

Dear Family,

As you may be aware of the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, we are mobilizing efforts to help the plight of the Haitian children. We want to be upfront and let you know nothing is clear or absolute about the process since nothing was established prior to this catastrophe. The Haitian gov't is currently operating at reduced capacity and our U.S. gov't is making all efforts to coordinate different entities to address the enormous needs. Through an immigration status called Humanitarian Parole, there may be a window of opportunity to sponsor medically needy Haitian children. It may be helpful if you can do some research on the internet regarding the term "humanitarian parole" and "medical emergency" and get familiar with these processes.

What we are trying to accomplish is a God-size task. We at Hope for Haiti feel called to respond to the needs of the Haitian children and our best efforts will be made to offer temporary care for these children. We need prayer and families to walk in faith in opening their hearts and homes to those children we hope to bring to Texas. Many families are offering to sponsor so we'd like to get as many families ready (gov't approved) to take in and care for the children.

At this time, we are moving forward to help parents/families to apply for sponsoring Haitian children. We need families to be state licensed foster parents to meet the minimum State standards to be eligible. If you are or want to be licensed, please contact us for more info. Please submit the following page "Foster Parents Interest Form" so we may keep track and communicate the necessary steps to have you be eligible to sponsor a Haitian orphan.

Thank you for your interest. To contact Hope for Haiti staff regarding sponsoring a Haitian orphan, we can be reached at 512-756-2643.

Blessings,

Hope for Haiti

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

Requirements to Become Foster Parents

The prospective foster/adoptive parents may be single or married and must:

- Be at least 21 years of age, financially stable, and responsible mature adults,
- Complete an application (staff will assist you, if you prefer),
- Share information regarding their background and lifestyle,
- Provide relative and non-relative references,
- Show proof of marriage and/or divorce (if applicable),
- Agree to a home study which includes visits with all household members,
- Allow staff to complete a criminal history background check and an abuse/neglect check on all adults in the household, and
- Attend free training to learn about issues of abused and neglected children.
- The training provides an opportunity for the family and DFPS to assess whether foster care or adoption is best for the family. The family may withdraw from the meetings at any time. There is no charge for the meetings. Foster/adoptive parents generally train together.

In addition to the basic requirements, foster parents must:

- Have adequate sleeping space.
- Allow no more than 6 children in the home including your own children or children for whom you provide day care.
- Agree to a nonphysical discipline policy.
- Permit fire, health and safety inspections of the home.
- Vaccinate all pets.
- Obtain and maintain CPR/First Aid Certification.
- Obtain TB testing as required by the local Health Department for household members.
- Attend 20 hours or more of training each year.

For more information:

DFPS website:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/requirements.asp