



## WELCOME HOME PROGRAM

### Program Description

#### Who are we?

ICA's adoption and foster care division is Hague accredited and licensed with a corporate office located in California. ICA is registered in the countries of India, Philippines, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Taiwan, Uganda, Thailand and Romania. ICA also has a cooperative relationship with other agencies who work in the United States. ICA works cooperatively with the public social services departments. The children from this program are in foster care and moving into adoption.

#### What is "Welcome Home"?

ICA has two Welcome Home programs, Welcome Home USA and Welcome Home International. The goal of the program is to try to find forever families for the children who participate. Host homes are screened, trained and prepared to care for these children for a period of two weekends, one week or four weeks depending on the program. Government approval is always received ahead of time and in the international program the appropriate visas are received. During the program, the children and families participate in scheduled activities and at the end of the day the child stays in the host home overnight. Once the program is completed, the children all return to their original homes while the prospective adoptive family prepares all the paperwork necessary to adopt.

#### What children participate in Welcome Home?

Children ages 5-14 participate. A majority are legally free to be adopted. Some of the older children have much younger siblings who cannot participate because they are too young. The children have been assessed medically and psychologically. All come from institutionalized care (i.e. foster care, orphanages or residential treatment facilities). All children will have been exposed to dysfunctional behaviors in their birth family situations.

#### What is required of the host family?

The criteria for participating in Welcome Home include, but are not limited to, the

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following: the couple must have been married for at least three years, be fingerprinted for FBI, criminal and child abuse clearances, complete a psychological evaluation, provide information on their family background, letters of reference (one from their pastor), and photographs of their family and home.

After this information is provided, ICA staff will contact each family and familiarize them with the program. Each family will receive a list of ICA's expectations for host families while the visiting children are in their home. Before the children arrive, all families are required to participate in an orientation program and training covering aspects of the child's culture and language, life books, and how to handle the behaviors of children from broken homes.

### **What is the cost to the host family?**

ICA requests that the host family provide for their hosted child just like they would their own children. We invite host families and churches to fundraise or seek a "sponsor" among friends and relatives, and others in their church congregation with the opportunity to provide this child with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to find a forever family. ALL costs of sponsorship MUST be raised three months prior to the child's arrival. We also invite the host families to participate in fundraising events that help defray all the costs. Families incur application costs (i.e. fingerprint clearances, psychological evaluation, etc.) and the cost of providing food and shelter for the child during their stay.

### **About the adoptive family:**

Once a host family or other potential adoptive family has made the decision to adopt an orphan, the Welcome Home Coordinator will then notify ICA's International Director, who will contact the family to discuss the specifics of adopting this particular child. This is an exciting and important time for the adoptive family, and each case is given special care and attention.

***If you or your church are interested in participating in this program, or have any further questions, please contact us at:***

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