



WE CAN HELP.

Funding your Adoption

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

FUNDRAISE//

fresh ideas to
raise support.

UTILIZE//

find resources that are
readily available.

WELCOME//

bring your child home
forever.

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION

248 Addie Roy Road A 102
Austin, Texas 78746 // 512.323.9595
www.gwca.org
www.childrenofallnations.com

Table of Contents

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS.....	2-3
FUNDRAISING EVENTS.....	4-6
ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FUNDING.....	7-12
SAMPLE DONATION REQUEST LETTER.....	13

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Introduction

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

Dear Family,

Congratulations on your decision to adopt! You are considering embarking upon an incredible journey which will certainly change your life for the better. Just starting the adoption process can be an extremely exciting, yet daunting time, all at once. At this point there are still a lot of unknowns from anxiously awaiting your referral (yay!), to wondering just how you are going to pay for it all.

Although you may initially be unable to pay for the adoption expenses directly out of your pocket, don't let lack of funds discourage you or keep you from moving forward. Many adoptive families have successfully raised funds to partially or totally cover their expenses.

Many of us feel awkward having to ask for money. However, fundraising cannot only gain financial support, but also to raise significant awareness about the orphan crisis in the world. Once individuals are committed to supporting you financially, they will be invested in learning about your experiences in adoption. When you fundraise, you automatically create a support network of individuals who will want to see your child as soon as they return home.

Great Wall China Adoption and Children of All Nations have created this packet to help support you in your fundraising goals. Please be in contact with us about any other way we can assist, and how your fundraising is going.

We wish you the best of luck and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of your child to their forever family!

Best Wishes,

The GWCA/CAN Team
512.323.9595
info@gwca.org
info@childrenofallnations.com

Fundraising Suggestions

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

1. Host an Online Auction

- Have individuals and local businesses donate goods and services
- Host an online auction through Ebay or your personal blog with a deadline
- In the comments section of the blog, people can leave their bids and have a limited number of days until the bidding closes
- Others have started conducting a group auction each month, where they place new items in a basket and people could enter the giveaway at \$5 per entry

2. Frequent Flyer Miles

- If traveling internationally ask people to donate FFM
- Check with your travel agent before committing to them

3. Online Networking

- Set up a blog, website, Family Tree, or Facebook group to chronicle your adoption journey
- If you utilize Family Tree as designed by GWCA/CAN you can access the fundraising tool which allows donations to be posted directly into your families' account.

4. Donate Cell Phones/ Print Cartridges

- Every printer cartridge is worth \$1
- Cell phones can be redeemed for anywhere from \$2 all the way to a couple hundred dollars (do a Google search in your area to see the various options for companies who buy used cartridges and cell phones)

5. Baby Bottle Campaign

- Buy bottles in bulk and design a flyer telling about your adoption to put inside each one
- Distribute them to family, friends, neighbors, local businesses, pregnancy centers, day-care centers-whoever is willing to put their spare change in the baby bottles
- Give them a month to see how much they can get collected

Fundraising Suggestions

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

6. Send out Support Letters

- Mail out letters to family and friends, telling them about your plans to adopt
- Consider sending it out like a birth announcement
- Share with them the estimated costs and ask them to consider donating

7. Get Crafty

- Utilize an old skill or hobby and sell items online through online community networks like Etsy
- Examples might include sewing, knitting, photography, painting, greeting cards, etc.
- Consider making crafts specific to the country that you are adopting from
- Many families might sell adoption T-shirts or recreational bags

8. Just Love Coffee

- This website started by an adoptive family sells fair-trade coffee, donating \$5 to the adoptive family for every bag sold
- <http://www.justlovecoffee.com/>
- Extremely User-friendly

9. Tukula Sales

- Purchase a fundraising kit from this group of artisans seamstresses in Uganda for \$80-\$150
- You have the freedom to sell the items (purses, bags, clothes, headbands, etc.) for whatever price you deem appropriate and then apply that towards your adoption

9. Rebekah Blocher Jewelry

- A small business that partners with adoptive families
- Invest a small amount (usually just shipping costs) and Rebekah will send adoptive families jewelry to sell and apply towards their adoption
- In the end you only pay her back half of what you make (you keep the other half)

10. Become an Amazon Affiliate

- So user-friendly!
- Put a link on your blog or Social Media outlet of choice
- When people shop Amazon through that link you receive 10% of whatever their purchase cost

Fundraising Events

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

1. *Pancake Dinner*

- o ****Check with local pancake restaurants in your area, many will agree to host a charity breakfast****
- o Book a larger community space; invite friends and family to your home if space permits
- o Buy enough pancake batter (depending on your estimated attendance)
- o Set up griddles and skillets (ask around to see about borrowing as many as possible)
- o Set up a toppings bar with a wide variety
- o Invited loved ones and ask them to bring their own spatulas (B.Y.O.S)!
- o Collect donations

2. *Family Bowling Night*

- o Rent out a couple of lanes at your local bowling alley
- o Order a couple dozen pizzas or consider asking a friend for that to be their contribution
- o Send out invitations (try <http://www.paperlesspost.com/>) for all ages to join you for a bowling night
- o Consider making teams in advance, setting up a bracket system and winners receiving a tacky trophy
- o Brainstorm a fun theme for your bowling night like "The 70's" inviting everyone to dress up; team names can even fit the theme ex.) "The Partridge Family"
- o Collect Donations

3. *Smoothie Stand*

- o A step up from the tired ole' Lemonade stand!
- o Get your kids involved in this one and set up a table where there is a lot of thru traffic
- o Make sure to buy enough fruit, ice, juice, yogurt, cups etc. along with bringing blenders and extension cords
- o Make a sign advertising what you are selling and how it profits your adoption
- o Collect donations

4. *Cook Off*

- o Gather some local celebrities in your area (musicians, news anchors, radio personalities, etc.) to cook a dish of their choice
- o Have attendees pay a certain fee to judge the celebrity dishes
- o Collect Donations

Fundraising Events

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

5. *“Strike Gold”*

- Ask family, friends and neighbors to donate old pieces of gold jewelry they may no longer wear
- Take the gold and turn it in for cash
- Apply the cash towards your adoption

6. *Bingo Night*

- ****Can be interchangeable with a trivia night****
- Book a larger community space (like the local fire department, community center, church)
- Charge an entrance fee
- Recruit a friend with an “MC type” personality
- Get simple prizes donated
- Print bingo cards and call sheet for free from a website like <http://www.dltk-cards.com/bingo/>
- Collect Donations

7. *“Couch Potato” Non-Event*

- A chance to get all the adults together for no reason at all!
- Invite family and friends to your house
- Consider picking up some wine and cheese at your local discount grocery store
- Sit around with friends, just sharing about your adoption
- Share pictures of your kiddo and a little bit about the community they are from
- Have a jar for donations if anyone feels led to financially support

8. *“Another Man’s Treasure”*

- Collect gently used items from family and friends
- Set up on a weekend somewhere where there is lots of thru traffic
- Make a sign advertising what you are doing and how it profits your adoption
- Advertise on Craig’s List, Social Media, and the local newspaper
- Host a garage sale where the kids sell baked goods at the same time
- Apply the cash towards your adoption

9. *Matching Gift*

- Before you start a majority of your fundraising propose to a couple of close family friends (or corporate businesses that you know are adoption-friendly) that they consider a “matching gift”
- Whatever money you raise within an allotted time they match among themselves for your adoption
- Apply the money towards your adoption

Fundraising Events

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

10. "Give it Up"

- o Sponsors agree to give up a regular activity for a month and donate that money towards your adoption
- o Challenge your family to do something similar (ex. Give up Starbucks for a month, don't eat out as much, forgo that monthly nail appointment, etc.)

11. Adult Spelling Bee

- o **Can be interchangeable with an adult talent show**
- o Approach local businesses and organizations about sponsoring a contestant who is 21 years or older from their place of work
- o Recruit family and friends who are dedicated to helping you and aren't afraid to look silly while doing it
- o Recruit a moderator and some judges
- o Have a local church, community center or school lend you their sound equipment
- o Set up a spelling bee and go back in time to those ole' school days!

Available Assistance

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Personal Savings

Many savings accounts are available that will offer higher interest rates if the money is less accessible. This may be helpful when putting money aside for adoptions. It makes it less likely that you'll spend the money for other things and you'll be making more money through interest. One suggested savings is through the online bank, ING (www.ing.com).

1. Grants/Loans

I recommend that PAPs do lots of research...not everybody is eligible for grants or loans and some have special requirements. I have found from my post adoption families that grants and loans are out there, but they are not often heavily advertised or broadcasted. I recommend that PAPs look at their local grant/loan availability, sometimes there are more benefits available than through national programs.

A Mothers Love Fundraising

An adoptive mother is helping to plan fundraising events for prospective adoptive parents. If you wish to learn more, please visit www.amotherslovefundraising.com

Community Fundraisers

Community Fundraisers www.fund-raising.com Prospective Adoptive Families can address their need for help to their churches and other civic community organizations in their local area.

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

<http://www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.com/>

4150 Tuller Road

Suite 204

Dublin, Ohio 43017

Phone: 1-800-275-3832

E-mail: info@davethomasfoundation.org

Feng LiLi (Request Application)

Meet quarterly or on demand, when necessary to review applications.

Feng LiLi

180 Laurel Avenue

Forest, IL 60045

(847) 482-0500

Available Assistance

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

1. Grants/Loans [continued]

Funds 4 Families

Please visit <http://www.funds4families.com/> or call (800) 451-3372 to find out more about home loans such as home equity plans, debt consolidation plans and refinancing plans. Also you can consult your bank or other current mortgage lender and a tax person regarding some tax benefits of the possible loans.

Gift of Adoption Fund

Grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 are available monthly to families adopting children with serious medical issues and for low-income families. You can access Gift of Adoption Fund's web site at <http://www.jsw-adoption.org/> To contact the fund, please call (262)268-1386 or (877)905-2367, email address info@giftofadoption.org

God's Grace Adoption Ministry

<http://www.ggam.org/>
PO Box 4
Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 572-4539

HelpUsAdopt.org

www.helpusadopt.org
Families from any state can apply, and they must have an approved home study to be considered for a grant. Qualified individuals and couples can receive \$500 to \$15,000 towards the cost of adoption.

Home for Good Foundation

<http://www.hfgf.org/>
697 E. Intervale Rd.
Grants Pass, OR 97527-9022
Phone: (541) 479-5926

Ibsen Adoption Network

(WA State residents only) Meets quarterly to select applications for small grants of \$1,000 for waiting children.

Contact Person: Marilyn Bribane
Ibsen Adoption Network
2730 French Road NW
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 866-7036 Fax: 360-866-7059

Available Assistance

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

1. Grants/Loans [continued]

International Adoption Assistance Foundation, Inc. (Formerly known as IAAF)

6420 Tokeneak Trail

Mobile, AL 36695 - 2940

Contact: Donald L. Parker or Linda J. Bushy - Directors

(334) 633-4300

JSW Adoption Foundation

Grants of \$2,000. or more awarded quarterly on the basis of need. Preference given to childless couples with an income under \$35,000. One grant awarded quarterly. Average grant amount is \$3,000, but can go as high as \$5,000.

Contact Person: Gene Wyka

Call (414) 268-1386 for application

JVS Foundation 877-905-2367

The LOOC foundation (out of China)

1187 Coast Village Rd, Suite 1-503

Santa Barbara, CA 93108

www.looc.org

Email: info@looc.org

M. Night Shyamalan Foundation Grant

1055 Westlakes Drive

Ste. 300

Berwyn, PA 19312

Phone: 610-727-3802

E-mail: jennifer@mnightshyamalanfoundation.org

The M. Night Shyamalan Foundation Grant is for married couples or single women wishing to adopt a child from India and for whom the adoption costs place undue financial pressure on the family. The grants average around \$5,000 and are based on the M. Night Shyamalan Foundation Board of Directors' assessment of the family's financial need. Families who earn over \$100,000 a year will not be considered for this grant.

Available Assistance

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

1. Grants/Loans [continued]

Ours By Grace

Christian families can be helped by Ours by Grace. You can access their website and apply for a grant at <http://www.oursbygrace.com/>

Pathways for Little Feet

This organization provides interest-free loans to qualified adoptive families who need financial assistance to finalize their adoptions.

<http://www.pathwaysforlittlefeet.org>

Richard C. Stillman Foundation For Adoption

7709 Massena Rd.

Bethesda, MD 20817 - 4833

Contact: William L. Pierce – President

Sea of Faces

<http://www.seaoffaces.org/>

6920-B Bradlick Shopping Center #200

Annandale, VA 22003

E-mail: director@seaoffaces.org

Show Hope is dedicated to caring for orphans by engaging the church and helping Christian families reduce the financial burden of adoption. To receive an application packet, send your contact information to us via e-mail to grant@showhope.com or call us toll free at 1-800-784-5361. Serious inquiries only please!

United Way International

<http://national.unitedway.org/myuw/> can help with travel costs for children who are adopted and who are suffering from serious medical problems that need urgent medical attention. Call for more information (703) 519-0092.

The following numbers are for assistance with grants/loans.

National Adoption Foundation (Grants): 1.203.791.3811

National Adoption Foundation (Loans): 1.800.448.7061

Also, the National Endowment for Financial Education offers a free booklet entitled "How to Make Adoption an Affordable Option," which can be requested at the web site <http://www.nefe.org>.

Available Assistance

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

2. Employer Benefits

This is often included as part of a employee benefits package, but not usually heavily promoted. PAPS should check with their HR department. I know specifically AMD, Dell, IBM, Intel, AT&T all have adoption benefits. Up to \$10,000 paid or reimbursed by the employer for qualifying adoption expenses may be excludable from an adoptive parent's gross income. (I believe this only qualifies once the adoption is complete though, they would have to check with HR)

Adoption and the Workplace at the National Adoption Center at (800) 862-3678 to find out how to request this help from an employer.

Federal Employees Adoption Benefits

Contact <http://www.opm.gov/wrkfam/html/adoption.asp> for information about non-cash benefits for federal employees.

Military Benefits

Military PAPS can request assistance for adoption, visit this web site <http://www.nefe.org/adoption/adopt.pgs/helpf.html> and learn more about non-recurring subsidy program for full-time military personnel. Active military personnel can be eligible for a one-time subsidy for adoption. For more information, please call (303) 333-0845.

Many universities/colleges have adoption benefits and are not necessarily need or salary based.

3. Home Equity Loan or Low-Interest Loan

A home equity loan is a better option than a credit card because the interest rate is generally lower and usually tax deductible. These loans can take 4-6 weeks to process. These loans can be secured through local or national banks, credit unions, and mortgage lenders. Some banks offer low-interest loans or credit lines for adoptive parents. PAPS should call their bank to check.

Available Assistance

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

4. Churches/Synagogues

Some churches or synagogues have funds set aside specifically for meeting the financial needs of their congregations. Others may be willing to take a special offering designated for helping with adoption costs. Some will also help put together fund raisers.

CAFA: Christian Advocates for Adoption (www.cafadopt.org)

Members of the Christian faith can raise up to half of their adoption expenses through this non-profit organization. This new effort started when three adoptive dads saw the need to help families afford adoption. CAFA helps you craft a carefully-worded letter asking family or friends if they would like to help with adoption expenses. All donations are sent directly to CAFA, so givers have the opportunity to remain anonymous, and all contributions are tax-deductible!

5. Refinancing a Mortgage

Use this option when mortgage rates are particularly low. It's a "cash out" option on mortgage loans when the loan-to-value ratio allows. Just keep in mind that you will generally be responsible for mortgage costs on a new mortgage loan. Refinances aren't recommended unless your loan rate is at least 1% lower than your current rate—and you plan on remaining in your home for 3-5 years.

6. Credit Card Payment

This can be a costly method of paying expenses due to interest rates; so PAPS should know the terms and conditions up front. Some credit cards are offering no payment/interest for 1 year or more. Not a method I would recommend, but still a possibility.

7. Borrowing from a 401(k), Pension, or Insurance Policy

This option requires a lot of thought and weighing of the possibilities. PAPS should be aware of any penalties or tax consequences that might apply. A plan/policy administrator can answer any questions a PAP may have. This can get risky...I do not recommend this unless it is an emergency and the PAP plans on "replacing" the money ASAP.

Sample Letter

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION & CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS

Date

Dear [Name of Recipient],

Paragraph 1 [Short Introduction]

Start with an introduction to your cause or goal by using stories and facts to connect with the recipient emotionally. Take this time to introduce yourself better to your reader if you feel like you don't know them well enough.

Paragraph 2 [List the specific goal and purpose of this fundraiser]

This is what we basically refer to as the "What and Why" section. Here you will be explaining to your reader what you are trying to accomplish and why it's personally important to you that it is accomplished.

Paragraph 3 [Make Requests]

Here is the time to make a specific request. Make sure to indicate that you are looking for financial support and how much. Make sure you include as many details as possible, like what each portion of the adoption will cost you. Big numbers overwhelm people (they wonder how much of an impact they will truly make) so this is a good opportunity to provide them with a breakdown.

Paragraph 4 [Details on their course of action]

This is where you will include details on how they can take action. Do you want them to donate online or by check? Provide them with the information they will need to follow through with the action and make it as convenient as possible. You may also wish to indicate here if the donation would qualify for a tax deduction.

Paragraph 5 [Give Incentives]

Share with the reader how much they are going to be a part of changing your family. Also suggest that you will include them in the process by E-mailing those updates or blogging about your family transition. Assure them that they will be connected to you even after they donate.

[Closing]

End by thanking them for helping you achieve your goals. It is okay to thank them in advance here for their donation.

[With Kind Regards]

[Family Name]

[Address-where you can receive checks]

Ps. [Add here anything about deadlines or when you are hoping to have your adoption funded by]