

Join us for a

# SUPERKIDS ADVENTURE PROGRAM

big memories await



GLADNEY

Center for Adoption

# SUPERKIDS ADVENTURE

*Bring the mission to your home!*

There are over **150 million** orphaned children worldwide, with **thousands** more children becoming orphans each day. Once a child turns **5 years old**, they have only a **5%** chance of being adopted, leaving many children without ever having the love of a family. Our SuperKids Adventure program has been created to address the needs of these waiting children. **Many people go on mission trips to other parts of the world, but we ask you to consider staying home this summer to bring the mission to your family. This experience will change the life of an orphan forever, as well as the lives of you and your children!**

In this program, Gladney Center for Adoption will bring select children from Latin America and/or Asian countries who are legally available for international adoption, to the United States for a short stay with a qualified family. We are thrilled to provide both the children and loving families like yours, with an unforgettable experience!

## MISSION STATEMENT

At Gladney, our mission is simple. We believe that every child deserves a loving and caring family. The SuperKids Adventure is a way that we can offer a child an enriching cultural, educational, and fun experience and gives each child a better understanding of what it is like to be part of a loving and caring family. Most of these children can only imagine what family life is like – by participating in the SuperKids Adventure, it allows them the opportunity to gain a better grasp of daily life in a family.



## THE PROGRAM

The SuperKids Adventure program is an opportunity to give children a break from institutional life while enjoying a cultural experience. Quite often, this program is referred to as “hosting,” but with a twist. All participants are adolescents or young teens who have been cleared for inter-country adoption and are patiently waiting for an adoptive family to be identified. These children will be able to experience family life and be exposed to real life situations that we often take for granted, like going on vacation, shopping in a mall, eating at a restaurant, and going to the zoo. However, it is not just the children who will benefit, but you and your entire family will be forever changed. The SuperKids Adventure experience will affect you in many ways - dispel any fears about adopting an older child, teach your children a valuable lesson in compassion, expose your friends and family to the orphan crisis, and give you the opportunity to have an integral role in orphan advocacy.



This year Gladney has invited partners from *Colombia, the Philippines and Taiwan* to join the SuperKids Adventure. As you can imagine, there is much work needed to clear these children and their chaperones to visit us in the States. While we are aware that families like to plan, specific children available and timelines are not finalized and often this information becomes available on a rolling, and sometimes changing, basis. In addition, our trained staff and partners will ultimately be responsible for approving all matches based on the unique circumstances of the family as well as the best interests of the child. Participant families must remain flexible and keep their schedules open. The actual children will stay for a 3-4 week period, most likely in late June to early August timeframe.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

The SuperKids Adventure program will expose these children to a nurturing, family life environment while offering both an educational, and culturally rich experience for you and your family. After the designated time, all children return to their orphanage with a rewarding educational experience. For most of these children, it will be the first time that they have experienced what it feels like to be a part of a family.

The main goal of this program is ultimately to improve the health, education, and general welfare of orphaned children in our programs. Of course, the hope is that a child's participation in the program will ultimately lead to an adoptive placement. Both staff and families are given the opportunity to learn much about the child during the SuperKids Adventure session, allowing for more in depth clinical considerations when making permanent placement decisions.

In general, the children who participate in the SuperKids Adventure have a good prognosis for a healthy future if provided with the love, support, and treatment they need to overcome the challenges they face prior to adoption.

SuperKids Adventure (“SKA”) families will be required to attend scheduled events where all of the children and families spend time together. Gladney Center for Adoption staff will visit the family several times over the course of the program. Families should also expect the program chaperones to stay in their home for several nights during the session. This allows our entire team to evaluate how you and the child are doing and help you work through any issues or problem areas.

### **THE DETAILS**

Gladney Center for Adoption is required to protect and ensure the safety of the children who will be coming to the United States to participate in the SuperKids Adventure. You, the participant family, will be required to complete a home study report for adoption to ensure your home is a safe environment and your family is an appropriate placement for a waiting child. Some families are able to participate as an ‘advocate’ family on a case-by-case basis. Please call us if you would like to discuss your specific situation and circumstances.





### **DOCUMENT CHECKLIST**

- Current, valid Hague compliant full home study, and all back-up documentation (CANTS, FBI, State clearances)**
- Hosting Agreement and Exhibits**
- Training certificates**
- Surveys**

### **SKA PARENT TRAINING**

You will be required to participate in a **mandatory** zoom adoption training as well as a program specific training session to prepare you for your SuperKids Adventure. The training will be conducted by Gladney professionals who will support you through the entire process. This is critical in preparing your family for what to expect, safety planning procedures, and other topics including, but not limited to, attachment and bonding, dealing with traumatized children, and the impact of institutionalization. The date, time, and location of this training will be announced as soon as it is available. You may also be required to complete online education courses through Gladney University or our partner, Creating A Family. We recommend that all families educate and prepare themselves as much as possible for the SuperKids Adventure experience.

### **EVENTS**

A calendar of events will be finalized and sent to your family at least four weeks prior to the start of the SuperKids Adventure. In terms of events, in addition to the time spent with your Super Kid, your family should expect to commit to the home study training, pre-session training, airport pick-ups and drop-offs, and at least two organized group events during the program's duration.

### **SUPPORT DURING THE PROCESS**

Gladney Center for Adoption has experienced program coordinators, advocates, child chaperones, social workers, translators, and previous participant families who will be available to your family throughout the entire SuperKids Adventure. When questions come up – and they will – we will be accessible to you to help you consider the options, work through possible solutions, and find the best answer for your family and for the child.

Here at Gladney Center for Adoption, we pride ourselves on keeping our SuperKids Adventure tight-knit and connected to our local communities. We purposefully place our children geographically close to our staff and hopefully one another so that the families and children feel a sense of community and never feel isolated. Not only will you have the support of Gladney staff, but you will also have the comfort of other current participant families nearby, as well as the chaperones who know the children well. We plan group events during the session to promote the importance of community. And we also encourage you to get together with your fellow participant families! The children also greatly benefit from the support and companionship of their friends!

The chaperones who accompany the children are ultimately responsible for reporting back to the adoption authorities in their sending countries about the SuperKids Adventure program. They will stay abreast of any and all situations regarding the children. They are here to support the children and families alike!



If there are any serious situations that occur (involving emotional or physical harm/injury to the child or harm caused to others by the child), you will be required to submit an incident report within 24 hours. All incidents will be investigated and handled by Gladney’s trained staff. If you are experiencing any issues, as small as they seem, we need you to call us, and let us help. Often sitting down and discussing a small issue can prevent a larger issue from occurring in the future.

**FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

**Gladney wants to provide a safe and holistic program experience for the children and families who are participating, for that reason, there are fees that are required.** All money for actual expenses related to bringing the children to the United States for program related purposes will be covered by Gladney or our foreign partners. The following are costs associated with families being able to participate in this program. Please note, the home study report is mandatory in order for any child to enter your home.

| <i>Fee Category</i> | <i>Due</i>   | <i>Amount</i>                                    | <i>Info</i>   |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Application Fee     | Due with Application   | \$200  | Paid to Gladney. Nonrefundable.   |
| Program Fee         | Due with Participation Agreement   | \$1,000  | Paid to Gladney for families formally accepted into the program.  |
| Clearances          | Clearance for all household members over 13 ( <i>other clearances may be required based on residence history</i> ) | Varies by State – typically \$40-\$85 per person | Paid to each entity (check and credit card accepted). If paid by Gladney, amount will be invoiced at cost.        |
| Home Study Fee      | Due before or at the time of the home visit  | \$2,800  | Paid to Gladney before or at time of home visit. (See section below for information on social worker travel fees) |
| Adoption Education  | Due before or at the time of the home visit  | \$100  | Paid to Gladney before or at time of home visit.  |
|                     | <b>Total due to Gladney</b>  | <b>~\$4,100</b>                                  |   |



|   |   |                            |  |
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| Psychological Evaluation for each parent<br><i>(Case by Case)</i> | For prospective adoptive parents who have a mental health diagnosis, experienced severe trauma in the past, or are on medications for mental health symptoms, this evaluation is due prior to the Home Study Report completion. | ~\$500 - \$2000 per report | Paid to provider you choose. Fees represent an estimated range and vary by provider/area/state. May be covered by insurance. |
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**\*\* Grants MAY be available.**

**Exceptions / Other Fees:**

**Home Study Review Fee - \$500** If a family has a current home study report specific for the country one is hosting from through another agency, the family will be responsible for paying all fees except the Home Study Fee, instead they will pay a Home Study Review Fee. This fee is credited to the agency home study review fee when your family decides to move forward with adoption through Gladney.

**Home Study Update Fee - \$1,800** If Gladney completes a Home Study Update from another agency or another Gladney program, the family will be responsible for paying all fees above, except the Home Study Fee, instead they will pay a Home Study Update Fee.

**Social Worker Travel** - Mileage fees will be billed (at the standard IRS Rate) from location of social worker to family home/meeting location(s) and back. Tolls & parking will be billed at cost.

**Gladney SuperKids Adventure Grant**

All participant families who submit a dossier within 1 year of participating in the program will receive an agency fee reduction of \$3000 off of their next adoption through Gladney Center for Adoption, be it for the participant child or a different child.



**REFUND POLICY**

The fee payment structure does not compensate Gladney Center for Adoption in advance for services to be provided in the future. Rather, all payments are deemed earned and applicable to services provided upon payment. For this reason, fees paid to Gladney are non-refundable.

Families acknowledge that there are certain fees (not paid to Gladney) necessary to welcome a child into their home (food, clothing, entertainment, outings, etc.). In the event that the participant family decides they wish to terminate the program experience **during** the session, they will nevertheless assume full responsibility for all expenses, which were incurred by or on behalf of the child during the time the child was in their physical custody or was expected to be in their custody, and no refunds will be given.



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**MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like to be considered as a SuperKids Adventure family, please visit our [website](#) for more information, and submit the [SuperKids Adventure Application](#).

If you have questions regarding program requirements, training, costs, or other details, please contact Beth Edwards at [Beth.Edwards@gladney.org](mailto:Beth.Edwards@gladney.org)

**We look forward to you joining us in this incredible endeavor!**

*The Staff of Gladney Center for Adoption*