



Foster Care & Adoption  
Information Packet  
- 2017 -

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# FOSTER CARE

## Becoming a Foster Parent

The flow sheet on page 5 depicts the basic process to become a foster parent in SC.

## For More Information

For general information, contacts and foster care guidelines in SC check out <http://www.adoptuskids.org/adoption-and-foster-care/overview/foster-parenting>.

## Heartfelt Calling and Foster Care Training

Heartfelt Calling, an agency of the SC Foster Parent Association, has been chosen by DSS of SC to improve the foster care system and adoptive needs in the state.

Their mission is to recruit and train great families to provide a safe and loving home for children when they cannot remain safely in their current home.

Contact Info: phone: (888) 828-3555, website: [heartfeltcalling.org](http://heartfeltcalling.org);

## Private Agency Foster Care Programs

The following local private agencies are licensed to provide foster care training and support through the certification process, match and place foster children with foster families, and provide post placement support.

A few of these agencies provide the additional intensive training required to become licensed to provide *therapeutic* or *medically fragile* foster care.

*Therapeutic foster care* is for children with specific medical or behavioral needs.

*Medically fragile* children, make up about 3% of children that come into the foster care system, and have more complex medical needs and multiple health issues. These children often come into State care when their birth families cannot afford or manage their severe medical problems. Some private agencies train foster families to meet their specialized needs as an alternative to placing them in a nursing home (Bair & SCYAP) .

### The Bair Foundation:

Bair is a Christ-centered private agency for *therapeutic & medically fragile* foster care. They provide training, licensure and post placement support, including family and behavioral health services.

Contact Info: phone: (877)-284-9542, website: [www.bair.org](http://www.bair.org)

### Lifeline Children's Services Foster Care Program:

Lifeline is a private Christian agency that provides both pre and post licensure training to prospective and licensed foster families. See Lifeline's website for more information about their licensing and training process. Training classes for SC are currently located at East Cooper Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant.

Contact Info: phone: (843) 737-6929 , website: <https://lifelinechild.org/foster-parenting/>

### South Carolina Youth Advocacy Program:

Private agency providing *therapeutic* and *medically fragile* foster care training, licensure and post placement support services, including clinical and therapy services.

Contact Info: (803) 779-5500, website: <https://www.scyap.com>

### Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY):

Private agency which provides *therapeutic* foster care training, licensure and several community-based post placement services, including behavioral health services.

Contact Info: (800)-532-7239, website: <http://www.safy.org>

## Respite Care for Foster Families

Recent passage of the 'Reasonable Prudent Parenting Standard' allows individual foster parents to make reasonable decisions regarding childcare for their foster children.

For this reason, the best way to provide respite childcare (for up to 1 week), is to connect directly with foster parents. J1:27 is working to build a team of individuals who would be available to provide childcare for foster families as needed.

Provision of short-term/respite childcare beyond 1 week in duration, may require the temporary caregiver to be a licensed foster parent.

## State Guardian *ad Litem* Program: Child Advocacy

Guardian ad Litem (GAL) volunteers are advocates representing the needs of a specific child in foster care. They get to know the child and everyone involved in the child's life, including family, teachers, doctors, social workers and others. They gather information about the child and what the child needs and then make recommendations in the courtroom setting to help the judge make an informed decision about a child's future. GAL volunteers provide a stable presence in a child's life, remaining on each case until the child finds a safe, permanent home. There is more information online about GAL responsibilities, as well as the application process and training. Website: <http://scgal.org/state/>

### Berkeley County:

Coordinator: Melonea Marek ; phone: (843) 719-4950, email: [Melonea.marek@admin.sc.gov](mailto:Melonea.marek@admin.sc.gov)

### Charleston County:

Coordinator: Lela Allen; phone:(843) 577-6975, email: [lela.allen@admin.sc.gov](mailto:lela.allen@admin.sc.gov)

### Dorchester County:

Coordinator: Louvetta Green; phone: (843) 553-8278, email: [Louvetta.green@admin.sc.gov](mailto:Louvetta.green@admin.sc.gov)

## South Carolina Foster Parent Association

The SCFPA has established numerous programs designed to assist foster families in providing for the needs of children in their care. Each county is served by a local association that provides family mentors, resources, ongoing training, and facilitates relationships within the local community. We highly encourage foster parents to get involved in their local association.

### Berkeley County FPA:

President: Amanda Brown; phone: (843) 312-9186, email: [brownam64@yahoo.com](mailto:brownam64@yahoo.com)

### Charleston County FPA:

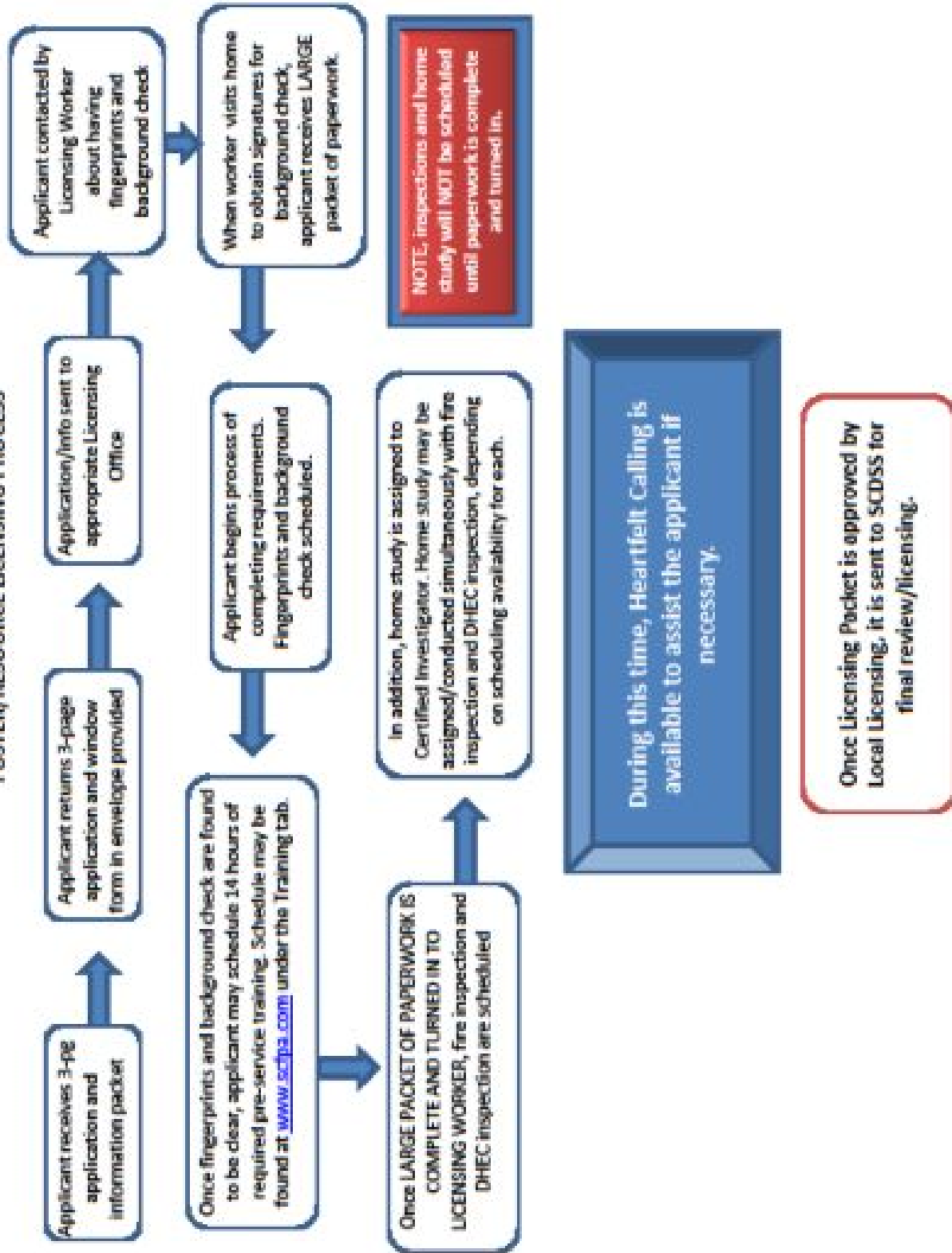
Pres: Carolyn Rivera; phone:(843) 442-6185, email: [Carolynrivera2239@yahoo.com](mailto:Carolynrivera2239@yahoo.com)

### Dorchester County FPA:

President: Deborah McCall; phone: (843) 486-6875, email:[fpadcsc@yahoo.com](mailto:fpadcsc@yahoo.com)

Notes:

## FOSTER/RESOURCE LICENSING PROCESS



# **ADOPTION**

## **Adoption Avenues**

### **Domestic Adoption through DSS**

Pursuing adoption of a child from within the US Department of Social Services

### **Private Domestic Adoption**

Pursuing adoption of child from within the US, with the facilitation of a private adoption agency or attorney.

### **International Adoption**

Pursuing adoption of a child from outside the US

## **Basic Adoption Process**

1. Initial Application
2. Home Study
  - A. Paperwork (background checks, references, family info, medical exam, etc)
  - B. Education (different requirements based on adoption type and agency)
  - C. Visits/Interviews
- 3.\* Dossier (\*International adoption only)
4. Approval to adopt
5. Match with child
6. Placement of child with family
7. Finalization and Completion of Post-Placement Requirements

# Domestic Adoption through DSS

## Contact:

DSS Region III Adoption Services

Address: 3346 Rivers Ave, Suite F, North Charleston, SC 29405

Phone: (843)-953-9750

Website: [www.dss.sc.gov](http://www.dss.sc.gov)

The basic steps to become an adoptive parent through DSS are as follows:

- 1.) Contact the regional office (contact listed above) to inquire and receive application.
- 2.) Complete application and return to regional office
- 3.) Complete SLED fingerprinting and Child Abuse Central Register releases on all household members 18 years and older.
- 4.) Attend 14 hours of preparatory training to help with self-evaluation of the types of children which would fit into your family
- 5.) Home fire and sanitation inspections completed by Fire Marshal and DHEC
- 6.) Home visits: adoption specialist visits the home to complete interviews and pre-placement investigation
- 7.) Three to four references are received and interviewed by adoption specialist
- 8.) Medical exams are required for all family members
- 9.) Assessment and determination of family qualifications and readiness to adopt.
- 10.) Approval received and family considered for placement of a child (or children)
- 11.) Placement committee matches and notifies family, who are then provided full background information about the child for whom they have been selected
- 12.) Family meets child and begins visitation with child
- 13.) Placement occurs when child and family are ready
- 14.) Post placement period begins and can continue up to 12 months
- 15.) Finalization of the adoption in family court

For more information regarding **SC DSS Adoptions**, adoptive parent guidelines and applications check out:

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/for-families/state-adoption-and-foster-care-information/south-carolina>.

The **SC Heart Gallery** is an organization that advocates for children within DSS who are awaiting option by taking professional photos of these children and maintaining a list online. To view the waiting child list visit: <http://www.scheartgallery.org/>.



# Private Domestic Adoption

With this type of adoption, a family is pursuing a child from within the US, but primarily with the facilitation of a private adoption agency and/or attorney rather than DSS.

## Types of Private Domestic Adoption

Children may come from within the DSS system, or connections may be made directly with birth parents through an agency or attorney.

### **Agency Coordination with DSS:**

The process of private agency adoption of children within the the DSS is similar to that of adoption directly through DSS. This process is most often used when pursuing a child from within DSS who resides in another state. Lifeline (agency) has a program for adoption from the foster care system.

### **Connection with Birth Family:**

When families are pursuing adoption of a child privately, the process generally consists of choosing an agency or attorney, and completing a home study (including paperwork, interviews and education). The family will then wait to be approved and matched with a birth parent(s). If the family accepts the match, the adoption process will then proceed.

Initial and ongoing contact with the birth family may be *open* (direct), *semi-open* (limited contact), or *closed* (anonymous). Private domestic adoptions are now rarely classified as 'closed', and are generally not recommended when possible, because open adoption had been found to be more healthy for the child.

This is the typical avenue by which parents would choose to adopt and infant, though it is also possible to adopt older children privately.

## Local Private Adoption Agencies:

### **Bethany Christian Services**

Myrtle Beach Office:

Address: 1500 Highway 17 Bus, N, Suite 210, Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Phone: (843) 839-543

Website: [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)

**Lifeline Children’s Services- South Carolina Office**

Contact: Casey Voorhees, SC Casework Supervisor  
Address: 1177 Gregorie Ferry Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
Phone: (803) 673-6505  
Email: casey.voorhees@lifelinechild.org  
Website: [www.lifelinechild.org](http://www.lifelinechild.org)

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions- South Carolina Office**

Contact: Katie England, Domestic Adoption Coordinator  
Address: 1527 Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville, SC 29606  
Phone: (864) 268-0570  
Email: kaite@nightlight.org  
Website: [www.nightlight.org/south-carolina-domestic-adoption-program](http://www.nightlight.org/south-carolina-domestic-adoption-program)

A full list of licensed private adoption agencies in SC can be viewed here:  
[http://www.adoptuskids.org/\\_assets/files/AUSK/state-information/SC-CPA-Directory-%208-19-15.pdf](http://www.adoptuskids.org/_assets/files/AUSK/state-information/SC-CPA-Directory-%208-19-15.pdf)

**Private Adoption Attorneys:**

**Glenn Lister, Jr. Attorney at Law (\*Recommended by parents)**

Representation for private and most other types of adoption  
Physical Address: 860-A Lowcountry Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
Mailing Address: PO BOX 2534, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
Phone: (843) 884-0555  
Website: [www.listerlawsc.com](http://www.listerlawsc.com)

**Lowndes & Barrett, LLC**

Open adoptions  
Address: 128 Meeting St, Charleston, SC 29401  
Phone: (843) 804-4561  
Website: [www.adoptionlawsc.com](http://www.adoptionlawsc.com)

**Raymond W. Godwin Attorney at Law, PC**

Adoption and children’s law  
Address: 212 Haywood Rd, Greenville, SC 29615  
Phone: (843) 241-2883  
Website: [www.scadopt.net](http://www.scadopt.net)

# International Adoption

Though the process is different with each country, there are **two basic paths** to adopt internationally, both of which occur through an adoption agency:

## 1) Referral

After completing the agency application and approval of the home study, the family's file is submitted to the child's home country. You then wait to be matched with a child and receive a 'referral' for adoption of that child. After the family accepts a referral they complete their 'dossier' (file for the child's home country) and begin immigration paperwork. Wait times and travel vary from country to country.

## 2) Waiting Children

Most countries, and several stateside agencies and advocacy groups, maintain lists of children who are eligible for adoption. The majority of children who appear on these lists have mild to severe special needs. If a family chooses to pursue adoption of one of these children, they often then apply for pre-approval to adopt the child with the agency who holds that child's file. The family then proceeds with the home study, dossier, and immigration paperwork. Though wait times vary from country to country, adoption of a waiting child often takes less time because the family does not have to wait for a match/referral.

## International Adoption Agencies:

Each agency establishes relationships and become approved to facilitate adoptions from specific countries. Check with the specific agency to determine which countries they are approved for. Always choose an agency that is reputable, non-profit and 'Hague accredited'. There are many great agencies to choose from. See the following website for a current list of all Hague Convention countries:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/hague-convention/convention-countries.html>

A short selection of reputable international adoption agencies that have been used by local families is listed below:

### **Bethany Christian Services- Myrtle Beach Office**

Address: 1500 Highway 17 Bus, N, Suite 210, Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Phone: (843) 839-5433

Email: form on website

Website: <https://www.bethany.org/adoption/international-adoption>

Country Programs: Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ethiopia,

Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Lithuania, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia

**CCAI- Georgia Office**

Address: 5825 Glenridge Dr. Bldg. 1 Suite 126, Atlanta, GA 30328

Phone: (404) 250-0055

Email: [ccaiga@ccaifamily.org](mailto:ccaiga@ccaifamily.org)

Website: [www.ccaifamily.org](http://www.ccaifamily.org)

Country programs: Bulgaria, China Haiti, Latvia, Ukraine

**Lifeline Children's Services- South Carolina Office**

Contact: Annie Hamlin, International Adoption Specialist

Address: 1177 Gregorie Ferry Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

Phone: (843) 737-6929

Email: online form

Website: <http://lifelinechild.org/adoption/international/>

Country Programs: Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary India, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Peru, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Taiwan, Ukraine.

**Nightlight Christian Adoptions- South Carolina Office**

Address: 1527 Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville, SC 29606

Phone: (864) 268-0570

Email: [info@nightlight.org](mailto:info@nightlight.org)

Website: <https://www.nightlight.org/international-adoption/>

Country Programs: Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Ghana, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Nicaragua, Panama, Romania, Uganda, Ukraine, UK.

**World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP)**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88948 Seattle, WA 98138

Phone: 1-800- 977-6852 (toll-free)

Email: form on website

Website: [www.wacap.org](http://www.wacap.org)

Country Programs: Bulgaria, China, Congo, Haiti, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand.

\*If you choose and out of state agency, you must have a different in-state agency complete the homestudy (not difficult).

# Adoption Funding

## Funding/Grant Programs:

There are multiple types of funding programs including grants, matching grants, tax deductible donation funds, interest free/low interest loans, and special programs.

The vast majority of program applications require families to have a completed home study report prior to applying. It is routine for grant organizations to require you to submit your home study, as well as a plethora of other personal information. This generally includes, but is not limited to financial information including 1-2 years of tax returns in order to demonstrate financial need, references, an essay, and in the cases of religious based organizations- your testimony. Some will also require an application fee.

Experienced families would recommend getting started on program applications early, so it is ready to submit as soon as your home study is complete.

The following list of programs is not all inclusive. There are many funding programs out there. These are considered most reputable, or have awarded support to local families in the recent past:

**ABBA Fund**, christian based, interest free loans and family grant funds

Amount: will set up at tax deductible grant fund through which to fundraise

Phone: (888) 775-3422

Email: form at <http://www.abbafund.org/about-us/contact-us/>

Website: <http://www.abbafund.org/>

To Apply: download PDF application at

<http://www.abbafund.org/how-we-help/family-adoption-funds/>

Deadline: rotating

**The Chosen Project**, Journey Church grant fund for adoptive and foster families who are Journey partners. In the summer of 2017 Journey Church was able to extend qualifications to allow members of the other J1:27 partner churches to apply. This will continue as funds allow.

Amount: Up to \$3K for private/international adoption, \$500 stipend for domestic adoption through DSS.

Email: [jenn.brangers@journeyteam.org](mailto:jenn.brangers@journeyteam.org)

To Apply: download the application at <http://journeychurchsc.org/family/orphan-care/>

Deadlines: January 1, June 30th

**Families Outreach**, grant organization

Amount: varies

Phone: (870) 897-4285

Email: [info@familiesoutreach.org](mailto:info@familiesoutreach.org)

Website: [www.familiesoutreach.org](http://www.familiesoutreach.org)

To Apply: download application at <http://familiesoutreach.org/adoption-grant-program/>

Deadline: rotating

**Gift of Adoption Fund**, grant organization

Amount: varies based on need and available funds

Phone: (877) 905-2367

Email: [info@giftofadoption.org](mailto:info@giftofadoption.org)

Website: <http://www.giftofadoption.org>

To Apply: <http://www.giftofadoption.org/apply/howToApply.html>

Deadline: rotating

**Help Us Adopt.org**, grant organization

Amount: \$500 - \$15,000 depending on individual situations.

Email: [info@helpusadopt.org](mailto:info@helpusadopt.org)

Website: <http://www.helpusadopt.org>

To Apply: download application at <http://www.helpusadopt.org/application.html>

Deadline: December 11th, 2015 and April 15th, 2016

**Lifesong for Orphans**, interest-free loans and matching grants, tax-deductible grant fund, and 'Both Hands' Fundraising Support

Amount: \$1,000-\$4,000 matching grants; loans \$5-10K

Phone: (309) 747-4527

Email: [info@lifesongfororphans.org](mailto:info@lifesongfororphans.org)

Website: <http://www.lifesongfororphans.org>

To Apply: download application at:

<http://www.lifesongfororphans.org/adoption-funding/adoption-grant-loan-application/>

Deadline: rotating

**Reece's Rainbow**, special needs adoption advocacy, waiting child grant and family sponsorship organization

\*awarded to families who pursue children on the RR waiting child list

Amount: grants up to \$20K for waiting children and tax-deductible sponsorship fund

Phone: (615) 550-5600

Email: [andrea@reecesrainbow.org](mailto:andrea@reecesrainbow.org)

Website: <http://www.reecesrainbow.org>

Waiting Child List: <http://reecesrainbow.org/new-family/thechildren>

Deadline: NA

**Show Hope**, grant and orphan care organization

Amount: \$5,000 on average

Phone: (615) 550-5600

Email: contact form on website

Website: <http://www.showhope.org>

To Apply: for more information go to

<http://showhope.org/be-hope/adopt/#apply-for-a-grant>

Deadline: Feb 28th, April 30th, Jun 30th, Aug 31st, Oct 31st, Dec 31st

## Fundraising Ideas:

- Yard Sales
- T-shirt sales
  - Teespring, Booster, Bonfirefunds
- Online Auctions of donated items
  - Think practical items, things people need, as well as on trend jewelry, artwork and decorative items
  - May want to consider only offering items that are easy to ship to those out of town.
  - Platforms: Can always use Facebook OR consider 32 Auctions; Bidding Owl if you don't want to have to worry about collecting payment.
- Craft Sales
  - Again, think practical, or items that could be gifted
  - Prayer bracelets
- Partnering with friends who do direct sales/home parties
  - Jewelry: Noonday Collection (fair trade goods from international artisans, 10% profit for adoption fundraising), Premiere Designs
  - Thirty-One
  - Pampered-Chef
  - Tupperware

- Makeup: Mary Kay, Avon
- Scentsy
- Events (Live or Online)
  - Silent Auctions and Raffles
  - Concerts
  - Band all your direct sales friends together for a holiday marketplace
  - Athletic Events: races, walk/zumba/dance/bowl -a-thons, sport tournaments
  - Pancake breakfast/spaghetti dinner/chili cook-off (combine with auction/raffle)
- Crowdfunding (Look for tax-deductible crowdfunding with low/no fees)
  - Pure Charity
  - Adopt Together
  - You Caring
- Support Letters to close family and friends (still effective)

## Fundraising Tips:

- Utilize social media and blogs
  - People connect with a story and want to be involved
  - Share based on your discretion, be careful not to share much detail or images until approved
  - Consider what your child would want to be shared if they were looking back as an adult
- Funnel support to tax-deductible funds when possible
- Consider your backup plan: savings, loans, W/D from retirement
- Keep track of donors and THANK THEM! Handwritten thank you notes and family pics are great!

## Adoption Tax Credit

For adoptions finalized in 2017, there is a federal adoption tax credit of up to \$13,570 per child. Generally, this is NOT a refundable credit, which means taxpayers can only get the credit refunded if they have federal income tax liability.

The credit is paid one time for each adopted child, and should be claimed when taxpayers file taxes for 2016 (typically in early 2017).



To be eligible for the credit, parents must:

A.) Have adopted a child other than a stepchild that is either under 18 or be physically or mentally unable to take care of him or herself.

B.) Be within the income limits: Families must have a modified adjusted gross income below \$201,010 can claim full credit. Those with incomes from \$203,540 to \$243,540 can claim partial credit. Those with incomes above \$243,540 cannot claim the credit.

Families who finalize the adoption of a child with special needs in 2017, can claim the full credit of \$13,570 on the line that asks for expenses—whether or not they had any expenses.

Other adopters can claim a credit based on their qualified adoption expenses, which are the reasonable and necessary expenses paid to complete the adoption as long as those expenses are not reimbursed by anyone else. If the expenses are less than \$13,570, the adopters claim only the amount of the expenses. If expenses exceed \$13,570, the maximum to be claimed is \$13,570 per child.

How much, if any, of the adoption tax credit a parent will receive depends on their federal income tax liability in 2016 (and the next five years). In one year, taxpayers can use as much of the credit as the full amount of their federal income tax liability.

For more information visit: <https://www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit.html>

## Education Resources

Completion of a home study is one of the first steps of the adoption process. As part of the home study families are required to complete education hours regarding adoption and parenting an adopted child. Some educational resources are listed below:

### Online Education Providers

Adoption Learning Partners, [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org)

Adoption Training Online, <https://adoptiontrainingonline.com>

Hague Adoption Training (international), [www.haguetrainingonline.org](http://www.haguetrainingonline.org)

### Educational Books

Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families, Russell Moore

Adopt Without Debt, Julie Gumm

Attachment-Focused Parenting, Daniel Hughes  
Attachment Focused Family Therapy Workbook, Daniel Hughes  
The Connected Child, Karyn Purvis  
Cross Cultural Adoption, Amy Coughlin  
Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family, David Sanford  
Infinitely More, Alex Krutov and Jackie Davis  
The Lost Daughters of China, Karin Evans  
Making Sense of Adoption, A Parent's Guide, Lois Melina  
Forever Lilly, Beth Russell  
Orphan Justice, Johnny Carr  
Parenting Adopted Adolescents, Gregory Keck  
When the Heart Waits, Sue Kidd  
Wait No More: One Family's Amazing Adoption Journey, John and Kelly Rosati  
You Can Adopt, Susan Caughman

## Adoption Books for Children

A Blessing from Above, Patti Henderson  
Born from the Heart, Berta and Alfonso Serrano  
God Found Us You, Lisa Bergren and Laura Bryant  
I Wished for You: An Adoption Story, Marianne Richmond  
The Tummy Mummy, Michelle Madrid-Branch  
Tell Me Again About The Night I Was Born, Jamie Lee Curtis  
The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story, Anne Brodzinsky

## **'Special Needs' Adoption Resources**

If you are preparing to adopt internationally, the likelihood is high that you will pursue a child who has been institutionalized. Even children who do not have a specific diagnosis will likely exhibit developmental delays related to institutionalization. Medical experts suggest that for every 3-5 months a child has lived in an orphanage, you can subtract one month of physical growth. Life in an orphanage also typically leads to delays and/or changes in cognitive ability, emotional development, and maturity with self-regulation. For these reasons, developmental screening is highly recommended upon returning home.

Children who have been adopted domestically may also benefit from screening, especially if their medical history is unknown, or they have a history of trauma or neglect. First Steps and Child Find are state agencies that provide developmental screening and therapy services, free of charge. Their contact information is listed below.

## State/Government Developmental Screening Programs

### **SC First Steps/Baby Net** (early-intervention birth up-to age 3)

Charleston SPOE District (Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester counties)

Contact: Geri Connors, lead supervisor

Phone: (843) 740-3193

Address: 6296 Rivers Ave, Suite 309, N. Charleston SC 29406

Email: [sgconnors@scfirststeps.org](mailto:sgconnors@scfirststeps.org)

### **Child Find** (developmental screening for ages 3-21)

Berkeley County: Office of Special Services

(843)-899-8890, 109 East Main Street Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Charleston County: Elizabeth Cowley

(843) 958-2700, 529 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

Dorchester District 2: Kim Ives,

(843) 875-4161, 1325 C Boone Hill Road, Summerville, 29485

## Medical Benefits

### **SC Medicaid/TEFRA**

Applications for both programs may be requested at your local DSS office.

Go to <https://www.scdhhs.gov/eligibility-groups/disabled-children> to view eligibility requirements and apply. \*If the child does not qualify for medicaid, they may still qualify for coverage through TEFRA.

### **Social Security Disability Benefits for children**

Phone: 1-800-772-1213 (toll-free)

Go to <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply-child.html> for more information and to apply.

## MUSC Clinics

### **Foster Care Support Clinic**

Phone: (843) 876-7023 for appointments

For more info: <http://www.musckids.org/our-services/foster-care-support-services>

### **International Adoption Clinic**

Phone: (843) 792-1414 for appointments

For more information: <http://www.musckids.org/our-services/adoption>

# J1:27 Ministry Resources

## Foster & Adoption Group

J1:27 hosts monthly meetings for foster and adoptive parents as well as those ‘in-process.’ This is your place to find a community of support with like minded parents who are on the same journey. Most meetings begin with a time of fellowship followed by time for ongoing training geared for both foster and adoptive families. Childcare is provided for these meetings. Quarterly we will hold social events just for fun that involve the whole family. We post regular updates about these events on our “J1:27 Ministry” Facebook page.

## Resource Closet

J1:27 operates resource closet locations in both Summerville and at Freedom Church in Moncks Corner. We have closets stocked with clothing, diapers, and other items for fostering and adoptive families to utilize throughout the time you are caring for your children.

Please complete our online form to make new Resource Closet requests at any time:

<https://goo.gl/forms/pHDcHYwXcomtDpl62>

Questions? Contact:

Summerville: Jenn Brangers, [jennifer@j127ministry.org](mailto:jennifer@j127ministry.org), (843) 864-8521

Moncks Corner: Julie Pasiecznik, [sixinbroadway@msn.com](mailto:sixinbroadway@msn.com), (843) 475-0006

## Support

We also maintain a closed Facebook group where you can reach out for support if you need items that our resource closets do not store, or if you have questions regarding fostering or adoption that our network of support could help you answer. Consider this your way to get in touch with someone quickly. To get connected, just search for the “J1:27 Ministry (Closed Group)” on Facebook and request an invite.

# Contacts

## J1:27 Leaders:

Foster Care Support:

Coordinator: Amanda Brown, [brownam64@yahoo.com](mailto:brownam64@yahoo.com)

Freedom Church: Julie Pasiecznik, [sinxinbroadway@msn.com](mailto:sinxinbroadway@msn.com)

Journey Church: Cindy Baber, [babersark@gmail.com](mailto:babersark@gmail.com)

Adoption Support:

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Freedom Church: Pam Veurink, [pamielynn@outlook.com](mailto:pamielynn@outlook.com)

Journey Church: Adrienne Kleeman, [blessedkleeman@gmail.com](mailto:blessedkleeman@gmail.com)

## Experienced Parent Contacts

The following parents have adopted and have a passion for adoptive families. They would love to walk alongside you during your journey. Please feel free to contact them with ANY questions.

### Foster Care

Amanda Brown, [brownam64@yahoo.com](mailto:brownam64@yahoo.com), (843) 312-9186

Cindy Baber, [babersark@gmail.com](mailto:babersark@gmail.com), (843) 252-7724

### Domestic Adoption through DSS

Cindy Baber, [babersark@gmail.com](mailto:babersark@gmail.com), (843) 252-7724

Ashley Simpson, [Ashleysimpson@outlook.com](mailto:Ashleysimpson@outlook.com), (843) 735-4983

### Domestic Private Adoption

Sydney Brandt, [sswails00@hotmail.com](mailto:sswails00@hotmail.com), (843) 814-6246

Leane Gates, [lee99d7@yahoo.com](mailto:lee99d7@yahoo.com), (843) 469-9447

Adrienne Kleeman, [Blessedkleeman@gmail.com](mailto:Blessedkleeman@gmail.com) (843)-793-8094

### International Adoption

Jenn Brangers (China, special needs): [jennifer.brangers@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.brangers@gmail.com), (843) 864-8521

Katherine Deal (Ukraine, special needs); [katsjourney@gmail.com](mailto:katsjourney@gmail.com), (843) 469-9676

Megan Dungan (India); [megdungan@gmail.com](mailto:megdungan@gmail.com), (843) 819-3283

Erin Jernigan (China); [erinsjernigan@gmail.com](mailto:erinsjernigan@gmail.com), (843) 743-6658

Crystal McCall (South Korea); [saxymccall@hotmail.com](mailto:saxymccall@hotmail.com), (843) 276-5575

Penny Sharp (China, special needs); [spesharp@yahoo.com](mailto:spesharp@yahoo.com), (843) 478-9707