## 1 DOPT

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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families have been facing further obstacles in the adoption process from job loss, court hearing delays, new travel restrictions, health risks, and more. We saw a 20% increase in grant applications. We also saw amazing perseverance; we saw families who would not let anything, not even a pandemic, stand in the way of bringing their children home.

We are inspired by these families and by the donors who have supported our work through these challenging times. Together we can continue to help families overcome the monumental cost of adoption so that more children in need find the permanent, loving homes they deserve. Because that is all these families are asking from us: the chance to adopt and love these children. Thank you for believing in our mission.

Sincerely,

Becky Lawa

Becky Fawcett Founder, President

#### Ryan, Nicholas & Vivian

"Nicholas and I first met 14 years ago when we were both living in Minneapolis. We began a long friendship that would span many years and literally thousands of miles. Neither of us ever really thought that we would eventually fall in love and build a beautiful life together, but in the summer of 2015, that's exactly what happened. We got married in June of 2018 in a small private ceremony, and after much consideration determined that we wanted to provide a loving and stable home to a child through adoption. We spent two years dreaming of growing our family, but as a same sex couple our agency options were a bit limited, and almost all very expensive. We saved what we could, held two fundraisers, and borrowed from family but we were not sure how we would write all the checks to the very end. The grant that we received from Helpusadopt.org was the final piece that we needed to bring our daughter Vivian home. It has been such a blessing. Vivian found us on June 12, 2020, so small and resilient at 5 lbs and just 8 days old, and we have fallen more and more in love with her every day. She is a blessing in our lives, in the lives of her extended family, and in the lives of everyone who knows her. Who knew something could far outshine COVID in the year 2020? Enter Vivian!!!"





"We were having such a hard time understanding what had happened. With three failed placements, so much heartache, and the financial burden, we were finding it hard to see how we could still adopt and complete our family. We weren't ready to give up on our dream, though. We applied for a grant from Helpusadopt.org, and were lucky enough to be selected. Shortly after that we were matched for the fourth time. Due to COVID, we were unable to be in the hospital for the birth of our daughter, and waited five long days before we could meet her. Our lives are complete, and our hearts are so full now that Saoirse is here with us. We could not have done this without the help of Helpusadopt.org and the grant we received. We wouldn't change a thing in our adoption story because it was worth the ups and downs to have this beautiful girl as our daughter."

#### David, Rebecca & Saoirse

#### Shannon & Ari

"Ari is a child who had been deemed 'unwanted' by his orphanage; he had been relocated to a medical foster facility, and was no longer available for adoption. This amazing little boy has some big medical needs, and to many others the 'problems' seemed insurmountable. To some, he was even considered a 'burden'. Luckily, a dear friend of mine in China was able to inform the orphanage that there was someone who wanted to be his forever family, and they made him available for adoption.

I am beyond thankful to Helpusadopt.org for assisting me in getting him home. Without the funds you provided, Ari likely would not have survived. His significant needs were too great for the available orphanage care. Adoption was his only option for survival—you made this possible.

Today, I am able to say that Ari is AMAZING, happy, growing, learning and THRIVING!!! He never ceases to surprise me in all that he is capable of doing; he WILL move mountains!! Thank you to all of the donors who helped make his adoption possible. He has been such a blessing in my life."





"Our adoption journey started in April 2019 after a long road of infertility. We quickly realized all of the expenses ahead of us for adoption but our hearts desired so badly to start a family. Neither one of our careers could afford many of the added expenses that come with adoption. We were heartbroken because we felt like we had hit a dead end in our journey to growing our family of two. We came across the Helpusadopt.org grant, which we were hopeful for receiving. I'll never forget the phone call I received in August, congratulating us. I was speechless and emotional on that call. That grant gave us the hope that we needed to keep the faith on this journey. A year later and we're holding our sweet girl in our arms. God is so good & we're so grateful for Helpusadopt.org. Because of them we are left with zero expenses from this adoption and we get to focus on our sweet family!"

#### Monica & Reggie

#### Heather, Kyli & Kalysta

"I adopted Kalysta in December, 2019. We were one of the LAST families to travel before the travel ban and Covid-19 pandemic. The fact that she is here is nothing short of a miracle of God. We literally made it back into the U.S. just in time. There are times I cry about how meant to be the grant timing in her adoption truly was. What if Helpusadopt.org hadn't granted me the money? Would she still be here? Or would we STILL be waiting to get her right now praying for both countries to open up their borders again so that we could all be a family!? Helpusadopt.org was our saving grace. I am forever indebted to them for choosing me, a single Mom, to receive those funds to bring my sweet Kalysta home.

I want to thank the donors. What seems like a simple contribution is truly changing people's lives. It's allowing us to be parents, and for children to have homes. Your contributions create families. Any family that receives one will tell you that. You were our saving grace in our adoption. Our grant came just in the nick of time and my daughter is home because I was chosen. So, thank you. Thank you for donating, thank you for granting and THANK YOU for giving me and my daughters our happily ever after."





"Our adoption was at a standstill for months because of COVID. In September, we heard from the Ukraine that we were all clear to travel and pick up our five(!) kids. However, they also announced at the same time that they were going to close their borders to incoming foreigners in just a few days. So, we scrambled to get everything together as fast as possible and hoped we'd make it just in time. It was such a relief to not have to worry about funds when rushing to plan an intercontinental trip for seven!

Since we've been home, we've fallen in love with the kids, and they have with us. Although our house is never quiet anymore, we feel so blessed to have them here. We are so appreciative of the generosity of Helpusadopt.org and its donors."

#### Peter & Mindy

#### Brittany, Rory, Mason & Harper

"Our family is filled with so much gratitude for your organization and each individual who helped us bring our sweet baby girl and son's biological sister home! Adoption brings so much excitement, but also uncertainty, and uncertainty was exactly what my husband, Rory and I were feeling just a little over a month ago. We were headed to Illinois in three days for our daughter's birth and still not sure how we were going to afford our agency or attorney fees. We were trying not to let financial worries overshadow the joy in our hearts. Just as we finished packing for our trip, I received a call from Helpusadopt.org letting us know we had been selected for a \$15,000 grant! Our prayers had been answered at the very last minute! I was overcome with so much gratitude that I burst into tears. I was so touched by the love, compassion, and generosity of Helpusadopt.org's donors and sponsors. You were the answer, you were how we could make this work!

We will never be able to express how grateful we are for you! Your willingness to help hundreds of children, birth parents and adoptive families is inspiring! Your generosity not only provided our family with financial relief, it provided us with the determination to continue forward."





"I received a grant from Helpusadopt.org back in 2017 and I just wanted let you know how great my daughter and I are doing! Thanks to your support, I was able to go and be with my baby while she gained strength in the NICU in January 2018 (when she was 44 days old). When she was 3 months old, and just 5lbs, I was finally able to bring my beautiful girl home. Our adoption was finalized in July 2018 and our lives just continue to get better and better. In fact, I am now completing a home study for a possible second adoption! That may not have been possible if my first had devastated my finances. Thank you, with all of my heart. Thank you."

Nicole

#### Ezariah & Sarai

"We first began our adoption journey in early 2019 when we saw a picture online of a little boy in Eastern Europe. He lived in an orphanage and had the same special needs as our daughter. We knew instantly that this was our son, and named him Gabriel. Soon after, we came across a little girl with adorable curls and a laugh we felt like we could hear through the screen. We just knew she was meant to be ours also.

Heartbreakingly, Gabriel passed away before we were able to travel to meet him. He was too perfect for Earth, but he became God's guiding light and led us to Ezariah. We weren't sure how we could afford two adoptions but knew that we would be more than able to provide for them. It was heartbreaking to think that money stood in the way of children having a loving and stable home, a family, and proper medical care! Then, we received a grant from Helpusadopt.org. It was the last piece of the puzzle.

This summer, during the pandemic, we were able to obtain a medical allowance to travel to Bulgaria to bring our children home. Thank you to all of the Helpusadopt.org donors for helping make our family whole."





"This craziness we're all facing has impacted every aspect of adopting my daughter. Because of COVID-19, there is a military travel ban restricting travel for all military members and their families. Eli's birthmother wanted me there for the birth, and I wanted to be there to help support her in any way I could. My heart aches for her and I wish I could have been there to hug her like we wanted and planned. Hopefully within the next two weeks I will be flying to Florida to hold Eli for the first time and bring her home. When I sent over the last of the money for the placement it was beyond comforting knowing that the rest was being covered by the grant. Having that financial burden lifted during these tough times is such a blessing."

Laura wrote this in Spring 2020, she has since been able to bring her daughter home.

#### Laura & Eli

#### Grace, Daniel & Tamoy

"I would like to thank Helpusadopt.org and all of their amazing donors for the great gift that you have given me and my children and the countless other families who are adopting and who have adopted. Your donation has helped to complete my family. I was so blessed and grateful to be chosen for this grant. I adopted internationally from Jamaica, my home country. I can tell you that the process wasn't easy; I never expected there would be so many hurdles along the way. I certainly never expected a global pandemic that would delay the process even further. I had hoped initially to bring my children home in 2019. But, with perseverance, and the help of this grant, I held on to the inner strength that God gave me, and finally brought my children home this fall. I know that it's been difficult for everyone to continue on during this pandemic. I pray each day that God will continue to shine so we can all return to a normal life. My children are doing well; we are finally together. Daniel is 15-years-old, and Tamoy is 17. They've started high school and, while it's difficult during this time, they are adjusting well and getting good grades. From our hearts to your hearts we thank you so very much."





"I wanted to take some time today to say THANK YOU to Helpusadopt.org and all of its donors for providing a grant to bring Lola-Ruth home. Lola-Ruth has been home from Bulgaria since July 15, 2020. Your grant made a way for my girl to come home and I'm truly grateful. Since being home Lola-Ruth has been hospitalized and has received fantastic medical treatment that she wouldn't have received otherwise. In two months, at 3 years old, Lola-Ruth found her voice and started sitting up. Being here has made such a difference. So THANK YOU... thank you for being a part of her story and her journey home!"

#### Julie & Lola-Ruth

#### Katie, Asher & Noa Cai

"In 2015 I began the process to adopt my sweet son, Asher. He is a kind, funny, loving, and amazing little boy who brings so much joy to my life. I've always wanted more than one child, so Asher and I made some life changes in order to begin the adoption process a second time. I barely qualified financially for my first adoption, so we moved and I got a new job in order to qualify again.

We have been matched with our sweet daughter and sister, Noa Cai, who we cannot wait to hold in our arms. Without financial support there is no way I could adopt again. Receiving a generous grant from Helpusadopt.org means so much to me. It allows me to have peace of mind and it eases the stress that the financial burden of adoption causes. At this time we are simply waiting to travel to China to bring Noa home. We have been delayed almost a year now due to Covid-19 and I fully expect additional expenses once travel does resume. Again, the grant I received has helped ease my stress during this difficult time. Thank you so much for your support of the adoption community."



### **BE OUR HERO**

To learn more about our families or how to donate:

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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.



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.



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