

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Kids Need Homes Here At Home**

April 15, 2008

Prospective adoptive parents "discovering that it's no longer so easy to take in the world's neediest children" [Life, April 11, "Waiting for Baby"] are looking too far from home. Connecticut's Department of Children and Families has hundreds of children awaiting adoption.

We decided to pursue adoption five years ago and selected a respected international agency because we had heard bad stories about domestic adoptions.

Soon after we accepted a referral in Romania, the country's adoption laws changed. We switched to Russia, completed additional documents and paid more fees. A year later, we were "matched" with several severely disabled children (despite clear instructions to the contrary). We were then introduced to two darling sisters. Three months later, Russian officials blocked our application.

After more than three years and more than \$15,000, all we had were broken hearts.

A friend persuaded us to contact DCF. Within six months, our daughter came to live with us; seven months later, her adoption was finalized. We have full medical records and a network of support services should we need them. All our adoption costs were covered and if she chooses to go to college, her tuition to the University of Connecticut or its equivalent will be fully paid.

Prospective parents don't have to wait to adopt internationally. There are children here who need families right now.

*Lee and Nancy Cox*

*Storrs*