

## A Letter to Applicants

We are not going to sugarcoat this. The Adoptees Giving Back – Orphanage Service Trip is not for everyone, even though we would love to take you all on this remarkable journey! Please do not take the decision to apply lightly.

In going on this trip, we have learned several very important things that we want you to consider and understand. This trip will likely have a very long and lasting impact on you, whether you intend for it to or not. This trip can generate tremendous emotions and memories that many adoptees may not be prepared to deal with or process immediately. This is not a bad thing. In fact, it's the biggest reason why this trip is such an incredible, life-affirming experience! But, understanding and preparing yourself for these emotions is very important. Please do not laugh it away.

So, while you are considering applying, please keep the above scenarios in mind. Please apply if you:

- Are resilient and flexible in the midst of stressful, foreign situations
- Are extremely loving, passionate, and caring
- Are very mature, positive, energetic, and a good team player
- Have international travel or away-from-home experience without other family members
- Are eager and willing to play with children with severe or possibly even frightening handicaps, and children who may not be very clean
- Can adapt to the many challenges of international and cross-cultural travel (i.e. strange food, cold or hot weather, train and bus rides, and many other life inconveniences, such as a "squatty potty," air pollution, and chaotic traffic)
- Have explored your adoption to a greater extent than, "I'm adopted."

We want to make sure you understand that applying to the Adoptees Giving Back Orphanage Service Trip does not guarantee that you will be able to travel on the trip you are applying for. If your application is not accepted, please do not take it as a rejection. We have a very limited number of spaces and simply cannot take everyone we want. Please apply again. The point of this letter is not to scare you away, but rather to ensure a positive, unforgettable, and life-changing experience for every applicant who desires to make a difference. We want to be responsible about how we present this incredible experience and hope that you understand and support us in this endeavor.

Sincerely Yours,



Amy Zhong  
Director

I have read and understand everything that has been stated in this letter and acknowledge that I am making the decision to apply to the Adoptees Giving Back Orphanage Service Trip on my own. My reasons for applying to this trip are genuine and honest. I understand the risks and rewards of a trip of this nature and understand that applying for the Adoptees Giving Back Orphanage Service Trip does not guarantee that I will be able to travel.

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Applicant Signature

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Date Signed