



Dear VMFC,

Wednesday July 17, 2008

The key message for parents who attended the Catalyst VN Culture Camp this year was that while attending camp is wonderful, it just isn't enough for our children.

We were reminded that we are members of a transracial family and need to honor our children by providing them a family that embraces a multi-racial world – this should be a part of our daily lives, not a once a year event. We were asked if there are any other non-whites in our lives other than our children? If not, why? You may not have thought too much about this before but your children have -- or will.

July's newsletter provides you with many opportunities to continue your transracial journey – please dive in, attend an event or even better, volunteer at one and make a new friend! Consider hosting an international student, take the time listen to people with adoption experience either via a podcast or a song – do it with joy not only because your child needs you to but because your life will be enriched too!

**Included:**

- Summer Festival 2008!
- Host Families for CCI International Students
- Host Families Needed for Nacel International School Vietnamese Students
- Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
- Article: Miss Universe contest puts spotlight on Vietnam
- Podcast: Transracial Adoption Interview
- YouTube: Adoption song by Mark Schultz

*Nancy*

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**Summer Festival 2008 – Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>!**

*Let's Celebrate!*

The Vietnamese Community of Minnesota will kick off the annual Summer Festival with a walkathon starting at 9am to promote a healthier and active lifestyle for all ages on Saturday, July 19, 2008. This year's Summer Festival will be held at the beautiful Phalen Regional Park in St. Paul.

9:00AM - 7:00PM  
Phalen Park Pavilion  
1600 Phalen Drive, St. Paul, MN 55109

The Vietnamese Community of Minnesota aims to educate and present the public a better understanding of the Vietnamese cultures through various activities and showcase organizations that exist within our local community in Minnesota. Admission is FREE!

- Kick off: Walkathon at Phalen Park Pavilion, Saturday 19, 2008

- Feature Artist: Tú Quyên from Thuy Nga Production and Greenfield Band
- Festival Program: Children Corner, sport competition, games galore
- Community Corner: Health, Financial, Education, etc.
- 150th Statehood Celebration: Vietnamese Essay Writing Contest, Knowledge Bowl

For more information: <http://www.vietnam-minnesota.org/>

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### **Host Families Needed for CCI International Students**

*Gayle Meagher, from the Center for Cultural Interchange has contacted us with the following request:*

I am looking for families who are interested in the Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean cultures and heritage. I work with the Center for Cultural Interchange, a non-profit organization dedicated to exposing American's and young people from over 40 other countries to each other, to learn about their cultures and teach about ours. I have over 100 students, mostly Asian, whom I need to find a family for. The host family is a volunteer though the students do have their own spending money and insurance. They just need a family to make their dream come true! We are on a quickly closing time frame and it is imperative we locate a family for these truly deserving students

The only restriction we would have is whether a school would accept a student. Most do still. We can tell anyone in the US as we have Area Reps in the entire US. Thanks again so much. I would hate to have any child not be able to come over due to a lack of families!!! I have had two from Vietnam, one from Thailand and one from Japan. (30 in total from all over the world) They are my family now and I know most feel this way! It is such a great opportunity to learn from these young people!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have at 1-888-679-0044. Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to provide. Sincerely,

Gayle Meagher  
Center for Cultural Interchange  
Regional Director, Mid Atlantic, Southeast region  
706-778-9670  
888-679-0044  
215-754-9906 fax

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### **Host Families Needed for Nacel International School Vietnamese Students**

Jodi Versaw, Nacel International Homestay Coordinator, who sent out a request in May is still short of host families for Vietnamese students waiting to be placed. Host families must be in the Twin Cities metro area and ideally on a busline. Other requirements are as follows:

- Exchange students are high-school age and will be studying at Nacel International School in St. Paul. ([www.nacelinternationalschool.org/](http://www.nacelinternationalschool.org/))
- There are a large group of Vietnamese students waiting to be placed - currently 12 and likely more in the next few months.

- Students come for either 5 months (September - January or January - May) or 10 months (September - May).
- Host families must provide a bed (room may be shared), a quiet place to study and regular meals. Families do not need to provide transportation to school, spending money or health insurance.
- Families are compensated \$300 per month for the duration of the student's stay.

Contact: Jodi Versaw, [jkversaw@yahoo.com](mailto:jkversaw@yahoo.com)

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## 2008 Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

The Vietnam Center of Minnesota, the St. Paul Public Library and the Landmark Center will be hosting a Mid-Autumn Moon Festival or Tet Trung Thu this year:

Sunday, September 14, 2008  
 Landmark Center  
 75 West Fifth Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55102

The program includes a Dragon Dance, hands-on activities for children, storytelling & lantern making, Me Linh & Hoang Anh Dance groups, lantern give-away, lantern parade and a taste of moon cakes.

Please contact Luyen Nguyen at 612-717-4302 for more information or visit The Vietnam Center of Minnesota's website at <http://vietnam-minnesota.org/doc/ttt08/trungthu.jpg>

**Editors note:** Last year, the majority vote was to attend the Vietnam Center's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival in 2008 rather than have our traditional adoptive family event. If you have further thoughts or comments or questions about this decision let me know! [rinn@charter.net](mailto:rinn@charter.net)

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Submitted by Dawn Davenport

## Creating a Family radio show schedule through October

Here's the Creating a Family schedule for adoption shows from August through Oct. Half the shows are infertility related, and have not been included. Let me know if you would like information on them ([dawn@creatingafamily.com](mailto:dawn@creatingafamily.com)).

I would really appreciate any help you can give me in spreading the word about Creating a Family. **The show is the top rated adoption podcast on iTunes.** It is an educational resource for families, and we are trying to keep it advertisement free. That means we have no budget for letting families know about the topics, so I can really use your help. Thanks.

### Adoption Shows.

August 6: Future of Chinese Adoption and How the Kids are Doing Post Adoption

I will interview Dr. Tony Tan, Director of the China Adoption Research Program at the University of South Florida, and Joshua Zhong, cofounder of Chinese Children Adoption International.

August 27: Adopting for Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and the surrounding countries

I will interview Sue Gainor, Chair of the National Board of Directors for Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption, and Carol Nelson, with Christian World Adoption about

- the current status of adoption from Russia Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Bulgaria and other Eastern European and Central Asian countries.
- September 3: The Connected Child  
I will interview Dr. Karyn Purvis, author of *The Connected Child* and Director of the Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University, about attachment in adoption, and how to build family connections.
- September 24: The Reluctant Spouse and Extended Family  
Guests TBA
- October 1: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
My guest will be Dr. Julian Davies, with the Center for Adoption Medicine at the University of Washington and pediatrician with the University of Washington FAS Clinic, the longest standing FAS center in the US.
- Oct. 15: Single Motherhood by Choice  
More and more women are choosing to be a single mother through adoption or sperm donation. I will interview Jane Mattes, psychotherapist in private practice in NYC, and founder of Single Mothers by Choice.

[http://www.creatingafamily.com/?content=radio\\_show](http://www.creatingafamily.com/?content=radio_show)

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### **Miss Universe contest puts spotlight on Vietnam**

By BEN STOCKING, Associated Press Writer Sat Jul 12, 1:59 PM ET

NHA TRANG, Vietnam - Eighty of the world's most beautiful women have converged on a stretch of the Vietnamese coast better known for war than glamour.

Like her 84 million compatriots, Vietnam's 20-year-old contestant is hoping the show will let the world know about the new Vietnam, where commerce and fashion are thriving and war has become a fading memory.

"I want to introduce my country and my culture and our history to everybody," said Nguyen Thuy Lam, whose traditional costume is a Vietnamese ao dai, a colorful silk pantsuit. "I feel very confident when I wear the ao dai. I wish everyone would wear it and feel confident too."

The contest will be held in Nha Trang, a seaside city located next to a major American airbase during the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975...

Remainder of article at: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080712/ap\\_en\\_tv/miss\\_universe](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080712/ap_en_tv/miss_universe)

**Editors note:** the contestants also visited the Tam Binh orphanage in HCMC – some photos of the visit can be found at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/universe2008pics/Orphanage>

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### **Transracial Adoption Interview**

On July 1st PBS's News Hour did a segment on International Adoption issues, highlighting Vietnam. The report featured a discussion with Susan Soon-Keum Cox and Congressional Coalition on Adoption Executive Director Kathleen Strottman.

online at: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/creatingafamily/2008/07/02/Transracial-adoption>

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## **Adoption Song by Mark Schultz – Everything to Me**

**Editors note:** *This beautiful song was written and performed by an adult adoptee for his birth mother, whom he has never met. Grab a box of tissue and listen to both his song and his story.*

Song at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhqJYOYcnAU&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhqJYOYcnAU&feature=related)

Story behind the song at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z61zdZJ9uZc&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z61zdZJ9uZc&feature=related)

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