



Dear Friend,

Thank you for interest in Kidsave's Summer Miracles program. The purpose of the Summer Miracles program is to provide orphaned children from abroad with an opportunity to experience family life, attend day camp, and have some fun away from their orphanage. During their five week summer visit, Kidsave and families work together to help the children meet potential adoptive families. Kidsave cannot guarantee that the children are available for adoption, although our past experience has indicated that they are. Families can only get adoption information from a Hague accredited agency

Please understand that Kidsave is not an adoption agency, but rather a non-profit organization working to end the harmful institutionalization of children worldwide. However, miracles happen every summer, and we know that many families will want to adopt a child they meet through the Summer Miracles program. In these instances, Kidsave will refer the interested family to a Hague accredited adoption agency that works in the country that the child is from.

Your commitment when you host is to provide this child with the experience of a safe family and to be our partner in finding families who might want to adopt the child. You are under no obligation to adopt the child you host. The decision to adopt is a lifetime commitment and should not be entered into lightly. Only you and your family can decide if adopting an older post-institutionalized child is right for you.

If you are interested in hosting a child/children for the Summer Miracles program, included in this Welcome Packet is an application. After receiving the application and a non-refundable \$250 application fee, your local coordinator will provide you with access to additional materials and resources on our website. If you have any questions contact your local coordinator. If you need additional assistance you can email me at nancy@kidsave.org.

Please remember to regularly visit our website for updates on Kidsave activities, meetings, and events at www.kidsave.org.

Many thanks,

Nancy Spence
National Summer Miracles Manager



Summer Miracles Q&A'S

Who is Kidsave?

Kidsave is a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that no orphan or foster child is forgotten and that every child grows up in a family with love and hope for a successful future. Since 1999, more than 2,700 children have found parents and lasting connections with adults thanks to Kidsave programs.

What is the Summer Miracles Program?

Summer Miracles is approximately a five-week hosting program that provides older children growing up in foster care and orphanages with a unique summer experience to share the love and life of a family, attend day camp, and enjoy educational and cultural activities in the United States. While the children are here they receive medical, dental, and/or psychological attention (as needed) and cultivate a lifetime connection with an American family

We have found that during the summer, miracles happen, and many children are adopted by American families they meet during the Summer Miracles program. Since 1999, more than 1,500 children have participated in the program and over 90 % of them have found permanent families as a result. Those few children who do not find a permanent family often leave with an adult connection that will provide support to them after the hosting program is over, giving each participant a chance to have a more secure future. Finally, the Summer Miracles program aims to create awareness of children growing up in foster care and orphanages by introducing Americans to kids who have little or no chance of finding adoptive parents in their own county.

Who are the children that participate in the program?

- Mostly children between the ages of 8-13
- Colombian
- Single children and sibling groups (up to 4)
- Children who may have emotional, medical, and educational needs

How does Kidsave select the children who will participate in the Summer Miracles program?

The children that are chosen for the Summer Miracles program are selected based on specific program requirements and are believed to have the ability to benefit from the experience and successfully adapt to family living.

How does the Summer Miracles program work?

- Prospective families first attend an information meeting. If interested in hosting, a Host Family Application and \$250 application fee must be submitted. Upon receipt of application and fee, the local coordinator provides the family with access to additional required documents that must be submitted.
- Families visit with a local social worker who completes and submits the required hosting paperwork and approves their participation in the program. The family's participation must also be approved by the sending country.
- Children are matched with approved host families (usually in late spring). The match is made by the family's social worker.
- At the point in time a match is made, families must pay the \$1250 hosting fee. The \$1250 fee is charged per single child or sibling group (i.e. only one fee for a sibling set), and is used to offset some of the costs for the child's participation in the program.
- Approved families MUST complete program required training. Training occurs prior to the children's arrival to the United States.
- Host families meet the children at the airport and then take them home to live as part of their family for the duration of the program.
- Children attend a local day camp with American kids and/or other enrichment activities, and also participate in events planned by Kidsave.
- Children and host families get to know one another in a relaxed, nurturing, home environment.
- Families advocate for their host child (ren) to find a permanent family during their stay by taking the child to planned Kidsave events and also by introducing the child to their circle of friends and others in the community.
- Then miracles happen! Many host families fall in love with their child and make the commitment to adopt. Other families meet the children while they are here and make a commitment to adopt. Many families are inspired to become life-long advocates for children growing up in orphanages and foster care.
- All children return to their country of origin at the end of the five-week period accompanied by their chaperone.

What will the children do while they are here?

In addition to going to camp/enrichment activities and participating in day-to-day family life, Kidsave volunteers and staff plan weekend and weekday events designed to bring the children and families together, and to give people who are interested in meeting the kids a chance to interact with them as well. As needed, children will receive medical, dental, and psychological attention.

What kind of training and support will host families receive?

Host families must complete required training provided by their home study agency and Kidsave. Families will receive training materials and resources such as the Host Family Handbook, The Profile of the Older Post-Institutionalized Child, How to Talk to My Host Child About Adoption-Not!, a Child Talk language guide, and a recommended reading list so that they can learn more about the issues a post-institutionalized child may face. While the children are here for the summer, families have the support of their local social worker and Kidsave staff. Additionally, families get access to a resource guide that outlines additional support services.

Aside from providing a home to a child for five weeks, what else will be expected of me?

- Host families are expected to involve the children in day to day family living in a safe and nurturing environment.
- Host families must attend weekend events that bring all host families, children, and chaperones together.
- Host families are expected to advocate for their host child (ren) at events and help them find a permanent family.

Do the children have health insurance while they are in the US?

Each child will be covered by a major medical insurance policy during their stay. This is a zero deductible plan. If the physician is part of the PPO Network the co-insurance is 90/10. If a non network provider is used the co-insurance is 80/20. If the emergency room is used for non injury related illnesses or if hospitalization does not occur there is a \$250 deductible. This policy does not cover pre-existing conditions; dental and vision care are not included. Any elective evaluations or assessments will be at the family's expense. No invasive medical procedures can be done without the chaperone's permission. In some communities, health professionals will provide pro-bono services.

What do the Summer Miracles kids bring with them?

Most Summer Miracles kids step off the airplane with a backpack containing clothes for their visit. It will probably be necessary for your family to purchase a couple outfits for your Summer Miracles child. We also encourage you to use clothing your children have outgrown or collect clothing donations from friends and family. Less is more for these children. They are not used to having many clothing choices so there is no reason to feel you should provide these children with a whole new closet full of clothes.

What is purpose of the Weekend and Weekday events?

Events are designed to give the community an opportunity to meet the children and interact with them and are held to generate media attention.

Do host families have to speak the child's language?

No. It is helpful when families speak the child's language but not required. Most families do not find the language barrier a critical problem. Families who have hosted children say they were able to overcome communication problems quickly.

To provide additional support to our host families, Kidsave provides a glossary of familiar terms in the child's language called Child Talk. Volunteer translators will be available at events and will be on-call to interpret and help families communicate with their kids.

What is the role of the chaperone that comes with the children?

Chaperones are representatives from the children's country and can be social workers, psychologists, directors and/or government officials. These chaperones have the power of attorney over the children. Their job is to make sure that the children have a safe visit and to get to know the families who may be applying to adopt them. All host families must plan to have the chaperone stay in their home during the five week visit. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know an adult from a different culture and create a friendship.

What if a host family finds that they are not able to keep the child for the entire summer?

Kidsave's goal is to keep a child in the same home for the duration of the summer program. However, sometimes unexpected things happen within a family that will prohibit them from continuing to host the child for the length of their stay. Protocols are in place to address this.

What happens to the kids at the end of the Summer Miracles program?

After the five-week visit, all the children must return home to their country with their chaperones. Kidsave's relationship with the children does not stop, as the organization continues to advocate for the children so that each child can become connected to a caring adult.

What if a family decides to adopt?

If a family decides they would like to adopt a child they have met through Summer Miracles Kidsave provides the family with a list of Hague accredited partnering agencies. Only an adoption agency can verify the legal availability of the child for adoption.

What does Kidsave as a national organization do?

Kidsave manages the Summer Miracles program at a national level and helps raise money to bring the children here. Kidsave works with government and country officials to obtain permission for the children to travel, screens and approves the children and chaperones for participation, arranges for all documentation for children and chaperones to travel, coordinates travel for the children and the chaperons, and provides training and preparation for the children and chaperones. Here in the US, Kidsave builds and facilitates the Summer Miracles program, develops partnerships, recruits and trains community volunteers to recruit to coordinate the local program. Kidsave manages advocacy for all children needing families.

What fundraising responsibilities do host families assume?

We ask that you help your local Summer Miracles committee to raise the necessary funds to bring the identified group of children to your city. The cost for one child to participate in the Summer Miracles program is approximately \$9,000. The local community raises half of the funds needed for the local Summer Miracles program.

What kinds of volunteers are needed for Summer Miracles?

Volunteers are needed to participate in the planning committee that coordinates each local program. Volunteer opportunities include fundraising, host family recruitment, communication/outreach, activity/event planning, host family support, escort coordination, hospitality, etc.



SUMMER MIRACLES APPLICATION PROCESS

The following paperwork requirements must be completed for hosting. Only the host family application is included in this packet. Once Kidsave receives your host family application and application fee, your Community Coordinator will provide you access to additional documents and you will need to complete in order to host. You can submit the application and pay the application fee on the Kidsave website www.kidsave.org or by sending a check to Kidsave, 5165 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Washington, DC 20016. In the memo section please note application fee and the community name.

1. **Kidsave Host Family Application.** The first step to becoming a host family is to complete and sign the application form. Along with the application, you must submit a \$250 non-refundable application fee.

2 **Family Participation Form/Home Study.** States have different requirements for families to host an orphaned child in their home. Families must follow the guidelines in the state where they reside. If you are not currently working with an agency, Kidsave will refer you to their partner agency in your community. In all cases, The Family Participation Form must be completed by your social worker. Kidsave provides The Family Participation Form to the committee in Colombia who reviews and approves host families along with additional documents listed below.

- If your family has a current homestudy or foster care license, you will need to submit to Kidsave a notarized copy of your final homestudy or foster care certification and a letter from your social worker that approves you to be a host family for a child ages 8-13. Kidsave can work with you and your social worker to get that letter completed.

3. **Criminal and Child Abuse Clearance.** You will be required to have criminal and child abuse clearances completed for all persons over the age of 18 who are living in your home. Directions on how to obtain this will be provided by your local home study agency. If you have lived in the state for less than two years, FBI fingerprints are required. If you plan on having babysitters or relatives care for your host child (ren), please be aware that all persons caring for your host child (ren) unsupervised by you must also have a current child abuse and criminal check completed. They also must have a face to face interview with the local licensed social work partner. If your host child will be cared for in another persons home, that person will need a criminal check, child abuse clearance, and home visit by the local licensed social worker partner in their home.

4. **Driver's License or Passport.** You are required to submit a copy of your driver's license and/or passport for each person hosting.

5. **Host Family Photograph.** The host family must provide a recent family photograph.

6. **Kidsave Host Family Agreement.** Every host family must sign this document. This document outlines the roles of Kidsave and host families in the Summer Miracles program, so please read it over carefully. Do not hesitate to ask any questions.

7. **Client's Rights.** Please review the Client's Rights document and sign and submit the signature page confirming that you have read and understand your rights as a Kidsave client.

8. **Authorization for Disclosure and Reciprocal Exchange of Information:** Please fill out with information about your homestudy preparer, placement agency or any professional attesting to your appropriateness as a parent.

9. **Release Form to Use Likeness:** Sign and return this form to give Kidsave permission to use photos of your family with and without your host child in any of our promotional materials (brochure, video, etc.)

10. **Confidentiality Agreement:** Sign to acknowledge that you understand you cannot share sensitive information about your host child, other host children, or other host families with anyone other than Kidsave staff, your coordinator or local social worker.

11. **Proof of Automobile Insurance:** a copy of current proof of automobile insurance for every person who will be driving a Summer Miracles' child.

12. **Host family Letter to Child:** using the template provided you will create a letter introducing your family to your prospective host child.

You Community Coordinator will advise you how to access and submit the above.



KIDSAVE
...BECAUSE EVERY CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY

Summer Miracles Host Family Application

Applicant 1 Full name: _____

Applicant 2 Full name: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Home Phone: _____ Home Fax: _____

Partnership Status: SINGLE COHABIT MARRIED SEPARATED DIVORCED

If married, what date? (mm/dd/yyyy) ____/____/____

Applicant 1 Information

Age _____ Birth date: (mm/dd/yyyy) ____/____/____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? _____ If not, what is your citizenship status? _____

Occupation (please describe): _____

Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Office Phone: (_____) _____ Office Fax: (_____) _____

Cell/mobile: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Applicant 2 Information

Age _____ Birth date: (mm/dd/yyyy) ____/____/____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? _____ If not, what is your citizenship status? _____

Occupation (please describe): _____

Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Office Phone: (_____) _____ Office Fax: (_____) _____

Cell/mobile: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Children Already in the Household:

Full name	Birth Date	M/F	Bio/Adopted	Country/Date
_____	___/___/___	___	_____	_____ ___/___/___
_____	___/___/___	___	_____	_____ ___/___/___
_____	___/___/___	___	_____	_____ ___/___/___
_____	___/___/___	___	_____	_____ ___/___/___

Please check if either applicant has history of the following:

- ___ Criminal Activity
- ___ Psychiatric Hospitalization
- ___ Substance Abuse/DUI
- ___ Domestic Violence
- ___ Disrupted Adoption

How Did You Find About Kidsave Summer Miracles?

Paperwork Status:

- (1) Do you have an approved homestudy? ___ Yes ___ No (If no, skip to question 3)
a. If so, date completed ___/___/___
b. Number of children approved for: ___1___2___3___4___5___6

(2) Homestudy agency: _____

Social Worker Name: _____

Agency phone #: _____

Agency Address: _____

- (3) If no, have you begun a homestudy? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, when was it started ___/___/___

- (4) Have you submitted an I600A or an I800A? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, when submitted ___/___/___

- (5) Do you have I171H or an I797C approval? ___ Yes ___ No (If no, skip to question 5)
Date approved: ___/___/___
Number of children approved for: ___1___2___3___4___5___6

- (5) Do you have a foster care license? ___ Yes ___ No

- (6) Have you ever been denied approval by a child placement agency? ___ Yes ___ No

Hosting Child Preferences:

(1) In what year would you like to host? _____

(2) How many children are you willing to host?

___ 1 (Single child) ___ Sibling set of 2 ___ Sibling set of 3 ___ Sibling set of 4

(3) Please indicate the age range and gender of child you wish to host.
(CANNOT GUARANTEE)

Preferences:	Male	Female	Either
8-9 years old	_____	_____	_____
9-11 years old	_____	_____	_____
Over 11 years old	_____	_____	_____
No age preference	_____	_____	_____

Because of the nature of life in an orphanage, older children from institutions will have delays in development and may have other medical or psychological issues that will require attention and care, both emotionally and financially.

I am interested in hosting a child in the Summer Miracles program and am aware that all of the children will have issues that will need time and attention.

I will also accept a child with a known...

- _____ medical problem
- _____ development problem
- _____ psychological problem

We have submitted the application and \$250 non-refundable application fee

Applicant 1: _____ Date: _____

Applicant 2: _____ Date: _____

Kidsave's mission is to save society's 33 million orphans and foster children by showing communities worldwide how to get these forgotten children into families, to grow up with hope, love and productive futures. Kidsave believes that every child needs a family. Adoption is one tool towards that end. Kidsave is not an adoption agency, but Kidsave does provide information about the adoption process to foster the Kidsave mission.