

Our Hearts Are Full

By Nathan and Dedee

Adopting internationally had always been something we wanted to do after having biological children “of our own.” Over the years, we could never have biological children. It was then we decided to flip our mindset to: “So, why not adopt first?” Thus began the process of the adoption of our two Russian-born children. We no longer desire biological children---our hands are full! And more importantly, our hearts are full.

Our decision to work with Adoptions Together was one of the best decisions we have ever made. We initially chose ATI based on their many years of experience with Russian adoptions and the variety of pre/post adoption support services they offered. As it came time for us to actually travel to Russia, we came to realize just how excellently ATI would take care of us. From the moment we arrived at the airport and throughout the entire overseas process, we were escorted by ATI’s helpful Russia staff. ATI provided us with a personal driver, interpreter and coordinator, all of whom were very friendly, efficient and professional. They kept us well informed and made us feel secure while overseas. We took all of this for granted until we began to meet other American families in Russia who had used agencies other than ATI. Talking with them made us realize just how wonderfully taken care of we were through ATI.

We were pleased with the Russian orphanages ATI chooses to work with. Our first adopted was a twelve-month-old boy from a baby home in the Novosibirsk region. A few years later, we returned to Russia to adopt our daughter, a three-year-old from the Tula region. The children were obviously very well loved and cared for by the caretakers in each home. They were fed nutritious foods, given time to play outdoors, received instruction in music, and saw medical/developmental specialists regularly. The Russian ATI staff had a wonderful rapport with each orphanage’s director, caregivers, and other children. They also had gained the respect of the government officials who oversee adoption in each region.

Both of our children are very smart, healthy and beautiful! They have been blessed with a wonderful life, full of opportunity. Of course, as adoptive parents, we feel we are the blessed ones. Our hearts are truly full of love for our children and gratitude to ATI for all they have done (and still continue to do) to help us form a complete family.

