

## **What is The SPEAR Fund's ("TSF") adoption grants?**

The SPEAR Fund's offered adoption grants is a preventative project passionately dedicated to meeting the most intrinsic need of a child, to have a permanent family and home. TSF works in partnership with adoption agencies, orphanages and adoptive families worldwide, offering a grant subsidy to assist with one of the most prohibitive steps of the adoption process, the cost. Adoption is considered to be a potential preventative measure against child trafficking.

## **What is a TSF grant?**

It is a ,commonly, one-time gift of financial assistance to an applicant who is in the process of adopting or about to begin the adoption process. The applicant must be currently working with a licensed, accredited adoption agency and complete the TSF grant application (see link below). As with any grant, application for a grant does not guarantee receipt of a TSF grant. Families are chosen on a case by case basis dependent on many factors, including but not exclusive of financial need. Every application is thoughtfully read and carefully considered.

## **Who is a TSF grant available to?**

A TSF grant is available to families working with a Hague accredited adoption agency. Usually, the family has paid their initial adoption fees and has committed to complete their adoption through the agency they are working with. At times, adoption fees or scheduled payments are difficult to complete for a variety of reasons, i.e. (loss of income, reduction in income, medical or familial concerns, etc.). All adopting families are invited to apply. Families finding themselves in financial need are encouraged to apply. Everyone who applies for a TSF grant is considered. Though the TSF grant is a need-based grant, we carefully review each family's application and consider all factors including compelling reasons.

## **What is the process to apply for a grant?**

You are to send an email to [michael@thespearfund.org](mailto:michael@thespearfund.org) . There you are free to request an application,ask questions, etc and we will help you through the process.

## **What is the process of being chosen for a grant?**

Email [michael@thespearfund.org](mailto:michael@thespearfund.org) for an application. Once you've filled out the application and are working with an adoption agency, we will consider your application on a case by case basis. If you are not sure where to start but are interested in adoption, we can help. Email us (above) with any questions.

## **What is the waiting period to be selected to receive a grant?**

Grant applications are considered every quarter. You may be awarded a grant and notified within 2-3 months after applying.

## **How many children has TSF helped?**

TSF has awarded 217 grants to a total of 236 families in the completion of their adoptions. A total of 354 children have either "come home" or are in the process of "coming home" because of donors, volunteers and partners of TSF.

## **Are the children you help survivors of human trafficking?**

Every child that lives outside of the structure of a family is at risk for exploitation

and/or trafficking. Statistics from law enforcement and adoption support this. TSF is a preventative project to further combat the exploitation of children by helping them to find the most stable and healthy environment for growth, a family.

The SPEAR Fund facilitates funding for adoptions and is not directly involved with children rescued from trafficking.

### **Which countries does TSF facilitate adoptions from?**

All countries below are Hague-accredited, meaning they comply with a set of adoption laws and regulations that both the United States and the foreign countries

have agreed to, ensuring that the adoption process is consistent, legal and approved by both countries.

#### **North America:**

- **Canada**
  - Hague approved
  
- **United States of America:**
  - Hague approved
  
- **Mexico :**
  - Hague approved

#### **International:** (in alphabetical order)

- **Cambodia:**
  - Hague approved, please note that Intercountry Adoptions between this country and the United States are NOT currently possible

- **Colombia:**
  - Hague approved, (They do adopt in the U.S).
- **Dominican Republic:**
  - Hague approved
- **Ecuador:**
  - Hague approved
- **Ghana:**
  - Hague Approved
- **Guatemala:**
  - Hague approved, please note that Intercountry Adoptions between this country and the United States are NOT currently possible
- **Haiti:**
  - Hague Approved
- **India:**
  - Hague Approved
- **Kenya:**
  - Hague approved, please note that Intercountry Adoptions between this country and the United States are NOT currently possible
- **Peru**
  - Hague Approved
- **Thailand:**
  - Hague Approved
- **Uruguay:**
  - Hague Approved

### **Is TSF an adoption agency?**

TSF or The Spear Fund is not an adoption agency. The primary mission of TSF is to assist adoptive families already in the adoption process, by offering a financial assistance grant. We also provide information about the adoption process and answer questions related to adoption. Prospective parents already working with a Hague accredited international adoption agency are invited to apply for a financial assistance grant.

### **Do you help locate children in need of adoption?**

Finding children in need of adoption is within the wheelhouse of adoption agencies. There are strict rules governing the adoption process and pre-identification of a child, outside of kinship adoptions. A kinship adoption is a relative or family member adopting another relative or family member. For most adoptions, pre-identification of a child is not possible.

### **Are there many children in need of adoption?**

There are thousands of children in need of adoption and well under that number of available families ready to adopt. If you have the desire to adopt, be assured that there are children waiting for a forever home and family.

The necessary paperwork for children who are true orphans in a licensed orphanage is prepared by the orphanage, the government agencies within the country of the child's birth and the adoption agency. Families interested in adoption are encouraged to contact an adoption agency. Though TSF is not an adoption agency, we can refer you to one or more licensed Hague accredited agencies we have a relationship with. In the majority of cases, you must be currently working with a licensed, Hague accredited adoption agency based in the United States. If you are working with a licensed, Hague accredited adoption agency outside of the U.S., we will contact that agency to determine if we might be able to work with them before considering the grant application.

### **Are there particular adoption agencies you would recommend?**

We have awarded grants to many families who have worked with vetted agencies. TSF has a growing network of recommended agencies though we do not endorse agencies, give or receive remuneration for our relationship. TSF has awarded grants to facilitate international adoptions.

### **Which adoption agencies do you currently work with?**

Please contact us for a list of agencies we are currently working with at [michael@thespearfund.org](mailto:michael@thespearfund.org). This list is always growing and is not exclusive. TSF adds new agencies to this list as needed. If you are working with

an agency that is not on this list, we would be happy to send a grant application and introductory email to your agency. All prospective and current adoptive families are invited to apply.

### **How much does it cost to adopt?**

The cost may vary depending on the agency a family is using. The average cost of an international adoption is between \$25,000 to \$40,000.

A domestic adoption, through the U.S. Foster Care, can sometimes be subsidized by each state and has little or no out of pocket cost to the adoptive family.

### **How long does it take to adopt or complete the adoption?**

An international adoption usually takes 3 years to complete. For some countries the adoption may be completed within 2 years. Unfortunately, there aren't any shortcuts or procedures that one can take to expedite the process. The Hague laws which govern adoptions, also sets the fee schedule and the schedule for completion of documents along the way.

A domestic (private) adoption usually takes at least a year to complete. Any adoption timeline is difficult to define. The time from application to completion is case by case.

A Foster Care (state) adoption in the U.S. also takes about 1 year to complete. However, a foster parent may have that child or children in their care for at least 6 months prior to the adoption. Please feel free to contact the Foster Care Foundation in your state for more information.

### **How old are the children in need?**

The children in need of families through adoption spans all ages from infants to teenagers, up to 17 years of age internationally and up to 18 years of age

domestically. Sibling groups available for adoption are increasing. There truly is no shortage of children who need stability, consistent care, and the love a parent or family can provide. Though preferences exist among couples and families to bring a baby or young child into the home, children of all ages should be considered. The process is long and older children, even elementary school aged, are sometimes

overlooked. We encourage those who are thinking of adopting to consider older children and teens. These are some of the most rewarding adoption experiences for the child or youth as well as for the adopting family or individual. Older children and teens are wanting a forever family as much as an infant or young child. They have often seen younger children adopted while waiting year after year for their turn.

### **Is this process limited to only US citizens?**

Not at all! TSF does not limit grants to only U.S. citizens. The families we award grants to are citizens of a variety of nations and countries. Though most of the adoption agencies we partner with are based in the U.S., we are continually expanding the TSF footprint to include adoption agencies worldwide. The children adopted into grant applicant or grant recipient families cannot be U.S or Canadian citizens.

Some of our adoptive families share the nationality of the country they are adopting from. These are often kinship or relatives adopting relatives. TSF does not discriminate.

### **Is there any effort to reunite children with family or place them in adoptive homes within their known ethnicity or cultures?**

Yes, there is sometimes a reunification effort before a child enters into the adoption process. Parental rights of the biological parents must be relinquished or terminated by a court before a child is placed for adoption. Guardianship rights must also be either relinquished or terminated before a child is eligible for adoption. This is always a case by case consideration. At times, reunification with the biological family is possible. In some cases, adoption or guardianship by relatives within the child's home country is also a possibility. (See above re: kinship adoption)

### **Who can adopt?**

Individuals and couples who are working with a licensed, Hague accredited adoption agency and who meet the agency criteria, can adopt. According to international adoption law, children cannot be pre-identified, chosen or picked out by a prospective family wanting to adopt. Once the prospective adopting individual or couple has completed the required criteria, including a home study, they are eventually "matched" with a waiting child or sibling group.

## **Can I donate to TSF?**

Yes, you can! 100% of your donation is used to help a family in need of a grant to complete their adoption and bring their waiting child or children home. There are no administrative costs associated with the donation.

## **How or where do I donate to TSF specifically?**

To donate specifically to TSF, use this link to make an inquiry about donations:

[info@thespearfund.org](mailto:info@thespearfund.org)

## **How are donations used?**

Every donation to TSF adoption grants lifts a family's financial burden and shortens the wait of a child anticipating their forever home. TSF works in partnership with adoption agencies, orphanages, and adoptive families, worldwide, offering a grant subsidy to assist with one of the often prohibitive steps of the adoption process, the cost. Once families apply and are approved, a one-time grant is gifted to the family to offset adoption and legal fees, travel reimbursement and other related expenses. Once the grant is presented by TSF, the adoption cost is either nearer to completion or paid in full and eventually those children come home!

## **Does TSF have a child sponsorship program?**

Currently, we are not participating in any child or student sponsorship programs. However, please check back with us regarding future programs to sponsor older children and teens. This is one of the most rewarding and exciting programs outside of adoption that gives youth the opportunity to live with a family. It also gives the sponsoring family the opportunity to love and engage with amazing youth from other countries. This is not an exchange student program.

## **Can I volunteer with, work for or fill an internship position with TSF?**



TSF does not have internship or volunteer opportunities at this current time.

**Who can I contact with questions?**

Email: [michael@thespearfund.org](mailto:michael@thespearfund.org)

Our director of Adoptions, Michael Fairbanks or another TSF team member will answer your email.

**Is there a website or social media?**

Yes! Please go to [thespearfund.org](http://thespearfund.org) to learn more, apply for a grant or donate to make a difference in someone's adoption journey.

**Are there any job opportunities involving TSF's adoption grants?**

The SPEAR Fund is currently not hiring for work involving adoption grants at this time.