

Adoption

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA



THE CHILDREN . . .

in need of adoption from Vietnam are generally infants aged 3-12 months although some toddlers and older children are also available. Both boys and girls are in need of loving homes. Most are relinquished shortly after birth, but some come to our small provincial orphanages after spending a short time with their birth families. The children are cared for in clean and well-maintained orphanages by trained, loving nannies. Extreme poverty and the lack of cultural and social support are among the most common reasons children are placed for adoption.

In addition to supporting the orphanages, LSS provides humanitarian aid to the provinces in which we work. Our goal is not only to help the orphaned children find families, but to care for the children who will remain in the orphanage indefinitely and establish effective community outreach programs to help those families who are unable to provide adequate food and shelter for themselves.

If you feel that you could provide a loving home for these orphaned children, please contact us.

INFORMATION MEETINGS

LSS offers comprehensive services to prepare, facilitate and support families through all aspects of adopting a child — from the initial education to the finalization of your child's adoption. We recommend you begin your adoption process by attending an agency Information Meeting. It is free and without obligation. Our goal is to provide prospective parents with information about the Vietnam Program — as well as all our adoption programs — and to answer any questions you may have regarding adoption, the process, the costs, anticipated timelines, travel, and more. **Please call 612.879.5230 or toll-free 1.888.205.3769 for the schedule and location of an Information Meeting near you, or visit us online at www.minnesotaadoption.org.**

Vietnam

ADOPTION PROGRAM



PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

- **CHILDREN AVAILABLE:** Boys and girls, 4 months of age and older
- **PARENT AGES:** 25-50 years of age for infants; over 50 accepted on a case-by-case basis
- **LENGTH OF MARRIAGE:** 1 year minimum
- **CHILDREN IN FAMILY:** Families with 5 or more children accepted on a case-by-case basis
- **SINGLE APPLICANT:** Single women accepted
- **TRAVEL:** One trip, approximately 2-3 weeks, both parents expected to travel
- **TIMELINE:** Dossier to referral approximately 1-4 months; travel 1-3 months after referral

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REGISTRATION

➤ ***\$50 Registration Fee (non-refundable; due with completed registration form)***

The registration form is available at Information Meetings, on our web site, and also provided on request. When your completed registration is received at LSS, you will be sent the necessary contracts to begin your adoption journey with LSS.

APPLICATION

➤ ***\$500 Application Fee (due with completed LSS application)***

The application asks you to provide information such as health reports, criminal background checks, reference letters and autobiographical information. Your adoption file is officially opened once the completed application materials are received.

ADOPTION EDUCATION

➤ ***\$1,500 (first half Adoption Study Fee due prior to attending workshop)***

Your next step is to attend a two-day Pre-Adoption Education workshop. Held every other month at our Minneapolis location, the workshop is designed to prepare families for international adoption and to parent adopted children. You will also attend a Cross-cultural workshop during the Adoption Study process.

ADOPTION STUDY

➤ ***\$1,500 (second half Adoption Study Fee due upon completion of Adoption Study)***

By law, you must complete an Adoption Study prior to having a child placed into your home. LSS Adoption Studies comply with all state, federal and Vietnamese regulatory requirements. The Adoption Study builds upon the information generated in your application and consists primarily of two or more interviews with your social worker, which are conducted in the adoption office as well as in your home. The goals of the interviews are to assess your readiness to parent a child through adoption and to offer you more information that may be helpful to you in this process.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FEE

➤ ***\$3,000 (\$1,500 due with submission of contracts; \$1,500 due with submission of Vietnam Application)***

This fee covers the services provided by LSS to help you compile the paperwork required to adopt internationally and to prepare you for your trip. After completing the Adoption Study, you will enter the Vietnam Adoption Program by making your formal application to the government of Vietnam. You must then complete a dossier (documents required by the Vietnamese government). We will assist you in the completion of your application and dossier. After these documents have been accepted in-country, you will receive the referral of a child. A referral includes information and at least one photo of the child. If needed, LSS will provide medical and other resources to help you understand any health concerns. Once you decide to accept the referral, we will assist you in making travel arrangements. When you arrive in Vietnam, you will be greeted by our bilingual, trained staff which will accompany you and act as translators throughout your adoption process.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROGRAM FEE

➤ ***\$9,000 (first half due with submission of dossier; balance due with acceptance of child referral)***

This fee covers expenses related to the Vietnam program, including an orphanage contribution and humanitarian aid, medical care for the children, attorney's fees, facilitators' salary and expenses, translations, and more. These fees are paid to LSS of Minnesota and passed directly through to Vietnam.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Food and Lodging	Approximately \$120 per day per family
Airfare	\$900 to \$1,200 per round trip ticket, depending on origination point
In-Country Travel	\$850 for pre-arranged transportation to adoption-related appointments, airfare (for three) to Hanoi
Miscellaneous	Approximately \$2,000 (authentications, child passport, US visa, medical exam, USCIS, etc.)

POST PLACEMENT SUPERVISION

➤ ***\$1,500 (due upon return to United States with your child)***

LSS will provide you post placement supervision and support upon your return to the U.S. with your child. Services include visits with your social worker to complete the required documentation and updates to Vietnam.

NATURALIZATION/CITIZENSHIP

Under current U.S. law, your child may or may not automatically be a U.S. citizen once your child enters the United States. Your social worker will discuss your child's citizenship status with you and guide you through the naturalization/citizenship process.

All fees, timelines and program requirements are subject to change. Clients are responsible for non-LSS fees billed at the rate that is current when service is provided. LSS fees will be honored at the contracted rate.