

Local agency crosses seas to create new families

Continued from Page 11

Infants have even more difficulty coping, fretful and fussy in response to the strange assault on their senses. "They deal with sense, the sense of smell, the sense of feel. Everything is different," Goring said.

JUDITH THOMBLEY first met Ben, now 15, a year ago on a business trip to Korea with AIAA.

"It sounds corny, but I thought he was a really neat kid. I couldn't get him out of my mind," Trombley, a Troy resident, said. She and husband Roger, parents of two birth daughters, had previously discussed adoption. The couple decided to adopt the boy.

"In our minds we went through every possible scenario, all of them bad. None of it has happened. He's an easy kid, very bright. It's been much easier than we ever thought," Trombley said.

Not all matches, however, are as successful, especially when an older child is involved. Though rare, some placements are "disrupted" or ended within the first year, before they are legally completed. Others are "disrupted" or terminated, sometimes years after becoming legal.

All placements are supervised by AIAA counselors for a full year but for whatever reasons, some families decide they are no longer able or

willing to cope with the situation, Goring said.

In the event of a disruption, AIAA maintains a list of replacement families, "wonderful families" who otherwise cannot afford the \$600 cost of adoption, according to Goring. Fees cover travel expenses, agency fees, foster care and medical and legal fees.

In the event of a terminated adoption, the child is placed with state social services if a new family cannot be found.

NANCY AND JON FOX of Bloomfield Hills, parents of six children including three birth children and one each adopted from Vietnam, Guatemala and India, founded AIAA in 1975, a time when trans-cultural

adoption was unfamiliar to most Americans.

Even today, few adoptive parents at first think about it.

"Many are coming new into adoption. Having a child is new. Their first thought is a healthy infant, but when we explore other options, they begin thinking about it," Goring said.

Ashley arrives at Metro

Continued from Page 11

waiting begins. Korean authorities match children to adoptive parents, based on parental preferences. Parents, who either approve or reject the match, are supplied with photos of the child and background history. Once a match is made, parents apply for a U.S. visa. "They lead you through the process," Habbers said of the proceedings.

When Susan was notified last week that Ashley was on her way, "I called everyone I knew. Everybody's real excited."

Ashley is now at home in a newly decorated room that features miniature rocking horses and tiny hearts in country blue, red and white.

How do I tell my children about adoption?

What should I do when they want to find their birth parents?

Parents who have adopted children are invited to discuss common adoption issues, 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in Room 807 of Larson Middle School on Long Lake Road between John R. and Dequindre roads in Troy.

The discussion is co-sponsored by Post Adoption Resources of Lutheran Adoption Service and Troy Adult and Community Education.

For preregistration, call 879-7582.

Discussion set on adoption issues

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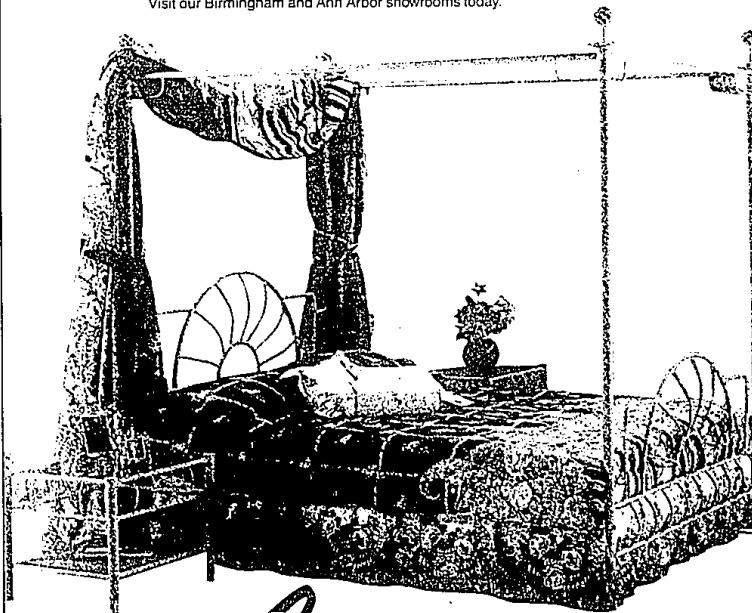
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