



## Madison Adoption Associates

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# ORPHAN HOSTING: COLOMBIA



*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 Colombia who are legally available for international adoption, to the United States for a short stay with a qualified family. We are thrilled to provide both the children and loving families like yours, with an unforgettable experience!



## **Madison Adoption Associates**

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to bring hope, love, and connection by serving children, individuals, and families in the areas of adoption, foster care, and support services.

Our work is guided by the following core principles:

- \* Securing stable and loving permanent families for children through pre-adoption preparation, education, guidance, support, and post adoption services.
- \* Conducting our business activities with our heart first and an unwavering commitment to ethics.
- \* Treating each individual with dignity and walking with them throughout their personal journey
- \* Always acting in the best interests of each child.
- \* Ensuring that each adoption process is transparent, with adherence to all laws and regulations.
- \* Providing expectant and birth parents with confidential, compassionate, and non-judgmental support.
- \* Recognizing the unique and precious potential of each person and each family.
- \* Building healthy and thriving families and communities by providing educational services and therapeutic supports rooted in attachment and relational connections.
- \* Committing time and resources to charitable activities that assist children who are not eligible for adoption and children in foster care to lead stronger, safer, healthier, and more productive lives.



### **ORPHAN HOSTING**

A hosting program is an opportunity to give children a break from orphanage life while enjoying a cultural experience. All participants 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 the 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



## **Madison Adoption Associates**

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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.

Host families will be encouraged to attend scheduled events where all of the children and families spend time together. Madison Adoption Associates staff will visit the family several times over the course of the program. Families should also expect the chaperones to stay in their home for several nights during the hosting session. This allows our entire team to evaluate how you and the child are doing and help you work through any issues or problem areas.

### **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**

- Current, valid Hague compliant home study, and all back-up documentation**
- Hosting Agreement**
- Fee Agreement and Refund Policy**
- Safety Plan**
- Pre-host training certificate**
- Mid-Point Evaluation Form**

*Your home study report will be completed by MAA staff. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the home is a safe environment for the hosted child.*



### **HOST PARENT TRAINING**

You will be required to participate in a **mandatory** in-person adoption training class as well as a hosting training session to prepare you for your hosting experience. The training will be conducted by MAA. This is critical in preparing our families for what to expect, safety planning procedures, and 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. You may also be required to complete online education courses through Creating A Family. We recommend that all families prepare themselves as much as possible for the hosting experience.

### **EVENTS**

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



## Madison Adoption Associates

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### 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 children also greatly benefit from the support and companionship of their friends!

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

Contact	Office	Cellular	Email
Misty Lucas <i>Colombia Director, IL Executive Director</i>	(217) 498-9700	(618) 214-5915	misty@madisonadoption.org
Diana Bramble <i>Executive Director of Operations</i>	(302) 475-8977	(302) 290-0385	diana@madisonadoption.org
Adriana Chaves <i>Hosting Coordinator</i>	(305) 952-0451	(305) 952-0451	adriana@madisonadoption.org

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.

### FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

**MAA does not want cost to prohibit this incredible experience. For that reason, we have almost fully subsidized this program and MAA does not charge any administrative fees. Thus, the total fee to participate is the cost of a home study** (plus fees for education, training, and to obtain required clearances\*) as well as a non-refundable application fee. Mileage is also charged at the standard IRS rate per mile for social worker travel; this charge will be billed separately. The home study report is mandatory in order for any child to enter your home.



## Madison Adoption Associates

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

<i>Fee Category</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Info</i>
Application Fee	Due with Application	\$200	Paid to MAA. Nonrefundable.
1 <sup>st</sup> Home Study Fee	Due with Hosting Agreement	\$1,400	Paid to MAA
Clearances *	Clearance for all household members over 13 ( <i>other clearances may be required based on residence history</i> )	Varies by State – typically \$40-\$85 per person	Paid to each entity (check and credit card accepted)
Final Home Study Fee	Due before or at the time of the home visit	\$1,400	Paid to MAA before or at time of home visit
Online Adoption Education	Due before or at the time of the home visit	\$100	Paid to MAA before or at time of home visit.
In-Person Hosting Education	Free	\$0	While there is no charge for this education, attendance is <b>MANDATORY</b> .
	<b>Total due to MAA</b>	<b>~\$3,200</b>	

If a family has a current home study report through another agency, the family will be responsible for paying the application fee, training fee, and a home study review fee of \$400.



### **REFUND POLICY**

Home study fees are actual expenses incurred. Therefore, all payments are arranged in order to pay for services rendered. For this reason, fees are non-refundable.

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.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like to be considered as a host family, please visit our website at [www.madisonadoption.org](http://www.madisonadoption.org) and submit the Hosting Application, which can be found under the 'Hosting' tab: <http://www.madisonadoption.org/u-s-hosting-program/>.

If you have questions regarding hosting requirements, training, costs, or other details, please contact Misty Lucas at (217) 498-9700 [Misty@madisonadoption.org](mailto:Misty@madisonadoption.org) or Adriana Chaves at (305) 952-0451 [Adriana@madisonadoption.org](mailto:Adriana@madisonadoption.org)

We look forward to you joining us in this incredible endeavor!  
*The Staff of Madison Adoption Associates*