



STAY CONNECTED WITH ICA



*"A voice of hope for
children worldwide"*

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

November is a wonderful time to recognize the joy and fulfillment that adoption brings. At ICA, we are helping children find loving families that will provide a safe place then can call home. We are honored to have International and Domestic Adoption Programs.

DID YOU KNOW:

In the United States there are 120,000 children in the Foster Care system waiting to be adopted. In California alone, there are roughly 60,000 children waiting to be adopted. Compared to any other U.S. state, California has the largest number of children available for adoption.

A **Father** to the Fatherless...
He sets the lonely into **Families**.
Psalm 68:5-6

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4ACHILD.ORG

ICA Child Refugee Stories

"I HAD NEVER CONSIDERED LEAVING MY COUNTRY UNTIL I WAS FORCED TO."

A young boy around 12 years old fled Eritrea in order to escape the military subscription mandate in his country, which is slave labor. He fled his home into a neighboring country by foot, walking for hundreds of miles and hitching rides from strangers where possible. While traveling through Libya with the help of a smuggler, he was taken advantage of and held prisoner and forced to work for this person. He, along with a few other boys, then trekked through the Sahara Desert they encountered the Libyan army whom they thought was there to rescue them.

A gun battle then ensued he saw many of his friends killed. The Libyan army took possession of him, instead of freeing him they held him captive in warehouses for months at a time with barely any water or food.

He eventually was discovered by the local police and set free, he was able to then get into a refugee camp in Sudan. He was identified as an unaccompanied minor while he was in a refugee camp in Sudan. Vetted by a non-governmental agency in that country, along with the American Red Cross, A year later deemed he was eligible for a third country option such as the USA. Through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), ICA was made aware of this youth and was able to place him in a foster home in Northern California.

He is now 22 years old, has graduated from high school, is working full time and is thriving. He recently completed his CNA certification and is now working in this field, with aspirations of moving into the medical field.

URM youth, are eligible to remain in our program until the age of 25. This youth never intended to come to this country. He was forced to flee because of the tyrannical government in Eritrea. He reveals he has emerged out of a great depression over the loss of his homeland.

Being from the countryside, he said he misses the smell of the land, his language, his culture, his family, and mourns the loss of the future he thought he would have, knowing he can almost certainly never return. He has adjusted well. Over time, he has reconnected with some family members. It is his hope that one day he can support them however he can.



Join The ICA COHORT

Sign up to be a part of the ICA Cohort. "With knowledge comes understanding!" By attending a series of collaborative meetings, together we will have an open conversation on how to best impact our local communities.

Initially, we will discuss these following questions:

- What is the need for foster youth in our community?
- How does a trauma impact kids from hard places?
- Is fair trade important?
- What happens to youth when they don't have a loving home?
- How does this knowledge propel us to best advocate?

Quote of the day:

"Belonging to a family is a natural and vital component of life, and every child deserves to be a member of a loving and nurturing family." — Ronald Reagan



We are thankful for each and every one of our staff who work so diligently on behalf of our youth, and for our families who have chosen to stand in the gap, loving whomever is entrusted to them, for however long they are entrusted, risking the protection of their own hearts, for the protection of a youth.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH!

National Adoption Month (NAM) began in 1976 in Massachusetts, when Governor Michael Dukakis initiated a statewide Adoption Week to encourage families to consider adopting kids in the Massachusetts foster care system. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan launched the first National Adoption Week, and in 1995, President Bill Clinton increased the scope and length of the adoption awareness movement, and National Adoption Month was born.

ADOPTION: FACTS AND FIGURES

- Around 5 million people in the U.S. are adopted.
- About 4.5 million are children – roughly 7% of children in the U.S.
- 110-120,00 children are adopted in the U.S. each year
- By Age:
 - 0-2: 5%
 - 3-4: 9%
 - 5-9: 30%
 - 10-12: 19%
 - 13-14: 14%
 - 15-17: 23%

Average age at adoption: 5

If you are curious about our adoption services or have questions about the process, please feel free to reach out. We are here to guide and support you every step of the way!

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at ICA

Contact us to learn more about how you can support!



We are looking for caring and compassionate people and families to provide temporary homes for children or youth until they can be reunited with their families.

WWW.4ACHILD.ORG

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SCHEDULE AN INFO MEETING JUST FOR YOU!

At ICA, we want to be able to give you a personalized presentation to help you understand our organization, our programs and how you can make an impact. Schedule your Info Meeting now!

Some of Our Programs:

- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Refugee Aid
- Fair Trade
- Counseling



SCHEDULE NOW



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