



Inter-country adoption can be a rewarding experience for any parent. At LSS, we work with you to determine the best adoption program for your family. We want you to be comfortable with the many intricate details and process of adoption.

For more information about Lutheran Social Services inter-country and other adoption programs, please contact the office nearest you. Or visit us online at www.lssadopt.org.

Wisconsin

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| <u>Appleton</u> 800-577-4100 | <u>Milwaukee</u> 414-671-5950 |
| <u>Eau Claire</u> 888-746-2850 | <u>Superior</u> 715-394-4173, ext. 106 |
| <u>La Crosse</u> 608-788-5090 | <u>Waukesha</u> 800-216-3437 |
| <u>Madison</u> 608-277-2966 | <u>Wausau</u> 888-522-3678 |

Upper Michigan 877-994-9344

LSS serves all of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, and our staff is willing to travel to best meet your needs.

Motivated by the compassion of Christ, we promote security for children.



www.lssadopt.org



As the largest not-for-profit licensed child-placing agency in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, LSS has been finding forever families for children of all ages, faiths and backgrounds for over 60 years. Our Adoption & Foster Care services include:

- * Services to birthparents regarding accessing resources and parenting options
- * Temporary foster care in conjunction with counties or the state of WI
- * Adoption services for infants, children and children with special needs
- * Step-parent and relative adoptions
- * International adoption programs
- * Treatment Foster Care for children needing specialized out of home care
- * And more!

 **Lutheran Social Services**
of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.



Inter-country Adoption



LSS Services

An inter-country adoption is an involved process. Interested adoptive parent must meet established qualifications including age, marital status and travel requirements. The process can seem daunting, especially with changing inter-country adoption requirements. But don't be discouraged by rules and red tape. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has an expert staff to assist you throughout the adoption process and after your new son or daughter comes home.

LSS understands that the people you work with during the adoption process are a direct reflection of your overall experience. Our caring and knowledgeable staff is what sets us apart, and we will do everything possible to make your adoption experience a success.

Our Services Include:

- * Adoption information and education.
- * Several inter-country adoption programs and partnership with other inter-country agencies. *(LSS can assist in most countries including many in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central or South America.)*
- * Counseling, support and referrals for adoptive families.
- * Staff working on both sides of the ocean to personally guide you through your journey in the foreign country.
- * Home studies, post-placement and post-adoption services.
- * Financial assistance opportunities for families.

The Journey Begins

Typically, most adoptions are completed within 12 to 24 months. Whenever you are ready, LSS can begin the process, with no waiting lists. The steps include:

1. Meet with an LSS inter-country adoption expert to discuss options and select a program.
2. Submit your application.
3. Conduct a home study.
4. Complete paperwork and submit a dossier.
5. Work with LSS inter-country staff to receive and evaluate a child referral.
6. Travel to meet the child to demonstrate your commitment to the country, culture and child. Return home with your new family member.
7. Access expertise of LSS to help transition the child to his or her new home and surroundings.



Just what is a typical childhood to an adopted child? Laughing, playing, learning, making friends and huge smiles beamed from mom and dad!

Children

Children of inter-country adoption are looking for a safe and permanent home where they will be loved unconditionally. In many parts of the world, there is a great need to find homes for children who have been separated from their parents due to personal crisis, economic necessity or political turmoil. These children long to experience a typical childhood and leave their past experiences behind them.