



## ADOPTIONS FROM HAITI

WACAP is excited to be working in Haiti. Since 2012, we've helped to support children living in Haiti and in December of 2014, we received accreditation from the Haitian government to assist in facilitating adoptions. Because this adoption program is one of our newest and because Haiti is currently revising their adoption process, families adopting from Haiti should anticipate unforeseen changes to this process and possible delays. However, our staff is committed to making sure you're prepared and informed each step of the way.

### Who are the children?

Haitian boys and girls of all ages, from infants to 15 years old, need loving families. Siblings also wait for adoptive families as well as children with minor to more significant individual ('special') needs, whether medical, developmental, or age-related. Some of the children in need of adoption have been abandoned and therefore, no birth family background information is available. Other children come into orphanage care when birth parents or relatives relinquish the child, which may occur for many different reasons, including the death of one or both birth parents or social ostracism of unwed birthmothers. These issues coupled with poverty, community instability and limited access to resources mean many children in Haiti need a family.

If you hope to adopt a child who is already waiting for a family, you may be eligible for a Promise Child grant and/or fee reductions of \$4,000. Grants have been assigned to specific waiting children based on their age, sibling status or medical needs. For more information, visit [www.wacap.org](http://www.wacap.org) or contact us.

### Adoption Process from Haiti

Once your family has submitted an application to WACAP you'll complete your homestudy. If you live in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Wisconsin, New Jersey or New York, WACAP can do your homestudy. If you live in another state, we can recommend a local homestudy agency in your state. After completing your homestudy, we'll help you obtain clearance from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) and complete your preliminary paperwork, known as a dossier, for the Haitian government. After these documents are completed and sent to Haiti, officials will review them and add you to the list of families waiting to be matched. You'll receive information about the child referred for your consideration before you travel, and then invited on your first trip to meet him or her. When you've accepted the match, documents will be submitted to USCIS for review and then to the Haitian court for processing. You'll be invited to make your second and final trip, to bring your child home once all the official Haitian and U.S. government steps have been completed.

### Wait Time

The Haitian government allows a limited number of dossiers to be submitted per agency per year. We currently estimate that you'll receive the match of a child within 12–30 months of your dossier being sent to Haiti. If you're hoping to adopt a child who is HIV positive or a child with individual needs, you may receive a match more quickly. Your first trip to Haiti will happen approximately 3–6 weeks after receiving the match. Your final trip will be approximately between 9–16 months after being matched.

### Travel

• Two trips are required. • Trip 1: to see child prior to court approx. stay of 15 days • Trip 2: approx. one week in country

### Getting Started on Your Adoption

Adopting a child from Haiti starts with your application to WACAP. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at 206.575.4550 or [wacap@wacap.org](mailto:wacap@wacap.org).

### WHO CAN ADOPT FROM HAITI\*

- Married couples
  - Who have been married at least 5 years (*documented cohabitation for a portion of that time may be considered case-by case*)
  - Who are between 30–50 at the time of dossier submittal to Haiti
  - Where the youngest applicant is no more than 48 years older than the child
- Single women
  - Between 35–50 at the time of dossier submittal to Haiti
  - No more than 48 years older than the child
- Single men case-by-case with evidence of a prior marriage
- Applicants with a history of arrest or medical conditions
  - case-by-case

*\*Currently the Haiti government only accepts applications from heterosexual applicants.*