

From new resources for adopted children to expanding possibilities for orphaned children around the world, 2011 has been a very exciting year for SPOON Foundation. We hope you'll be inspired by how your generous support is helping us to transform lives – by giving vulnerable children the nutrition they need to grow and thrive.

## **Orphan Nutrition Program**

SPOON's Orphan Nutrition programming is bound for national impact in Kazakhstan, and will soon expand around the globe.

- **Kazakhstan pilot project:** Experts from the University of Minnesota and The Kazakh Academy of Nutrition are working together to analyze data collected after the intervention phase of our pilot project in Kazakhstan. Results will help to determine the best way to deliver improved nutrition to young orphans. In the interim, all children in the participating Baby Houses are receiving vitamin supplementation through SPOON to ensure their health is protected until new nutrition practices are implemented.

*We noticed that children are now healthier than before, they don't get sick, and we don't give them any medicine. Nutrition is very good now, you see that children are strong...active, they don't cry at all. Thank you to our sponsors!  
~caregiver, Chilik Baby House*



- **Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Health** is lobbying parliament for **new nutrition practices in Baby Houses countrywide**. This proposed change is a direct result of SPOON's Orphan Nutrition Project, and could result in an improved diet for *all* orphaned Kazakhstani children, age 0-5, in state care.

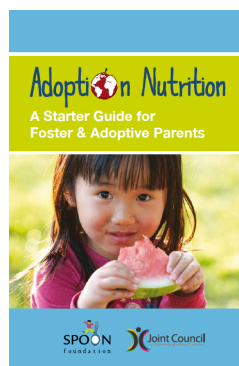


- **SPOON has been awarded a multi-year grant to expand our programming around the globe.** SPOON's work will extend to China, Vietnam and Mexico over the next year. This program, implemented in collaboration with Joint Council on International Children's Services, is **designed to reach numerous countries worldwide**, and we are humbled by the chance to help so many deserving children living without families.

## Adoption and Foster Care Nutrition Programs

This year marked the unfolding of SPOON's Adoption Nutrition programming. The need for this program area has been greatly reinforced by high demand for our resources from families and professionals alike.

- **SPOON's alliance with Joint Council on International Children's Services** allowed us to reach tens of thousands of members of the adoption community in 2011.
- **Adoptionnutrition.org, the first-ever website focused on nutrition for adopted and fostered children, has grown exponentially – with visits from over twenty thousand parents and professionals in 2011 alone.** We've expanded content to address more critical issues such as transition foods for new adoptees, and added reassuring and inspiring nutrition profiles from diverse adoptive and foster families.



- **SPOON's Adoption Nutrition Starter Guide for Foster & Adoptive Parents was published this fall with a distribution to-date of over 6,000 copies.** The guide is a colorful and engaging educational tool for adoptive and foster families, provided at no cost to adoption service providers, training centers, clinics, and health care practitioners. In response to demand, we have also made the Nutrition Starter guide available in PDF format on AdoptionNutrition.org.



The Nutrition Basics by Country page at [adoptionnutrition.org](http://adoptionnutrition.org) now provides insights into diet and nutrition risks of adopted children from over a dozen countries, including the US.



### Looking forward: 2012 plans

Our expert assessment team will travel to **China, Vietnam** and **Mexico** to begin the important process of identifying the greatest feeding and nutrition needs for children in orphanages throughout these countries. SPOON's new curriculum design team will create innovative, targeted feeding and nutrition training materials that will be distributed through in-country trainings of orphanage staff, and via a new global website SPOON has been tasked to create.

SPOON's Central Asia team will hold a dissemination and training conference in Kazakhstan, to announce the new Baby House nutrition policy, train Baby House staff in new dietary and feeding practices, and **advocate for similar nutrition reform in other Central Asian countries.** Next SPOON's nutrition and feeding experts will design a curriculum and train Kazakhstani professionals to provide onsite training support at the country's 25 Baby Houses.

In 2012, we will capitalize on new opportunities to expand our Adoption Nutrition resources, providing more adoptive - and foster - families with the **resources to nourish their children to optimal health and development.**

*With your continued support, 2012 will be another big year for SPOON. Thank you for helping us to offer what every child deserves - the chance to grow and thrive.*