

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is pleased to present our fully licensed adoption program in Vietnam!

We work with orphanages in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Dong Thap and Quang Tri, and we continue to actively explore options for expanding our program.

Why choose LSSMN to facilitate your adoption from Vietnam?

EXPERIENCE: LSSMN has been building families through adoption for more than 140 years.

KNOWLEDGE: Our program is coordinated by Therese Bartlett, author of *When You Were Born in Vietnam* and founder of the Little Red Fairy's "My Vietnam" Art Contest Scholarship Program for disadvantaged children in Vietnam. She is the parent of two children adopted from Vietnam and has traveled to Vietnam numerous times. Therese will guide you through the paperwork and prepare you for your trip to bring your child home.

DEDICATION: LSSMN is very pleased to partner with Catalyst Foundation to facilitate our adoptions from Vietnam. Under the direction of co-founder Caroline Nguyen Ticarro-Parker, Catalyst has been providing humanitarian aid to Vietnam since 1998. They are highly respected in Vietnam and in the U.S. When asked why LSSMN chose to partner with Catalyst Foundation, LSSMN President and CEO, Mark Peterson responded "Because of the exceptional quality of the people associated with Catalyst and the integrity of their work." Together with Catalyst, our experienced and bilingual staff in Vietnam will be with you every step of the way to make your adoption journey the best it can be.

COMMUNITY: Working closely with Catalyst Foundation, we offer adopted children and their families the opportunity to learn more about their Vietnamese heritage through annual Vietnam Culture Camps held in Minnesota and on the East Coast. Participating families explore their ethnic roots while sharing experiences with other adoptive families.

The ideal families for this program:

- possess the ability to maintain a flexible and positive attitude throughout the process
- have previous travel experience OR an adventurous spirit and a desire to travel abroad
- will embrace and respect cultural differences during adoption travel

For more information, please contact:

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Our orphanages

Currently, we work with orphanages in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Dong Thap and Quang Tri. Infants in these orphanages are cared for by nannies dedicated to nurturing and attending to the daily needs of these children. Most babies are placed one child per crib. Feeding schedules remain as individualized as possible, but in some orphanages the routines are more standardized among the children. The children are visited regularly by local physicians. The information they gather will become a part of your child's referral so that you and your own physician can accurately review the child's current health and development.

Our commitment to Vietnam

In addition to our adoption work, LSSMN provides support for the older children in these orphanages. Many of the older children in these orphanages lack the proper documentation to become available for adoption. They often become caregivers of future children at the orphanage, though some of the brightest are studying to be doctors and lawyers. Agreements vary with each province, but our work includes providing meals and clothing for the older children, funding building improvements to the orphanages, establishing social services to the local community, as well as providing scholarships for the school-age children.

