

Do any of the above children have special needs? If so, please explain.

Adoptee Information

How many children are you currently in the process to adopt?

Do you have a referral yet?

Adoptee's Name (oldest child if adopting multiple children)

Adoptee's Age (oldest child if adopting multiple children)

Names and ages of other children being adopted if multiple (e.g. Sam 3 months, Katie 5)

Expected Placement Date

Church Information

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Church Telephone Number

Church Website

Sr. Pastor's Name

Adoption costs:

What is your estimated total adoption expense?

What is the total amount of funds you have raised or have been pledged so far for your adoption? Please provide a detailed list of sources. (This may be provided as an attachment to this application)

What is the total amount of the personal funds you are committing to your adoption?

Agency completing your adoption (Not the home study agency, unless the home study agency is also the placing agency)

Comments/Special financial circumstances to be considered (if you need more room, please attach a note to your supporting documents when you send them in and indicate here that you will do so)

Agency completing your adoption (Not the home study agency, unless the home study agency is also the placing agency)

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Country

Agency Website

Agency Telephone Number

Caseworker Name

Caseworker Business Phone

Caseworker Email

Agency or individual providing your home study				
Name				
Street Address				
City		State		Zip Code
Telephone Number		Website		
Contact Name				
Contact Email				

Forever Families is a ministry of Friedens Evangelical Church in Port Washington, Wisconsin to support adoption, orphan care and foster parenting. "Forever Families" refers to the permanent and lifelong bond between parents, children and siblings in adoptive families. "Forever Families" ministry strives to help local families fund their adoption processes, along with helping support the needs of many children who are currently in orphanages and foster care waiting and hoping for a "forever family."



Our church recognizes that while we can't meet the needs of all 147 million orphans worldwide, we can encourage adoption, orphan care and foster parenting by:

- Sharing information and raising awareness about adoption
- Empowering families to become licensed for foster care
- Encouraging families in the church who are currently providing foster care
- Equipping families who are eager to adopt with finances to aid in the adoption
- Providing ongoing encouragement and resources to adoptive families
- Reaching out to orphans in our community and in countries around the world



Through a wide range of education and equipping, these offerings will seek to address the needs of children and families in our area and around the world. We hope you will be able to partner with us!

Adoption in the Bible

God's heart for the oppressed and downtrodden, including orphans, is a consistent theme throughout Scripture. Consider the following examples:

"[God] defends the cause of the fatherless..." (Deuteronomy 10:18)

"A father to the fatherless...is God in his holy dwelling." (Psalm 68:5)

"Defend the orphan." (Isaiah 1:17)

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans..." (James 1:27)

Adoption is one means of caring for orphans. Forever Families Ministry seeks to help reduce the costs of adoption for Christian couples who wish to care for and raise orphaned children. Our goal is to help bring more children home by assisting those couples who may not otherwise be able to afford adoption. Based on the above, the following guidelines are in place:

Guidelines:

1. Because our desire is for children to be raised in godly, Christ-centered homes, the paramount consideration in our application review is in regards to the parents' Christian faith. It is our intent to uphold Biblically-based Christian values by limiting our assistance to Christian couples (in the traditional sense of husband and wife marriages). Applicants must sign a Statement of Faith (see attached), provide a statement of recommendation from their pastor and a written testimony of their personal faith experience with their grant application.
2. Prospective adoptive couples may apply for a grant after they have an approved home study by a licensed adoption agency. Their adoption agency/attorney must provide a letter of recommendation, ensuring that they are both

committed to the adoption process and have been determined to be good parents to a child. Requiring that prospective adoptive couples are home study-approved before applying for a grant promotes wise stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to Forever Families Ministry.

3. Confidential reference letters must be provided by the adoptive couple's employer(s), pastor, and adoption "placing" agency. Reference letters from these individuals must be sent directly to Forever Families Ministry % Friedens Evangelical Church.
4. This grant program is available only to legal U.S. citizens.
5. Applications are reviewed by our Forever Families Ministry team on a quarterly basis. You may request special consideration in cases where time is an issue by attaching a note to your application. Applicants (approved and denied) will be notified via mail in a timely manner following the determination.
6. The Forever Families Ministry will take all of the prospective adoptive couples' information into consideration. However, the decision to sponsor or not sponsor a particular couple, and the designated amount of the grant shall be determined at the sole discretion of Forever Families Ministry. Need will be assessed based on the total estimated cost of the adoption minus the amount of any applicable federal and state adoption credits for which they qualify.
7. In return for a financial grant, Forever Families Ministry requests a picture of your family and/or child (after the child is home) and a letter or article from you regarding the completion of your adoption journey. These will go on file to document that the adoption was, in fact, completed, and that our funds were used appropriately. We request permission to share information about your adoption journey in our newsletter or other publications when your adoption process is complete to encourage other adoptive families. It is our hope that the families receiving support will actively participate in events or activities of Forever Families Ministry.
8. The application must be completed in full before it can be processed and reviewed. The Forever Families Ministry team cannot be responsible for following up on incomplete applications.

Funding

Monies for this grant program are received from general fundraising events, grants from other charitable organizations/foundations, and from individual and corporate contributions. Donations designated for a specific adoption are not accepted. The Forever Families Ministry always has the final say in how funds are distributed.

Disbursement

- Grant monies will only be distributed for qualified adoption expenses that have been pre-approved by Forever Families Ministry
- Grant monies will not be paid directly to the adoptive couple.
- Grant monies will be paid for approved expenditures to the appropriate agency or service provider (adoption agency, airline agency, hotel, foreign country, etc.).
- Grant recipients must provide sufficient documentation (invoice or receipt) to support this proposed expenditure.
- Forever Families Ministry or Friedens Evangelical Church under no circumstances shall be responsible for any obligation incurred by the prospective adoptive couple for adoption-related obligations.
- No party shall be deemed a third-party beneficiary of any grant awarded.

Prospective Father

Date

Prospective Mother

Date

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

The Person of Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of

believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

Prospective Father

Date

Prospective Mother

Date