



Madison Adoption Associates

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China Special Needs Program

Madison Adoption Associates was accredited by the China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) in 2005 to help find homes for children who are considered harder to place due to medical conditions. The needs of these children vary; some of the more frequent conditions include cleft lip and/or cleft palate, heart defects, limb difference, skin conditions, or older healthy children.

Families considering children with a medical need must first research those particular conditions, including appropriate support groups; obtain detailed information from doctors, specialists, friends or families who have children with those conditions; research specialists who offer services in their area; and show proof of parental training, experience, education and/or understanding regarding the specific medical condition. All MAA client families must complete a "Special Needs Questionnaire" that outlines their preferences and the medical needs they are prepared to handle in a child.

Families may be matched with waiting children in three ways – via our One to One program, the Shared List or the Special Focus program.

One to One Program – Madison Adoption Associates is proud to announce that we have been entrusted by CCCWA to establish a One to One Program with three orphanages - Luizhou SWI and Wuzhou SWI (SWI = Social Welfare Institute) in the Guangxi province and Bao'an SWI in the Guangdong province. The One to One Program has been established as a way to for MAA, the SWIs and CCCWA to provide direct support and advocacy for more children. MAA is able to visit, interact with, and get to know the children in these orphanages. In doing so, we collect photos, videos, and get detailed information about each child. We are also able to gain our own observations about each child. MAA is responsible for paying the costs of medical examinations and translations for the SWIs to prepare the children's files, and well as providing humanitarian support to those orphanages. When the children's files are ready, the referrals go directly from CCCWA to MAA via our individual list so we may advocate and find appropriate families. This program has been incredibly success for all parties. It allows families to have as much information as possible about their child as well as a very personal connection to where the child has been raised. Also, the institutions who work so hard to care for each child are able to receive MAA's direct financial support and aid to help these children thrive. Last year, MAA worked with three orphanages in the Heilongjiang province. As a result of these One to One Programs, MAA was able to provide almost \$80,000 in support to set up a therapy center for children with cerebral palsy, as well as providing financial aid, and purchasing cameras and video equipment so that they could send updated information about the children.

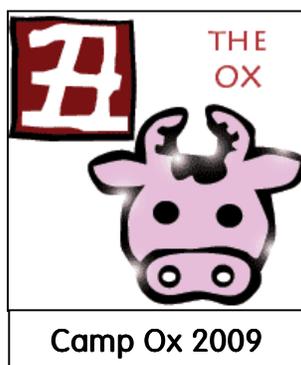
MAA feels incredibly fortunate and proud to work with CCCWA, and to have Luizhou SWI, Wuzhou SWI and Bao'an SWI as our partner agencies. Together we can work to help more children.

Shared List - Most of the waiting children in China are placed on CCCWA's Shared List. This is a particularly good fit for families wishing to adopt younger children or those with very minor needs. In this process, families must complete their home study, USCIS and dossier paperwork and submit it to China. Once the dossier has been accepted or "logged in" at CCCWA, our agency can then search for a child that fits your family's criteria. When our staff finds an appropriate match for a family, we must

“lock in” the child’s file for that specific family. CCCWA regulations allow the adoptive family **only 72 hours** to get a doctor’s opinion regarding the child’s medical information. Within that time, MAA must submit the family’s *Letter of Intent* and *Matching Form* to CCCWA through the on-line system. This process does not allow Madison to hold a child for longer than 72 hours. If the interested family has not taken action within the 72-hour holding period, the child will be automatically released back onto the Shared List for matching by other agencies/families. MAA cannot match that particular child to any of our other families.

Special Focus Program – In 2010, CCCWA announced a new “Special Focus” program. The Special Focus program centers around children who are older, have more moderate special needs, or children who have been waiting a longer period of time to get matched. Children designated as “Special Focus” do not require a family to have a logged in dossier in order to be matched and allows agencies to advocate specifically for these children who may be harder to place. This program was originally established to encourage more people to adopt children with special needs by reducing the amount of paperwork for adoptive families. Families who have completed an adoption within one (1) year through MAA, are able to reuse a previously logged-in dossier for the adoption of a “Special Focus” child. The family must provide an updated home study report and USCIS approval for the new adoption process. CCCWA will allow families to reuse dossiers through a previous agency on a case by case basis. The Special Focus program also allows capable families to simultaneously adopt two children with one dossier, provided one of the children is classified as a Special Focus child. Please note that MAA only allows concurrent adoptions on a case-by-case basis, for families that meet certain eligibility criteria, have significant training and/or experience, and have substantial resources and supports in place. If interested, please contact MAA to discuss your specific scenario. Policy and procedures for adopting two children are available from MAA.

MAA offers an additional grant amount of \$1000 for the adoption of a Special Focus child (total agency fees = \$4500). *Please note that this is not in addition to our Camp children who already have significant grants. If a family is reusing a previous dossier submitted through our agency, MAA will credit an additional \$500 (total agency fee = \$4000).*



As part of MAA’s Special Focus program, Madison Adoption Associates has been given the unique and incredible privilege from CCCWA to travel to China to meet available children and provide 2-3 day camps to get to know them. These trips allow us the opportunity to get to know each child, observe their personalities and how any needs affect them. We collect photos and videos that we bring back to use in advocating for families for them. Our interviews, as well as many videos and photos, have been monumental in assisting us to match each child with an appropriate adoptive family. Families may

select these children, who CCCWA has moved to our individual agency list, or MAA can also search the shared list for other waiting “Special Focus” children.

Families must submit a Family Information Sheet to receive information about a waiting child. Interested families must apply to Madison’s China Special Needs Program in order to be eligible as an adoptive family for these children. The Family Information Sheet may be completed on-line through the MAA website.

To be matched with a child from this Program, it is *not* mandatory for a family to have a logged-in dossier; however, Madison must give preference to Home Study/USCIS approved families to place these children as quickly as possible.

To view a list of our current waiting children, you may view a short description on our website, or you are encouraged to join our on-line community, Madison Adoption Associates Waiting Children (MAAWC) Yahoo Group (www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MAAWC). The names and locations of the children are confidential and access to these files is only given to families who are seriously considering the adoption of a waiting child.

HOME STUDY / USCIS

All new China adoption cases must follow Hague requirements, including additional background checks for some people, and a very specific format for home study reports. If Madison is not performing your home study, please ask us for a list of our preferred providers in your state. All home study agencies *must be approved* by Madison, and will operate as either exempt or supervised providers for our agency. It is important that Madison and your home study agency communicate early in the process in order to have the proper agreements in place. Families applying as a Hague case will file the USCIS Form I-800A, rather than the former Form I-600A, in order to obtain immigration approval from the US government. This form, along with detailed instructions, will be provided to families after they apply to work with Madison for their adoption.