mentally ill and need help getting home.

It is an exciting time for our organization, one ripe with opportunities to change lives and the way the world looks at important cross-border issues. We believe ISS-USA is very well-positioned to meet the challenges ahead.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Robert G. Miles
Chair, Board of Directors

Julie Gilbert Rosicky
Executive Director
International Cooperation

2011

Important News Items And Accomplishments from

Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Re-settlement, has once again selected ISS-USA to partner with on a cooperative agreement to provide repatriation services to vulnerable U.S. citizens needing assistance to return to the U.S. The new five-year contract will extend ISS-USA’s 15-year working relationship with the U.S. Repatriation Program.

In recent years, ISS-USA has significantly enhanced the Repatriation Program’s ability to measure outcomes and manage program costs, while serving the needs of more repatriates than ever. In the last fiscal year, ISS-USA assisted more than 700 repatriates from 70 different countries with travel and other forms of assistance. Compared to previous years, this most recent year represented a significant increase in the number of repatriates and unaccompanied children requiring assistance. ISS-USA is awarded $1,000,000 per year for each of five years. “We are pleased and honored to work with all of the program partners to take the best care of our returning citizens,” added Julie Rosicky, Executive Director. “We consider this a model program, one that provides the most comprehensive assistance to its repatriating citizens as compared to any other repatriation program around the globe.”

Anniversary of Haitian Earthquake Commemorated

In January 2010, Haiti was rocked with a devastating earthquake that left more than 300,000 dead and more than one million homeless. Between January 14, 2010 and February 19, 2011, ISS-USA was involved in one of the most complex emergency evacuation responses in recent U.S. history. During that 38-day operation, more than 28,000 people were evacuated from Haiti, setting off unprecedented demand for repatriation case services.

On the one-year anniversary of the Haitian earthquake, ISS-USA Executive Director Julie Rosicky and Repatriation Program Training Manager Salome Sullivan traveled to Florida, a state that assisted some 22,000 quake victims. The trip provided an outstanding opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of the catastrophe, collaborate with important service partners and to catch up with some of those recently repatriated into the South Florida area. “Haiti tested our abilities as very few other emergency situations have,” said Rosicky.

ISS-USA Selected for New 5-Year Repatriation Agreement

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ISS Professional Advisory Committee Meets

Geneva, Switzerland was the site of the first formal meeting of the ISS Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), a group comprised of ISS member executive directors who make recommendations to the Governing Board of ISS. The meeting, held in May, was convened by ISS-USA Executive Director Julie Rosicky, who serves as the group’s chairperson. Through its work in 2011, the PAC developed guidelines on how it will strengthen and expand the ISS network in collaboration with the General Secretariat, has contributed significantly to a briefing prepared for the 6th Meeting of the Special Commission at The Hague, Netherlands, and is working to develop a strategic framework for the organization’s future practice of international social work.

Catching Up With Dawn Cole

In 2009, Dawn Cole, an American contractor for the U.S., was paralyzed by a car accident in Uganda. Operated on twice in Kenya, the hospital eventually threatened to throw her into the streets if her family didn’t pay the mounting hospital bills. Thanks to the intervention of the United States Department of State, the U.S. Repatriation Program and ISS-USA, Dawn returned to Connecticut where she received intensive therapy and state-of-the-art care. At that time, Dawn said, “I want to fight to walk again. I am not gonna let this stop me.”

She didn’t. Today, she’s regained the use of her right arm and has some movement in her left. Always optimistic, Dawn hopes to buy a specially equipped vehicle that will allow her to secure work as a vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or Subcontractor Audi-

cator: “My only wish is to overcome these barriers so that I can become a productive citizen and not a burden to my family and friends,” Dawn says.

Of the U.S. Repatriation Program, ISS-USA and her Connecticut Repatriation Case Worker, Richard Burt, she says, “I appreciated all of the effort that was put into bringing me home. I don’t know what could’ve happened to me.”

State Department visits ISS-USA

On November 10, 2011 Beth Payne, Director Office of Children’s Issues, Jessika Sandel, Abduction Officer; Kenneth Durkin, Director Office of American Citizens Services and Stephen Donlon, Deputy Division Chief, visited the ISS-USA office in Baltimore to share information and discuss future collaboration. “We enjoy a very close working relationship with the U.S. State Department Office of Consular Affairs, Office of Children’s Issues and Office of Overseas Citizen Services,” said Julie Rosicky. “It’s exciting to trade ideas and find new and better ways to provide services.”

ISS-USA also hosted Mr. Takeru Terao, from Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division for Issues Related to Child Custody Foreign Policy Bureau. He and ISS-USA staff discussed how ISS-USA and ISS Japan could assist families separated between the U.S. and Japan due to family conflict and child abduction.

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Executive Director Julie Rosicky visited Costa Rica in January as part of a fact-finding mission to learn more about child protection in Costa Rica and to meet with potential partners for an ISS regional office in Costa Rica. While there, Rosicky also met with members of the civil society, toured an orphanage, and spent a day learning about the Costa Rican government’s child welfare agency, PANI, and their many programs to protect children.

Each day, children of immigrants and immigrant children are pulled into the child welfare system. Their families, at increased risk for becoming involved with social service and law enforcement agencies due to poverty, language barriers and lack of formal education, begin to disintegrate. Without the love and protection of their families, these children too often become victims of prostitution, gang and drug violence and other crimes.

In 2011, ISS-USA initiated the Kids In Between Project. Its aim is to move toward a world where everyone works together for the best interests of children separated from their families by international borders.

A Vision of ISS in Central America

Kick-off Event at the Costa Rican Embassy

On November 3, 2011, Her Excellency Muni Figueres, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States of America, and the Board of Directors of ISS-USA hosted an event at the Embassy of Costa Rica to celebrate the launch of the Kids In Between Project.

The initiative’s first goal is to create a regional service office in Costa Rica. The Kids In Between office will coordinate and strengthen cross border social services in the Central American region to connect children and families, ensure that all children have appropriate family care, provide training and information about cross border services, and take an active part in the advancement of policies and procedures that will improve protection for all children crossing borders in Central America.

Costa Rican Conference 2013

ISS and Costa Rica are working to jointly host a regional social work conference in Costa Rica in 2013. The event will aim to increase understanding of key legal and social work instruments and services that play a role in the care of children and families separated across borders.
The most important lesson learned in the past year is...
The Institute delivered an unprecedented number of articles, training sessions and presentations in the past year. Here are the highlights:

- **ISS authors a chapter on Intercountry casework for Handbook On International Social Work**

- **Presentation at the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s Convening of the Presidential Bilateral Commission on Civil Society**
  In March, Dr. Felicity Northcott presented to Russian Child Protection experts at the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s Convening of the Presidential Bilateral Commission on Civil Society.

- **Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Conference**
  Wendy Jeffries, Program Manager at the ISS Institute delivered a presentation at the 2011 Annual Conference held in Minneapolis in late April. Attendees were introduced to the valuable services offered by ISS and the ways in which public and private case workers/managers and ICPC personnel can partner with ISS-USAs when identifying and placing children who may have international family connections.

- **Trainings on International family finding with The Seneca Center for Colorado’s Children, Youth and Family Services staff**
  Wendy Jeffries and Felicity Northcott conducted five trainings via the web for social workers, supervisors, and Guardians ad Litem. These sessions were part of an intensive family finding training sponsored by the Seneca Center. More than 350 individuals were trained.

- **Hague 1996**
  ISS-USAs Julie Rosicky and Felicity Northcott presented a paper entitled, *The Role of Social Workers in International Legal Cooperation: Working Together to Serve the Best Interest of the Child*. It was a first-of-its-kind presentation at an OAS event, and resulted in a final conference conclusion that an overwhelming need exists for the incorporation of social workers in projects on the comprehensive protection of children in the Americas.

**Other Articles written by, or about, ISS-USAs**

- **Fostering Connections Grantee Meeting—Lessons Learned from the New Jersey Fostering Connections Project**
- **ABA Center for Children and the Law—Role of Judiciary in Intensive Family Finding Across Borders**
- **National Research Conference on Children and Family Programs and Policy—Best Practices in Intergovernmental Social Work**
- **ISS-USAs Julie Rosicky (right) and Felicity Northcott (left) present a paper entitled, *The Role of Social Workers in International Legal Cooperation: Working Together to Serve the Best Interest of the Child*. It was a first-of-its-kind presentation at an OAS event, and resulted in a final conference conclusion that an overwhelming need exists for the incorporation of social workers in projects on the comprehensive protection of children in the Americas.**

**ISS-USAs Julie Rosicky and Felicity Northcott have collaborated with ISS Federation partners iss UK and the iss General Secretariat to develop a chapter on Intercountry Casework for a new book entitled, *Handbook On International Social Work*. The book, published by Oxford University Press and edited by Lynne M. Healy and Rosemary J. Link, was released on September 1, 2011.**

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ISS Provides Leadership to The Way Forward Project

Children are a top priority to U.S. Secretary of State

ISS-USA Executive Director, Julie Rosicky was invited by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (ccai) to facilitate a working group as part of a year-long initiative named, The Way Forward Project. In addition, her colleague, Herve Boechat, Director of the iss International Reference Centre for the Rights of the Child, based in Geneva, contributed his legal and adoption expertise to the project.


Over the course of many hours of intensive discussion in Washington D.C. and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Rosicky’s working group rallied around the concept that it is best to support families to raise their children and that families in Africa have many strengths to build upon.

It was challenging work. “Our group was tasked with how to determine which interventions were best to preserve families, reunify families and reintegrate families,” Rosicky said. “What made the work especially rewarding was that among our group’s nine members, five live and work in 4 of the 6 African nations targeted by this project. Despite our diverse expertise and perspectives, we were able to reach consensus about the values and the interventions needed to better protect children in the six African nations.”

The group recommended several key interventions that included cash transfers, developing the social welfare workforce, educational and economic strengthening, family tracing and outreach.

To learn more about this project please see: http://thewayforwardproject.org/summit/.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (above) served as the keynote speaker at The Way Forward Summit, which took place on November 8, 2011 at the U.S. Department of State Harry S. Truman Building in Washington D.C. Secretary Clinton was joined by many esteemed speakers, including Ambassador Susan Jacobs (right), special advisor for Children’s Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Senator Mary Landrieu, (above right) United States Senator from Louisiana, along with Senator Amy Klobuchar, MN, and Representative Karen Bass, CA also spoke.

Julie Rosicky presented the findings of her group at the Summit, and has co-authored a paper that is part of the final briefing document developed by CCAI.

(far right) A mother prepares injerra while her children watch on, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
The accompanying financial information has been derived from the audited financial statements of Iss-usa for the year ended December 31, 2010. A full copy of this statement, prepared by Tait, Weller and Baker, LLP, Certified Public Accountants is available upon request.

### Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

**Year ended December 31, 2010**

#### REVENUE

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#### Change in Net assets

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### DONORS and SPONSORS

#### 2010 and above

- Georgetown Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership
- Jessie Ball duPont Fund
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- Bruce Morrison
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In memory of Phyllis Clark,
Linda Smelting and Janet Mueller
In honor of Margaret Paul
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#### 1499

- Kathleen Kelly Antaya
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#### 2011 and above

- Katherine Burns
- Maryland Charity Campaign
- Suzanne B. Ducat
- Jacqueline D. Gilbert
- In honor of Arthur C. Helton, and Pamela Krause’s birthday
- Richard Krenzke
- in honor of the ISS-US staff
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- New Jersey Department of Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau
- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Overseas Citizens Services and the Office of Children’s Issues

#### Other Distinguished Individuals and Organizations

- Ambassador Muna Figueres, and the Embassy of Costa Rica
- Walter Sonsheine Jr.
- Maryland Nonprofit Leadership Program
- Judge Peter J. Messitte

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- **Juana Bodden**, Intercountry Case Manager
- **Maya Campbell**, Repatriation Case Manager
- **Mi Chang**, Manager Repatriation Casework
- **Danitza Felto**, Administrative Volunteer
- **Michelle Goshen**, Intercountry Case Manager
- **Jennifer Gray**, Repatriation Database Manager
- **Jade Jackson**, Intercountry Case Manager
- **Wendy Jeffries**, Program Manager Arthur C. Helton Institute for the Study of International Social Service
- **Esther Keinkede**, Fiscal Coordinator
- **Joe Lockridge**, Intercountry Case Manager

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- **Tiara Beach**
- **Karen Czajkowski**
- **Karen Czajkowski**
- **Shelley Fine**
- **Catholic University School of Social Work**

**The iss team wearing the new iss running jersey. Several iss staff participated in this year’s Baltimore half-marathon.**
Concept and Design

Vincent Winter Associates

Headquartered in Paris since 1995, VWA has created editorial design strategies and concepts for magazines, newspapers, annual reports and websites in the U.S., France, the U.K., Switzerland, Holland, Greece, Japan, Germany, Argentina, Mexico, Senegal and Egypt.

In addition to his design expertise, founder Vincent Winter, is also an award-winning photographer.

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Website: www.vwaparis.com