

## A Letter to Parents/Guardians

We want to be honest. The Adoptees Giving Back – Orphanage Service Trip is not for everyone, even though we would love to take every adoptee on this remarkable journey! The decision to apply should not be taken lightly.

Most travelers will grow significantly after this service trip in maturity, love, appreciation, understanding of themselves, and a personal meaning of charitable service. However, this trip can also generate tremendous emotions and memories that many adoptees may not be prepared to deal with or process appropriately – sadness about orphanage conditions, despair for not being able to do more, a certain level of “guilt” over “why am I so lucky,” and even minor to major depression as a result of many questions that have no easy answers.

So, while you are considering encouraging your child to apply, please keep the above scenarios in mind to help you and your child make a wise and realistic decision. We would love to bring your child if you truly, in your un-biased opinion, believe that your child:

- Is resilient and flexible in the midst of stressful, foreign situations
- Is extremely loving, passionate, and caring
- Is very mature, positive, energetic, and a good team player
- Has international travel or away-from-home experience without other family members
- Is 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)
- Has spoken about his/her adoption to a greater extent than, “I’m adopted.”

The point of this letter is not to scare you away, but rather to ensure a positive, unforgettable, and life-changing experience for every adoptee who desires to make a difference. We want to be responsible about how we present this trip and hope that you understand and support us in this endeavor. For this same reason, we request that you DO NOT help your child on his/her application. We would like the most honest representation of who the applicant is and appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely Yours,



Amy Zhong  
Director

I have read and understand everything that has been stated in this letter and acknowledge and support that my son/daughter is making the decision to apply to the Adoptees Giving Back Orphanage Service Trip on his/her own. I understand the risks and rewards of a trip of this nature and will do everything in my power to support and facilitate my son/daughter’s experience on this grand adventure, and the efforts of his/her trip leaders.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date Signed

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date Signed