

# AHH Special Needs Program

Many of our families do some sort of fundraising efforts to pay for part of their adoption costs. We've seen lots of variations, but the common theme is always the amazing willingness of others to help with this cause. Donors know they are truly making a difference when they give to a family pursuing an adoption. Here are some fundraising ideas for you to consider.

## Fundraising

### Ideas

Send letters to family, friends, and business acquaintances asking for donations for your adoption expenses. Provide the address of your agency in case they want their donation to be anonymous, but be sure to tell them to include your name with the check. For tax-deductible donations, ask your church about having donors send their donations to the church in order to receive a tax-deduction receipt. Then the church can write one large check to the agency for your adoption.

Have a garage sale with donated items. Ask a local business or your church if you can hold it in their parking lot for a good location spot.

Host a dinner at your church. Have entertainment and charge admission or ask for a donation.

Have a craft or bake sale.

Are you good at cooking? Consider writing and selling cookbooks. One woman raised enough money for the entire cost of her adoption by selling \$10 cookbooks.

Consider using your gifts — sewing, quilting, decorating, scrapbooking, making jewelry, etc. — to create goods that you can sell as an adoption fundraiser.

Host a Tupperware, Mary Kay, or some other sales party that would enable you to raise money for your adoption.

Research other fundraising ideas, such as "A Mother's Charm" resource called *You Can Afford Adoption*, available online at: <http://motherscharm.com/affordadoption/bookorder.php>

Tell everyone you know and even strangers you come across what you are doing. You never know when people may be moved to give.



The Jokinen children. Lilly, the little girl, was adopted in 2005. Her special need is a heart defect.



The Stretch family on Noah's Baby Dedication Sunday. His special need is a heart defect, and he was adopted in 2005.



The Ogren children, holding Téo's referral picture, wait for his arrival. Téo came home in 2005, and he is missing fingers.