



Dear Friends –

When Mishelle and I first started SPOON, we registered it under the name “KONI – *Kazakhstan Orphan Nutrition Initiative*.” As new mothers to Kazakhstani children, we focused on meeting a need we had witnessed first-hand in our children’s birth country. As our program in Kazakhstan unfolded and we realized the potential our programs had to *really* make a difference, we changed our name to *SPOON Foundation* to make room for **the possibility of someday nourishing children throughout the world.**

***This year that possibility became a reality.***

While our pilot program in Kazakhstan is entering its final phases and we are on the brink of nationwide change there, our growing expert team is planning the launch of nutrition programs in orphanages in three new countries in 2012. **There is little time to stop and reflect on how far we’ve come so fast, but when those moments arise we are filled with humility for the opportunity to touch so many little lives.** And with that comes gratitude...for our fiercely devoted and highly talented staff, volunteers, advisors, partners, and board. **And we are grateful to you, our supporters, without whom SPOON would still be a mother’s latent dream** instead of a breakthrough organization that is building brains and filling bellies around the globe.

Our work on Adoption Nutrition has also impacted thousands of families – including my own. Recently I took my daughter (adopted in late 2010) to the doctor for a post-adoption check-up. She is an incredibly robust and resilient kiddo – you would never guess she spent her first year in an orphanage. Following the advice of our experts on [AdoptionNutrition.org](http://AdoptionNutrition.org), I requested an iron test, which my doctor ordered reluctantly. Turns out she has “an extreme case of iron deficiency,” which can only be attributed to her poorly nourished start in life. Had I not tested her when I did, her moderate anemia would have escalated, with the potential to impact her brain development and success in relationships and school/work throughout her life. **Just another too-close-to-home reminder of how essential SPOON’s efforts are for so many children and families.**

The enclosed copy of our progress report gives a glimpse into what we have accomplished together in 2011. While we are fortunate this year to have earned the respect and investment of some high-level grantors, we have much more to do in order to build on the solid foundation you have helped us to establish. **Please consider a special gift to SPOON this holiday season so that we can continue to nourish those who need it most...**one country, one child, one spoonful at a time.

With thanks from the bottom of my very full heart,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy".

Cindy Kaplan  
Co-Founder and Executive Director