

# Adoption angels

Oceanside agency brings together hopeful families and grateful children

BY KARENLYN BARONE

Karing Angels of Oceanside was born of a dream — the result of too many nightmares. Today it provides realistic hope for countless families who want to adopt a child.

April Coburn-Viola successfully adopted a child from Chile in 1992, but her second attempt was at the same time disappointing and frightening.

"I was scammed for \$20,000 by an agency in Chile that was not producing," said April.

Under the advice of friends, she decided to try and adopt from Guatemala. This time she used a facilitator rather than an agency, which is the norm in that country. Coburn-Viola brought home her second adopted daughter, Arissa, at three-months-old. Unfortunately, the baby was malnourished, had scabies and was diagnosed with "failure to thrive."

Coburn-Viola was disheartened to learn from others of their own adoption nightmares. Motivated by wanting to facilitate successful adoptions for hopeful families, she decided to open her own adoption agency. Two short years later, her dream was realized.

Karing Angels is a non-profit, well respected agency that boasts over 100



**KARIN HIPPI IS DELIGHTED** to be the mother of Connor, the son she adopted from Kazakhstan, through Karing Angels.



**APRIL COBURN-VIOLA** and her daughters, Astra, 27, Angellique, 13, and Arissa, 8.

successful adoptions since 2000. Her families travel to Guatemala primarily, but she has also placed children from Germany, China and Kazakhstan.

Last month, Coburn-Viola hosted a reunion at the Knights of Columbus in Oceanside, for the parents and children she has helped become loving families. Mothers and fathers and children drove from all over Long Island and one family

even flew in from Florida to reunite with Viola and share in the joy their adoptions have brought them. The room was full of smiles, and families brought together because of one woman's dream.

"My mom and dad are wonderful," said Kelly Rosati, 9, who was adopted from Guatemala as an infant. "I love them more than the whole wide world and I want to adopt when I am older, too."