

Jode and Kelley Robinson
Hephzibah, GA 30815

31 Oct 2019

Christian Orphan Fund
Attn: Brock Hoskins
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Re: Adoption Grant Application

Dear Brock,

This application is in reference to our adopting two children with special needs from the country of Ukraine.

Enclosed you will find the application and all requested documentation for an adoption grant. We are coming to you because our home study is complete, our dossier has been accepted, we had our first trip to meet the children in early Oct and have accepted their referral. Now we will return to Ukraine Nov 3 for court and then again in Dec to bring them home. Although we have been blessed in numerous ways, we still find ourselves short about \$10,000 to be fully funded.

The first child we are adopting is a baby girl who is 14 months old. She was born with a narrowing in a duct in her brain which caused fluid retention on her brain. She has received surgery, and a shunt has been inserted to relieve the fluid. So far she is doing well; however, Ukraine is not known for being able to give the best of care to those with neurological disorders. Inasmuch, her development is quite delayed. At 14 months she has just this past week sat on her own, but has yet to crawl or walk. Unfortunately, she also does not acknowledge when someone calls her name which is indicative of their simply leaving her in a crib all day alone. We are doing our best to get her home as soon as possible in order to give her the love, attention and medical help she needs.

The little boy we are adopting is 3 years old – soon to be 4 on Nov 21st. He was born with spina bifida, and hydrocephalus. We fell in love with him when he was listed with Reece's Rainbow Adoption Ministry three years ago, but until now we were not in the position to pursue another adoption. He is a sweet little boy, and seems quite bright and healthy; however, he is unable to feel/move his legs. The scars on his back from surgery due to the spina bifida are horrendous and it breaks our hearts. The hydrocephalus has been shunted, which compensated they hydro and he seems to be otherwise healthy. Ukraine does not offer children with disabilities the therapies which they so desperately need to grow and become. We need to get him home, and to our specialists, as soon as possible, so that we can assess that which has been done, create a plan and move forward believing God to direct us in helping him become the amazing man God created him to be however that presents itself.

I'm sure you're wondering why we would adopt two children with such needs. We have been blessed to adopt several children with special needs some of which were unknown to us until after we adopted.

However, every time, without fail, God has shown us His glory and plan through it. We are privileged to see our children excel in the gifts and abilities He has given. We do not dwell on that which others would deem disability, but instead emphasize their abilities.

For instance, Emily, who was adopted from Ukraine in 2014, came home at age 2. We were told she had arthrogryposis, which affected the joints and muscles of her legs. However, when we got her home, our orthopedist told us she was missing the lower section of her spine and that we should just “get her comfortable for a wheelchair.” We cried, for her not us, but then decided our God had a reason for bringing her into our lives and determined to concentrate on her strengths – not her weaknesses. She is now an aerialist and excels on trapeze, aerial sling, rope and poll. Her coaches say she is able to do things that most adults wish they could do! She's pretty amazing and one of our “superheros.”

Mikhail, who came home from Ukraine in 2013 at age two, unable to stand, walk or crawl, is now playing soccer on a team. His arthrogryposis presents with short arms, lacking muscles in his arms and legs and with the joints in them which contract in other than the usual position. His arms may always be short and his hands weak, but his can-do attitude has given him super core strength. After surgery to fix his clubbed feet, he is now able to do things many kids his age wish they could do like an aerial flip standing flat footed. He also loves aerial class, which all of our children take once a week at Canopy Studios in Athens. We call Mikhail our little Hulk!

These are just two of the examples of what God can do when children are placed in families. Give me a call and I can bend your ear for hours about how amazing the children are and how awesome our God is!

Please believe me when I say we do not do this alone. We have an amazing team of specialists with whom we have become friends and “family”. Occupational, physical and speech therapists, neurologists, urologists, orthopedists and wonderful Christian pediatricians, special educators, babysitters, housekeepers and coaches all work together on behalf of our children. Just like when Jesus blessed Peter and Andrew with so many fish they could not haul them in by themselves, they too had to bring others alongside to accomplish a miracle. God has given us the wisdom to bring others alongside to complete His miracle of seeing our children excel in their gifts, talents and abilities. Having this team of people in place allows us to better do our jobs of being Mommy and Daddy, cook, kisser of boo-boos, story teller, encourager, teacher and cuddler.

Every where we go our children are a living, walking, talking witness to others that *all* children are precious in His sight, and that they can do all things through Christ who gives them strength. We have been so amazingly blessed to be a part of that which God is doing. We call it having a ringside seat to miracles every day. We are excited to see what God has in store for our two new little ones. Thank you so much for helping us make their miracle come true.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have.

Many blessing,
Kelley Robinson