

# **International Family Services**

## **Agency Goals**

### **2015**

#### **Mission Statement**

International Family Services, Inc. (IFS) is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit humanitarian aid organization whose mission is to:

- Place orphaned and abandoned children in permanent and loving families;
- Assist prospective adoptive families navigating the international adoption process;
- Provide financial support and aid to orphanages and child welfare organizations who support and care for those children who may never be placed in permanent homes; and
- Serve with respect and dignity, honoring individual choices and cultural differences.

#### **Recent History**

In July of 2013, IFS officially closed its Serbia program upon receipt of conclusive evidence that it and its families were victims of a fraudulent scheme by a formerly trusted foreign facilitator. We, nonetheless, committed to complete adoptions for those families at a financial loss to IFS. Those cases have successfully completed in all but a couple of cases.

In July of 2014, we successfully complete a 30-day suspension and corrective action plan under the Council on Accreditation (COA) related to the failed Serbia program by strengthening our policies and procedures for new programs.

In total, IFS completed 58 international adoptions (child placements) in 2014.

#### **Hague Convention Accreditation**

On April 1, 2008, the U.S. will enter into force concerning the Hague Convention On Protection Of Children And Co-Operation In Respect Of Intercountry Adoption (more briefly called “the Hague Convention” or simply, “the Hague”). This treaty requires that all U.S. adoption agencies that conduct an adoption between two Convention countries be an accredited agency under the provisions of the U.S. Intercountry Adoption Act (2000).

Additionally, the Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 went into effect in July 2014. The UAA requires that all U.S. international adoptions be conducted according to Hague regulations.

We achieved initial accreditation in June of 2009 and successfully renewed our accreditation in June of 2012. During the second half of 2015, we will pursue renewal of our accreditation due to expire in June 2016.

#### **Operational Goals**

1. Continue to reduce our risk of financial setbacks by monitoring the risk of current programs and exploring new, more reliable programs.

- a. Specifically, continue to monitor Ethiopia for signs of irregularities that threaten the successful completion of adoptions there within our cost structure and obligations to families and children.
  - b. Continue to develop the Domestic Cross Cultural (DCC) program while monitoring outcomes, successful placement and finances.
  - c. Promote China more aggressively, as the Chinese provide the most stable and transparent program we have, in fact, likely the most stable of all international programs apart from Korea.
  - d. Continue to develop our web site and marketing through social media.
2. Improve our data collection and integrity so that we can reliably report to U.S. Department of State (DOS) as required under the Intercountry Adoption Act.
    - a. This will improve customer service and our self-monitoring and strategic planning.
    - b. This will involve funds to complete the development of a central database.
    - c. We will also need to provide an interim solution until such funds are in place.
  3. Improve our training and communication with staff. In addition to the one-on-one efforts to this end that we currently employ, develop more systematic training materials, conference calls, training formats and record keeping that take into account changing trends (e.g. overall decline in international adoption) and regulations (e.g. UAA).
  4. Conduct an audit on 2014 finances. This is due as per DOS regulations.
    - a. A clean up of our accounting records is required to complete this. Successive upgrades of accounting package QuickBooks corrupted the chart of accounts.
    - b. In addition, we need to file for an amendment to our 2013 990 (maybe the 2012 as well) due to the same corruption of chart of accounts. Accounting is already working on this.
  5. Continue board function according to the required member composition as required by Texas (at least 50% of board is non-family, non-staff).
  6. Additionally, we need some sort of financial checks and balances that will keep us from corrective actions COA applies to International Families (Ramon Rao).

### **Home Studies**

IFS offers home studies for prospective adoptive families in states where we are licensed. Most of these families will also conduct the international portion of their adoption via IFS's foreign programs, but a few will use their home study with other international adoption providers. We accepted 39 home study applications in 2014 and project that we will conduct approximately the same number of home studies in 2015 (figures reflect initiation of services, not completed cases).

### **International Adoption Services**

IFS also offers international adoption services in various countries. For most of these families, IFS will not conduct the home study, but will use as part of their international dossier a home study obtained by the family from other agencies.

For 2015, we project the following new contracts for international cases.

<b>Country Cases</b>	2015
Auction House Domestic Services	15
Bulgaria	1
China Budget	10
China Full Service	10
Domestic	20
Ethiopia	10
India	30
Ukraine	4
Total	100