

FOR **90 YEARS**, ISS-USA HAS CONTINUED TO BE...



Now **more** than ever



2013 ANNUAL REPORT



90 YEARS AGO the ISS was created to help families and children moving between countries **NAVIGATE** an increasingly complex system of conflicting national laws and diverse family structures.

Who

In 2013, our staff of 15...

- **Assisted** more than 2,700 individuals in 87 countries and 43 U.S. states
- **Provided** case management services for 627 children and 950 adults
- **Provided** 23 unique cross-border services including home studies, locating relatives of children, checking on the safety and well-being of children, and repatriation of U.S. citizens
- **Answered** 922 new questions and requests for technical assistance
- **Trained** 527 individuals on best practices in international child protection issues, cross-border child welfare, and providing U.S. citizens repatriation assistance to return from abroad.

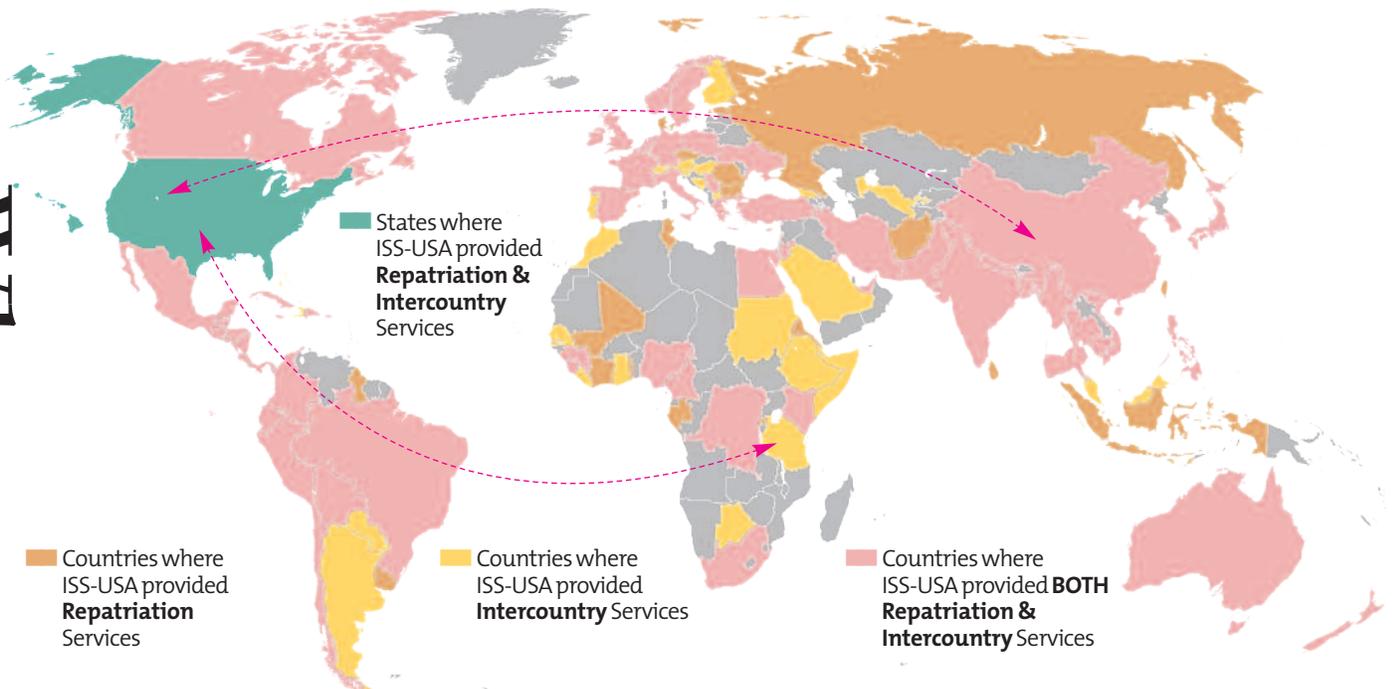
Much of our work focuses on helping children in need...

- **65%** of new questions involved children in need
- **79%** of requests for technical assistance involved children
- **37** of the **281** U.S. children we helped to relocate to the United States were without a parent or guardian and had an average age of 7.4 years old
- **78%** of the case management services we provided between the U.S. and another country involved children

What

ISS-USA mobilizes a **domestic and international NETWORK** of legal and social work professionals to **EFFICIENTLY** connect **vulnerable children, adults and families**, separated by international borders, to the **services and SUPPORT** they need.

Where





Executive Message

The work of ISS-USA has never focused on the politics of a particular situation, but rather on the safety and protection of the most vulnerable individuals affected by humanitarian or personal crises.

Throughout the past year news headlines have highlighted issues that have been central to the work of ISS-USA for **90 years**—

“A refugee crisis of epic proportions on U.S soil,”
“Adoption Horror Story: Rehoming Adopted Children.”

Child migration, like the most recent influx of children coming to the U.S. from Central America and Mexico, is nothing new. What is new are the tools we have to assist these children and families. But we must work



ROBERT G. MILES

together as a region to resolve these issues.

Similarly, since the beginning of intercountry adoption, we have known that **there are significant challenges in bringing children from one country to another** to be raised by strangers. We now, however, have the lessons learned from the earliest generations of adoptees.

We have created tools to better protect these children, but we need to continue to ensure that these tools, and best practices, are available and being used everywhere!

Now, more than ever, ISS-USA and the ISS federation is



JULIE G. ROSICKY

being called upon to:

PROVIDE cross-border social services to the changing populations of migrating children and families;

CONTINUE to develop tools and best practices to assist these families;

TRAIN our partners to do what’s best for each individual child;

and **DELIVER** information and services, based on research, in the most timely manner possible, so that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving family!

Thanks for being involved with ISS-USA and **please stay tuned** as we gear up to celebrate **90 years** of protecting children and connecting families across borders!



MARY MENTABERRY

ROBERT G. MILES

Past President, Board of Directors

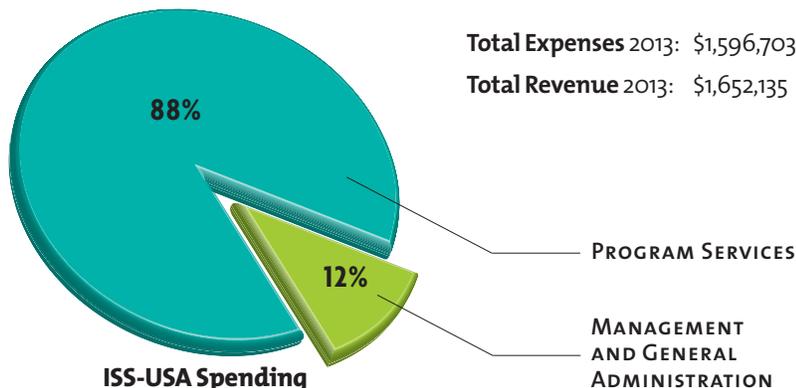
MARY MENTABERRY

President, Board of Directors

JULIE GILBERT ROSICKY

Executive Director, Board of Directors

2013 FINANCIAL INFORMATION



ISS-USA is extremely grateful to our individual, family, foundation, government and nongovernment **supporters**, whose financial or in-kind contributions help make our work possible. To see a complete listing of our supporters please visit our website. Among our supporters, ISS-USA is proud to include 100 % of our board members.

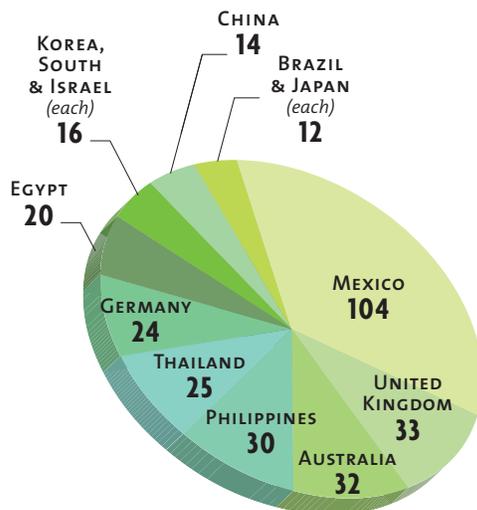
Global

In 2013, ISS-USA **COORDINATED** repatriation services* for 919 people, 218 of which were children. Here is a snapshot of top countries of departure and states of resettlement.

*Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services / Administration for Children and Families / Office of Refugee Resettlement.

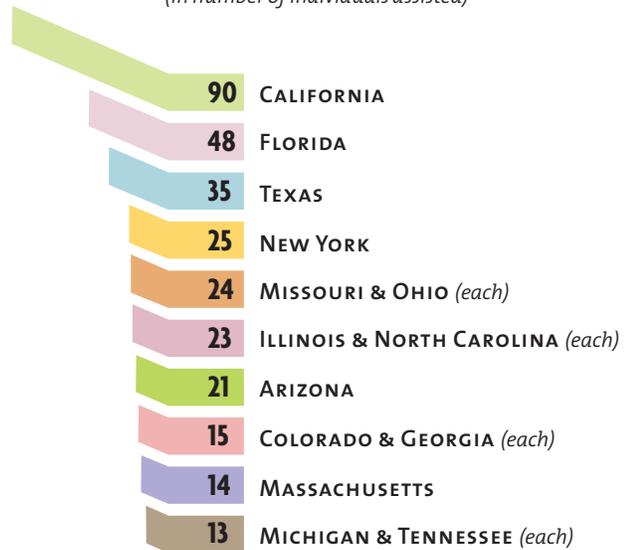
Departure Countries

Repatriates arrived from a total of 88 countries.
(in number of individuals assisted)



States of Final Destination

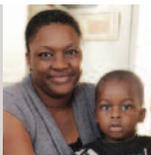
Repatriates were resettled to a total of 50 states.
(in number of individuals assisted)



Reasons for Needing Repatriation Assistance in 2013

While there were multiple reasons why individuals qualified for repatriation assistance, the most common was being **DESTITUTE** and wishing to return to the United States.

Since 1997 the **REPATRIATION** Program has successfully assisted more than 6,000 individuals, including hundreds of unaccompanied U.S. children, return to the U.S.



PROFILE

A Rethinking of “Global Families”

No part of ISS-USA’s history better exemplifies our unwavering commitment to serving the child’s best interest than our involvement with international adoption, which began during WW II.

ISS-USA has always embraced a secular and child-focused process in finding families for children. According to **Catherine Ceniza**

Choy’s 2013 book, **Global Families: A History of Asian International Adoption in America**, “The social workers and administrators at ISS continually questioned their role in other nations, whether adoption was truly in the best interest of children, and how to encourage indigenous social welfare programs to mitigate dependency on adoption overseas.”

For 90 years the work of ISS-USA has **IMPROVED**
THE LIVES of over **123,000** children and families.



Innovative

WHAT WE DID

Niki*, a young girl living in foster care in Maryland wanted to be reunited with her mother. The social worker sought to involve relatives living in Japan in the decision as to where she should live. ISS-USA and ISS-Japan case managers and an interpreter arranged a conference call with the child's case worker, therapist and family members both in the U.S. and Japan.

WHAT HAPPENED

Family members and experts in both the U.S. and Japan agreed that it would be best for Niki to be reunited with her mother in the U.S. If that became impossible, an Aunt in Tokyo would be considered.

Relevant

WHAT WE DID

ISS-USA, with funding and support from the **New Jersey Court Improvement Program** of the Administrative

Offices of the Court, Family Practice Division, developed and provided training and technical assistance to hundreds of legal and judicial professionals to help them find, involve and/or evaluate potential family members living outside the U.S.

WHAT HAPPENED

More professionals in NJ are using best practices in cross-border child welfare than ever before, and are looking for family outside the U.S. as reported in follow-up surveys.

Timely

WHAT WE DID

Cassie*, a teenaged girl, was living in a residential facility in California, but wanted to live with her father in Barbados. With only a name, city, and phone number, ISS-USA asked its partner in Barbados to locate Cassie's father, confirm his interest in reuniting with Cassie, and assess the home. ISS-USA shared the report with Cassie's case worker.

WHAT HAPPENED

Upon reviewing the facts from the

caseworker, the Judge allowed Cassie to relocate to Barbados to live with her father. The social worker arranged for travel and follow-up visits to track Cassie's progress with her father.

Necessary

WHAT WE DID

Jerome and Sylvester*, middle school aged brothers were placed in foster care in Montana after their mother's suicide. The boys' father, who is an officer in the U.S. Army, was stationed in Afghanistan. ISS-USA facilitated the notification of the father and his involvement in all court proceedings virtually. The father suggested that the boys be placed with his parents, the boys' grandparents, until he was finished his deployment.

WHAT HAPPENED

The brothers were placed temporarily with their grandparents in Florida until they were reunited with their father a year later.

**All names and locations were changed to protect the confidentiality of the children and families we assist.*

ISS-USA Publishes in Prestigious Journals

In 2013, ISS-USA published two articles **about cross-border families**. (RIGHT:)

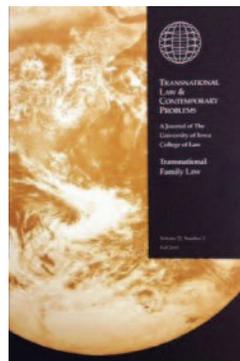
Pathways to Permanency: Supporting Cross-Border Family Finding and Engagement for Children in Foster Care.

University of Iowa, *TRANSNATIONAL LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS*, Fall 2013.

(FAR RIGHT:)

Forgotten Families: International Family Connections for Children in the American Public Child-Welfare System.

FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY: Symposium on Global Families. Summer 2013.



GET INVOLVED

SIGN UP for our e-Newsletter at www.iss-usa.org

FOLLOW US on **Twitter**



LIKE US on **Facebook**



SUBSCRIBE to our **Blog**  and comment on our latest insights and thought-provoking posts.

MAKE A GIFT. We rely on gifts from individuals like you to make our work possible. Your one-time or recurring gift will help unite families around the world! **Donations** can be made through our website, or by mailing in a check made out to ISS-USA.

[Donate now!](#)

COME to an **Event**.



REQUEST a **Training**.



2013 BOARD MEMBERS

ROBERT MILES, *President*
MARY MENTABERRY, *Vice President*
JAMES PAUL, *Secretary*
BILL EVANS, *Treasurer*
MARY JANE FALES
LONNIE TAYLOR
TROOPER SANDERS
ANN ESTIN
JAMES CALVIN
BARBARA GILMORE
GENE GRABOWSKI

2013 STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Team

JULIE GILBERT ROSICKY, *Executive Director*
STEPHNEY ALLEN, *Director of Repatriation Management and Internal Operations*
FELICITY SACKVILLE NORTHCOTT, *Director of External Partnerships and International Services*

ISS Team

HALEY BEECH, JUANA BODDEN, MI CHANG, KATRINA CLEMONS, KRISTEN CONNOR, JENNIFER GRAY, WENDY JEFFRIES, ESTHER KEINKEDE, ELLEN LIEBENOW, YALEMZEWD MULAT, TAMARA NEUHAUS, AUDREY NOGUERA SABISTON, JODIANNA RINGEL, LISA STANFORD, SALOME SULLIVAN, AMANDA WILLIAMS-REED



International Social Service – USA

200 E. Lexington Street, Suite 1700
Baltimore, MD 21202 USA

T: 443-451-1200 F: 443-451-1230

E: question@iss-usa.org

I: www.iss-usa.org