

Children from Around the Globe Need Families

Written by: Renee Hettich, MA, LMSW

As you and your family look forward and consider how you can better yourself, your family, your community, and your world, please consider opening your home and hearts to an orphan who wishes for a family. There are thousands and thousands of children (infants to teenagers) around the world who are orphaned and need loving and nurturing families. You can change the world by changing the life of a child – by providing a child with a forever family.

I often think about the life my children may have had if I had not brought them into my family. My eldest daughter likely would not have survived; I cannot imagine the world without this insightful, loving, thoughtful, and incredible young person. She is and will change the world. My second daughter would have grown up in an institution without parents or siblings. She may or may not

have had the opportunity to go to school. She certainly would not have had the opportunity to learn Karate, play baseball, read the classics, spend the night with a friend, giggle at her sister's jokes, and become anything she wishes. She makes living fun. My son would have been raised in extreme poverty on the streets of an unsafe city possibly without any parents. He would have grown up hungry, illiterate, and with no one to protect or teach him. He is a fun-loving four year old who is bright, curious, and always dramatic. He makes everyone smile. His potential is endless and his opportunities in a loving family are infinite.

More importantly, every day I think about my life if I had not brought my children into my family. I cannot imagine my life without ... the smiles and giggles of my children; play dates; piano lessons; baseball practice; school projects; book time; vaca



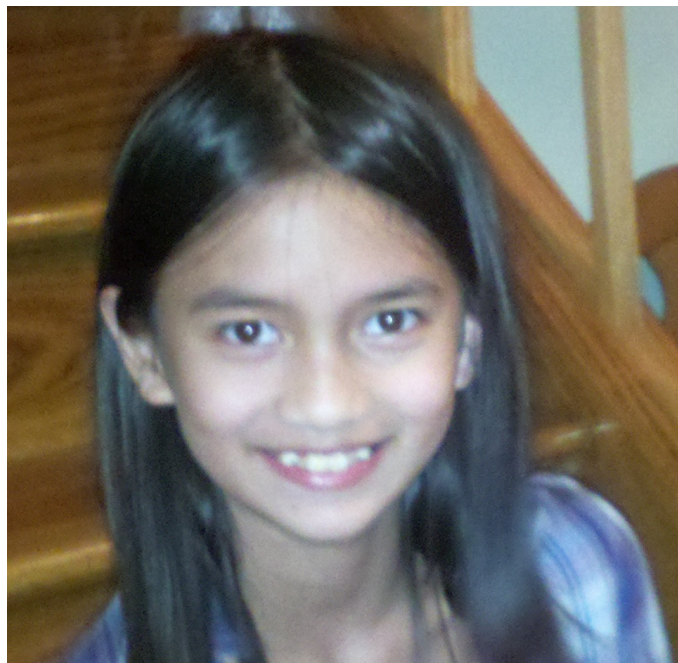
tions to Reptile Land; band concerts; dinners at home; Disney movies; hikes through the woods; homework after dinner; boo-boo kisses; (I could go on forever). My children bring life to my life.

A child or children need you; they are waiting in orphanages and foster care around the globe. Family Connections, Inc. supports families who chose to adopt from countries all over the world. Currently, most children available for adoption are waiting in Russia, Ethiopia, China, and various other Eastern European and African countries. Both boys and girls ranging in age from infancy to 16 years are in need of families. Children who are healthy, children who have minor correctable conditions as well as children with special medical and developmental needs are waiting for adoptive homes. Most children are available for adoption due to the death of their parents, parental abuse or neglect, abandonment by their birth parents, extreme poverty, family illness, social and political oppression and country family planning policies.

As you and your family consider adopting a child or children waiting for a family ask yourself some of these questions: Are you able to open your home and heart to a foreign-born child who is from a different culture and ethnic group? Are you able to provide love, comfort, security, and stimulation for a child? Are you able to support the medical and developmental needs for a child with a less than perfect start in life? Are you comfortable with the likelihood that your child will have medical and family unknowns? Are you flexible, patient and prepared to overcome adoption glitches? Are you willing to expand your family's cultural identity? Are you prepared to provide a child with a forever family? If you answered yes, please consider sharing your love with a child waiting for a family.

Family Connections, Inc., a non-profit New York State authorized adoption agency, supports families who chose to adopt children from the United States and throughout the world. The agency is always searching for families, couples and single women who are ready to build or expand their family through adoption. To learn more about adoption and the children waiting for families, please

contact Family Connections, Inc. at 607-756-6574 or visit www.adoptfamilyconnections.org. The agency would be honored to support your family as you open your home and heart to an orphaned child in need of a forever family.



Written by: Renee Hettich, MA, LMSW. Renee is the mother of two daughters whom she adopted from Chinese's orphanages and a son she adopted from Guatemala. After her first daughter arrived home, she dedicated her life to bringing children and families together. She is an adoption social worker with Family Connections, Inc. and a speaker on international adoption.

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