




WYOMING CHILDREN'S *society*

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Adopting From India



is a great need for adoption in the US, we were overwhelmed by the countless children all around the world that are without a safe and loving home. After narrowing down our options based on country requirements (age, length of time in country, income, etc.), we finally settled on India.

On December 31, 2019 we submitted our application with Wyoming Children's Society to begin the home study process. I was so nervous for our home visit that I cleaned our whole house from top to bottom, including our baseboards. Our meeting with Kristi was so relaxed and all she really wanted to know was whether or not we could provide a safe and loving home. I don't think she even looked at my baseboards!

Adoption was always something that we (Ray & Sarah) always wanted to pursue. We never viewed it as a secondary choice to having kids biologically, but I (Sarah) assumed that we would have biological kids before adopting. When that didn't happen, we felt the Lord moving our hearts toward adoption sooner than expected.

We began to scour the internet for all the information we could gather about the different methods of adoption.

International adoption was actually my last choice simply because of the time and cost involved. While there



After many meetings, doctor's appointments, approvals, and a mountain of paperwork, we received a phone call from our agency while we were eating lunch together one day. They told us that they had a referral for a 6 month old boy in Rajasthan, India. We were required to take time to speak with a doctor about his medical needs before saying yes, but we knew right away that he was our son. We officially





accepted that referral in October 2020.

After 10 difficult months of waiting for various approvals and for a judge in India to declare him as our son, we got the call that the judge has signed our written order. Micah was officially our son. We bought plane tickets, sent in our

visa applications and packed our bags. Our visas arrived in the mail the evening before we were set to depart. That's the first time I've ever hugged a UPS driver!

In August 2021 we were able to pick up Micah; he was 17 months old. I can't begin to describe the joy of holding our sweet Micah for the first time. We had prayed for him, loved him, worried about him, and longed for him for what seemed like forever and he was finally in my arms. We stayed in India for one week, completing appointments with the US embassy and doctors. After a very long flight, we finally made it home. It was pretty surreal walking into our house, showing Micah his new home, his room, all the gifts that were sent for him by family and friends who had been praying for him right along with us.

We were able to help Micah take his first steps and say his first words. Since we missed the first 17 months of his life, we were so thankful to be a part of such special milestones. Slowly but surely, Micah became more and more comfortable with

us and with his new home. When we look at pictures and videos from when we first met him at the orphanage, we are in disbelief. We picked up a very scared, quiet, and aloof little boy. Now he is confident, healthy, very noisy, silly, and has the most kissable, chubby cheeks. It has been so beautiful to see him attach to us and learn what it's like to be loved...to have a family. Micah's favorite song to dance to is "Family" by Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors. I think you'll like it too if you give it a listen.

Kristi has been in our home several times since our homecoming with Micah. India requires post adoption reports for 2 years after picking up your child. We have so appreciated Kristi's care for our family and her willingness to answer whatever questions we might have.

We feel so blessed to be Micah's mom and dad. Adoption is broken and beautiful. It's filled with pain, tragedy, and trauma. But it's also filled with so much love, healing, and hope. Adoption isn't easy, but God rarely calls us to do things that are easy.

We are so thankful for WCS's role in helping us bring Micah home!



Join Us in Honoring Carol Lindly, *By Liz Lindly*



On August 27th, 2022, Wyoming & Colorado Children's Society will celebrate 111 years of service with our annual gala fundraiser! We will gather at Little America for a beautiful evening with friends and family as we celebrate many years of service and the important work we will continue to do.

This year we are so excited to honor our very own Carol Lindly. Many of you may

not even realize Carol retired at the end of March, because she so humbly (and passionately) asked for no retirement party, no small dinner with close friends, nothing. With a great deal of pushing and prodding, Carol has agreed to be honored and to help celebrate the long-standing history of this agency, people, and work she cares so deeply for.

Carol has spent 34 years working for Wyoming Children's Society, 31 of those years she served as the Director. Her entire adult life, since the age of 24, Carol has dedicated her career to serving children and families in various capacities, but all with the desire and passion to make life better. Carol and her husband, Steve, ran a youth crisis center in South Dakota in their mid-twenties before moving to Casper, Wyoming where she would work in child protection for the state. In the mid-80s Carol worked for Cathedral Home for

Children, a residential facility working with some of the most challenging children who are desperately in need of love and care. Carol's entire career was focused on improving the lives of children. She did this through working directly with them as a case worker, opening her home as a foster parent for many years, helping children find stable and loving homes, and advocating for improved policies and procedures at the local and state levels.

When Carol started talking about retirement the Board of Directors became nervous, rightfully so. Carol has just always been here. How could things continue without her? Over the last two years Carol and the Board have created a strong transition plan and positions to continue this work. And, of course, Carol is still aiding in that transition by remaining on staff to consult. We are so grateful for her as we all continue to navigate this transition!

Carol's career is noteworthy, but being a mother is her true life's work. Carol & Steve have raised four children, three of whom are adopted from Korea. When Carol married it was important for her to build a family, but it never really mattered how. Carol knew there were many children in the world who needed homes and has continued to remind the world that it really doesn't matter where you come from, you're family. She fiercely loves her four children and has recently enjoyed the journey of becoming a grandmother. Carol has two grandchildren and looks forward to spending more time with them during her retirement.

Please join us on Saturday, August 27th, 2022, at Little America as we honor Carol Lindly and her selfless dedication to others for the last 43 years!



WyoGives

We are excited to announce that Wyoming Children's Society will be participating in this year's WyoGives event on July 13, 2022. This event is a powerful, statewide 24-hour online fundraising event that is designed to bring the state together as one community to raise money and awareness for Wyoming's nonprofits. We really appreciate all our donors, and we encourage donors that plan to donate this year to do it on July 13th! There are great opportunities for us to receive matching funds, but we need you all to donate.

On July 13th, just go to <https://www.wyogives.org/organizations/wyoming-children-s-society> and donate! It's that easy!

Children Who Wait

Meet Aniya and Zachary!

Wyoming Children's Society is committed to recruiting adoptive families who are interested in bringing permanency to children who are waiting in the public foster care system. Currently, there are over 400,000 children in foster care with over 100,000 of those children available for adoption. Aniya and Zachary are just two of the children who are waiting for their forever families. Financial assistance is often available for adoption related expenses. If you are interested in learning more about adopting a waiting child please contact Wyoming Children's Society.



For this skilled writer, English class is enjoyable – especially writing stories! Aniya (10) loves dancing and going swimming. She is always up for a camping trip and likes going on bike rides. Another creative outlet for Aniya is helping with cooking, and she delights in getting to dig into the final product. Soccer is one sport that she hopes to try soon. Smart and silly, Aniya appreciates spending time with peers and has some positive relationships with adults in her life. Her confidence grows with each passing day, and she takes pride in her appearance.

This fifth grader earns As and Bs. Math is Aniya's strength, and she is serious about her schoolwork.

All family types will be considered for Aniya. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services. Aniya resides in Missouri. Child ID: 339035



For Zachary (15), a day well spent includes flexing his creative muscles! The performing arts is where he feels comfortable. Zachary loves music and belting out tunes whenever he can. Dancing is also another interest of his. When he needs a break from the spotlight, Zachary can't wait to hit the skate park for an afternoon of kickflips and ollies on his skateboard. He thinks black is the coolest color and he likes chowing down on cheese pizza. Zachary is also known for his funny side.

He is now in the ninth grade.

Zachary would do best in a family with a dad, in which he can be the only child in the home; however, his caseworker will consider all family types. He will need to remain in contact with his siblings following placement. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services. Zachary resides in Colorado. Child ID: 125877

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Are you shopping on Amazon? When you buy all of your Amazon.com products through Amazon Smile, a portion of their proceeds will be donated to Wyoming Children's Society. You will find all the same products at the same price on Amazon Smile as you would on Amazon.

New Arrivals

Please help us welcome home our new arrivals



Aboli Obermueller, Cheyenne (India)



Leo Hopkins, Cheyenne



Stella Tippetts, Evanston (Kyrgyzstan)



Eowyn Tippetts, Evanston (Kyrgyzstan)

News from Wyoming Children's Society Board of Directors

Jane Hutchings Olind

Jane Olind was elected to the Board of Directors in 1993. Jane resigned from the board in November of last year. We appreciate and want to thank Jane for her 28 years of service.

WCS recently elected four new board members to serve the mission of the agency. We welcome Dr. Joseph Horam, Jenny Krause, Doug McGee, and Kevin Ogle. These individuals are bringing significant experience and expertise to serve the agency. We look forward to their leadership!



Jenny Krause

Jen was born in Riverton Wyoming and moved her family to Cheyenne WY in 2016. Currently she is a behavior intervention specialist at Central High School and teaches Intro to Special

Education and Special Education Law courses at the University of Wyoming. Jen earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Wyoming, her master's degree in social work from Capella University, and is currently working toward completing her dissertation. In 2008, while working for the Wyoming Department of Education, Jen implemented the mentoring program, Eye to Eye in Wyoming colleges and schools. Eye to Eye is designed for students with learning disabilities and ADHD. Currently Jen serves on the leadership council for Eye to Eye. In her spare time, you will find Jen on the soccer field or spending time with family and friends.



Dr. Joseph Horam

Dr. Horam has been a pediatrician in Cheyenne for over 35 years and currently practices at the Cheyenne Children's Clinic. Dr. Horam has always been an advocate for adoptive, fostered, and special

needs children and adolescents. Dr. Horam and his wife have three children who were adopted from the State of Wyoming Department of Family Services, Friends of Various Nations, and the Wyoming & Colorado Children's Society.





Doug McGee

McGee was born in rural Iowa and spent part of his childhood there before his family moved to Wyoming in the early 80s. After graduating from Central High School, he attended the University of Wyoming where he received a Bachelor of Science

in Journalism and Telecommunications. He currently works as the Public Affairs Officer for the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Far from being an only child, McGee has 11 adopted siblings and two biological siblings. His mother, Ellen McGee, worked for the Wyoming Children's Society as an Adoption Specialist for 17 years, and he saw first-hand the great work accomplished for Wyoming families there. In the 90s, McGee and his family worked with WCS to sponsor and host young soon-to-be mothers as they worked through the adoption process.

With a lifetime of being surrounded by adoption and a sensitivity to the challenges adoptive families can face, McGee looks forward to his continued involvement with the WCS. He is passionate about helping children find forever homes.



Kevin Ogle

Kevin is a native of Cheyenne and proud Thunderbird graduate of East High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Western Governors University, and is actively working on his Master's Degree in Management and

Leadership. Kevin met his husband, Shawndae Ogle, in 2007 and were married in the spring of 2011. Kevin recently started his 18th year with Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) and currently works as a project manager for the Information Services Division.

In 2013, Kevin and his husband made the decision to start a family through adoption. They met with Wyoming and Colorado Children's Society (WCCS) to better understand the adoption process and to complete their home study. Their daughter Charlotte was born on January 13, 2015.

Redesigned Website & Logo

Wyoming Children's Society is thrilled to announce the launch of its updated website and logo at www.wyomingcs.org. If we've learned anything from the last two years, it's that we need to continue to find new ways to reach the community with our services. We chose to redesign both the website and the logo to improve our customer's experience which now includes a newly added chat feature, the ability to use your mobile device, and coming soon a brand-new on-line adoption application. We want to extend a huge thank you to Wand Solutions for all their

help on our redesigned website, logo, and adoption application! We couldn't have done any of it without their expertise and creativity. Check out Wand Solutions at www.wandsolutions.com to see what this new startup is up to! We also invite you to explore our new website and share it with all your friends!

Thank you, Wand Solutions!



Remembering Mike McGee, *By Carol Lindly*

Mike McGee passed away on March 1, 2022, surrounded by many of his children and grandchildren. Mike was a man of great presence, and he will be missed.



non-profits and businesses alike and devoted his time to ensure their success. He served on many non-profit boards including Stride Learning Center, United Way of Laramie County, Laramie County Library Foundation, Wyoming Children's Society and served as a trustee with Laramie County School District. Mike also served as President of Honor Flight Wyoming which gave Wyoming Veterans the opportunity to visit Washington, DC to see the WWII Memorial.

As a founding partner of McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP, Mike played a crucial role in economic development in Laramie County. He was honored on several occasions for his work. My personal memories of Mike will always include his entrance into board meetings shouting, "Good Morning Cheyenne!" He would happily sing Happy Birthday to you on your special day-although it may be loudly off key! I will remember Mike as a man who cared deeply about the lives of others. When Mike and Ellen invited you into their home, you immediately felt a sense of belonging. I hope we can continue to spread Mike and Ellen's spirit of unconditional love and acceptance for all.

Rest in Peace, my friend.

At the end of a life well lived, one hopes their life had meaning and impact. There can be no doubt about this when remembering Mike McGee. We will feel Mike's impact for generations to come.

We at Wyoming Children's Society knew Mike as a devoted husband to his wife Ellen for 55 years. Together they were parents to 14 children, 23 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. He donated auditing services to Wyoming Children's Society for many years and later served on the Board of Directors from 2012-2018.

Mike not only cared about his own family, but he also cared about the community and the lives of all people. He was a strong supporter of



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WYOMING
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Mission

Our mission is to build healthy families through adoption, and to advocate for birth families, children and adoptive families.

Our Vision

A world where every child belongs to a safe and loving family.