



Madison Adoption Associates

International Adoptions ~ Home studies ~ PA SWAN ~ Post-Adoption Support ~ Hague Accredited

NJ, PA, DE Office: 1102 Society Drive, Claymont, DE 19703, Ph: 302-475-8977, Fax: 302-529-1976
IL Office: 128 N. John Street, Suite 2, Rochester, IL, 62563, Ph: 217-498-9700, Fax: 217-498-9705
NY Office: 160 Lakewood Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14226

www.MadisonAdoption.org

ORPHAN HOSTING: COLOMBIA



Bring the mission to your home!

There are over **150 million** orphaned children worldwide, with **thousands** 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**



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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!

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.





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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 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.



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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

- Current, valid Hague compliant home study, and all back-up documentation (CANTS, FBI, State clearances)
- Hosting Agreement and Exhibits
- Training certificates
- Surveys

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** zoom 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.

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.



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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 DeGroot <i>Executive Director of Operations</i>	(302) 475-8977	(302) 290-0385	diana@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 wants to provide a safe hosting experience for the children and families who are participating, for that reason, there are fees that are required. All money for actual expenses related to bringing the children to the United States for hosting related purposes will be covered by MAA or our foreign partners. The following are costs associated with families



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being able to participate in this program. Please note, the home study report is mandatory in order for any child to enter your home.

<i>Fee Category</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Info</i>
Application Fee	Due with Application	\$200	Paid to MAA. Nonrefundable.
Hosting Fee	Due with Hosting Agreement	\$1,000	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). If paid by MAA, amount will be invoiced at cost.
Home Study Fee	Due before or at the time of the home visit	\$2,800	Paid to MAA before or at time of home visit. (See section below for information on social worker travel fees)
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 MANDATORY.
	Total due to MAA	~\$4,100	

**** Hosting grants MAY be available.**

Exceptions / Other Fees:

Home Study Review Fee - \$500 If a family has a current home study report specific to Colombia through another agency, the family will be responsible for paying all fees except the Home Study Fee, instead they will pay a Home Study Review Fee.

Home Study Update Fee - \$1,600 If MAA completes a HS Update from another agency HS or MAA program, the family will be responsible for paying all fees except the Home Study Fee, instead they will pay a Home Study Update Fee.

Social Worker Travel - Mileage fees will be billed (at the standard IRS Rate) from location of social worker to family home/meeting location(s) and back. Tolls & parking will be billed at cost.



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MAA Hosting Grant

All Host families who submit a dossier within 1 year of hosting a child will receive an agency fee reduction of \$1,000 off of their next adoption through Madison Adoption Associates, be it for the host child or a different child.



REFUND POLICY

The fee payment structure does not compensate Madison Adoption Associates in advance for services to be provided in the future. Rather, all payments are deemed earned and applicable to services provided upon payment. For this reason, fees paid to MAA are non-refundable.

Families acknowledge that there are certain fees (not paid to MAA) necessary to host a child in their home (food, clothing, entertainment, outings, etc.). 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 and submit the Hosting Application and Hosting Application Fee, 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

We look forward to you joining us in this incredible endeavor!

The Staff of Madison Adoption Associates