



Children of All Nations and Great Wall China Adoption Present

## **“Adopt-an-Orphanage”**

**A project providing humanitarian aid to children in Asia, Africa and Latin America/Caribbean**

### **Introduction- Why adopt an orphanage?**

Thank you for taking the time to consider sponsoring an orphanage through the Children of All Nations (CAN) and Great Wall China Adoption (GWCA) “Adopt-an-Orphanage” program. This project aims to provide humanitarian aid to the children of orphanages and children’s homes in Vietnam, Nepal, China, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Peru and Haiti. Your group’s sponsorship of one or more orphanages can help children stay healthy, happy and hopeful for a bright future.

We have designed this project to be beneficial not only for these orphaned and abandoned children, but also for the people who participate. Participating in our Adopt-an-Orphanage program will open the world’s doors to adults and youth who are unaware of the tremendous need that’s out there, thereby opening their hearts to the opportunity to help others desperate for food, clean water, basic health needs, and even a bed to sleep on. It will give your group the opportunity to bring people together to foster a team spirit and accomplishment, thereby boosting morale.

Although there is much need for aid in the U.S., the staggering amount of poverty, disease, child abuse and neglect, as well as number of children without families living in the streets cannot be ignored in developing countries around the world. Everyone has seen the commercials on TV advocating for donations to support children in various poverty-stricken countries, and many people would donate if it weren’t for fear of the unknown and where your money is going. By sponsoring an orphanage through CAN/GWCA, you get to choose the sponsorship option that is right for your group through a local, trustworthy and transparent organization. You can even choose to arrange a humanitarian aid trip to the orphanage you are sponsoring in most cases.

This program helps make sure needy children in orphanages world-wide receive the basic necessities required for survival. Many of the orphanages that will receive aid from your sponsorship are those that care for adoptable children. Children are often not adopted by families because they become extremely ill, are malnourished, and are not well-taken care of due to the lack of supplies at orphanages. Many families are not able to care for children with certain illnesses, thus from basic preventable illnesses and lack of care, many children never find their forever family through adoption.

Your adoption of an orphanage can provide the care needed for these children to remain healthy and for many, this may help provide them the opportunity to be adopted, giving them a chance at a bright future they may never have had. If you have an idea for sponsorship that we do not yet offer, feel free to let us know and we will consider it for your group if it is possible through the specific orphanage you would like to sponsor. Our goal is to help these children in need! Anything is possible if we work together to help these children. It's even possible a member of your group will feel that by working on this program and becoming educated about international orphanages and adoption, they may decide to welcome one of these precious children home into their family one day!

### **About CAN/GWCA**

Great Wall China Adoption was established in 1996 to assist American families adopting orphans from China. We are the largest Chinese adoption agency in the United States. Recently in 2009 we formed Children of All Nations (CAN), a division of Great Wall China Adoption, to place children from Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Latvia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Uganda and Ukraine. We are a **not-for-profit**, licensed child placing agency headquartered in Austin, Texas. We have provided adoption and social services to more than 50,000 families and have placed 8,000 children with loving parents. Among these 8,000 placements are many older children and those with special needs.

Great Wall and Children of All Nations not only assists foreign governments in finding loving homes for children, we are also a strong advocate for children that remain in orphanages, including older children and children with special needs. We have three main Charity Mission programs to bring love and care to those children. *Libraries of Love* is a program in which we build libraries equipped with books and computers for school aged children in the orphanages. We have built 4 libraries in 4 orphanages in China as of 2010. *Gifts of Love* is a program in which we purchase and supply washing machines, clothing, diapers, toys, and basic items for the orphanages. This is done on a monthly basis. *Angel Stitches* is a program in which we cover surgery expenses for corrective procedures for children with cleft palate or other surgical needs. We also provide child-sponsorship for education in Nepal, have supported the country of Rwanda extensively through their Hague implementation process, and have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to disaster relief efforts and humanitarian aid programs around the world.

We have also long been an advocate for the rights of children. We advocated for the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, and we have actively worked with U.S. Congressional Members and the U.S. State Department on Hague Standards. The President of GWCA/CAN, Snow Wu, has had the opportunity to meet with world leaders including President Bush, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Chinese President Hu Jintao, and Mrs. Kigame, the First Lady of Rwanda, to advocate for children's rights.

Please visit our websites at [www.gwca.org](http://www.gwca.org), [www.childrenofallnations.com](http://www.childrenofallnations.com), or [icanwaitingchild.org](http://icanwaitingchild.org) for more information on our adoption and humanitarian aid programs.

## **Sponsorship Options to Adopt an Orphanage**

Below are some methods of support you can use to adopt your orphanage. We are open to your suggestions for other methods of support, and will investigate as to whether your suggested method of support is possible in the country/orphanage of your choice:

**Option 1- Gifts of Love:** Gather donations, preferably in monetary form, and send proceeds to buy supplies for the orphanage you've adopted. Although we do not suggest gathering actual supplies to send to your orphanage, it is possible for some orphanages if you wish. The reason we suggest gathering monetary donations for Gifts of Love is to help ensure the gifts are received by the orphanage without problems attributed to customs and postal service, as well as to eliminate the cost of shipping the items, and to ensure we can get them the items they truly need. However, if you wish to gather new or gently used items and ship them overseas to your orphanage, you may do so.

If you collect a sum of monetary donations to be used for buying the orphanage much needed supplies, we will wire the money to our staff overseas, who will then buy the supplies needed by the orphanage, and deliver them for you. Our staff will provide receipts and photos of the items bought with your donation, so you can share it with your group to show what an amazing difference you've made in children's lives. We hope it will encourage your members that despite all the hardships in the world, their generosity has the capacity to bring a smile to an innocent child's face.

If you wish to go ahead and mail supplies overseas if it's an option for your orphanage, you can mail them to our staff abroad as well, and they will deliver them to the orphanage. They will take pictures of the joy on children's faces as they receive your gifts. A small stipend may need to be collected or taken out of the collection amount to reimburse our staff members for gas to deliver the items to the orphanage if it is far away. We will keep you informed of that stipend in advance.

**Option 2- Arrange a humanitarian aid trip** to visit your adopted orphanage. Most orphanages are happy to receive guests from a mission or humanitarian aid trip to help them fix things, clean, take care of the children, buy supplies, etc. To check on whether a specific country or orphanage can accept mission or humanitarian aid trips, contact us or request individual country/orphanage info sheets.

We will arrange for your group to stay near the orphanage or on the orphanage grounds to help with anything they may need. Our staff overseas will help arrange your accommodations and daily transport for your humanitarian trip, and can arrange for a guide as well. Your group can be autonomous in planning your humanitarian trip, from your budget to your travel dates and goals. Our role will be to communicate your plans to the orphanage and our staff abroad on your behalf to make sure the trip goes as smoothly as possible. Our staff will be more involved at the beginning of your trip planning, but will be less involved once you arrive, as this will be your group's special trip.

We recommend that each person on the trip maximize their luggage allowance and bring supplies needed to the orphanage as well. We will communicate with the orphanage to help pinpoint their

exact needs, both in terms of supplies and services, so you can arrive well-prepared for your trip and maximize your participants' experience as well as meeting the children's needs.

**Option 3- Raise Money** to fund immunizations for the children as well as basic medical treatment. Orphanages often do not receive the funding from their governments or private donations to provide immunizations for children at risk for disease. They also are often unable to provide basic medical treatment for children with treatable illnesses such as influenza, hepatitis, diphtheria and other diseases that cause dehydration and even death. These children could be spared their suffering with basic medical treatment, but unfortunately in many countries, this is simply not possible.

Our staff will communicate with your orphanage and local doctors to help you come up with a donation plan to provide the immunizations and medical treatment that are needed. For example, perhaps your adopted orphanage does have all the children immunized, but they are unable to send children with parasites that cause them to be malnourished to the doctor to be treated. We will find out the cost of treatment for those children, and you can choose to sponsor their treatment. Another example is if none of the children are immunized, but several groups wish to sponsor the same orphanage for medical treatment, we can arrange for your group to sponsor immunizing children aged infant-2 years, while another group sponsors immunizing children 3-5 years, and so on.

Our staff abroad is happy to help the orphanage get these children to a doctor, or to bring a doctor with supplies to them. A small stipend may need to be collected or taken out of the collection amount to reimburse our staff members for gas if they are traveling to and from the orphanage a lot for this project. We will inform you of this stipend in advance.

The possibilities are endless for helping these children if we all work together to meet their needs. You are also welcome to choose more than one or all of these options when adopting your orphanage! There is no limit to your sponsorship options.

### **Other Ways to Help**

***Sponsor a family to adopt a waiting child.*** Children with special needs and older children, often referred to as *waiting children*, are the most difficult to place for adoption. These children are at a higher risk for abuse and neglect than other children as well. Your group can choose to help a qualifying adoptive family with the financial challenges associated with adopting a child. The family would adopt a *waiting child* through our ICAN program to receive this sponsorship.

ICAN (Institute for Children of All Nations) was developed to find homes for waiting children worldwide and put them in touch with the best possible resources available for their growth, development and wellbeing. ICAN works hand-in-hand with waiting child experts so that families can access an exclusive database of local adoption and special needs related resources, educational tools, support and a community of advocacy.

The sponsored family can be a family from your group that you would like to support in their adoption of an ICAN child, or it can be a pre-identified qualifying family already signed up to adopt through GWCA or CAN. Your sponsorship can cover administrative expenses related to the

family's adoption or their travel to the child's country. This support is invaluable to a family's life-changing decision to adopt, as international adoption can cost \$15,000-\$40,000 including a family's time spent living in and traveling to and from the child's country to finalize the adoption.

### **Your Pledge to Adopt an Orphanage**

To decide which sponsorship option is right for you, we encourage you to counsel with all members of your team and especially those in leadership positions. If you would like more information on specific countries or orphanages and their needs, we will be happy to send you country and orphanage-specific info sheets to review.

We will also send a member of our staff to your business or organization to present this project to your group if you are within a reasonable distance from our Austin, Texas office. Feel free to contact us to discuss this possibility.

To get started, contact April Wareham, Development Specialist for GWCA/CAN, for the specific info sheets and a pledge form. We just ask that you make an official pledge to support this orphanage or adoptive family, and are willing to post Great Wall and Children of All Nations' name with any literature or promotion of this project to your group members, with a short paragraph about us. Then, you may decide how to present your chosen sponsorship option and/or the orphanage you are adopting when gathering people and donations for your sponsorship or trip.

Once we receive your pledge form, we will begin to work with you on your chosen sponsorship option, and will contact the orphanage abroad to let them know they have been "adopted." We'll work together to set a goal date for sending the donation abroad or for the departure of your humanitarian trip, as well as specifics of the needs of your orphanage. If you have any questions along the way, feel free to contact us.

We look forward to working with you to help these innocent children around the world. Every child deserves a chance at a happy, healthy life!

Warmest Regards,



**April Wareham**

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