

BUILDING FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION

with Helpusadopt.org



Dear Friend,

The beautiful families within these pages are all Helpusadopt.org grant recipients and their stories bring our work to life. Before they were awarded a grant, the only thing standing between these families and their children was the monumental cost of adoption.

Now, thanks to Helpusadopt.org and the amazing donors who support our work, these children have families to take them to school, to celebrate holidays and birthdays with, to hang their artwork and read them stories. Now these children get to experience all the ordinary, everyday moments that families share.

That's what Helpusadopt.org is all about. We give the families who seek our help the chance to enjoy these ordinary, everyday moments forever. That is all they are asking from us, the chance to adopt and love these children. We are beyond grateful for the opportunity to do this work year after year, and we are inspired by the families we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Fawcett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

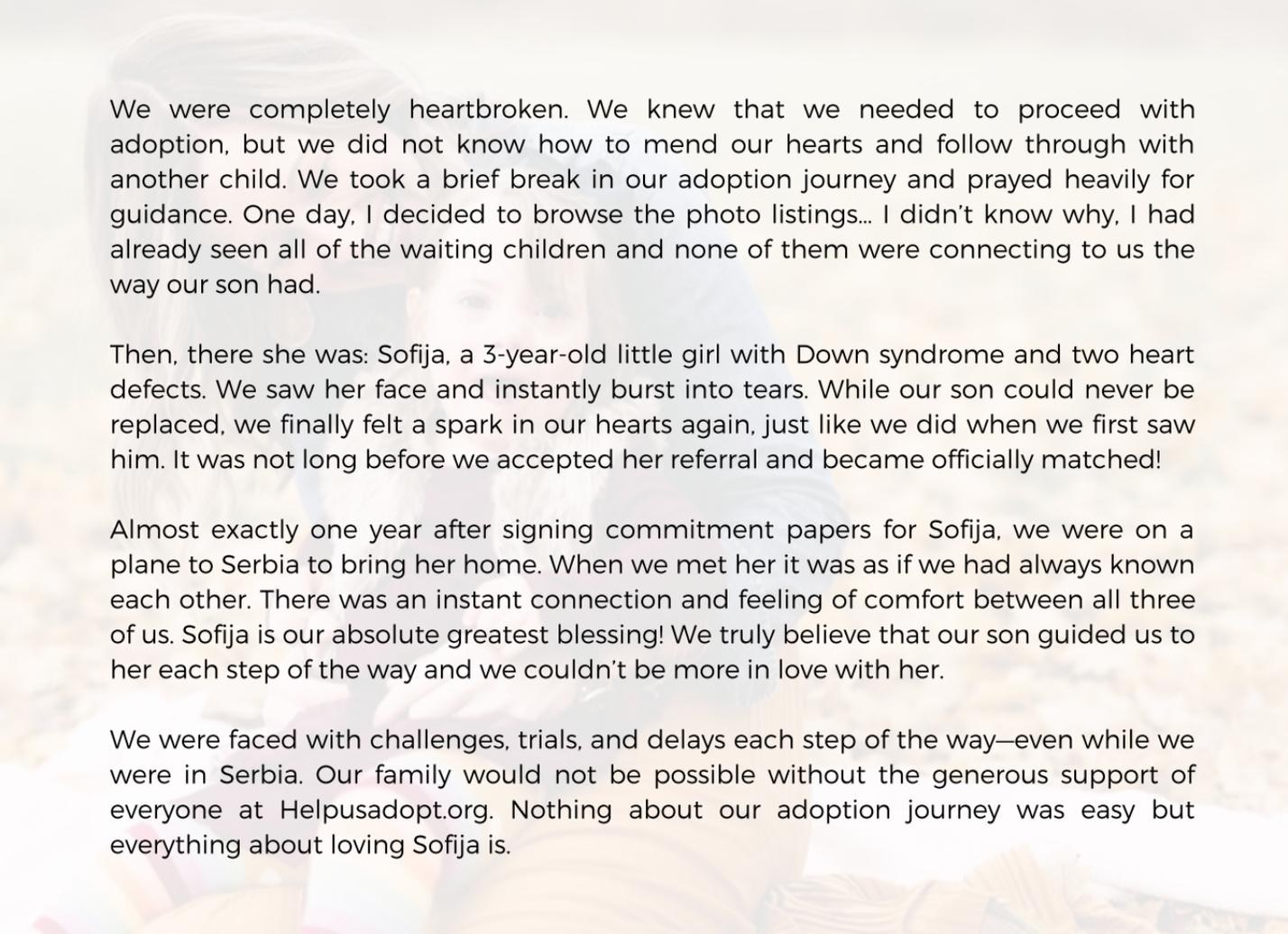
Becky Fawcett
Founder, President



Kelly, Robert & Sofija

I grew up around adoption, and always knew that love is what makes a family. We began researching adoption not long after getting married. While researching, we became absorbed by the desperate need for parents of special needs orphans. We never would have dreamed of adopting internationally, and we had never planned to adopt a child with special needs but once our eyes were opened, we couldn't look away.

Shortly after our wedding, we were searching through the photo listings when there he was, our son. We knew without any doubt or hesitation, this was our calling and he was our reason. We were petrified of the costs that would come along with the process, but knew that we would do whatever it takes to bring our boy home. We knew nothing about him except that he was 2 years old and had Down Syndrome. While awaiting permission to travel to bring him home, we got the worst news of our lives. On Robert's birthday, we were told that our soon-to-be son had passed away.



We were completely heartbroken. We knew that we needed to proceed with adoption, but we did not know how to mend our hearts and follow through with another child. We took a brief break in our adoption journey and prayed heavily for guidance. One day, I decided to browse the photo listings... I didn't know why, I had already seen all of the waiting children and none of them were connecting to us the way our son had.

Then, there she was: Sofija, a 3-year-old little girl with Down syndrome and two heart defects. We saw her face and instantly burst into tears. While our son could never be replaced, we finally felt a spark in our hearts again, just like we did when we first saw him. It was not long before we accepted her referral and became officially matched!

Almost exactly one year after signing commitment papers for Sofija, we were on a plane to Serbia to bring her home. When we met her it was as if we had always known each other. There was an instant connection and feeling of comfort between all three of us. Sofija is our absolute greatest blessing! We truly believe that our son guided us to her each step of the way and we couldn't be more in love with her.

We were faced with challenges, trials, and delays each step of the way—even while we were in Serbia. Our family would not be possible without the generous support of everyone at Helpusadopt.org. Nothing about our adoption journey was easy but everything about loving Sofija is.

"I started my journey wanting a perfect, healthy infant from Nepal. The U.S. Government closed adoptions from Nepal right when my dossier was registered and I was waiting for a referral. At the time, I never thought I would say this, but I'm incredibly thankful that I didn't get my way. God used that closure to completely change my heart and open it to special needs. I didn't adopt a healthy infant. I finally brought my long-awaited daughter home, a precious 6 year old special needs child from India. She paved the way for her little sisters to soon follow. I can't imagine my life without them!"

Kristen & Munni



Roopa, Munni & Mohini

Carina, Patrick & Jacqui



Jacqui & Carina

I am both an adoptive mom and a birth mother. I grew up Catholic in the early 1980s, and became pregnant when I was a teenager. Because of my upbringing, the idea of being a single parent felt too shameful to even consider, and I felt my son deserved a better life than I could provide. Back then, there was no such thing as a post-adoption agreement so other than one picture, that was the last I saw of my son until he was 22 years old.

Years later, I began to think of having a family. I conceived at 41, but sadly, I lost my baby. It was after that that I decided to send a letter to my son's adoptive mother. About a month later, I got an email from my son, Patrick. After that, we would get together every few months, have dinner, and just talk. I just loved to hear about his life and the person he had become.

My journey to build a family continued. After two IVF attempts and countless mornings spent at the fertility doctor, I started looking into adoption. I'd exhausted much of my savings on fertility treatments, but I knew I was meant to be a mother. It was then that I received a call from Helpusadopt.org. Receiving this grant was the first time on the long journey to adopting Carina that I felt my dream could actually come true. The financial and the emotional support from Helpusadopt made this journey not only affordable, but also bearable. Two years later, when I finally got the phone call for my daughter Carina, my family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, my son Patrick, and Helpusadopt.org were there for me. Because that's what adoption is about. Love for a child. Carina is a happy baby. She's strong, smart, healthy, and has a great sense of humor. Although I've been a mother for decades, now I get to be a parent every day to my lovely daughter, Carina.

"2017 was a hard year for a lot of reasons. After the loss of loved ones, and the heartbreak of numerous failed matches, the hope we felt at the beginning of our adoption journey felt all but lost. In late June, we experienced our second failed match, but this one came with an \$11,000 financial loss. To be honest, we were ready to throw in the towel. We didn't have the means, or maybe even the heart to move forward.

And that's when we received the call from Helpusadopt.org. We cannot tell you how incredibly grateful we are for you and all you do. Your grant gave us the hope we needed, and because of your generosity, we are officially a family. Words just can't describe that feeling. We can't say it enough, thank you!"

Katie, Donnie & Ella



Ella

Eugene, Gopi & Sarah



Sarah & Gopi

In February 2016, I moved to India to volunteer at a children's home for orphaned and abandoned children with special needs. I served as a house parent to 13 incredible boys for 18 months. During my time there, four of those boys met their forever families. It was the one of the sweetest privileges to witness adoptions. But oh, it was so hard for the children left behind. There were so many heartbreaking questions that I didn't have answers too - most often, "When are my mommy and daddy coming?" It tore me apart.

Gopi was one of the boys in my home. He was seven when I first met him. He was wild and full of life. He had a not-so-good reputation. But he charmed me instantly. I saw past his behaviors to a boy who had been deeply wounded, who needed to know that he is precious and worthy of love. I saw that underneath his anger, he was incredibly kind, creative, smart, and caring. I loved all my boys, but my love for Gopi was special.

I left India, and began the adoption process. Just shy of a year later, Gopi was declared legally and forever my son. While I was in the process of adopting, I met an amazing man who shared my heart for adoption. Eugene and I were married shortly after Gopi came home. Now, Gopi not only has a mom, but a dad too! It has been incredible to see Gopi thriving in a family. His transformation over the past few months is almost unbelievable. Nearly everyone who knows him has commented on how he is such a happy kid. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your generosity that made this family possible and that makes so many other families possible.

"When I began my adoption journey as a single person, I knew the road would be rough. Agencies told me they couldn't work with me because of my relationship status. I couldn't find any grant organizations that would even *consider* my application. And then, I found Helpusadopt.org. It was so refreshing and encouraging to find a group of generous folks who were willing and wanting to assist not only me, but all types of hopeful parents, build their families. Helpusadopt.org provided me with a grant that paid my final agency fee. Becoming a mother was always a dream of mine, and Helpusadopt.org helped to make that dream come true. Willa and I were meant to be together. She is mine, and I am hers. We are a family."

Rychelle & Willa



Willa

Ellie & Lindsey



Lindsey & Ellie

I wanted to adopt my whole life. I have two childhood friends who were adopted. Growing up in my community, adoption was a part of life. So, from a young age, it was a dream of mine to build my family through adoption as well. When I was six, my parents brought home my uncle, who is a few years older than me. They never officially adopted him, but he was brought into our family and grew up with us as my brother. I love having him as an older brother, and it really solidified my adoption dream.

When I first began the process, I was matched twice, and they both fell through. There were times that I got discouraged, but I always held out hope that I would one day be a mother. I used up all of my savings, and most of the loan I took out for the adoption. I would have done anything I could to make sure I was able to bring my daughter home.

And today, adoption has made us a family. My daughter is almost three years old now, and the last three years have been the absolute best, most wonderful, and most tiring years of my life. It was January 2017 and I had flown to California to await the birth of my daughter when I received the call from Helpusadopt.org. I was about to meet my daughter, but the thought of how I could afford to complete the adoption filled my mind. Their grant was the biggest help and came at the perfect time. I had fundraised and saved, but I needed a bit more. The adoption process had actually gone very quickly for me. It felt like a whirlwind, getting everything ready, traveling to California, and then waiting and waiting. At last, she was born. Best day ever! The two of us have been enjoying life since then.

"Adoption is a journey of faith, requiring strength and perseverance, from beginning to end. Adoption changed my life. Before I was called to adopt, I wasn't sure if I'd ever accomplish my number one goal in life, to be a mom. I had dreamt of being a mommy for as long as I could remember; the giggles and the tears, the snuggles and the sleepless nights, the milestones and the long, hard days. When I was called to adopt as a single mom, I had my doubts. My adoption journey had ups and downs, one day I was on top of a mountain and the next I'd find myself wallowing in a deep valley, but every moment was worth it in the end. Being a mother has exceeded any expectation I had, it has truly been a miracle and the best thing to happen in my life. Without the support of Helpusadopt.org, my beautiful little family wouldn't be what is it today."

Stefanie & Averil

Stefanie & Averi



Grace



Josie, Rachel & Grace

As you all know, private adoption is expensive! And, like many young couples, when we decided to bring a child into our family, we did not have an extra \$30,000+ lying around. We did everything we could to make adoption a reality for our small middle-class suburban family. We held tons of fundraisers, asked family and friends for help, and we applied for financial aid.

And really, it was our grant from Helpusadopt.org that made the difference. It's the reason we were able to adopt without taking out a massive loan that would have affected our family's opportunities for years, or even decades. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to each and every donor who has made a contribution to Helpusadopt.org, because it is quite literally how we were able to bring our daughter home. And I would be remiss if I did not mention that we are doubly grateful to you for supporting our LGBT family, because the idea that kids raised by LGBT parents fair just as well as any others, has not always been popular.

So what is our family like? What kind of family did you help create? Our daughter, Grace, is our world. She is a spunky, compassionate, funny, and curious 4 year old who loves science and asking why and how about everything. She is laser-focused in dance class, has just discovered her love for horses, and wishes Halloween could last all year. She goes to preschool Monday through Friday and spends the afternoons with her grandparents. We enjoy traveling near and far, live music, new food adventures, visiting art galleries and bookshops, and spending time with friends and family. We have 2 dogs. We see Grace's birth family 5-6 times a year, and have even traveled to Florida together. It really is a dream come true. So we thank you, for believing in us and standing by our family. You make us stronger every day.

“I had almost given up, thinking that as a single woman I would never be “chosen.” But the day came and I couldn’t be happier. I am so filled with gratitude for every step of the process, and what each one taught me. The support I received from Helpusadopt.org, friends, relatives, and other families has been extremely valuable. Life with baby has been fantastic. I am enjoying watching him grow into the beautiful child he is.”

Amy & Silas



Amy & Silas

Elizabeth & Estela Joy



Elizabeth & Estela Joy

My sweet Estela Joy came home from China in March of 2018. I met her March 3rd at her foster home. After watching her grow in videos and photos in that little apartment, it was amazing to walk in and finally see her and meet the nannies who had cared for her so well. Estela was born with multiple medical conditions requiring surgery, and she has had at least 15 surgeries since coming home. Her last was in June of 2019, and she has one more big surgery this summer, and then we should be done for a long time!

When I met her, she was the size of a six month old, but running everywhere! She has always been full of personality, full of life, but it has been such a privilege to watch as her fears have started to disappear, and to be the one she trusts completely. She is shy at first, and prefers to be with her momma most of the time. She tells me every day, "I just need my Mommy all the time!" But put her on stage, and she shines! Dancing and singing are her favorites. She can memorize anything, and prefers to sing in the microphone on stage. She takes dance and tumbling, and goes to preschool every day, where she is adored by her teachers. At school, if someone gets hurt or is upset, she is the first to run to comfort them, and always prays for them to feel better. I am so very proud of the compassionate little girl she is.

Since coming home, we have moved across the country to be close to her grandparents, cousins, and the beach! I was concerned the move would be confusing for her, but it has been the best thing. She loves her house and her bedroom, goes to school with her cousin, and sees her grandparents often. We are all so very thankful for our precious Estela Joy!

"From the beginning, my desire to become a mother was stronger than any setback. I remember saying to myself, "It doesn't matter how motherhood comes to me. My child is out there somewhere and I'm ready to be a mom." The home study process was grueling, but even that experience paled in comparison to the emotional roller coaster that was the wait. I don't know how I survived, to be honest. I lived everyday with faith that I would become a mom. I had to. I never knew how profound the love of a mother for her child could be until I held him for the first time. Every minute with him is an adventure. I love experiencing the world through him. I am incredibly thankful to Helpusadopt.org for helping me and my son become a family."

Desirée & Lorenzo



Lorenzo

Noah Avery



WE LOVED
YOU
FROM THE
MOMENT
WE SAW
YOU

Sylvestre

Amy, Corey & Noah Avery

Corey and I always knew that we wanted to grow our family through adoption. We had a young son, Graham, when we talked about having more children. Nothing could have prepared us for the news that our second son, Hudson, would be born with a very severe heart disease called HLHS. Our dream was to have two biological children and adopt two children. After months in the hospital with our precious Hudson, it became clear that his time with us would be short. He fought so hard for 8 months and we miss him all the time. He is still very much a part of our family with pictures throughout our home and stories shared regularly.

After such a profound loss, we were unsure what we should do as a family but the desire to adopt was still very much in our hearts. After much processing, grieving, prayer, and guidance from trusted friends, we started our journey towards adoption. We were excited to once again let our hearts expand to love another precious child. Each adoption story is unique, including ours. We had many ups and downs including failed matches that were deep disappointments. But, this past year, we finally met our third forever son, Noah Avery. The name Noah was given to him by his birth parents, and we named him Avery after my beloved grandfather. He is so sweet and full of smiles. We count it such an honor to be the parents of three amazing boys. Noah Avery's birth family is incredibly selfless and brave. We love them already!

We are also beyond grateful to [Helpusadopt.org](https://helpusadopt.org) for the help they provided. This grant allowed us to achieve a dream we've had for many years. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

These children are celebrated. These children are loved. It's really quite simple and quite beautiful. With your help, what a difference we can continue to make.





BE OUR HERO

To learn more about our families or how to donate:

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Email us: info@helpusadopt.org

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Helpusadopt.org is a national 501(c)(3) financial grant program that helps couples and individuals (regardless of race, religion, gender, marital status or sexual orientation) with the cost of their adoptions by awarding grants of up to \$15,000.



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