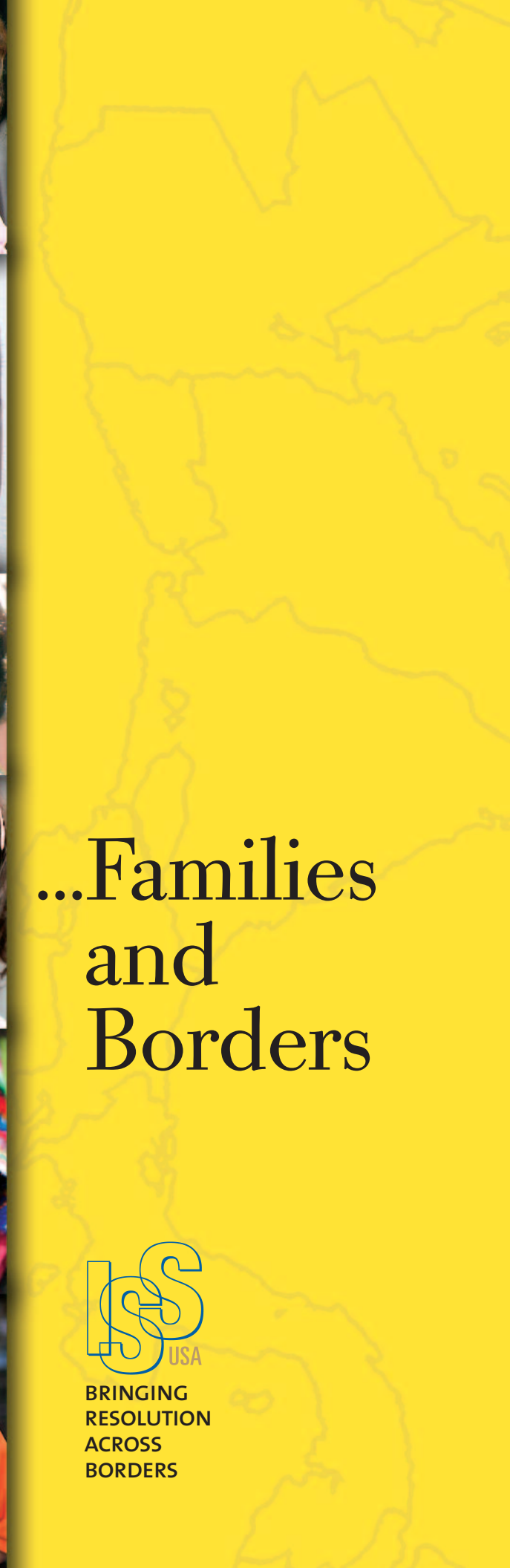




Kids
In
Between...



...Families
and
Borders



BRINGING
RESOLUTION
ACROSS
BORDERS

Who Are The Kids In Between?

Ten-year-old Lydia needs to return from Spain to Florida where her uncle can care for her while her mother fights a debilitating illness.

ISS-USA helped 720 people, including 261 children like Lydia, through the U.S. Repatriation Program in 2011.

An aunt living in California suspects that her niece is being abused by her stepfather in Ecuador and wants to know what she can do.

ISS-USA answered more than 857 questions like this in 2011.

Donna, a social worker in Virginia, wants to place a child with relatives in China, but doesn't know where to start.

ISS-USA provided training to approximately 1,500 people through state, national and international conferences, webinars and on-site trainings. Sharing our know-how will benefit children in foster care and in family conflicts who are looking for relatives all over the world.

A child welfare agency in Arizona wants to send four-year-old Maria to live with grandparents in an isolated village in Mexico.

ISS-USA provided 384 new Intercountry services in 2011, 291 ongoing services (carried over from 2010) and served 426 new children and 97 adults in 2011.

Executive Letter

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 ISS 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



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Important
News Items And
Accomplishments
from **2011**

ISS-USA Selected for New 5-Year Repatriation Agreement

**Health and Human Services
Administration for Children
and Families, Office of Refugee Re-
settlement**, has once again selected

ISS-USA to partner with ORR as part of 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. Com-

pared 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.

Rosicky and Sullivan attended a special Haitian Remembrance Ceremony hosted by **George Sheldon**, Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families and **Jacqui Colyer**, DCF's Regional Director. The event commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Haitian earthquake, remembered those who lost their lives, honored the selfless outpouring of help from state workers and community volunteers, and celebrated the resilient survivors of the tragedy. The event featured Haitian music, Haitian art and stories from earthquake survivors. It concluded with the planting of a "Tree of Hope."



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 guide-

lines of 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.

In the last
fiscal year,
ISS-USA
assisted more
than 700 repa-
triates from
70 different
countries.

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 **Steven 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.



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 in-

tensive 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-

tor. "My only wish is to overcome these barriers so that I can become a productive citizen and not be 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."



Kids In Between Initiative

A Vision of ISS in Central America

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.

Exploratory Trip to Costa Rica

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.



Milena Grillo Rivera (right), executive director of Paniamor and **Maria Del Mar Gonzalez Villar**, public relations specialist (left).

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.



Kids In Between Conference

Tying into the organization's theme, ISS-USA named its fourth annual conference **Kids in Between: Exploring a Unified Strategy for Child Protection in the Americas**. The event, held for the first time at Georgetown University in Washington DC, brought together social workers, legal professionals and those in higher education to discuss the need for a coordinated system to care for the many vulnerable and separated children who fall through the cracks of the child protection systems in the U.S., Mexico and Central America.



LEFT : **Resolutions and Best Practices in International Child Protection Law: Views From the Bench and From the Frontlines**. (L-R) Dean of the University of MD Carey School of Law, Phoebe Haddon, Judge Peter J. Messitte, Hague Network, David Thronson, MI State Law, Ignacio Goicoechea, Liaison for Latin America to the Hague Conference.

RIGHT : **Social Work and International Child Protection: Practical Approaches to Regional Cooperation**. (L-R) Dean of the University of MD, School of Social Work Dr. Richard Barth; Milena Grillo Rivera, Executive Director Paniamor Costa Rica; Dr. Rebecca Davis, Rutgers SSW; Ambassador Susan Jacobs; DOS Office of Children's Issues; Christina Baglietto, Unicef Mexico.



Kids In Between Video

ISS-USA produced a **two-minute video** to introduce the Kids In Between Project



and to underscore the need for support. The video, which carries a theme of **ISS Is About Families**, illustrates eight scenarios that affect families and kids separated across borders. It may be viewed on the ISS-USA website or on Youtube.com.

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.

Fostering Connections Grant

Awareness-Building Tactics Lead to an Increase in Cases

During the first full calendar year of the Fostering Connections Grant* (2010) ISS-USA was referred and worked on 115 new cases for children in DCF-DYFS care in the state of New Jersey. One year later, after undertaking both training, outreach and establishing an Awareness Campaign, ISS-USA was referred 173 new cases, and worked on 143 cases involving 186 children in the state of New Jersey.

Lessons Learned

- The most important lesson learned in the past year is that making a broad range of DYFS workers aware of ISS-USA through informal presentations at staff meetings and utilizing a visual reminder of the need to ask about

international family connections (flyer provided to all staff members) has been more successful in encouraging referrals for service than the longer, more formal training sessions provided in the first year of the project.

- Intensive training for key administrative staff and an Awareness Campaign for all front-line staff are proving to be the most effective combination for increasing referrals for service.
- We believe that this model can be utilized anywhere and result in an increase in staff identifying children with international family connections and referring those cases for inter-country case management to ISS-USA.

Opening Doors To Family Life Outside The U.S.

13 Children Leave Foster Care To Live With Family In Places Near and Far

In 2011, 13 children were placed with family outside the United States through our Fostering Connections initiative in New Jersey. Others found homes in the U.S., after other options were explored. "Our Fostering Connections Grant made remarkable progress in 2011," says ISS-USA Inter-country Case Manager, **Kerri Socha**. "In many ways it is reshaping the way that those in the child custody process are looking at cases."

Here are **five** of their stories.

DESTINATION: SURINAM

Marcia's Wish Comes True

Forced into state care by an abusive father and a mentally-ill mother, 16-year-old Marcia* wanted to live with her grandparents in Surinam. ISS conducted a home study and determined that the grandparents were a good placement for Marcia. A New Jersey DYFS caseworker accompanied Marcia to Surinam to facilitate

her placement with her grandparents. The four-month process resulted in a happy conclusion, as Marcia is doing well with her grandparents.

DESTINATION: PERU

A Place to Call Home

Eduardo and Donaldo* are just six and seven years old when local police notice them wandering through the neighborhoods unsupervised. After an investigation, their parents

are incarcerated for endangerment of minors, and the children are placed in foster care. A home study is conducted on an uncle in Peru, which finds him to be a willing and suitable placement for the boys. A post-placement follow-up indicates that the boys are adjusting to their new home, and life in Peru.

DESTINATION: PUERTO RICO

Living with Grandma, Hoping for Reunion

Domestic and drug abuse results in an unsafe home for Miguel, Francisco and Marta*; and the children are removed from the care of both parents. A kinship home study was conducted on their grandmother in the Puerto Rico with the hope that she could care for the children while their parents receive treatment. Once a positive home study was received, all three children, one of whom has special needs, are placed with their grandmother with the ultimate hope of a reunification with the parents, after they receive treatment.

DESTINATION: BACK WITH DAD

Getting to Know Her Guinean Mother

Removed from her home due to her father's alcohol abuse, Leticia* enters foster care. New Jersey requests a

home study on her mother in Guinea, a mother that Leticia hasn't seen in years. As the home study progresses, Leticia's father completes his services and is reunited with his daughter. Leticia and her mother continue to speak regularly by phone today as a result of being reconnected through the home study.

DESTINATION: NEW JERSEY

Overcoming a Catch 22

Born in Honduras but living in the U.S.

since age five, Carlos* becomes a U.S. citizen later and enters foster care due to his parents' mental health challenges. On the verge of transitioning to an independent life outside of foster care, he learns that he needs a job in order to complete the independent living program. Without a copy of his birth certificate, he is powerless to get a job—creating a Catch 22. Fortunately, ISS-USA is able to obtain his birth certificate from Honduras and Carlos finds work. Now 18, he lives on his own and is doing very well.

"We really believe this is a good and exciting trend. We expect to manage more and more of these cases in New Jersey and beyond as social workers become increasingly aware of family-finding outside the country," said ISS-USA Executive Director **Julie Rosicky**.

The cost of foster care is estimated to be between \$35,000 and \$40,000 per year per child, but there are considerations that transcend costs. "ISS believes that the best practices used to place any child in an adoptive, foster or kinship placement in the U.S. must be followed when placing children outside the U.S.," said **Dr. Felicity Sackville Northcott**, Director of The Arthur C. Helton Institute for the Study of the International Social Service. "Home studies, criminal and sexual abuse registry checks and family engagement in decision-making are all part of what ISS facilitates to ensure that every placement that is made across borders is in the child's best interest."

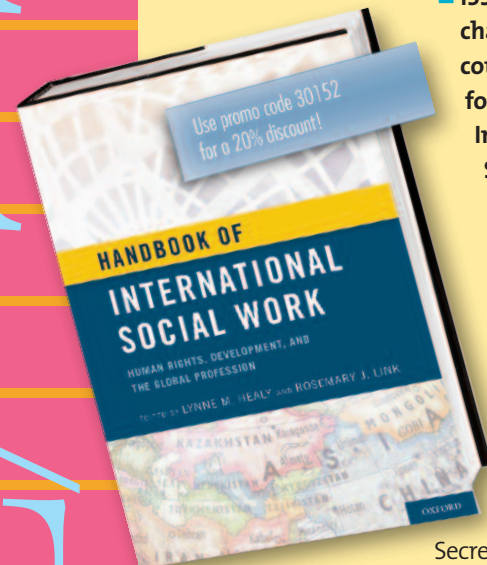
"We have the tools for cross-border family placements," said Rosicky. "Our biggest challenge is encouraging people to take advantage of these resources."

**Please note that names and details have been changed to protect the identity of those involved.*



The Global Family: Arthur C. Helton Institute Promotes Awareness, Provides Training

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 Inter-country casework for Handbook On International Social Work

ISS-USA's Julie Rosicky and Felicity Northcott have collaborated with ISS Federation partners ISS UK and the ISS General

Secretariat to develop a chapter on Inter-country 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.

■ 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-USA 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-USA is an observer to the Uniform State Law Revision Process to implement Hague 1996.

Other Articles written by, or about, ISS-USA



Eyes Wide Open: Adhering to the Fostering Connections Law and Confronting Barriers to Interjurisdictional Placements, International Family Finding, and Engagement (American Bar Association 2011).



Family Finding and Engagement Beyond the Bench: Working Across International Borders

Child Information Gateway
ISS-USA was interviewed for a recurring article about our involvement with the **Fostering Connections Grant**

CONFERENCES

MARCH

CWLA-New Jersey Project and International Family Finding

APRIL

Fostering Connections Grantees Meeting—Lessons Learned from the New Jersey Fostering Connections Project

JULY

ABA Center for Children and the Law—Role of Judiciary in Intensive Family Finding Across Borders

JULY

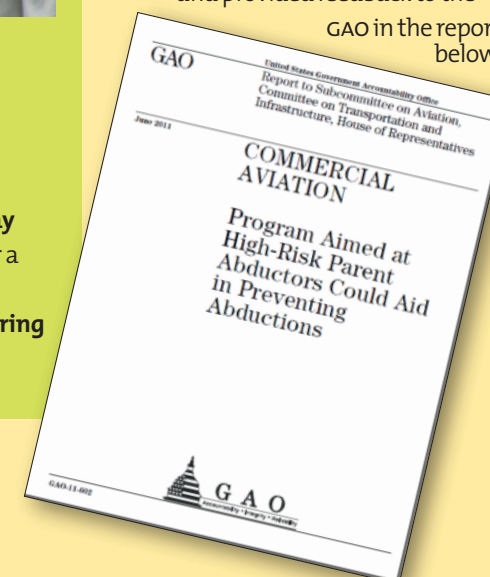
National Research Conference on Children and Family Programs and Policy—Best Practices in Interjurisdictional Social Work

OCTOBER

CSWE-Data and Lessons Learned from the New Jersey Project

Helping Airlines Prevent Child Abduction

ISS-USA was asked by the **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)** for its expert opinions about whether and what role commercial aviation could play in preventing child abduction from the U.S. to other countries. ISS-USA sought information from other ISS partners and provided feedback to the GAO in the report below...



ISS-USA Presents at the Organization of American States



In October, ISS-USA's **Julie Rosicky** (right) and **Felicity Northcott** (left) 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."

ISS Provides Leadership to The Way Forward Project

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.

The project culminated in a summit and policy paper that outlines a full continuum of care for children without parental care in the six African Nations of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda.

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/>.



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



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

(far right) A mother prepares injera while her children watch on, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia



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.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2010

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Foundations	\$ 77,320	Intercountry and repatriation services	\$ 1,590,289
Individuals and corporations	9,533	Management and General Admin	201,766
In-Kind contributions	60,763	Total Expenses	\$ 1,792,055
U.S. Government	1,506,890		
State Governments	169,827		
Other	31,470		
Other revenue	13,141		
Total Revenue	\$ 1,868,944	Change in Net assets	\$76,889

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.

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In honor of the ISS-USA staff

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SHELDON AND SARA GILBERT
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ARTHUR GRANT
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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 MUNI FIGUERES, AND THE EMBASSY OF COSTA RICA
WALTER SONDEHEIM JR. MARYLAND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
JUDGE PETER J. MESSITTE

AND ANYONE WE MIGHT HAVE MISSED

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Staff



The ISS team wearing the new ISS running jersey. Several ISS staff participated in this year's Baltimore half-marathon.

Stephney Allen
Director of Operations
Yalemzewd Bekele-Mulat
Repatriation Case Manager
Juana Bodden
Intercountry Case Manager
Maya Campbell
Repatriation Case Manager
Mi Chang
Manager Repatriation Casework

Danitza Feijo
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

Felicity Sackville Northcott
Director of the Arthur C. Helton Institute for the Study of International Social Service
Julie Gilbert Rosicky
Executive Director
Audrey Sabiston
Repatriation Case Manager
Kerri Socha
Intercountry Case Manager
Salomé Sullivan
Repatriation Program Training Manager
Bernice Whittington
Repatriation Assistant
Amanda Williams
Repatriation Assistant

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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.

Contact: vw@vwaparis.com
Website: www.vwaparis.com



**BRINGING RESOLUTION
ACROSS BORDERS**