



Children from Around the world

Four small children from around the world found new homes and families in Fremont.

Born in Europe and Asia, the two girls and two boys became U.S. citizens when they were brought to this country as babies between 2000 and 2002. Now active in grade school,

they play Star Wars on the piano, draw at the kitchen table and dream of swimming at Splash Station while it snows outside.

Intercountry adoption can be complex involving three different laws: U.S. immigration law; the laws of the child's birth country; and U.S. state

laws. It generally takes 1-4 years to bring a child from another country to live in this country.

Approximately 20,000 children from international countries are adopted in the U.S. each year. These are the stories of four now at home in Fremont.



Emily An Keasling



Anna Ross



Jackson Brettman



Jamison Brettman

Youngsters find new homes in Fremont



Photos by Dean Jacobs, Fremont Tribune
Emily An Keasling plays with one of her dolls at home.

Emily An Keasling: China (2002)

Emily An Keasling is 8 years old. She was born An Lian in China in 2001, a country with a rich history and 1.3 billion people, representing 20 percent of the world's population. When An Lian was born, her birth family was not able to provide for her, so she lived in an orphanage. Nannies cared for her.

On Nov. 5, 2002, in China, Jerry and Barb Keasling adopted An Lian and she became Emily An Keasling. She traveled with her mom and dad to live with her adoptive family waiting for her in Fremont. She had sisters, a brother, grandparents, cousins, uncles and many friends. Every summer, Emily travels back to China and enjoys a reunion with the families and their daughters who she traveled with in China. She fondly calls the girls her China sisters.

As a second-grader at Archbishop Bergan Elementary, Emily enjoys playing the piano, ice skating, dancing, swimming and playing with her American Girl dolls.

What is Emily's favorite thing about living in Fremont? School at Bergan is fun, she says and her teacher is sweet, kind and very nice.

Anna Elaine Ross: Romania (2000)

Anna Elaine Ross was 10 months old in 2000 when her mother, Cathy Ross, traveled to Romania to meet her. She flew to Bucharest and rode a train from the south of Romania to the north for 8 hours on a cold night to the town where her daughter was born, Satu Mare.

Waiting to become a mother, Cathy spent two weeks walking the streets in the small Romanian town without knowing the language. The intercountry adoption, which she began a year earlier, was a long process. There were many different forms, papers and legal documents including immigration petitions. It all took time. Each country's laws and adoption process are different. Romania's process was unique because the country permits single parents to adopt. Cathy specifically chose Romania.

It is a poor country and Anna's birth mother, who was also a single mother, could not afford another child, so Anna lived in an orphanage and briefly with a foster family before Cathy met her daughter, born Roxanna Maria. Once all the forms had been checked and then signed, it was finally time. She first saw her daughter at the foster family's home. There the women switched the baby's clothing; Anna cried just a little bit but was OK as Cathy held her.

That trip to Europe was a long time ago. Anna is now 10, a tall young girl who loves to dance, swim, ride her bike and watch TV. In the fourth grade at Howard, Anna loves her teacher, Ginny Wojtkiewicz.

Anna became a naturalized U.S. citizen, walking across the stage when her name was called at the special ceremony attended by her family and friends. Cathy plans to travel with Anna back to Romania when she gets a little older, maybe when she is in high school or college. She wants Anna to see where she was born.



Anna Ross plays with one of her dolls at her home in Fremont.



Jamison, left, and Jackson Brettman hang out in the basement of their home.

Jamison Brettman: South Korea (2001)

Jackson Brettman: South Korea (2002)

Two brothers, each born in South Korea, are growing up with each other playing Wii and DS Nintendo in the basement and tumbling around as their parents, Libby and Scott Brettman, surround them with love in their tutor home.

Jackson, 8, is focused, carefully picking out the new keys on the piano to play Star Wars or intently drawing heroes. Jamison, 9, is playfully outgoing, he loves to play and eat. What is Jamison's favorite food? Potatoes, chicken fried steak — mostly everything his mom makes. Jackson, who is quietly drawing, interjects macaroni and cheese, hot dogs and potatoes.

Together the boys love building with Legos, Cub Scouts, camping and fishing with their father, going to the library and third grade at Trinity Lutheran School.

Jackson is interested in learning more about his native Korean culture and is learning some Korean words and tasting different foods. Libby describes plans to take the boys to South Korea when they are old enough. They have pictures of the boys' foster families and the little blue bags each received with them were adopted.

Very special to their parents and the boys are the 2-year-old birthday pictures of Jamison and Jackson wearing vibrant colored Korean outfits, Hanbok. These formal coats were traditionally worn when children reached their second birthday, which was a time for great celebration in the past because so many infants died before reaching this birthday. In modern Korea, the birthday has become a great family event and includes wearing the Hanbok, taking pictures and celebrating their children's birthdays.

Scribner woman wins lottery

Paulette Cooley of Scribner won \$17,000 playing the \$2 Scratch game Sapphire Blue 7's from the Nebraska Lottery.

Cooley purchased her winning Sapphire Blue 7's ticket at Scribner Express. There are two \$17,000 top prizes available in Sapphire Blue 7's. Cooley is the first person to claim a top prize to date.

The odds of winning \$17,000 playing Sapphire Blue 7's are 1 in 240,000, while the overall odds of winning any prize are 1 in 3.79.

Schuyler man wins lottery

Robert Wolfe of Schuyler recently won \$10,000 playing Powerball from the Nebraska Lottery.

There were more than 25,000 Nebraska Lottery winners in the Feb. 3 drawings. Among these winners was Wolfe, who purchased his winning Powerball ticket at the Oakview One Stop in Schuyler.

The quick pick ticket contained four of the five white ball numbers (17, 22, 36, 37, 52) and the Powerball number (24).

Two hundred and seventy-two Nebraska Lottery players have won the \$10,000 Powerball prize to date.

The odds of winning \$10,000 playing Powerball are 1 in 723,145, while the overall odds of winning any prize are 1 in 35.11.

Board seeks candidates

Following an announcement at Thursday's meeting of the Northeast Community College Board of Governors, candidates are being sought to replace longtime District IV representative Ken Echtenkamp of West Point.

Anyone interested in filling his position must submit a candidate filing form to the Nebraska Secretary of State by March 1 to be listed on the May 11th primary ballot.

Echtenkamp has served on the Board since 1979. The retired superintendent of the West Point Public Schools represents District IV consisting of Burt, Cuming, Stanton, and Thurston Counties in their entirety and a portion of Madison County in Northeast's 20-county service area.

For more information about the responsibilities of a board member, individuals may contact Diane Reikofski at (402) 844-7055. For information about the application process, visit www.sos.state.ne.us/election/2010.

POLICE BEAT

Police probe theft of iPod

Tribune staff

Fremont Police are investigating the theft of an iPod from the Fremont Family YMCA.

Lt. Kurt Bortorff said the iPod was stolen from the coat rack area of the facility Friday or Saturday. The theft was reported Tuesday.

The loss was estimated at \$200.

How to reach us

Do you have some information you want to share with our readers? Send it to us at: c/o Fremont Tribune, P.O. Box 9, Fremont, NE 68026. Items can also be sent via fax at (402) 721-8047 or e-mailed at fremont.newsroom@lee.net.

2000: Anna Elaine Ross is adopted from Romania. 2001: Jamison Brettman is adopted from South Korea. 2002: Jackson Brettman is adopted from South Korea. 2002: Emily An Keasling is adopted from China.

1856	1870	1890	1910	1930	1950	1970	1990	2010
Periods of large immigrant arrivals throughout Fremont's history. ■ 1856-1890: Mostly northern Europeans; ■ 1900-1920: Mostly southern Europeans; ■ 1990-present: Mostly Latin American, Asians, Europeans. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.								

"Building Fremont: Immigrants 1856 to present" is a special four-week project of the Fremont Tribune, Fremont Area Art Association, United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 22 and Nebraska Is Home Fremont. It features photography by Dean Jacobs. Personal stories were compiled by Nebraska Is Home Fremont.