

**SUMMIT ADOPTION HOME STUDIES, INC.**

# **Newsletter**

**DECEMBER 2016**

**2016**

**1389 SUMMIT AVENUE – ST. PAUL, MN 55105-2219**

# CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

## FROM SUMMIT ADOPTION HOME STUDIES

**1995 - International Rescue Committee**

**1996 - Paraguay Children's hospital**

**1997 - Limiar Orphanage in Brazil**

**1998 -1999 Group Foster Home in Guatemala**

**2000 - Anonymous donor gave funds to adopt  
Guatemalan child with heart disease**

**2005 to 2010 - Resolve Midwest donations**

**2009 - Spoon Foundation (Kazakhstan)**

**2001 to 2016 - Designated to special needs adoptions  
or situations**

# INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS

## **What is Interstate Compact for Domestic Adoptions?**

For domestic adoptions, the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is an agreement among all fifty states that coordinates the movement of children across state lines for the purpose of placement in foster care, adoptive homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, or on a trial basis with a parent. This uniform law was enacted by all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to ensure the children placed across state lines have the same protections that children within state lines have. **You can be a Minnesota resident where your home study is done and your child can be born in a different state.** The ICPC office of the sending state (where your child is born) sends documents including your home study, your agency application form and your family fact sheets as well as the child's documents to Minnesota ICPC office (receiving state) and Minnesota gives approval so you can come home with your child after the legal process is in place for your adoption. Summit Adoption Home Studies can assist in explaining this process as well as your child referral service if your child is born in another U.S. state. If your child is born in Minnesota, this is not needed. For both adoptions, other legal steps may require the assistance of legal counsel knowledgeable about the laws of the child's state and Minnesota's laws. There are **many** domestic adoptions involving ICPC throughout the U.S.

# CHALLENGES IN ADOPTION

Summit Adoption Home Studies has experience in families who are adopting children with special needs, whether this is known ahead of time or discovered after the child arrives. Checking with specialists regarding health issues in a birth mother or birth father or family history is important as well as being prepared for the unexpected.

Many children arrive healthy or with transient treatable conditions but many families choose to become the parent to a child with an identified need. Life has no guarantees and just as with birth parents, adoptive parents will realize not all medical or behavioral needs are recognized until your child is home. Children who have been adopted internationally and domestically have had conditions such as:

- Cleft lip/cleft palate
- Club foot
- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- Down's syndrome
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Prenatal exposure to drugs
- Hearing Impaired/Deaf
- Burns
- Heart conditions
- HIV
- Cancer
- Missing digits
- Orthopedic conditions
- Prematurity
- Developmental delays
- Diabetes
- Thyroid conditions
- Abuse, neglect
- Emotional disturbances
- Sensory integration disorder
- Lead exposure
- Hepatitis B
- Galactosemia
- Genetic conditions
- Positive for Tuberculosis
- Scabies
- Malaria
- Underweight/malnourished
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Growth Deficiency
- Parasites
- Goldenhar Syndrome
- Hydrocephalus
- Drug exposure-cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine
- Mental or physical illness in birth parent or family history
- Learning disabilities
- ADHD
- Bipolar disorder
- Speech disorders
- Gastroschisis
- Pyloric stenosis
- Neuromuscular diseases
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Heart murmurs
- Pendred Syndrome

There are many resources to help you deal with the many challenges of your child's needs. Summit Adoption Home Studies can be one of those resources and help guide you to more information.



## Domestic Adoptions and ICPC

- Minnesota families with home studies to adopt domestic children are born in many states.
- ICPC is the legal agreement between states if the baby is born outside of Minnesota that the baby can leave with his/her adoptive parents once both states have processed the paperwork. Attorneys and agencies are involved in this process. Through December 30, 2016, 292 children and babies arrived from over 30 states including the babies/children that were born in Minnesota. Families work with many referral agencies to be matched with a birth mother! The adoptions can also be direct adoptions either through being a relative or knowing the birth mother also.