

Irene Angelico

From: Liliana Tommasini <tommasini.lepore@sympatico.ca>
To: Irene Angelico <ireneangelico@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2000 12:33 AM
Subject: The Journey Home

Hi Irene,

I am resending you the email I sent on Thursday. I have had many inquiries about buying the video since then and many comments (most positive). Though people did mention how sad it was to see Nicolai being abandoned that way, no one asked about adopting him.

Dear Irene and Abbey,

Tonight I watched the 'Journey Home' with both my daughters. After watching the screening on Tuesday, I had decided not to let them watch it as I thought it would be too emotional for them. This evening my oldest daughter Camelia told me she wanted to watch it because that could be her story in a few years. Something Abbey told me Tuesday night came to mind - you have to face things in life in order to move on - so I let her. We sat together hand in hand and cried at the end (my little one fell asleep - her only comment was that the beds at her orphanage were higher and she didn't have any stuffed animals to sleep with). I asked Camelia if she is ready to take the same journey as Alexandra and she said that maybe in a few years. Right now she will be too busy getting ready for high school and entering a new phase of her life. She didn't look upset at all. I told her I found her to be courageous and wise for her young age. I don't know whether tomorrow, next week, or in a month from now, it will all come back to her and she will react differently, but for now she seems happy with whom she is and where she is.

Mrs. Simard of the l'Agence Quebecoise D'Adoption Internationale in Quebec City called me to say she has had very positive feedback from parents who watched the film. She told me to extend her congratulations to you both. It is the first time she saw a documentary on Romanian adoptions that was not negative. I also had comments from several parents who saw the film as being positive and gave them a preview of what could happen in their families as well. I have been referring parents who wish to purchase a video to your website and gave them your phone number as well.

I had comments from Romanians that I know who told me that this was not

about Romanians but about gypsies. This seems to be quite an issue in Romania. As I recall, a young Romanian woman made similar comments on Tuesday after the screening. My response to these comments were that this film was about an adopted girl going back to meet her birthparents. This story could have taken place in any country.

The following are a few questions I have:

I would like to advertise the video "The Journey Home" on our website. Would I be able to use the 'journeycover' that is shown on your website (along with the link of course)?

Would you be able to give me the name of the social worker on international adoption that attended the screening on Tuesday night. She is the lady who commented that she thought Alexandra was too young to have made such a journey. I am interested in talking with her and perhaps inviting to speak at one of our future seminars.

Claudine and I have discussed that if there is enough interest among the parents (and I am sure there will be) we would like to schedule an evening where we could just talk about the film. Would you be interested in participating as guest speakers and answering questions? I will call you for details (fees, etc..)

Are Alexandra's parents willing to receive mail about this film? I certainly would like to write to Alexanra's mom. And, my final question, how can we send a donation to the "Forget-Me-Not" group?

I know this has been a long email and if you've read it so far, thank you for your patience.

Again, I thank you for making this realistic film. I am positive it will help many adoptive families who will be facing this situation in the future (it certainly helped us put things in perspective). Claudine & I both thank you for including our names in the credits at the end of the film. What a surprise that was! I guess we didn't notice on Tuesday as we were too busy wiping the tears. I will keep you up to date with the comments as we receive them.

best regards,

Liliana