

Buckner has supported the Bright Hope ministry in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia since 2000. In 2006, Buckner expanded this collaboration to include international adoption and the construction of a new orphanage. The Buckner-supported orphanage will hold up to 12 children from infancy to 3 years old, and all will be legally available for adoption.

A recent UNICEF report states that more than 4.5 million of Ethiopia's children are orphaned due to poverty and illness. This means that more than one child in 10 is an orphan. Additionally, the maternal mortality rate for pregnant women is very high – one in fourteen women will die in childbirth.

**CHILDREN AVAILABLE** Single children and sibling groups ages 4 months to 3 years old at the time of referral. The opportunity to adopt older children or special needs children would also be an option.

**AGE** Couples and single applicants must be at least 25 years of age. The difference in the child's age and that of the parents should be no more than 40 years.

**MARITAL STATUS** Married couples are preferred, but single female applicants will be considered. Couples must have been married a minimum of five years.

**CHILDREN IN FAMILY** When considering adding single children or a sibling group to a family, it is Buckner policy that there be no more than 6 total children under the age of 18 living in the home after the adoption is complete. Larger families will be reviewed on a case by case basis after their home study is complete.

**AREA SERVED** Buckner works with U.S. citizens from all 50 states and U.S. citizens living overseas.

**FAITH** In recognizing the need for a child to be nurtured in a loving Christian home, applicants must be Christians, and active members of a church in their community.

**TRAVEL TO COUNTRY** Both parents must travel. There is one trip required to Ethiopia that lasts approximately 1-2 weeks in which the family goes to pick up the child. The adoption is finalized in a court hearing.

**IDENTIFICATION PROCESS** Once a family's dossier is complete and overseas, Buckner staff will work to identify children legally available for adoption. Buckner has working relationships in private-run orphan homes.

**APPROXIMATE PROCESSING TIME** Once your dossier is sent overseas, it will take approximately 4-6 months for a referral and 6-8 months after that to finalize your adoption. *Actual time varies on the age, number of children adopting, time it takes family to complete paperwork and meet financial deadlines.*

# ETHIOPIA

Buckner strives to provide an accurate representation of all anticipated adoption expenses. We encourage you to use this worksheet as you compare costs with other agencies. Buckner is able to provide competitive fees because we view our program as a ministry. It is our prayer to place children in loving, Christian homes and to do our part to make international adoption affordable for all families.

## FIXED ADOPTION FEES:

<b>Application Fee:</b>	\$300
<b>Refundable Post Placement Deposit:</b>	\$500 <sup>(1)</sup>
<i>(1) Each family receives their \$500 Refundable Deposit after they provide the agency: a.) proof of their child's adoption finalization and b.) proof of their child's U.S. citizenship within a two-year period after placement and c.) filing the post placement reports required by the country.</i>	
<b>Ethiopian Program Fees:</b>	
Orphanage Donation to support the children's home	\$2,500 <sup>(2)</sup>
Ethiopian Program Costs	\$4,000
<i>(2) Tax-deductible.</i>	
<b>Agency Fee:</b>	\$7,000 <sup>(3)</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agency fee for additional sibling adopted at the same time: \$3,000</li> <li>Agency fee for subsequent adoptions: \$5,000</li> </ul>	
<i>(3) Buckner's agency fee includes: Matching and placement, support groups and on-going education, assembling the dossier, processing of documents, assistance with CIS clearance, travel preparations and education, translation services, compilation and authentication of follow-up reports, correspondence, phone and mailing costs.</i>	
<b>TOTAL FIXED FEES:</b>	<b>\$14,300</b>

## ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL ADOPTION FEES:

Item Column	Estimated Costs:	Number of Applicable Persons:	Total Estimated Fees:
<b>Texas Home Study:</b>	\$1,000 <sup>(4) (5)</sup>	N/A	
<b>Texas Home Study Update:</b>	\$500 <sup>(4) (5) (6)</sup>		
<b>Texas Seminar:</b>	\$300 <sup>(4)</sup>	N/A	
<b>Texas Post Placement Reporting:</b>	\$1,500 <sup>(5)</sup>	N/A	

*(4) For non-Texas residents these fees would not apply and you will need to locate a licensed child-placing agency that provides adoption services in your area to complete a state-based home study assessment, adoption seminar and post-placement supervision and support. For these non-Texas residents and Texas residents who use another agency to complete the home study you will pay Buckner a \$500 home study review fee. For these non-Texas residents and Texas residents who use another agency to complete the required Post Placement Support for Buckner Ethiopia adoptions you will pay Buckner a \$500 Post Placement Review and Submission fee for the reporting period. (5) Travel expenses for social worker conducting home study is not included. The family will be billed after the services are rendered. (6) Home Study Update fee if the Home Study must be updated prior to placement and/or is a year old. For Home Studies that are over a year old and for subsequent Buckner adopters the Update will cost \$1,000.*

<b>Government Fees:</b>			
CIS Application:	\$670	N/A	
CIS Fingerprinting:	\$80 (per adult)		
<b>Documentation/Processing:</b>			
Authentication	\$400+ <sup>(6)</sup>	N/A	
<i>(6) Fees vary by state</i>			
Priority Mailing Costs	\$150+	N/A	
<b>Dossier Translation</b>	\$350		

**TOTAL ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED FEES: \$4,530+**

## TRAVEL COST ESTIMATES:

<b>Average Trip Estimate for Two Adults:</b>	\$4,970
Includes round-trip airfare (\$1,500 per person), hotel and meals (\$200 per day) and transportation.	
<b>Average Trip Estimate for One Adopted Child:</b>	\$750
Includes one-way airfare, medical exam and visa.	

*\*\*Costs vary depending on amount of days spent in the country, time of year, age and number of children you are adopting.*

**TOTAL ESTIMATED TRAVEL COSTS: \$5,720+**

**TOTAL ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION COST ESTIMATE including travel: \$24,550+**

*Fees are subject to change until the time you submit your application. Cost of re-adoption in the U.S. is not included.*

Fees will be due to Buckner as services are rendered. Once a service is rendered, it is considered **non-refundable**. When a prospective family submits the formal application to Buckner, the family signs the Buckner Fee Agreement for the country program of choice. The Fee Agreement outlines the schedule of payments. Buckner's fees are due in completion prior to adoption placement. Buckner will provide a family updated travel cost estimates prior to travel. In the event that unforeseen additional adoption related fees exceeding \$1,000 are incurred in the placing country, Buckner will disclose such fees and obtain the prospective parents' written consent.

