



Madison Adoption Associates

ORPHAN HOSTING



Bring the mission to your home!

There are **163 million** orphaned children worldwide with **5,760** more children becoming orphans each day. Once a child turns **5**, they have only a **5%** chance of being adopted, leaving many children without a family. Our hosting program has been created to address the needs of these orphaned children. **Many people go on mission trips to other parts of the world, but we ask you to consider staying home this summer to bring the mission to your family. This experience will change the life of an orphan forever, as well as the lives of you and your children!**

In this program, MAA will bring select children from various countries in which we have adoption programs, who are legally available for international adoption, to the United States for a three week stay with a qualified family. We are thrilled to provide both the children and loving families like yours, with an experience you will never forget!

Madison Adoption Associates is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed for the sole purpose of bringing hope, love, and a permanent family to children in need.



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A hosting program is a strategy used to identify possible permanent families for older children who have been cleared for inter-country adoption and are patiently waiting for their adoptive placement. These children will be able to experience family life and be exposed to a more stimulating environment than in the institutions where they currently live. However, it is not just the children who will benefit, but you and your entire family. The hosting experience will affect you in many ways - dispel any fears about adopting an older child, teach your children a valuable lesson in compassion, expose your friends and family to the orphan crisis, and give you the opportunity to have an integral role in orphan advocacy.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The hosting program offers both an educational, as well as a culturally rich experience for you and your family. Your family will provide a loving and nurturing environment exposing the child(ren) to family life. After the designated time, all children return to the orphanage with a rewarding educational experience. For most of these children, it will be first time that they have experienced what it feels like to be a part of a family.

The main goal of this program is ultimately to improve the health, education, and general welfare of orphaned children in our programs. These children have often been raised in institutions and have little experience with a family or with the benefits of life in the United States.



Most children in orphanages were born to poor families or single mothers, or they have been abandoned or were taken from birth parents due to neglect or abuse. All children are influenced by life in an institution. They will have developmental delays that may affect their speech, motor skills, cognitive functioning, and physical growth. Children may also exhibit institutional behavior such as rocking or other self-stimulating activities. Madison recommends families to take every precaution in their family to ensure not only the safety of the host child, but of all household members. We will help you prepare!

In general, the children who participate in the hosting program have a good prognosis for a healthy future if provided with the love, support, and treatment they need to overcome the challenges they face prior to adoption. Even if your participation in the Hosting Program does not lead to your adoption of the child you are hosting, you may be allowing the child to begin his journey to a permanent family, as he will have the opportunity to meet many people and potential families during his stay in the United States.

Host families will be encouraged to attend weekly events where all of the children and families spend time together. Families should also expect the chaperones to stay in their home for several nights during the hosting session. This allows us to evaluate how you and the child are doing and help you work through any issues or problem areas.



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THE DETAILS

Madison Adoption Associates is required to protect and ensure the safety of the children who will be coming to the United States to participate in the hosting program. You, the host family, will be required to furnish several documents so that we will be able to confirm you as an appropriate placement.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

- Three (3) Character References per family – notarized and sent directly to MAA**
- Hosting Agreement**
- Fee Agreement and Refund Policy**
- Safety Plan**
- Mid-Point Evaluation Form**
- Home safety report (contents of document vary by state)**
- All applicable clearances**
- Pre-host training certificate**



Your home safety report will be completed by MAA staff, or by a licensed agency in your state that has been approved by MAA. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the home is a safe environment for the hosted child. If you have a current, valid state compliant home study, that can be submitted in lieu of a new home safety report.

HOST PARENT TRAINING

You will be required to participate in a **mandatory** all-day, 8-hour training session to prepare you for your hosting experience. The training will be conducted by MAA, or the agency conducting your home safety report. This is critical in preparing our families of what to expect, safety planning procedures, other topics including, but not limited to, attachment and bonding, dealing with traumatized children, and the impact of institutionalization. The date, time, and location of this training will be announced as soon as it is available. The 8-hour training session can count towards the 10 hours of required pre-host training. Madison will provide training resources for the remaining two hours of required training. We recommend that all families prepare themselves as much as possible for the hosting experience.

FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The total fee to participate in the hosting program is \$2,000, and \$1,500 for each additional child (plus fees for training and to obtain required clearances)*. This includes all costs necessary to execute the hosting program, such as, counseling, preparation, securing back-up host families, program development, events, travel costs, 24/7 on-call support, and incidentals associated with the hosting session.

Adoption grants are available to host families who go on to adopt their host child(ren).

All money for hosting-related purposes should be made payable to Madison Adoption Associates. Your statement will be your receipt. Some of the expenses may be tax deductible.

*Additional fees will apply for families living outside of NJ, IL, and PA.



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HOSTING FEE SCHEDULE

Item	Due	One Child	Additional Child	Paid to
Application Fee	Due with Application	\$100	-	Paid to MAA. Nonrefundable.
Hosting Fee (payment 1 of 3)	Due with Hosting Agreement	\$500	\$500	Paid to MAA
Clearances	Clearance fees all household members over 13 (<i>other clearances may be required based on residence history</i>)	Varies by state – typically \$30-\$75 per person	-	Paid to each entity (check and credit card accepted)
Home Safety report – MD families*	At time of home visit	\$500	-	Paid to Catholic Charities of Baltimore
Home Safety report – IN, MO families**	At time of home visit	\$1,000	-	Paid to All Blessings International
Hosting Fee (payment 2 of 3)	Due at time of home visit	\$500	\$250	Paid to MAA at time of home visit
Hosting Fee (payment 3 of 3)	Due 3 weeks prior to child's arrival	\$900	\$750	Paid to MAA. Any approved grants will be applied to this invoice and are only applicable to the first child.
	Total due to MAA	\$2,000	\$1,500	

*Applicable to MD host families only

**Applicable to IN & MO host families only

Hosting Grants: There may be grants available associated with the specific child that you have committed to host. Please contact the hosting coordinator for more information.



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REFUND POLICY

Fees paid to MAA during the course of the Hosting Program are actual expenses incurred to prepare the child’s documents, bring them to the United States, and execute the hosting program. Therefore, all payments are arranged in order to pay administrative costs as they are due. For this reason, fees are non-refundable. However, MAA will always make a good faith effort to accommodate families.

In the event a Hosting family decides they do not wish to host the child **prior** to the hosting period, 50% of the hosting fees paid will be returned **only if MAA is able to find another local family to host the child.**

In the event that the Hosting Family decides they wish to terminate the hosting experience **during** the hosting period, they will nevertheless assume full responsibility for all expenses, which were incurred by or on behalf of the child during the time the child was in their physical custody or was expected to be in their custody, and no refunds will be given.



EVENTS

A calendar of events will be finalized and sent to the hosting family at least six weeks prior to the start of the host session. In terms of events, the host family should expect to commit to the pre-host training, airport pick-ups and drop-offs, and at least two organized group events during the hosting session.

SUPPORT DURING THE PROCESS

Madison Adoption Associates has experienced hosting coordinators, social workers, translators, and previous host families who will be available to your family throughout the entire hosting time. When questions come up – and they will – we will be accessible to you to help you consider the options, work through possible solutions, and find the best answer for your family and for the child.

Here at Madison Adoption Associates, we pride ourselves on keeping our hosting programs tight-knit and connected to the local community. We purposefully place our children geographically close to one another so that the families and children do not feel isolated. Not only will you have the support of MAA staff, but you will also have the comfort of other current host families nearby, as well as the chaperones who know the children well. We plan group events during the hosting session to promote the importance of community. And we also encourage you to get together with your fellow host families!

The following individuals are your first point of contact in the event of any problems:

Contact	Office	Cellular	Email
Michelle McGowan <i>Midwest Coordinator</i>	(217) 498-9700	(217) 381-6006	michelle@madisonadoption.org
Sarah Hansen <i>East Coast Coordinator</i>	(302) 475-8977	(410) 963-1477	sarah@madisonadoption.org
Diana Bramble <i>Executive Director</i>	(302) 475-8977	(302) 290-0385	diana@madisonadoption.org



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The chaperones who accompany the children are ultimately responsible for reporting back to the adoption authorities in their sending countries about the hosting program. They will stay abreast of any and all situations regarding the children. They are here to support the children and families alike!

If there are any serious situations that occur (involving emotional or physical harm/injury to the host child, or harm caused to others by the host child), you will be required to submit an incident report within 24 hours. All incidents will be investigated and handled by MAA's trained staff.

If you are experiencing any issues, as small as they seem, please call us and let us help. Often sitting down and discussing a small issue can prevent a larger issue from occurring in the future.

DECISION TO ADOPT

Throughout the hosting session, we will advocate for the host child in an effort to find him or her a forever family. The host family must inform MAA if they intend to adopt the host child, and we will discontinue advocacy efforts in that case. If the host family plans to adopt their host child, an adoption application must be immediately submitted to Madison Adoption Associates accompanied by a \$500 application fee. Madison Adoption Associates will be your adoption placement agency and will send you the necessary paperwork needed to begin your adoption process.

Some host families participate in the program with no intentions of adoption, and strictly as an 'advocate family.' We will work closely with these host families in our joint advocacy efforts so that a forever family can be located for each host child. Host families will be asked to attend events so that their host child can meet potential adoptive families.

Ultimately, this program is designed to benefit disadvantaged children who may not get another chance to experience family life. All of us are touched by meeting and getting to know each one of these children. Their faces and stories stay with us long after they have returned to their home country.

If you would like to be considered as a host family, please visit our website at www.madisonadoption.org and submit the Hosting Application which can be found under the 'Hosting' tab.

If you have questions regarding hosting requirements, training, costs, or other details, please contact Sarah Hansen at (410) 963-1477 or sarah@madisonadoption.org; or Michelle McGowan at (217) 381-6006 or michelle@madisonadoption.org

We look forward to you joining us in our effort to help the helpless.

*Sincerely,
The Staff of Madison Adoption Associates*