

Child Profile Report

for

MASHA



prepared by Michele A. Cunko

October 7, 2003

Every Child, Inc.

**STATEWIDE ADOPTION NETWORK
CHILD PROFILE**

Child's Name: Maria "Masha" M.
DOB: 8-25-92
Gender: Female
Race: Caucasian
Date of Profile: October 7, 2003
Prepared by: Michele A. Cunko,
MAC HR Consulting, LLC
CYFS Adoption Worker: Wendy Krauss

A. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Information was gathered on August 28, 29 and September 12, 13, 30 and October 2, 3 and 6, 2003 through examination and analysis of the Allegheny County Children Youth and Family Services (CYFS) records and interviews with CYFS caseworker Wendy Krauss, CYFS intake worker Diane Goble, adopted maternal grandmother Ann, FBI agent Denise Valentine, attorney Stanley Greenfield, Keith Wallace, Family Through International Adoption, Jeannine Smith, Reaching Out Through International Adoption, The Children's Institute and foster mother . In addition, a visit with Masha and Ms. was conducted at their home on September 22, 2003.

B. INTRODUCTION

Masha is an attractive, slender youngster who has chin-length, fine, light brown hair and blue eyes. She wears prescription eyeglasses. Maria is the name on Masha's original and adopted birth certificates although she goes by Masha. According to sources at the agency that handled Masha's adoption from Russia, Masha is a variation of the name Maria, as Shelly is a name for Rochelle in the USA.

Masha has been in foster care in the USA since 5-03 and she was adjudicated dependent in 6-03. The CYFS goal for Masha was changed to adoption in 6-03.

Residential Time Line

Dates	Resource
8-25-92 to 1-31-97	birth mother/hospital in Russia
1-31-97 to 6-26-98	Russian orphanage
6-26-98 to 5-27-03	adopted father Matthew
5-27-03 to date	Families United Network foster home of

C. HISTORY

Birth

Masha was born in the Novoshakhtinsk District, Rostovskaya Region in the Republic of Russia. There is no information in the CYFS files regarding the details of Masha's birth although Masha advised that she believes she was born prematurely. Jeannine Smith of the Reaching Out Through International Adoption agency advised that her records from processing Masha's adoption from Russia show that Masha was born very prematurely and her birth weight was 900 grams. These records also indicate that Masha was the fourth pregnancy for her birth mother.

Developmental

There is no information in the files regarding Masha's developmental history.

Social

CYFS first became involved with this family in 5-03 when Masha's adopted father Matthew was arrested on charges related to child pornography. The court issued a finding of aggravated circumstances and there were no Family Service Plan Goals established for adopted father Matthew to work toward reunification with Masha.

A referral for Masha to again be adopted was made in 6-03.

Abuse/Neglect

Masha was subjected to physical maltreatment. Masha was subjected to sexual maltreatment and sexual exploitation beginning when she was around age 6 and continuing until 5-03. Masha has been reported to be very small for her age, possibly as a result of her having not received adequate nutrition.

Residential History

8-25-92 to 1-31-97

Masha is presumed to have been in the care of her birth mother for the first four years of her life. Masha's birth mother was reported to have stabbed Masha in the neck when Masha was around four or five years old and Masha bears a scar from this injury. Foster mother Ms. [redacted] advised that she was told that Masha was hospitalized after having been stabbed in the neck by her birth mother and that Masha was placed in an orphanage when she was released from the hospital.

1-31-97 to 6-26-98

Masha lived in an orphanage in Russian for about eighteen months while agencies sought an adoptive home for her.

6-26-98 to 5-27-03

In 6-98 a divorced, retired American businessman named Matthew traveled to Russia and adopted Masha. Matthew brought his adopted daughter Masha to the Pittsburgh, PA area to live. Masha lived alone with her adopted father Matthew for almost five years. In 5-03 Matthew was arrested on charges related to child pornography and Masha was placed in foster care.

5-27-03 to date

Masha made a very good adjustment to her placement with her foster mother and she asked Ms. [redacted] to adopt her. Ms. [redacted] is planning to adopt Masha.

Medical

Health care is provided by Alma Illery Medical Center, 7227 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208 and dental care is provided by Dr. Grimes, Mosside Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146.

Masha reported that she was hospitalized (in Russia) when she was around four years old but that she did not know the reason for this hospitalization. Foster mother Ms. [redacted] advised that she was told that Masha was hospitalized after having been stabbed in the neck by her birth mother and that Masha was placed in an orphanage when she was released from the hospital.

Records from the agency that handled Masha's adoption indicate that Masha had chronic tonsillitis in 9-97 and that she was diagnosed with flat feet in 9-97. Masha also had a diagnosis of secondary cardiopathy (sic) in 1997. In 2-98 an oculist (an

optometrist or ophthalmologist) diagnosed Masha as having convergent comitant (sic) squint.

Masha wears prescription eyeglasses due to the condition of "lazy eye", a right esotropia. Vision care is provided by Pediatric Ophthalmology, Murrysville, PA 15668 and Masha had a prescription change to her eyeglasses in 9-03.

Masha underwent a medical assessment and consultation at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, 3705 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 when she was first placed in foster care in 5-03. She was reported to be in good health aside from a low body mass index. Testing was conducted for various sexually transmittable diseases and there was a recommendation that Hepatitis B and C, RPR and HIV testing be conducted as soon as possible, that these tests be repeated in three months and a final repeat testing be performed in six months. Foster mother Ms. advised that as of 9-03 these tests had not been performed due to the difficulty she has had obtaining Masha's Social Security card and medical insurance verification but that she arranged to have this testing to take place on 9-23-03. The results of these tests were not available as of the date of this report.

In 6-03 Masha was noted to be about 15 pounds underweight and there was a recommendation that she be evaluated for an eating disorder. Foster mother Ms. advised that Masha was scheduled to undergo this evaluation on 9-23-03 with psychologist Dr. Patricia Pepe. The results of this evaluation were not available as of the date of this report.

Masha advised that when she goes swimming, she has a sensitivity to chlorine and that may have an allergy to chlorine.

Overall, Masha has enjoyed good health and there are no reports of any other medical issues or concerns.

Medical records show that Masha received the following immunizations and tests in Russia on the dates listed:

Pirket test: 4-20-93, 3-29-94, 5-24-95, 3-15-96, 4-17-97, 9-6-97 All results negative

Vaccination against tuberculosis (BCG) 4-20-92

Parotitis	11-30-93						
Polio	7-17-92	9-2-92	10-19-92	3-13-93	6-29-93	5-19-94	8-6-94
Diphtheria/ whooping cough	2-14-92	9-2-92	10-19-92	5-19-94			
HEPB	7-15-98						
Tetanus	9-23-93						

The record of Masha's immunizations in the U.S. was not in the CYFS files. Foster mother Ms. [redacted] advised that as of 9-03 Masha's immunizations are up to date.

Educational

Masha attended Pivik Elementary School, 100 School Road, Plum, PA 15239 for kindergarten through fourth grade. In the fall 2003 Masha began to attend fifth grade at Mosside Middle School, 2609 Mosside Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146. She has done very well academically.

Psychological/Psychiatric

Records from the agency that handled Masha's adoption indicate that a Russian psychiatrist provided a diagnosis of astric (sic) neurosis during 1997.

Masha has been described as a very affectionate, pleasant and well-mannered child who does not exhibit any behavioral problems.

Masha underwent an initial mental health evaluation through A Second Chance Wellness Center on 5-30-03. Dr. Sharon conducted this assessment and there was a recommendation that Masha undergo a psychiatric evaluation and attend therapy. The report from Dr. Sharon's evaluation was not in the CYFS files nor is there any documentation that these recommendations were followed.

Foster mother Ms. [redacted] advised that Masha requested that she have a Christian therapist and that she attends counseling once per week at the Bethany Baptist Church.

D. CURRENT FUNCTIONING/RELATIONSHIPS

Visits may be arranged with adopted maternal grandmother [redacted] if [redacted] and Masha wish to have visits. According to foster mother Ms. [redacted] is to initiate arrangements for visits. Ms. [redacted] advised that [redacted] has had only occasional contact with Masha since Masha's 5-03 placement in her care. Masha interacts well with her foster sister, ten-year-old Ashley, and they enjoy playing together.

Masha is a very pleasant, soft-spoken and intelligent youngster who quite readily engages in conversation. Masha said that she understood a lot more than people thought she did about her life. Masha said that she has had some very real dreams and, on occasion, she is not sure if things were real or dreams.

Masha likes attending school and her favorite subjects are reading and math. She enjoys reading books and some of her favorite books are the Harry Potter books, mysteries and chapter books.

Masha's favorite color is purple. Her favorite food is chocolate ice cream. Masha also likes to eat vegetables, spaghetti, rice, fish, hamburgers and French fries. Masha said that she knows how to cook eggs, spaghetti, sandwiches and soup in the microwave oven. Masha said that she does not like cheese, any sauces, cooked vegetables or pizza. Foster mother Ms. [redacted] advised that Masha had not been exposed to a wide variety of foods while she was in the care of her adopted father Matthew and that Matthew had Masha on a restricted diet. Ms. [redacted] has worked to introduce Masha to new foods.

Although Masha does not like to play sports, she enjoys playing catch with her foster sister, ten-year-old Ashley. Masha has an interest in gymnastics and would very much like to take gymnastics classes. She enjoys going to the park and playing on the swings and jumping rope.

Masha said that she would like to become a teacher, a doctor or a nurse when she is grown up.

Playing board games is a favorite pastime. Masha likes to play Bible Bingo, Full Armor of God and a nail polish board game.

Masha enjoys drawing, painting, sculpture and all kinds of crafts. She recollected that she had a box in her adopted father's home that she kept all of her art projects in. Masha's adopted father had given her his old digital camera and she enjoyed going outdoors to photograph nature, plants and animals. Masha said that she has taken some perfect pictures including a photograph of a butterfly that was in perfect focus and that this butterfly photograph was hanging in her adopted home.

Masha loves all kinds of animals but her favorite animal is a cat. She recollected that her adopted paternal aunt [redacted] used to have a pet motel and that she was allowed to walk the dogs that stayed there. Masha used to have a pet cat named Kitty. Foster mother Ms. [redacted] is allergic to cats but she plans to allow Masha to have a pet cat when the family moves into a house and she plans to have the cat live in the basement.

Masha enjoys listening to music, singing and dancing. She would very much like to take dance lessons. Masha sings in her church choir and school chorus and she is to be a part of a performance on October 10, 2003 with the Pittsburgh Symphony. Masha likes music that has words and music, and other types such as orchestra music, that does not have words.

Masha enjoys watching the Disney and Nickelodeon channels on television and she likes all Disney movies.

On a typical weekday, Masha wakes up at 7:15 AM. She dresses, makes her bed, brushes her teeth and hair and gets ready for school. At 7:45 AM, Masha catches her bus for school. She eats breakfast at school. Masha arrives home from school at 3:10

PM. She says hello to whoever is at home, gives her foster mother a hug and checks to see what homework she has to do and does her homework. Masha watches television and plays with her foster sister Ashley when Ashley arrives home from school. Dinnertime is between 5:00 and 6:00 PM. Masha does the dishes and watches television after dinner. On Wednesday night, the family attends church. On other nights, Masha takes a shower between 7:00 and 8:00 PM and gets her clothes out for the next day. Masha's bedtime is 9:00 PM.

Readiness for Adoption

Adopted paternal grandmother and Masha's adopted paternal aunt were reported to have expressed some interest in obtaining custody of Masha, but Masha has told them that she wants to be adopted by her foster mother Ms.

Masha developed a close attachment to her foster mother and Masha asked Ms. to adopt her. Masha appears to be very ready for adoption and Ms. is planning to adopt her. Masha addresses Ms. as Mumsy, a name she made up for Ms.

E. BIRTH FAMILY INFORMATION

Birth Parents

Masha's birth parents were reported to be alcoholics. There is no further information in the CYFS files regarding Masha's birth parents. Masha advised that her birth mother's name is Olga and that she had an older brother and an older sister. Masha believes that her birth mother had cancer and that she abused drugs and alcohol. She said that there is a box of information about her birth family at the home of her adopted father Matthew but efforts to retrieve this information were not successful.

Adopted father

Matthew was married to Doreen. They were separated by 1987 and subsequently divorced. Matthew and Doreen had a daughter named lives out of the Pittsburgh area and has not had contact with her birth father Matthew for many years.

Matthew was employed as vice-president in a company affiliated with steel plants and, by the time he came to the attention of CYFS, he was retired from this position.

In 5-03 Matthew was incarcerated.

Adopted father's attitude toward adoption

Matthew is not expected to contest the adoption.

Siblings

Foster mother [redacted] advised that she was informed that Masha's birth mother had three pregnancies before Masha was born but there is no information in the CYFS files regarding Masha's siblings. Masha advised that she has an older brother and an older sister and that she once knew their names but they were Russian names and she has forgotten them.

F. SUMMARY

Masha was reportedly placed in a Russian orphanage after suffering a stab wound inflicted by her birth mother. She was adopted from this Russian orphanage by an American man named Matthew. Family Through International Adoption in Cherry Hill, New Jersey handled this adoption. Masha was removed from the care of her adopted father Matthew after he was arrested and incarcerated in 5-03. Masha has lived with her foster mother _____ since 5-03 and she asked Ms. _____ to adopt her.

Masha wears prescription eyeglasses due to the condition of "lazy eye", a right esotropia. Masha has a low body mass index and she was scheduled to undergo an evaluation in 9-03 to determine if she has an eating disorder. Masha is in need of testing for Hepatitis B and C, RPR and HIV that was recommended in 6-03. Masha was subjected to physical maltreatment, sexual maltreatment and sexual exploitation and possible inadequate nutrition. She has attended counseling.

Masha has an established bond with her foster mother Ms. _____ and the adoption will provide permanency for Masha.

Submitted by MAC Human Resource Consulting, L.L.C., Michele A. Cunko, Principal, through Every Child, Inc. on October 7, 2003.

by Michele A. Cunko, L.L.C.

Accepted by: _____