

Welcome to



With Hope and Love Adoption Agency, Inc.

Thank you for contacting us!

We are pleased to share our program information for adoption in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In this booklet you will find program information, a fee schedule, a list of services and references for our international adoption facilitation team.

With Hope and Love Adoption Agency, Inc. is a licensed, non-profit 501(c)3 and non-denominational organization. Licensed in the state of New Jersey.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Welcome from the Kazakhstan Team..... | 1 |
| Kazakhstan Adoption at a Glance..... | 2 |
| Adopting in the Republic of Kazakhstan..... | 2 |
| Program Requirements..... | 6 |
| Financial Assistance..... | 7 |
| What do I need to do to get started?..... | 7 |
| Fees/Costs Associated with International Adoption..... | 8 |
| References..... | 11 |
| Notes..... | 14 |

With Hope and Love Adoption Agency, Inc.

phone 732-568-1875

fax 212-918-1596

email askus@whaladoption.org

web www.whaladoption.org

53 Margaret Drive Somerset, NJ 08873



Dear Parents:

We are excited to learn of your interest in international adoption and our agency. Thank you for providing us this opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you about our program.

With Hope and Love Adoption Agency, Inc. (WHAL) is a non-profit 501(c)3 Adoption Agency. We are licensed in the state of New Jersey. We help families across America with their dream to add to their family through international adoption. Thousands of children around the world anxiously await the opportunity to have a family full of love and laughter. We hope that you will open your heart and home to experience the blessings of adoption.

Our Adoption Care Team, comprised of adoptive parents and advocates, who pride our self on attention to detail and exemplary family support. We offer a customized training program to help prepare you for the adoption process, the international adoption experience, and assistance to help you adjust once home. We are responsive, honest and make your adoption our priority.

Choosing to adopt is a life-changing decision. Choosing the right country and agency to meet your needs is an integral part of this decision as well. Thank you again for allowing us an opportunity to share the finer details of our program. If we may be of further assistance to you in making your decision, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be honored to be chosen to help you bring your child home.

The Adoption Care Team at WHAL

Kazakhstan Adoption at a Glance

- The Kazakhstan program allows both couples and single females adopt.
- Parents should be under the age of 48 when beginning the process.
- Couples should be married a minimum of two years.
- The program restricts families having more than three divorces per person.
- Both boys and girls are available for adoption in Kazakhstan. Ages range from infants through 16 years of age, healthy and special needs children.
- After WHAL receives your dossier, you should be able to travel to Kazakhstan for your adoption within 4-7 months when adopting a boy, and 6-14 months when adopting a girl.
- We will arrange all travel and you will be met and assisted the entire time in Kazakhstan by one of our bi-lingual WHAL Representatives.

Adopting in the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Children

Infants 6-9 months of age and up are available for adoption. The ethnic background of most of the children available is Asian-Kazakh, however, occasionally Russian, Caucasian, German, Korean, Tartar and mixed ethnicity children are available. Currently the estimates of available children are 50% Kazakh (Asian), 25% Caucasian, and 25% "mixed". Children of Asian or Kazakh descent have light to medium brown skin, Asian eyes and dark hair. Caucasian children may range from blonde haired, blue eyed to having a more "Mediterranean" appearance.

Children Available for Adoption

There is a mandatory clearance period of six months for all children prior to them being available for international adoption. A national registry is maintained and the children are required to complete a three-month stay in the baby house to ensure that parental rights are terminated.

After three months they become available for domestic adoption. If a child has not been selected for adoption by a Kazakh family, they officially become available for international adoption.

Care

Kazakhstan has a reputation for providing excellent care for the children in orphanages. Children typically are in “baby houses” until they are four years of age at which time they move to an older children’s orphanage. Baby houses are staffed by trained doctors to ensure the children’s needs are attended to on the highest level possible. The standard ratios for staff to children are usually 1:6 or better.

Living Arrangements

WHAL and our in-country team work in several regions in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Each of these regions have received humanitarian aid and the baby houses usually have music and play rooms which are bright and beautifully decorated with hand-painted murals on the walls and oriental rugs on the spotlessly clean hardwood floors. We are pleased to share with you that these surroundings, coupled with the care provided to the children, create an atmosphere where many of the children thrive beyond what is generally expected from orphans.

Although impacts of institutionalization are found, many of the children adopted from Kazakhstan flourish and catch up quickly with a stable and loving family. Enhanced services are frequently found in many of the baby houses which include Massage Therapy, lessons that resemble Occupational and Physical Therapy as conducted in the United States, as well as music, art and outdoor play. Such lessons and stimulation have a positive impact on the children’s ability to adapt and rebound with the love and care of a family. Many of the children home from Kazakhstan perform age-appropriate actions and tasks sooner than from some other countries.

Our Kazakhstan Team

The WHAL Facilitation Team in Kazakhstan has taken part in the successful completion of over 400 adoptions in the past fifteen years. This team provides for your every need while in Kazakhstan: you will be assigned a personal driver, interpreter as needed, housing arrangements may be provided, appointments at necessary government and medical facilities arranged, and the team will assist with court preparation and will escort you to all required meetings. Your only concern while in Kazakhstan is bonding with your child. The rest is handled for you.

We handle each adoption one at a time, and our in country team works hand in hand to translate and review your dossier as it is completed, not once it is completed. This important factor helps save time preparing your dossier quickly and efficiently. The regional facilitators are actively involved in the adoption process and have met the children, interacted with many of them and seek advice and information from their caregivers. We strive to provide as much detail as possible to assist families in their decision to adopt.

Humanitarian Aid

WHAL is an affiliate to a humanitarian aid group working in many regions of Kazakhstan. This group is dedicated to assisting with baby houses and orphanage aid, participating in government adoption policy making, and working with local officials to ensure that the process runs smoothly.

Humanitarian Aid and Expense Support for WHAL Families

With Hope and Love Adoption Agency, Inc. is pleased to provide support for all families completing adoptions and traveling overseas by providing humanitarian aid packets for delivery to their child's orphanage. This mandatory donation is considered an adoption related expense and is off-set in the value of \$1,000 per family. Monetary donations, new clothing, medical or hygiene supplies or dietary supplements are accepted as contributions for this program.

Family Adoption Assistance Program

The With Hope and Love Family Assistance Program was developed to offset adoption expenses for all families adopting through With Hope and Love Adoption Agency, Inc. The fund is comprised of a collection of donations, fund raising proceeds and grants for the purpose of international adoption. Funds are collected on an annual basis with a one time family adoption credit disbursement each June. Families are entitled to one disbursement per adoption and will receive their portion of the funds based on the first anniversary of disbursement payout after they have signed their contract. Funds will be used as adoption credit payments for referral acceptance fees or other adoption related expenses. This credit is not transferable and may not be redeemed as cash.

Family Fee Reduction Program

This program offers an agency fee reduction for those meeting specific income requirements. This program offers a maximum discount of 10% per adoption application and contract. Specific family income levels and number of members in the family must be met. To discuss this further, kindly contact a member of the adoption care team. This fee reduction is not transferable and may not be redeemed as cash.

Program Requirements

Adoption Documentation

As a part of your adoption care support, you will be assigned an Adoption Care Coordinator who will guide you through every step of the adoption process. This dedicated professional will help you gather and assemble the required documentation needed to gain clearance from the US Government to adopt a child, gather all the necessary documentation required by the Kazakhstan government, and help you navigate the adoption process with ease. If you have become acquainted with a certain member of our team, you may request the support from a particular individual and we will do our very best to accommodate your wishes.

Travel

WHAL will provide all the necessary details to help you book travel specifically for adoption.

Depending on the region to which you will be traveling, additional transportation may be required. Our in-country team will assist with these reservations.

Regions vary for length and number of trips, accommodations available and court proceedings. To complete a typical adoption in Kazakhstan, families should anticipate a 4-6 week stay in country. In some regions, two trips are acceptable with one family member returning to complete the necessary out-process steps and escort your child home.

Family Resources and Education

We provide you with a comprehensive packet of information that focuses on preparation for receiving a referral, adoption, and travel. In addition, we offer on line training and an extensive resource guide on our web page with pertinent information and links to help make your adoption as smooth as possible.

Additional Financial Assistance

Family Trust Foundation

<http://www.familytrustfoundation.net/>

Employers Providing Adoption Subsidies

<http://www.adoptionbenefits.com/>

Federal Tax Credit Information

<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html>

Military Subsidies

http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/f_milita.cfm

Dependency Exemptions, Tax Savings Information

http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/family/adoption/helpc.html

What do I need to do to get started?

Request an application!

Upon receiving and approving your application, we will send an acceptance letter along with an introductory packet and an adoption agreement. You will be assigned a primary point of contact to begin the dossier preparation stage of your journey and will jointly develop an adoption plan to meet your needs.

You will begin by scheduling a Home Study. Your Adoption Care Team member will review the suggested guidelines with you and provide details on what you might expect when completing this step in the process.

Next, you will fill in your I-600A application and gather required documents to be attached to this form. This form will be submitted once your Home Study has been completed.

In the meantime, you may begin gathering documents for your complete dossier, or Adoption Documentation. The WHAL team will provide you with a customized dossier assembly packet with comprehensive instructions and will guide you step by step through this very busy part of the process.

Fees/Costs Associated with International Adoption

Dossier Preparation and Submission

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|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| USCIS Filing Fee | \$830 | Paid to USCIS Upon Submission of I-600A |
| Home Study Range | \$1,100-\$2,500 | Home Study Agency |
| Dossier Submission Fee | \$2,500 | Dossier Registration Translation, Attorney Review |
| Federal Express, postage | \$400 - \$700 | Fees paid to transport your documents |
| Document update fees | \$100-\$300 | Fees incurred to update documents prior to travel as needed |
| Kazakhstan Consulate fees | \$180 | Fees paid with Dossier Submission |

Adoption Related Expenses

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|
| WHAL Application Fee | \$350 | Due with application (personal check) |
| Contract Fee | \$4,150 | Due with signed contract (personal check) |
| Post Adoption Reporting | \$700 | Due with signed contract (personal check) |
| Kazakhstan Registration Process Fee | \$3,000 | Check deposit prior the trip to Kazakhstan (non-refundable) payable to Kazakhstan team |
| Adoption Procedure Fee | \$17,500 | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan team upon arrival |
| In-Country Travel | \$400 | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan coordinator |
| Gifts and Donations | \$1,000 | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan coordinator |
| Passport preparation | \$300 | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan coordinator |
| Childs Exit Medical | \$100 | Medical Clinic in Kazakhstan (credit card) |
| Consular Registration Fee | \$400 | US Embassy (credit card) |

Travel/Accommodation Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Kazakh Visa Fee | \$60 | Consulate of Kazakhstan in US (money order) |
| Airfare to Kazakhstan | \$1,300-2,500 | Airline (varies by season) |
| Airfare for Child | \$700-1,000 | Airline (varies by season) |
| Airport pick up | \$50 | Payable in cash to driver in Kazakhstan |
| Cell phone rent. Pre-paid | \$100 | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan coordinator |
| Private Local Transportation | \$50 per day | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan coordinator |
| Interpreter | \$50 per day | Payable in cash to Kazakhstan coordinator |
| Apartment/Hotel | \$75-200 p/day | Payable to Kazakhstan coordinator / Hotel |
| Meals | \$30 per day | Payable in cash in Kazakhstan |

Description of Fees Associated with International Adoption

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Application Fee | The application fee is an administrative fee charged by WHAL |
| Agency Fee | The agency fee is an administrative fee charged by WHAL for work performed on your behalf pre-placement, during the adoption trip, and post-placement |
| USCIS Filing Fee I-600 & I-600A | The USCIS (US Citizens Immigration Services) Fee is charged by the Federal Government to process your request to be allowed to adopt internationally. |
| Home Study | The Home Study Fee is collected by a Licensed Home Study Agency or Social Worker in your state. This Study is required for your Federal Government Application (above) and as part of the supporting documents required by the International Government. |
| Dossier Submission Fee | The agency Dossier Submission fee covers processing, fees for Dossier translation from English to Russian, and review by our Attorney in Kazakhstan for complete and accurate information. |
| Kazakhstan Consulate Fee | The application fee for processing the Dossier at the Consulate of Kazakhstan. |
| Kazakhstan Registration Process Fee | The Process Fee covers fees for the work that is done prior to your adoption, by the in county facilitator, such as making sure the children are legally adoptable and providing your region assignment. It is also a requirement to Register your child with the Kazakhstan Government. |
| Childs Medical Evaluation | The Childs Medical Evaluation is an optional, but highly suggested fee. This fee will cover the medical evaluation, photo review and if applicable video analysis by an International Adoption Specialist. |
| Kazakh Visa Fee | The Kazakh Visa fee is required for each person traveling to Kazakhstan. |
| Airfare to Kazakhstan | Airfare to Kazakhstan fees vary by season and departure date. The amounts provided are estimates. |

Description of Fees Associated with International Adoption (continue)

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|--|---|
| Adoption Procedure Fee | The Adoption Procedure Fee is payable in Kazakhstan to our international Partners, this fee will be used to cover the legal, court, registration, and services fees related to completing your adoption. |
| In Country Travel (if applicable) | In Country Travel may be necessary for some families. This cost has been provided to give you an estimate of the charges. |
| Consular Registration Fee | The Consular Registration Fee is payable at the US Embassy in Almaty, this fee covers all costs associated with citizenship for your child in the US. (minus re-adoption, which is optional) |
| Gifts and Donations | Gifts and Donations are customary in Kazakhstan. We have provided this estimate for you based on our personal experience and desire to thank those who helped facilitate our own adoptions. This expense is not mandatory, however it is strongly encouraged. |
| Airfare for Child – Kazakhstan to Home | Airfare for your child(ren) will be booked in Kazakhstan, and is much less expensive than pre-booking from the US. This fee is estimated. |
| Childs Exit Medical | Your Childs Exit Medical is requirement of the US Embassy. |
| Driver/Translator | Driver and Translator fees are estimates, in some regions Drivers and Translators are only required during your visitation period and alternative arrangements and pricing may be available for your additional time in country. |
| Accommodations | Accommodation pricing may vary widely; our estimates are based on housing arranged for you by our team. Furnished apartments are available in many of the cities. Options for moderate and high end hotels may also be available. Costs for alternative accommodations may reach upward of \$300 per day. |
| Meals | Meal pricing may vary widely; our estimates are based on low cost meals eating out or cooked at the apartment. The average meal with a soft drink will cost between \$3-\$8 dollars, with options for high end dining ranging upward of \$10-\$30 per meal. |

Reference #1

I used JHAS/WHAL to adopt my two little girls last October, and they were wonderful!! Everything was so personal and warm. They were so supportive and excited for me and my girls every step of the way. You'd almost think they were adopting themselves again (all Kazakh adoptive Moms there.) I've never really thought of myself as needing a lot of hand-holding, but it was wonderful to not have to worry about anything. There are a lot of different phases of the adoption process -- or at least there are in my mind. I consider the "paper pregnancy" the first phase.

Putting together a dossier and getting every kind of official "check" you can imagine can be a little intimidating, but I don't think I've ever met anyone more meticulous than Cathryn Anderson! She made sure every T was crossed, every I was dotted, and every O was closed -- to make sure nothing was left open for interpretation. By the time I got to court my coordinator told me they'd never had such easy paperwork, so I was incredibly grateful! You hear so many nightmare stories about missing a piece here or there or having everything grind to a halt because something or another got changed at the very last minute and what now?? But nothing like that for me! She was on top of every little nuance, and I didn't have any problems. She's amazing. I can't imagine trusting anyone more. But I have to tell you Colene Belli became one of my very dearest and best friends through that wait. She was constantly sending me information on how to prepare -- how to prepare to be a new parent, how to prepare to travel, how to prepare to be in Kazakhstan, what to expect at any phase. She has the most wonderful appreciation and love for Kazakh culture, and we had long talks about some of the things to expect in the baby house, some of the culture differences and family dynamics that are different than we experience here, and a lot about what makes adoption from Kazakhstan such a distinctly wonderful thing. Emotionally she helped me get ready to go. I can't tell you how much that meant to me. When we got to Kazakhstan there was another family there who was traveling with another agency (perfectly good agency -- no slams intended), but they weren't anywhere near as prepared as I was. Every time something would happen they'd get seriously bent out of frame. I could just nod and say "oh yeah... that's the Viola market. You do need to stand in different lines to get different items..." Bad example, but I hope you get the idea. I felt like I understood stuff well enough to be comfortable with all the huge things going on around me. I can't think of anything that I appreciated more!

As for the in-country staff, they're wonderful too. They use the same group as another large agency. The three sisters are regarded as the very best in the country (usually even by their competitors). If you trust them completely, your adoption should go as smoothly as possible. Being a control freak myself I was a little surprised that I was able to do this, but it worked! I know no adoption is perfect, but I'd be tempted to believe mine was very, very close. There may have been glitches and questions along the way, but if there were I never knew about them. They did an amazing job all around. I know that this was a LONG way of saying the folks at Journey Home are incredible, but I'm their biggest fan and sometimes I get a little carried away. :-) Whatever you decide to do, I wish you the very best of luck in your journey. If you have any questions about the adoption team, please feel free to ask. Happy to help any way I can!

Cyndi Hunter

Reference #2

How we came to be a part of the JHAS/WHAL family:

I was buying a cookbook on EBay with Kazakhstan recipes to get ready for an adoption. I found Colene on EBay selling a Kazakh cookbook to help orphans and I emailed her that I too was going to adopt from Kaz, but the agency had me in a panic.

We became email buddies, and before long, I realized that JHAS/WHAL was the agency that I wanted to help me find my daughter. Her associate and friend Julie did my dossier and helped me through mounds of tears of paperwork.

This adoption took 7 years because all of our paperwork was lost through the other agencies and some things were lost and reissued. But she took her time and helped me every step of the way... I had angels on my side. Not a day has gone by that I don't thank God for meeting this incredible team!

To Colene and Julie, you have given me hope where there was so much sadness and times that I wanted to give up you led the way.

Ben and Ziara Bierig
Journeytokaz.com/bierig

Thank You!
We look forward to learning more
about your plans to adopt!

Please use this space for any specific questions
you may have.
We are happy to help!



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