

Steps to Financing Your Adoption

We are excited about your plans to adopt a precious child! Recognizing that the expense of adoption is often a major obstacle, we can help you raise the necessary funds. How does this work? Everyone has a circle of people around them - family, friends, co-workers, church family, neighbors - who are potentially willing to help give a child a family. By enabling their financial contributions to be tax deductible, Lost Sheep Found Adoption Ministry provides an incentive to generously support adoption.

This is how it works:

1. You fill out and submit the online application. LSF reviews your application and determines if you qualify for the grant program. Applications are available either at the church's website or via LSF.
2. If you are selected for the program, LSF will contact you and you will be requested to submit a Fundraising/Grant Agreement. Upon submission of this agreement, LSF will set up a grant for your adoption.
3. You then develop a mailing list of 50 - 100 potential donors.
4. You provide a rough draft letter to LSF for review and editing. You let us know the number of letters you intend to send.
5. LSF will edit and return the letter.
6. You mail a letter and brochure to each person on your list.
7. In order to receive a tax deduction, donors make their checks out to Apex Baptist Church and mail them to the church. Apex Baptist Church will send receipts to donors via it's quarterly and annual stewardship reports.
8. As donations arrive LSF contacts you, letting you know who has donated and the amounts. You are encouraged to send thank you notes to the donors.
9. As with all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, 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. Our grant funding committee evaluates each family's file, considering the needs of the child, the cost of the adoption, the financial situation of the family, and the funds raised. We then determine a grant amount for the family. You will be notified of the grant amount or percentage shortly after receipt of your application.
10. As you receive bills from your adoption agency, home study agency, travel agency, and others related to your adoption, you forward them to LSF. After verifying the expense, we make a check out to the agency and send it to them. LSF will not pay bills for amounts greater than the grant you have been awarded.

11. You send a follow-up report to your donors shortly after your child joins your family, along with a family picture so each donor knows the happy news and can continue to pray for your family.
12. It's that simple! By involving your friends and family in welcoming a needy child into your home you will develop a prayer team and support system that will continue throughout your child's life.

Adoption Budgeting Ideas

With some forethought and planning you may be able to skim off a few more dollars from your budget to help fund your adoption. Here are some helpful ideas that can really work!

1. Look at car payments closely. Can you drive a less expensive car? Can you live with only one car for a time? Can car debt be quickly satisfied and that extra amount be added to your savings account?
3. Try to live off one salary from now on. How can you cut expenses to be able to bank one person's salary each month? Remember that when you have a child in your home you will either quit working or have to pay for day care. Begin living on that revised income now and bank the rest.
4. Instead of eating out, cook at home. Plan meals ahead. Shop with coupons and a grocery list based on your meal plans. Look into purchasing some items in bulk. Dust off those old cookbooks and invest some time in the planning process! Pack lunches for work and school. Always have some quick foods available for times when most needed, but use sparingly. If you have older children, train them to prepare one meal per week.
5. Find inexpensive leisure activities. Research free concerts, events and places of interest. Check the local newspaper weekly. Also check with local radio stations, churches and the visitor's center.
6. Cut birthday and Christmas expenses. Find simpler, homemade gift ideas. When good gift items are on sale, buy a few and put away for later. Let children make cards for grandparents rather than buying them. Make a yearly list of gift needs. Use this to purchase items ahead and make things.
7. Shop at yard sales, thrift stores and consignment shops. It's possible to buy designer clothes on a budget.
8. Ask others who you know are on a tight budget for ideas that work for them.
9. Excellent budgeting information is available on the internet through Crown Financial Ministries.