



# Russia Updates

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Webinars and informational seminars are held regularly to introduce our Russia programs**
- **BHAS has programs in a number of regions that are working smoothly**
- **Call us today!**

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## Are the Rumors True?

There are many stories told by a variety of people relative to adopting from Russia. Recently, Beacon House has been made aware of "rumors" warning of closure of Russian programs.

It is true that the US Embassy in Moscow has issued fewer orphan visas over the past few years, but that has been true for most countries processing international adoptions. Statistics from the Department of State indicate that in 2008, 1,861 orphan visas were issued from Russia; in 2007, it was 2,310 and in 2006, it was 3,706.

Orphan visas from China have dropped from almost 8,000 in the year 2007 to 5,400 in 2008.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The unfortunate fact is that in 2008, 74,000 children in Russia were placed in foster care homes, while at the same time, 79,000 NEW children entered the orphanage system. (Numbers verified by the MOE, Moscow)

Other countries reflect the same decrease, and in each case, there are different reasons for the lower number of adoptions.

In the case of Russia, what must be taken into account is the "new" foster care system that went into effect in Russia in early 2007. The Russian government began providing stipends to Russian citizens who would take children into foster care, or adopt them. In most cases, the



Children are waiting for homes, in many regions of Russia where there are not enough foster parents to handle the influx of children.

Beacon House encourages any family who thinks that adoption from Russia would

Russian citizens became foster parents and received the funds paid by both the local and federal Russian governments.

**Fast forward to 2009:** the Russian federal budget is being strained by the payments to foster parents, and some local governments have completely used their full budget. Children are starting to be returned to orphanages and fewer and fewer foster parents are appearing at the orphanages and children's homes asking for children.

Some agencies have responded to this downturn in the number of orphan visas by implying to their families that something is "wrong" in Russia and adoption.

work for them to apply today. Our families are completing their adoptions in 8-12 months, and our representatives have told us there will be children available throughout the summer and fall. Please consider sharing your home through our programs.