

# The Waiting Child Program



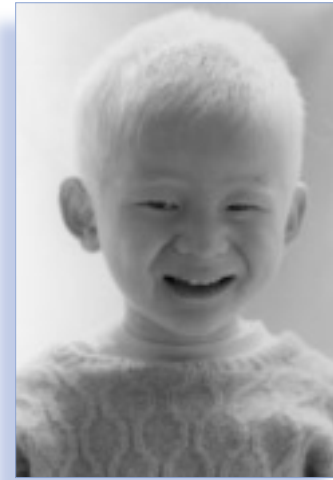
Lily Nie, CCAI  
Founder/CEO,  
with Quinn YiRu Hess.

To help special needs children in Chinese orphanages find permanent homes, the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) created the Waiting Child Program. Because of CCAI's proven success with child placement, the CCAA has granted us the opportunity to extend our love to even more children. Through the Waiting Child Program, CCAI seeks families who wish to adopt children with special needs or who wish to adopt older children who are either healthy or have special needs.

The Waiting Child Program differs from the regular China adoption process. In the regular adoption process, families send their dossier to China and wait for China to match them with a child. However, with the Waiting Child Program, CCAI receives a list of children with special needs from the CCAA. Interested families examine these children's profiles and consider whether one of these children would be a good match for their family. A family can identify a child at any time during the adoption process from application through dossier completion and beyond.

## The Children

CCAI has the profiles of many children, both boys and girls, with minor to moderate special needs who are waiting to be adopted. The age for children in the Waiting Child Program ranges from six months to 10 years old. Children older than six years old with no known medical conditions are also available through the program. The most common special needs include cleft lip and/or palate, congenital heart disease, and missing fingers or toes.



## The Process

- **Qualifications:** Any family approved by CCAI and recommended by their home study agency to adopt an older child or a child with special needs.
- **Cost & Fees:** Regular CCAA & INS fees, regular home study fee and possible fee for home study addendum (if needed). Travel costs may increase if group travel can not be arranged. CCAI offers a 10% discount on agency fees after child acceptance.
- **Paperwork:** In addition to the state, the INS, and the CCAA (dossier) paperwork, a family must submit a one-page acceptance form for their Waiting Child. An adopting family must meet the minimum requirements for China adoption and the CCAA has the ultimate authority to approve each family's petition.
- **Timeframe:** Once a family sends their dossier to China, selects a Waiting Child and sends their acceptance to the CCAA, the CCAA evaluates the family's qualifications, approves the match, and issues a Travel Notice, inviting the family to travel to China. Families can expect to travel in 3-4 months from the time their dossier and acceptance arrives at the CCAA.
- **Travel:** In most cases, CCAI attempts to arrange group travel for Waiting Child Program families. Families may spend some time on their own at the local level of the trip and meet back up with the group for the U.S. Consulate appointment.
- **Time in China:** 12-14 days

# One family's journey...



The Bryan Family:  
Susanne, Lily,  
Christopher, Lucy  
and Ben Bryan

**Ji Yun** had been waiting years for a family. We had been waiting for what seemed like years for her. None of us knew we were waiting for each other.

Now, four weeks after returning home from China, it's difficult to imagine life without Lily Ji Yun. Each day she brings blessings of great joy, much laughter, and a continued sense of amazement as we watch her devour her new world. I never imagined a four-year-old could capture so completely the hearts of a sixteen-year-old boy, a thirteen-year-old girl and two parents well over forty! We **ADORE** her. It's difficult to quantify how much she has taught all of us about taking risks, delighting in every waking hour, and embracing changes and challenges with incredible determination and courage.

Being born with a cleft lip and palate, abandoned at four months old, and living in an orphanage for four years had placed her in the category of a special needs child. All these special needs haven't impacted her radiant spirit. She has a quick and absorbing mind, a singing heart, and a bigger than life personality. Everyone who has met her has been touched by her smile.

In my heart, I know we were waiting for her as much, if not more than she was waiting for us. We have all been given the greatest gift in life - each other. With each challenge, all of us will grow stronger individually and as a family.



For every  
waiting  
child  
there is  
a waiting  
family.



**Contact us:**

*Waiting Child Program*

Chinese Children Adoption International

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