

GRANT PROGRAM POLICIES

Purpose

The Bible repeatedly reminds us of God's love for orphans and commands that mercy be shown to them. Adoption is one means of caring for orphans. Caroline's Promise seeks to reduce the costs of adoption for Christian couples who wish to care for and raise orphaned children. Our goal is to help bring more children home by assisting those couples who may not otherwise be able to afford adoption.

Based on the above, the following guidelines are in place:

Guidelines

1. Because our desire is for children to be raised in godly, Christ-centered homes, the paramount consideration in our application review is in regards to the parents' Christian faith. It is our intent to uphold Biblically-based Christian values by limiting our assistance to Christian couples (in the traditional sense of husband and wife marriages). Applicants must sign a Statement of Faith, provide a statement of recommendation from their pastor and a written testimony of their personal faith experience. (See the grant application)
2. Prospective adoptive couples may apply for a grant after they have an approved home study by a licensed adoption agency. A copy of the home study must be included with the grant application. Their adoption agency/attorney must provide a letter of recommendation (see provided form in the application packet), ensuring that they are both committed to the adoption process and have been determined to be good parents to a child. Requiring that prospective adoptive couples are home study-approved before applying for a grant promotes wise stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to Caroline's Promise.
3. The prospective adoptive couple will be responsible to complete the provided Financial Assessment Sheet (FAS) and to return this with the rest of the application. This information will be used to determine eligibility for financial assistance. Clarification from the adoptive couple may be requested by the Board of Directors of Caroline's Promise.
4. Confidential reference forms are provided (see application packet), and must each be completed by the adoptive couple's employer(s), pastor, and adoption agency. Please provide these individuals with a stamped, addressed envelope for them to send their form directly to Caroline's Promise.
5. This grant program is available only to legal U.S. citizens.
6. Applications are reviewed by our Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. You may request special consideration in cases where time is an issue by attaching a note to your application. Applicants (approved and denied) will be notified via mail in a timely manner following the determination.
7. The Board of Directors of Caroline's Promise will take all of the prospective adoptive couples' information into consideration. However, the decision to sponsor or not sponsor a particular couple, and the designated amount of the grant shall be determined at the sole discretion of Caroline's Promise. Need will be assessed based on the total estimated cost of the adoption minus the amount of any applicable federal and state adoption credits for which they qualify.
8. In return for a financial grant, Caroline's Promise requests a picture of your family and/or child (after the child is home). We also request a letter from you regarding the completion of your adoption journey. These will go on file to prove that the adoption was, in fact, completed, and that our funds were used appropriately. We also request permission to use these things in our newsletter or other publications (you could write your letter in article form, if you choose to do so, for that express purpose) to further promote the purposes of this ministry and to encourage other adoptive families. It is expected that the families receiving support will actively participate in the fundraising activities of Caroline's Promise.
9. THIS APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL or it will not be processed and reviewed. Caroline's Promise will not be responsible for following up on incomplete applications.

Federal Tax Credit

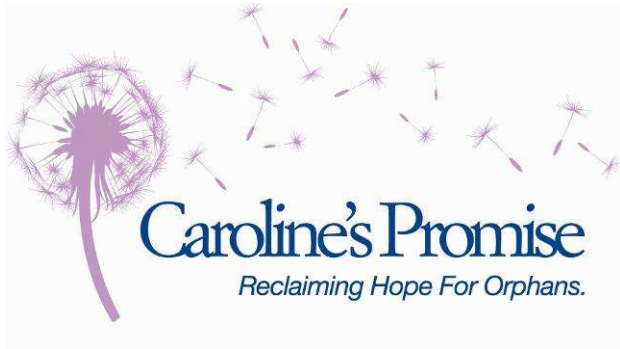
Effective January 1, 2009, adoptive families whose combined family incomes are under \$182,150 will be eligible for up to a maximum of \$12,150 tax credit related to adoption expenses incurred for the year an adoption is finalized. Please consult your professional tax advisor or www.irs.gov for up to date information. Caroline's Promise does not provide tax advice regarding potential adoption credits.

Funding

Monies for this grant program are received from general fundraising events, grants from other charitable organizations/foundations, and from individual and corporate contributions. Donations designated for a specific adoption are not accepted. The Board of Directors always has the final say in how funds are distributed.

Disbursement

- All grant monies will only be distributed for qualified adoption expenses that have been pre-approved by Caroline's Promise.
- All grant monies will not be paid directly to the adoptive couple.
- Grant monies will be paid for approved expenditures to the appropriate agency or service provider (adoption agency, airline agency, hotel, foreign country, etc.).
- Grant recipients must provide sufficient documentation (invoice or receipt) to support this proposed expenditure.
- Caroline's Promise under no circumstances shall be responsible for any obligation incurred by the prospective adoptive couple for adoption-related obligations.
- No party shall be deemed a third-party beneficiary of any grant awarded.



GRANT APPLICATION

(Please complete this form and return it to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641)

Date: _____

Prospective Father's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Prospective Mother's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Home Telephone Number _____ Date of Marriage _____

Email Address _____

Prospective Father

Occupation _____ Name of Employer _____

Yearly Income _____ Length of Employment _____

Number of Previous Marriages _____ Number of Divorces _____

Prospective Mother

Occupation _____ Name of Employer _____

Yearly Income _____ Length of Employment _____

Number of Previous Marriages _____ Number of Divorces _____

Children's names and ages (Please include all dependents 18 years of age or under)

_____	Age _____	Adopted _____	Biological _____
_____	Age _____	Adopted _____	Biological _____
_____	Age _____	Adopted _____	Biological _____
_____	Age _____	Adopted _____	Biological _____
_____	Age _____	Adopted _____	Biological _____

Do any of the above children have special needs? If so, please explain. _____

Name, address, telephone, and email of the church you attend:

Name, address, telephone, and email of the agency or individual providing your home study:

Name, address, telephone, and email of the agency completing your adoption:

GRANT APPLICATION (continued)

Please describe the child(ren) you hope to adopt. Include information about the child’s age, country, and special needs, if any. _____

Are you receiving financial assistance from any other source? (i.e. Other organizations, home equity loans, personal loans, family members, etc.) Please specify: _____

What other methods have you used to raise funds for this adoption? _____

Special financial considerations or circumstances that make affording adoption expenses difficult: (Please attach additional pages, if necessary.) _____

Total estimated cost of adoption	\$ _____
What amount of the Adoption Tax Credit will you qualify for? (You may need to check with your accountant.)	\$ _____
How much have you already paid toward this adoption?	\$ _____
What amount remains to be paid?	\$ _____

Caroline’s Promise’s grant program policies are specifically incorporated into this grant application by reference and the undersigned have fully read, understand and agree to such policies.

The undersigned understand that completion of this application does not guarantee financial assistance which shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of Caroline’s Promise. Any untrue answer or misrepresentation as determined by Caroline’s Promise on this application or subsequent documents will be grounds to decline approval or revoke a previously approved application and grant.

Prospective Father’s Signature _____ Date _____

Prospective Mother’s Signature _____ Date _____

The following documents **must** be included with your application:

- Statement of Faith, signed and dated
- A copy of your home study
- Financial Assessment Sheet (FAS)
- A written testimony of your personal faith experience (from both prospective parents). This should be no more than one typed page.

The following documents **must** be mailed directly to Caroline’s Promise:

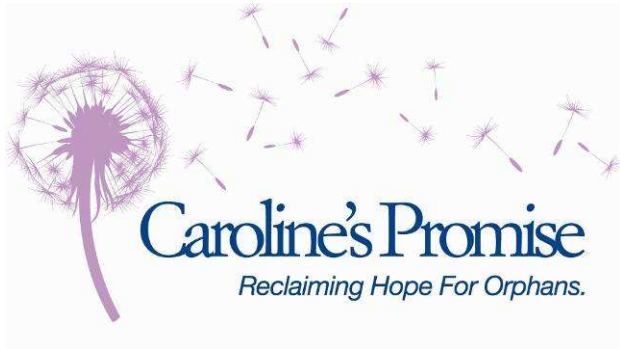
- Pastoral recommendation
- Agency recommendation form
- Employee Adoption Benefit Statement (Please copy the provided form for each employer)

PLEASE NOTE: In exchange for financial assistance with your adoption, we request that you consider ways that you can “reinvest” in this ministry. It is not mandatory and will not affect the outcome of this application. However, it gives you an opportunity to bless other adoptive families, and helps us to keep ministering to needy children.

We request that each of our grant recipients send us a photograph(s) of their family and/or newly adopted child after the adoption is complete. We keep them in our office as visual reminders of why we do what we do, and so that we can pray over each family as we go about our work. In the event that your application is approved, we will enclose a request form for you to sign and return with your photos, indicating whether or not you will allow us to use the photos to promote the purposes of this ministry.

We encourage our grant recipients to share their adoption story in our newsletter. You may submit articles at any time. You can find an ongoing list of ministry opportunities within Caroline’s Promise at our website: www.carolinespromise.net. For additional information, please contact us at: North Carolina (336) 993-9046, South Carolina (864) 650-6985.

Thank you for completing this application! Please send your application standard U.S. Postal Service to the address at the top of page one. We cannot accept applications that we have to sign for.



FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT SHEET

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip Code

Home Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Assets

Total Annual Income \$ _____
 Checking Account Balance \$ _____
 Savings Account Balance \$ _____
 Certificates of Deposit \$ _____
 Stocks and Bonds \$ _____
 IRA Accounts \$ _____
 Personal Residence \$ _____
 Vehicles \$ _____
 Recreational Vehicles \$ _____
 Other Real Estate \$ _____
 Business Equipment \$ _____
 Cash Value Life Insurance \$ _____

Other Assets (itemize):

_____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____

Total Assets \$ _____

Liabilities

Credit Card Balances (itemize):

_____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____

Car Loans \$ _____
 Business Loans \$ _____
 Home Mortgage \$ _____
 Life Insurance Loans \$ _____

Other Liabilities (itemize):

_____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____

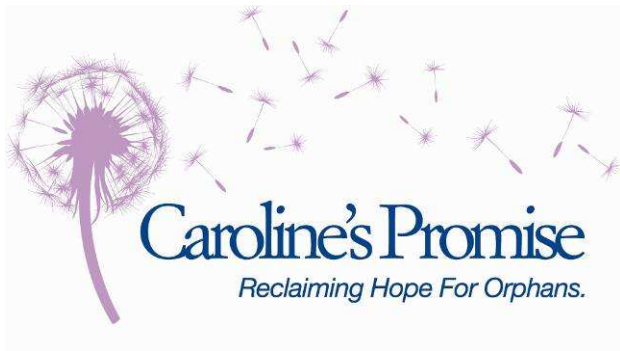
Total Liabilities \$ _____

Net Worth \$ _____
 (Total assets minus total liabilities)

The information contained on this form is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Prospective Father's Signature _____ Date _____

Prospective Mother's Signature _____ Date _____



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Caroline's Promise is founded upon the Word of God. Members of the Board and adoptive applicants are requested to indicate their personal agreement with our Statement of Faith by signing at the bottom. We believe in the one living and true God, both holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom, and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature, power and eternity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Man and woman were made in His image. God gave Adam and Eve important work to do in this world as His ambassadors on earth. He also gave them the ability to conceive and bear children. We agree that God begins and sustains life at conception and gives to each person meaning, dignity and value.

Sin entered the world because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Because of this all people are separated from God and live in a world corrupted by sin. However, we believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, and to reconcile us to God. Christ rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and there intercedes for us at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all humanity.

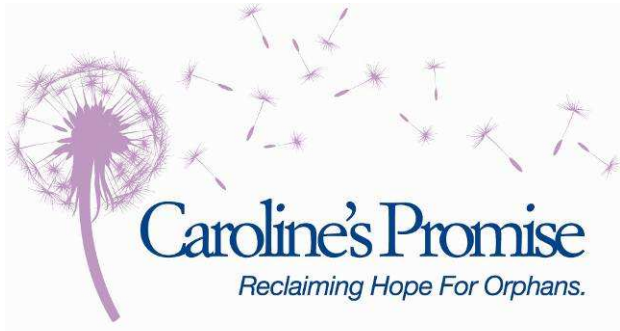
The Bible is the first and final authority because it is the Word of God. We believe the books of the Old and New Testaments constitute the Holy Scriptures, inspired and infallibly written, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority, and have been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine. We believe they contain all things necessary unto salvation: That we are forgiven of sins by faith in Jesus Christ and that God provides salvation by grace alone for those who repent and believe.

We believe that the two great commandments, which require us to love the Lord our God with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves, summarize the divine law as it is revealed in the Scriptures. We believe therefore that the church and the Christian community as a whole have the obligation to protect, preserve and enhance life as fully as possible for each person, both the born and the unborn. Therefore all people are called to a life of faith in Christ and enabled to be diligent in His purposes until His kingdom fully comes. The Spirit of God is ever present, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer; giving us hope.

We believe the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return, He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil. He will gather us to Himself as one new family and for eternity fully enhance our lives as citizens of His kingdom. We face that day without fear, for Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord! To Him be the glory! Amen

Prospective Father's Signature _____ Date _____

Prospective Mother's Signature _____ Date _____



CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE ADOPTION BENEFIT STATEMENT

(To be completed by each employer and mailed directly to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641)

Employee's Name _____ Date _____

Company _____ Telephone Number _____

Company Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Employer's Name _____

What types of employee adoption benefits does your company provide, if any?

If cash benefits are available, how much does this applicant qualify for with this adoption? \$ _____

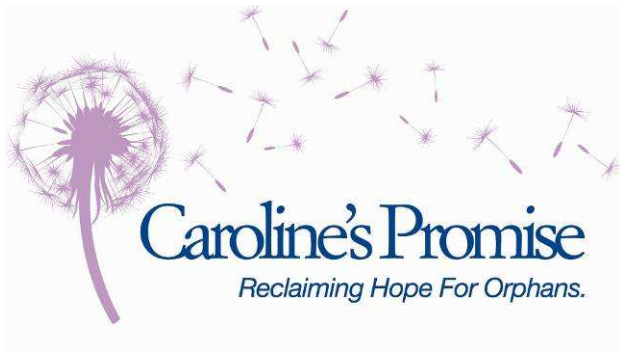
Employer's Signature _____
Date _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form!

Please mail it to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641

For additional information:

(336) 993-9046 • LisaHolbrook@CarolinesPromise.net



CONFIDENTIAL PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION FORM

(To be completed by your pastor and mailed directly to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641)

Pastor's Name _____ Date _____

Church Name _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Applicants' Names _____

The Bible repeatedly reminds us of God's love for orphans and commands that we care for them as well. Adoption is one means of caring for orphans. Caroline's Promise seeks to give more children secure, loving homes by reducing the costs associated with adoption. We provide financial grants for adoptive couples who exhibit a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ and who struggle to afford their adoption expenses.

With this in mind, can you recommend this applicant for financial assistance in their adoption:

Highly recommend Recommended Not Recommended

Why? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what areas of ministry is this couple involved within your church? _____

Do you know if this family tithes regularly?

Do not know Yes No

Does your church make financial support available for adoptive families within your congregation?

If so, how much is this applicant receiving towards this adoption? \$ _____

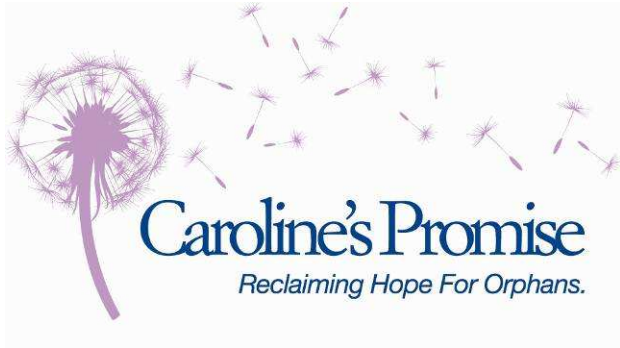
Pastor's Signature _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form!

Please mail it to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641

For additional information:

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AGENCY RECOMMENDATION FORM

(To be completed by your adoption agency and mailed directly to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641)

Adoptive Parents' Names _____ Date _____

Adoption Agency _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Email _____

Caroline's Promise seeks to give more children secure, loving homes by reducing the costs associated with adoption. We provide financial grants for Christian adoptive couples who struggle to afford their adoption expenses.

Based on the various facets of their finances, can you recommend this applicant for financial assistance in this adoption?

Highly recommend Recommended Not Recommended

Why? _____

What is the total cost of this adoption? \$ _____

Does this applicant qualify for any financial aid from this agency? Yes No

If so, what is the amount of such assistance? \$ _____

I verify that we have completed or reviewed an approved home study for the couple named above. To the best of my knowledge they are committed to this adoption process and will be good parents to a child.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form!

Please mail it to Caroline's Promise. North Carolina: 1950 Beeson Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. South Carolina: P.O. Box 1496, Easley, SC 29641

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