

Australian Families for Children



“*imagine*”

A world without children



imagine ...

walls covered with photos of happy, smiling children at play, learning, with family ... enjoying the pleasures of life.

imagine ...

a welcoming, family friendly place where you immediately feel confident that everyone is there to help you bring your dreams to reality.

imagine ...

an organisation where the staff and volunteers know what it means to give a child the warmth and comfort of a loving family.



Australian Families for Children - AFC - helps bring orphaned children from third world countries together with Australian families.

More than 300 children from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru and India have been adopted into Australian families, thanks to AFC's help. The children we help have no possibility of family life in their country of birth.

Today these children have become happy, confident proud Australians. They are mechatronics engineers, nurses, university history lecturers, social workers, travel agents, bankers, retailers, event producers and even aspiring ballerinas.

What is AFC?

AFC is a non profit organisation founded in 1981 to facilitate intercountry adoption. It has been recognised by the NSW Government as a reputable and responsible intercountry adoption organisation. It is highly respected both in Australia and overseas



as an organisation that is sincere in its mission and professional, caring and sensitive in its approach.

Since its inception AFC has operated as a purely volunteer organisation utilising the facilities provided by members and relying on the dedication, professionalism and expertise of its members and supporters.

Our record demonstrates our commitment to building permanent families in Australia for these children.

imagine



Why have an appeal?

To be able to continue to do its work - some would say continue its life saving work - AFC now needs to appoint professional staff and enhance its style of operation.

In 1998 Australia ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption which requires all NGOs working in this area to be accredited. Accreditation is a complex and lengthy process. In NSW at this time no other agency is prepared to operate in this area.

AFC is undertaking an ***Establishment Appeal*** to raise the \$600,000 needed to accredit the organisation and cover the two year transition period from volunteer organisation to self sufficient, accredited agency.

As a volunteer organisation AFC has no reserves to draw on and the NSW Government is not prepared to provide seed funds.

AFC is the only hope for the children and families.



Why intercountry adoption?

You are most likely familiar with images of orphaned children from third world countries. War, famine, poverty, disease and social dislocation are the cocktail that leaves children vulnerable in South American barrios, Indian streets or African refugee camps. The United Nations estimates that tens of thousands of children are dying every day.

And tens of thousands languish in orphanages ... hoping for the nightmare to end ... hoping for someone to love them.

These children need a home and a family. There are thousands of families in Australia willing to open their hearts, their homes and their lives to these children.

Over the last 30 years within Australia there has been a marked decline in the number of children available for adoption from 10,000 in 1972 to approximately 500 in recent years. Of these 75% are from overseas.

In NSW alone at any one time there are over 1,000 families in the DOCS intercountry adoption system and it is estimated that there could be as many as 10,000 couples Australia wide who would adopt from overseas if they could.

In addition to those for whom adoption is the only way they will ever have a family, there are those who wish to be proactive and make a difference between mere survival and opportunity for third world children. While recognising that there may be dislocation issues for an intercountry adopted child, they still believe that a loving family can overcome these issues as well as remove the children from a very real likelihood of illness, harm or death.



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The costs of accreditation

AFC has a Business Plan which is based on it continuing to operate as a non-profit organisation. *Major establishment costs over the two year transition period are:*

Rent	\$40,000
Office infrastructure	\$80,000
Principal Officer	\$100,000
Case worker	\$50,000
Support officers	\$100,000
Library resources	\$15,000
Travel	\$25,000

The AFC *Establishment Appeal*

AFC is undertaking an *Establishment Appeal* to raise \$600,000.

Your donation will make a make a difference – perhaps the difference between life and death for an orphaned third world country child.

Opportunities for naming rights are -

\$100,000	AFC Centre Principal Officer
\$50,000	Case Worker Support Officer
\$25,000	Meeting Room (x2) Principal Officer's Office Website
\$10,000	General Office Case Worker workstation Support Officers' workstations (x2) Library Reception Area Other opportunities also available

All donations will be acknowledged in the 'AFC Establishment Book'.

Donations over \$1,000 may be paid over two years.

All donations tax deductible.

Every child deserves a family.

Your donation will help make it possible for disadvantaged, endangered third world children to have an opportunity and start in life.

Your donation will help make it possible for Australian families to know the joy of raising children.

Please be generous.

Thank you!

