



BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES of GREENVILLE, SC

November is National Adoption Month. In this issue, we would like to share how you may support Bethany by considering adopting a child.

MANY CHILDREN ARE
alone

November 2007
National Adoption Month

Millions of children wait in hope that, someday, they will know the love of a family.
Please adopt!

Bethany
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
www.bethany.org

To learn more about adoption, please contact
Bethany Christian Services.
1.800.BETHANY

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INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROCESS

These steps will vary depending on the country/program you choose.

1. **Complete** and **return** the pre-application. You may also fill out our pre-application at www.bethany.org/prelim.
2. **Receive** notification of **approval** of the pre-application.
3. **Receive** an invitation to join **Bethany's family portal** to complete a formal application and submit it on line.
4. **Receive** approval of your formal application and are **assigned** a social worker.
5. **Receive** additional documents to complete for the application return to your local office with a \$550 non-refundable fee.
6. Your social worker **begins** the *home study*.
7. **Obtain** the I-600 Orphan Packet from USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) when directed by your worker. **Obtain** a passport.
7. **Begin** the *Immigration Pre-filing Process* by completing the I600A form when directed by your worker. You will be assigned a fingerprinting appointment by USCIS.
8. **Complete** the home study and training requirements, and **pay** the balance of the Bethany fee.
10. **Complete** the *dossier*.
11. Bethany **sends** your home study and/or dossier to the country you have chosen.
12. **Await** your referral from the country you have chosen.
13. The country **identifies** a child for you and you **receive** a referral.
14. **Accept** the referral and **complete** the *acceptance documents*.
15. **Begin** the court process (in your local county or the birth country of your child).
16. The birth country **completes** the necessary legal procedures before the child may travel. This period of time varies by country.
17. **Receive** visa approval.
18. **Travel** to the country if desired or required.
19. **Complete** the court and immigration process.
20. Your social worker **begins** the required post-placement reports.
21. **Apply** for a birth certificate after receiving your *final order of adoption*.

DOMESTIC ADOPTION PROCESS

Starting the Process:

1. **Contact** Bethany with your questions and **express** your interest in adopting. A staff person will **fill out** an intake form to further determine your interest and eligibility.
2. Bethany will **send** you a preliminary application packet.
3. **Mail** the preliminary application and the signed Statement of Faith back to Bethany.
4. You will **receive** an invitation to **attend** an information meeting in the Columbia area. Bethany staff will review with you all of the upcoming steps. If you desire to proceed, you will receive a formal application packet.
5. After you have **returned** the completed packet to the W. Columbia Bethany office, your counselor will contact you. Adoption issues will be **discussed**. Your counselor will also recommend books for you to **read** to be prepared for the adoption experience.
6. Your adoption counselor will be **meeting** with you in a series of home study appointments. A home visit will also be done where your house is **reviewed** for state legal requirements.

For information please call our office at
864.235.2273 or e-mail us at
bcsgrainville@bethany.org
114 Williams Street
Suite A
Greenville, SC 29601
www.bethany.org/southcarolina