

AFRICA

GHANA ADOPTION PROGRAM



About Ghana

Akwaaba! Akwaaba! Akwaaba! - this means "welcome" in Ghana—and you will feel very welcome from the moment you arrive.

Ghana has been named the friendliest country in Africa. It is a land of tropical beaches and sunshine with a rich heritage and culture that will remain with you forever.



Ghana is in Western Africa and is bordered by the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Togo. Ghana achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1957. English is the primary language.

Children in Ghana are orphaned due to HIV/Aids, poverty, and war. Traditionally, extended family would take in an orphaned child, but due to extreme poverty, this is not always possible, leaving young children to fend for themselves on the streets.



CHILDREN WAITING FOR FAMILIES

The spectrum of children available for adoption spans from young children to teenagers, with the occasional infant. It's imperative to understand, however, that this program should not primarily be viewed as an infant adoption initiative. Children ages 3 to 15 years are waiting in Ghana for forever families. Some sibling groups may be available.

The children, all of African descent, present a beautiful range of dark skin tones, dark brown eyes, and hair that varies from brown to black. Prospective adoptive parents should be prepared to welcome children with a variety of health statuses.

There exists a pronounced demand for homes for children aged 5 and above. Within this group, some children are HIV positive, and others face developmental delays linked to institutional care.

The children of Ghana have been through very hard times. They are orphaned due to poverty and disease. Despite these hardships, the children remain warm, loving and enthusiastic about life.



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Eligibility

- Applicants should be more than 25 years old and a maximum age of 50.
- Couples where one parent is over 50 may adopt on a case by case basis.
- Both applicants must be 21 years older than the child.
- Couples must be married at least for 2 years.
- Families with up to 5 children may adopt, but smaller families are preferred by Ghana Social Welfare.
- Single women may adopt ONLY if they are Ghanaian.
- Families with health and mental issues will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Adoptive parents with any criminal history are considered on a case by case basis. (Applicants with a criminal history of child abuse, violence or domestic violence are not eligible to adopt.)

KINSHIP ADOPTIONS:

- For families who want to adopt a relative, a review is needed by our team in Ghana to make sure the child qualifies before beginning the process. Please contact Kathy at Kathy.h@chiadopt.org for more details.



TRAVEL

Three trips are required. The first trip occurs soon after referral acceptance and is a one-month bonding period that requires both parents to travel though one parent may be able to return home after 2-3 weeks. The second trip is to attend a court hearing approximately 4 to 6 months later. The third trip occurs 1-2 months later and is for the child's visa appointment at the Embassy. Each of the second and third trips are 1-2 weeks long. Families can choose to stay in-country for an extended stay instead of traveling three times.



TIME FRAME

The average time between referral and homecoming is about 6-10 months. The entire adoption process takes approximately 16 to 24 months.



CHI has worked in adoptions for almost 50 years. Our team in Ghana takes great care of our families from start to finish. CHI's International Specialist is an adoptive mom and also has over 30 years of experience.

If you believe there might be a child waiting for you in Ghana, or have questions about any of our other International Programs, please contact us via email: Ghana@chiadopt.org. We look forward to helping you and your family on your adoption journey.