

RESOURCES AND CREATIVE IDEAS FOR AFFORDING ADOPTION

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 9:19-21 (NIV)

- ◆ **DOMESTIC SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTIONS** (i.e. from the U.S. Foster Care System) carry virtually no expense. Many times subsidies are available for foster parents/adoptive parents of waiting children in this category.
- ◆ One of the best resources for affording adoption is the **HOPE FOR CHILDREN ACT**, which in 2006 increased the **FEDERAL ADOPTION TAX CREDIT TO \$10,630** per child for qualifying adoption expenses. The credit is applied for the tax year your adoption is finalized, and can be taken over 5 years until the full amount is realized. Special needs adoptions can qualify for the tax credit even when there are not qualifying expenses. There is a free online course for learning more about this tax credit at www.adoptionlearningpartners.org.
- ◆ The State of Michigan also offers a **\$1200 STATE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT** for eligible expenses. To find out if other states offer an adoption tax credit, contact your state Division of Family Services and State Tax Office.
- ◆ Some adoption agencies charge **ADOPTION FEES ON A SLIDING SCALE**, based on a family's income.
- ◆ **CONSIDER ADOPTING MORE THAN ONE CHILD:** If you are adopting internationally, some agencies charge a small fraction of the original fees to adopt a second child at the same time (related or unrelated). Not every country or agency will allow this, but it is worth checking into. It may mean more money up front, but if you are planning to adopt more than one child eventually, it significantly lowers the adoption fees per child (you also save the travel costs for a separate second adoption process) and can cut the paperwork nearly in half!
- ◆ **SET UP AN ADOPTION FUND** that accepts tax-deductible donations toward your adoption. Christian Advocates for Adoption (CAFA) www.cafadopt.org is one non-profit organization you need to check out if you are a Christian family who needs assistance in affording adoption. We are impressed with their hearts and their willingness to serve in this area, and they will assist you in setting up a fund for your family and sending fundraising letters. Friends and family will be more eager to give when they know that the donation is tax-deductible and can be made anonymously. Contact dterpstra@CAFAdopt.org or (616) 669-0655.
- ◆ **FREQUENT FLYER MILES:** If you are traveling for a domestic or international adoption, you may have frequent flyer miles or know of someone willing to donate frequent flyer miles to help cut your expenses. If you send out fundraising letters, you may want to include that as a request.
- ◆ **EMPLOYERS** are increasingly offering **ADOPTION BENEFITS**. Check with your employer to see if you qualify for an employee adoption benefit. Contact Families of Promise for a sample Adoption Benefit Proposal if your employer does not offer benefits, and you'd like to take that next step toward encouraging them to do so.
- ◆ **MILITARY PERSONEL BENEFITS:** An active duty member of the military services may be reimbursed for qualifying adoption expenses up to \$2000.

- ◆ **SIMPLIFY!!** Have a garage sale and sell items around your house that you don't need, cut back your weekly/monthly spending by canceling things like cable or satellite TV, cell phones and other “luxuries”, eat out less, downsize your house or car, etc.
- ◆ **CONDUCT A FUNDRAISER:** It can be a great and rewarding experience for your whole family/group of friends/church to work together with the goal of bringing your new child/ren home! Spaghetti dinners, silent auctions, bake sales, etc.—the sky’s the limit!
- ◆ If you know of someone with a home-based business, like Tupperware, Premier Jewelry, Pampered Chef, etc., ask her if she would be willing to host a **BENEFIT SHOW** for you. You invite the guests and have the party, and the profits go to your adoption fund (make sure they know that they may get more bookings off your party--it may benefit them as well!). Some will also allow your friends and families to do benefits shows for you as well, inviting different sets of contacts. A FOP friend recently made \$900 in one night from having a benefit jewelry show. If you are really ambitious, consider starting the business yourself and see how much you can make in a year toward your adoption! It is also a great way to inspire others to adopt and care for orphans, as you will have a captive audience at your shows!
- ◆ **DONATE PLASMA:** You and your family/friends can be paid to donate plasma! Some plasma donation centers will set up an adoption account for your family, so that when friends come to donate the money will go right into your fund. Check out www.biolifeplasma.com.
- ◆ Many families take out **SHORT-TERM HOME-EQUITY OR ADOPTION LOANS**, which can be paid back with your refund from the Federal and State tax credits. You may want to check with your local bank to see what they offer.

◆ **ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WEB ADDRESSES FOR ADOPTION :**

ABBA FUND www.abbafund.org: Interest-free loans for adoptive parents

A CHILD WAITS FOUNDATION www.achildwaits.org: Low interest loans for international adoption

ADOPTION NETWORK LAW CENTER www.adoptionfunding.com/creditbasedloans: Credit-based loans

AFFORDING ADOPTION www.affordingadoption.com: Web site with many resources and ideas to help you afford adoption.

APFUSA www.apfusa.com/adoption: Adoption loans

CAFA www.cafadopt.org: A local organization helping families afford adoption through fundraising.

FUNDRAISING FOR ADOPTION YAHHO GROUP groups.yahoo.com/group/fundraisingforadoption: Web group for fundraising ideas

GIFT OF ADOPTION FUND www.giftofadoption.org: Adoption grants

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S ADOPTION RESOURCE EFFORT www.intlcare.org/ICARE: Financial support for adoption

KAREN’S ADOPTION LINKS www.karensadoptionlinks.com/funding: Many great links related to adoption funding

NATIONAL ADOPTION FOUNDATION www.nafadopt.org: Grants and low-interest loans for adoption

TMG FOUNDATION www.tmgfoundation.org: Matching grants (will match the amount you raise among church members and friends)

SHAOHANNAH'S HOPE www.shaohannahshope.org: Helping families reduce the financial barriers to adoption

TWIN FUND www.groups.yahoo.com/group/twinfund: Another Yahoo adoption fundraising web group

EXTENSIVE LISTING OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR ADOPTION
www.angelfire.com/journal/adoptionhelp/adopthelp

Families of Promise

Orphan and Adoption Resource and Support Ministry

A Ministry of Kentwood Community Church

www.familiesofpromise.org