



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.

LUTHERAN ADOPTION NETWORK

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) works in partnership with more than 29 Lutheran service agencies in 26 states and the Virgin Islands to provide adoption opportunities for children and families. The mission of this partnership, called the Lutheran Adoption Network (LAN), is to provide permanent adoptive homes for children from all countries in the world.

Adoptive families working with a LAN member agency have complete access to the adoption programs of LSS of Minnesota. 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*

REGISTRATION

➤ \$250 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.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FEE

➤ \$4,000 (\$2,000 due with submission of contracts; \$2,000 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 with your primary agency, your social worker will send your study to LSS for review. Once it has been determined that you are eligible for adoption from Vietnam, LSS will send your social worker the Vietnam Application and LSS contracts. When the completed application and contracts are returned, you will receive instructions for compiling your dossier – a group of documents required by the Vietnamese government to support your Adoption Study. LSS and your primary adoption agency 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 who 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

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| 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 REPORTS

Each year until your child reaches the age of 18, you will be responsible for submitting your child's annual adoption report, as is required by the government of Vietnam. A reminder will be sent out sometime before the end of each year. Reports are more frequent in the first two years following adoption. Please work with your social worker to ensure the timely submission of these reports to LSSMN.

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.