

ETHICA'S ETHIOPIA TRANSPARENCY SURVEY

SURVEY FOR U.S. ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS PLACING CHILDREN FROM ETHIOPIA

Response from Children's House International

Agency Name Children's House International

Website <http://childrenshouseinternational.com>

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What efforts does your agency employ to ensure ethical adoptions in Ethiopia?

Review paperwork and match details with information received from the orphanage and/or relative once referral is made officially to CHI.

How long has your agency operated in Ethiopia? In what year is your license up for renewal?

almost 4 years.

Does your agency partner with any US agency that is not currently licensed to process adoptions in Ethiopia?

Yes, but they clearly disclose this fact.

How many Ethiopian adoptions has your agency completed for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009?

151 total for all 4 years

How many waiting families, approximately, are currently in your program?

40

STAFF IN ETHIOPIA

What is the address of your agency's office(s) in Ethiopia?

Addis Ababa

What are the names of your in country representatives?

Abdissa Benti

Would you mind sharing pictures of your in country representatives?

Are your Ethiopian offices managed and run by your US office? If not, who runs them? Please explain.

Our US office keeps contact with our employee, representative in Addis.

What are the names of your agency's care centers/transitional homes? In what areas of the country are they located (zone or region) and what are the addresses (PO Box)?

Thomas Center (fostercare) Addis Ababa

Please give the number of people on staff at each center and whether they are full- or part-time, along with the average number of children cared for at any one time within the centers.

Staff: 25.... average number of children 20

From what areas (zone or district) of the country do you receive children available for adoption? Do you have satellite offices there? If so, what are the addresses (PO Box)? Please give the name(s) of the person in charge of each satellite office and list the number of people on staff at each.

families can speak with agency for that as they change.

Do you use freelance social workers or recruiters in Ethiopia?

No

Please list agency programs in any other African countries and briefly describe.

Ghana/we are a licensed NGO there.

ORPHANAGES/FOSTER HOMES/NGOS

With which orphanages/foster homes/NGOs do you work? Does your agency have an exclusive contract with these orphanages/foster homes/NGOs? Does your agency donate money to assist these orphanages/foster homes/NGOs? Please note whether the orphanages/foster homes/NGOs are state run or private and in which city they are located, along with the director's name.

Those change; any information given could change. We do not have exclusive contract with anyone.

Please list any other facilities/organizations from which you are referred children available for adoption and include the name of the facility's director.

All orphanages that are licensed in Ethiopia. A few orphanages are ministry orphanages with state-side funding and oversight. YWAM is the one we work with.

What kind of oversight does your agency provide in orphanages/foster homes/NGOs to ensure that they are acting ethically and children are being kept safe and healthy?

Visits to orphanages; we have direct contact with our own fostercare doc and nurse on staff apart from our director. We (US staff) visit our facilities often and our families fill out surveys about the process; we interview them when they return.

At what point in the adoption process are children moved from orphanages/foster homes/NGOs to your agency's care center?

after courtdate

BACKGROUND OF CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION

How does your agency assess the adoptability of each child? Please describe what sort of investigation is done. Are adoptive families permitted to pursue their own investigation of their referred child's background if they so choose?

see first question/answer.

In what way, if any, does your agency assist prospective birth mothers with the relinquishment process? Are prospective birth mothers counseled as to options other than adoption? Do you accept children directly into your care from relinquishing mothers?

None prior to referral. However, once the referral is official, our new process is to include an interview with the bmom or relative regarding their reasons for relinquishment and their understanding of the finality of adoption. We have this in writing in the local language for them to sign.

What percentage of children is available for adoption as a result of relinquishment vs. abandonment?

relinquishment 60-70% ; 40% abandonment

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Do you provide medical information, social report, photos and video upon referral? What specific medical tests are run on children being referred (please specify type of test run)?

We provide photos, social, med. We have Hep B,C, HIV, RPR, TB after court (unless history prior), CBC panel if indications show it is needed.

Do you provide copies of your contract to prospective clients upon request and without charge?

Yes

Does your contract contain any gag clause? If so, why?

We request families not to discuss all of their adoption details on the internet for their protection.

Do you provide clients with a copy of Ethiopia law pertaining to adoption and adoption agencies?

no; yes for general points

CONTACT WITH BIRTH FAMILY

Does your agency have any policy regarding contact between adoptive families and birth families either pre- or post-adoption?

No contact pre; after Visa is obtained and both sides agree, a supervised meeting may be arranged. Not all the time.

When adoptive families travel to Ethiopia to complete the adoption process, are adoptive families and children able to meet birth family?

see above.

Is birth family contact information shared with adoptive parents?

no, not from the agency staff

Are adoptive families permitted to independently tape birth family meetings or have an independent translator available?

Yes if the birth family agrees.

FEES AND DONATIONS FOR ADOPTION

Does your agency directly accept tax deductible donations on behalf of a specific adoptive family? Does your agency partner with or is it affiliated with any organization that accepts tax deductible donations on behalf of a specific adoptive family?

Yes, from outside sources.

What fees charged to clients go directly to Ethiopia? How are these fees used in Ethiopia (care centers, orphanage support, etc)?

45%

Are adoptive families charged periodic fees for maintenance for the child?

No

Do you advise prospective adoptive families about tipping individuals in Ethiopia such as nannies and lawyers? If so, what do you advise?

We advise that they have been paid for their services; tipping is at their discretion, but not required.

HUMANITARIAN AID

What humanitarian projects does your agency participate in? Are these programs run through a separate organization or managed directly by your agency?

We support agriculture for a small village in the Northern part of Ethiopia (project assigned by Gov); it also includes building a school and teaching the children of the area, providing clean water resources for the village, supporting a small church run orphanage (no referral to our agency).

How much money does your agency dedicate to humanitarian aid in Ethiopia per year?

\$130,000

How are your adoption and child service projects publicized in rural areas?

through the project manager in the area

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Is there any other information your agency wishes to share about its programs in Ethiopia?