

Guidelines for Lost Sheep Found Adoption Fundraising Program

Lost Sheep Found (LSF) is dedicated to providing Christian homes and lives for all children. Toward that end, we help families raise finances for adoption through our adoption fundraising/grant program.

1. Determination of grant amounts is based on a combination of the needs of the child, cost of the adoption, financial situation of the family, available designated funds, and fundraising efforts. Our program seeks to make it possible for any child who needs a family to be adopted.
2. Financial ability of the family to make the adoption happen will be considered, although it is the child, not the family, who is the ultimate member of a charitable class and recipient of fundraising grants.
3. Applicants may begin contacting family and friends about their adoption plans at any time. However, adoption expenses will only be paid after the family has a completed home study.
4. Payments will generally only be made to an adoption agency, travel agency, etc., and not to the individual family. In certain cases reimbursement can be made for expenses paid. Thorough documentation of expenses is required in these cases.
5. No payments will be made to agencies that discriminate based on race, creed or ethnic group.
6. Applicants may not donate money toward their own adoption expenses and receive a tax deduction.
7. We desire to comply fully with all IRS requirements. Therefore it is not possible to set up "bank accounts" for families with a guarantee that money deposited is for their use. LSF retains discretion and control over the use of all donations. Although this may cause some concern for families and donors, it is our intention to honor the wishes of donors as much as possible. After considering the needs of the child, the cost of the adoption, and the financial situation of the family we determine a grant amount for the family.
8. Should a family decide not to follow through with their plans to adopt, contributions raised through their efforts do not belong to them in any way. Those funds would be given as grants to other families working with LSF.

Qualifications

1. Must be seeking assistance with adoption expenses.
2. Must be active members of Apex Baptist Church and have a verifiable regular attendance of 12 months or more.
3. Must demonstrate a good family environment as indicated in the initial home study.
4. Must have less than \$5,000 in federal taxes owed on the previous year's tax return, so as to be unable to use the Federal Adopted Child Credit for several years.
5. Must agree to provide a solid Christian home environment and agree to raise the child with Christian instruction.
6. Exceptions to the above qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Expectations for Candidates

1. Must keep Apex Baptist's Lost Sheep Found Ministry informed of any changes in adoption plans, agencies, fields, or time frames.
2. Must inform LSF of any substantial change in income or net worth.
3. Must stay in close contact with the church for the first two years after adoption for support services unless the family moves from the area.