

CAROLINA  ADOPTION
SERVICES

A CHILDREN'S CHARITY...CHANGING THE WORLD...ONE CHILD AT A TIME
Annual Report • 2010





CAROLINA ADOPTION

 SERVICES

To Our Contributors, Families, and Friends,

When Carolina Adoption Services was founded in 1993 we were just beginning to find ways to improve the lives of children in overseas orphanages. Today, Carolina Adoption Services touches the lives of hundreds of children and families worldwide each year.

During the past seventeen years, we have been a part of the immense progress for needy children. Orphanages and institutions have been improved, school books supplied, heat, food and medicine have been provided and thousands of children placed with loving families. The work is ever changing and challenging but we are committed to children having a family and a chance for a brighter future.

Carolina Adoption Services cannot overcome all the children’s need but with your help we can make a difference. This year Haiti was at the forefront of the world’s attention and ours. While adoptions from this country have slowed, the needs of the children for safe shelter and dry beds were great. CAS responded and even small individual donations had an enormous impact on the lives of children.



Over the past year, Carolina Adoption Services has had significant achievements and overcome many hurdles. We rely on our contributors, families, and friends to help us make a difference. Whether it is through adoption or supporting aid efforts, we can only succeed in our mission because of your partnership and generosity.

We look to the future and all the children who need us and ask that you continue on this journey with Carolina Adoption Services. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Carolina Adoption Services, please be assured our commitment to families and children remains strong.

Julie Glandt
Assistant Director

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

• Families interested in adoption.....	2392
• Adoption information meetings held.....	56
• Applications for child placement.....	95
• Applications for home study services.....	42
• International child placements.....	60
• Post-adoption visits to families.....	156
• Country reports prepared and mailed.....	573
• Post-adoption clinical service hours.....	50
• Volunteer hours.....	790
• New adoption programs: China Special Needs.....	1
• Aid & Development.....	\$129,150
• Domestic parental (independent) placements.....	10
• Domestic placements.....	1

PERFECT BY KRISTINA MOORE

When starting to write about our 2010 adoption experience, I looked for a photo that was absolutely perfect. Our first family portrait together doesn't fill the bill at all. We were in Moldova meeting our new son. We had an overall great experience there, but in this photo, we all look hot, confused, exhausted, and generally overwhelmed. But I wanted you all to see it anyway, because it is not perfect.

In May of 2010, we had already completed our home study and were ready to consider referrals when we first saw Elias' information on the CAS web site among the waiting children. He has a genetic condition that can cause benign tumors to grow throughout the body and frequently just below the surface of the skin, and can cause other health problems. It must be said that he also has a very affectionate manner, the charm of Valentino, and a killer smile. This kid ought to be in the movies.

Anyhow, people wonder how we decided to adopt a boy with special needs, especially since our daughter by birth, six years old, was born very premature with a urinary birth defect (also genetic) and has struggled throughout her young life to catch up to her peers in many ways. I think that because we were already bringing up a child who faces some challenges, we had let go of the idea of perfect and embraced the reality of good - great, even. We had traded in our ideal of happiness for something better. Something deeper. Something like joy.



In fact, if you get to know the people in our portrait, you'll find that we each have special needs. That we are not average, not typical. We don't fit the mold. It turns out that nobody does. That is the human condition, and it's terrific and it's awful and it feels wonderful and it hurts.

When the time came, we requested Elias' referral and medical information, and we pored over it night and day. We had it all evaluated by experts. We thought carefully over whether this decision was the right one for our family.

In that process, CAS put us in touch with Dr. David Douglass, a pediatrician who has himself adopted internationally. He said something we will always carry with us. He said that we would know when we reached the "point of no return," having found the child who was right for our family. Dr. Douglass was right. We reached a point where we knew that Elias was our son, and there was no going back to living without him. My husband, Richard, my daughter Mary Bell and I travelled to Chisinau, Moldova in August 2010 to adopt Vasile Voinicescu, now known as Elias Vasile. He was two and a half years old. By the time we met Elias, we could no more have left him in Moldova than we could have left our daughter in the neonatal nursery at the hospital. We didn't bring them home because they were perfect. We didn't bring them home because we were on a mission to save them. We brought them home because they were ours.

Six months into being a family of four now, we have had evaluations done on Elias' health by the very best medical and therapeutic experts we could access. He is healthy and happy and thriving with no serious problems related to his diagnosis. And he's growing like crazy. Our daughter and he have made this huge life transition unbelievably well, and so have their parents. We are so close already and we know our bond will continue to grow. It has been difficult. It has been well worth it.

OK, we aren't perfect. But we're perfect for each other.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2010



CHINA WAITING CHILD PROGRAM OPENS

CAS was excited to announce a new program for “special needs” adoptions from China in September 2009! CAS and longtime partner agency, Chrysalis House, Inc., are networking to offer families the Waiting Child (WC) program for adoption of “special needs” children from China. Qualified families can apply for Waiting Child program and typically complete their adoption in as little as 12 months! Carol Galvin is the Program Coordinator.



CAS LOWERS FEES FOR FAMILIES ADOPTING FROM RUSSIA

CAS was proud to announce the launch of the invigorated Russia Adoption Program. With this new launch come lower fees, shorter anticipated wait times, and more referrals. With the changes we saw renewed interest in the Russia program. Families continue to move through the program and happily return home with their children.

Eight families completed their adoptions from Russia this year.



FRIST ANNUAL ADOPTION DAY CELEBRATION

The first annual National Adoption Day Celebration at the Greensboro Children’s Museum was a huge success. Adoptive families and foster children enjoyed an adoption area, where they could adopt a doll and see how the process works, an adoption story time, and all the fun exhibits at the museum. We are looking forward to expanding the celebration next year and look forward to seeing more families and children enjoy the day.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2010



CAS PARTNERS WITH WHFC

CAS met the interest of families in an Ethiopia adoption program by partnering with Wide Horizons for Children (WHFC). This partnership and program opened more doors to families interested in adoption and needing reputable agencies with whom to progress. CAS handled all home study and post-adoption needs of the family and WHFC did the placement.

CAS received many applications to participate in this program.



LEADING EXPERT FOR NATIONAL NEWS

After the earthquake in Haiti, CAS was called upon to be a leading expert in adoption and children's welfare by CNN News. CAS representative Siri Scott was featured on two live news feeds. CAS was also contacted by NBC Nightly News and many other national and local broadcasters.

CAS was called upon again when the child was returned to Russia by his adoptive mother. HLN and CNN as well as many others quickly contacted CAS for information and interviews.



GEORGIA & MEXICO PROGRAMS OPEN

Georgia continues to be a program of interest for many families. To meet this need CAS has been working with a facilitator to process a few pilot adoptions.

CAS was the first and only U.S. adoption agency to become accredited to assist families with adoptions from Mexico. Adopting from Mexico has many advantages for families. CAS is working diligently with the central authority in Mexico and the U.S. State Department to get this program off the ground.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2010



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

COA RECOGNITION AWARDED

CAS was recognized by the Council on Accreditation for quality improvement initiatives this year. COA stated regarding CAS “By demonstrating exceptional improvement initiatives in the management of quality, your organization affirms its ongoing commitment to enhancing organizational effectiveness and excellence for consumers and other stakeholders.”



GALA RAISES \$40,000

The 2010 Generous Hearts Gala was held on April 17, 2010 and was a huge success! To all who attended, donated, sponsored, and volunteered, thank you for opening your generous hear. The CAS community came together to improve the lives of orphans and vulnerable children worldwide. Thanks to the over \$40,000 raised, CAS’s mission will continue because of you.



PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

An education partnership was formed with Heart of the Matters Seminars this year to improve education offerings to our families. The *Because They Waited* education series provides families 10 hours of Hague approved pre-adoption education, with modules on healthy development, sensory issues, parenting to child’s real age, building attachment, and race and culture.



POST-ADOPTION HIGHLIGHTS

- 46 court reports submitted for adoption finalization or re-finalization
- 490 country reports prepared and sent to foreign countries
- 60 welcome home packets sent to CAS families
- 156 social worker post-placement reports

AID AND DEVELOPMENT

HUMANITARIAN AID HIGHLIGHTS

Armenia

- \$2,000 for general orphanage support

Guatemala

- \$200 to Guatemala Hogar for school supplies

Haiti

- \$3,507 for immediate disaster relief needs of Mason des Anges Orphanage.

Kenya

- \$100 General support for children

Moldova

- \$7,500 to support Outreach and Intervention Project
- \$22,340 in Moldovan Orphan Sponsorship Program scholarships
- \$1,000 to keep a family with triplets together
- \$500 Christmas Caravan giving food and clothing to poor families and those families with special needs children
- \$1,700 for medical blood work and genetic testing

Nepal

- \$31,868 in general orphanage support to pay for daily care of children, school, and medical care

Republic of Georgia

- \$5,050 to aid school aged orphaned children and project development efforts

Vietnam

- \$2,110 to support the Milk Project for children

Orphans Hope International

- \$1,000 for general orphanage support

Scholarships

- 2 families received a total of \$2,000 to assist with adoption expenses



Hope In Haiti (excerpt)

My job in Haiti was to visit an orphanage called Maison des Anges (MDA). On January 12th, the date of the earthquake, most of MDA's buildings were destroyed, all of the children miraculously survived, thanks to the rapid-fire reactions of its staff. I arrived at MDA with donations in tow and they were gratefully received. What we found though was not what we expected.

Despite the destruction of their pretty and pristine orphanage, we found the staff and children at MDA in good spirits. Despite their current living conditions in tents and a tin-roofed pavilion, we found the children playful and well-groomed. Despite the difficulties getting food and clean water, we found a resourceful staff who, post 1/12, has worked diligently and cleverly to find the supplies they need to keep the MDA children nourished. And while the illnesses affecting all of Haiti have also crept into this orphanage, we found the Executive Director prioritizing medical care over other needs so that issues such as malaria and parasites are quickly treated.

I expected to be stunned by the scene and circumstances at MDA but thought it would be due to the hopelessness found in that environment. Instead, I was stunned by the strength of the souls working there and their extreme selflessness and optimism. Whatever source of spirit leads people toward hope and the positive energy required to make improvements in a life, especially a child's, is worthy of our close attention.

Hope in Haiti was written by **Marcia Vaughn, M.S.W., Special Projects Manager**

Outreach & Intervention - A Recipe for Progress

Your support offered much progress this year for the Moldova Outreach & Intervention Project (OIP). The project was busy and accomplished the following:

- Offering 45 families assistance
- Protecting 20 at-risk children
- Helping 17 families in crisis
- Placing 36 children in a center for care
- Advocating for two children
- Presenting two seminars on protection for at-risk children



Victoria found safety at school and lavished in her school work. One afternoon, she could not face the thought of going home and approached the principal for help. She stated that she was afraid of her mother and did not want to go home. Immediately a social worker was contacted and necessary protective measures have been taken. Another child helped by OIP.

Children just like Victoria face difficult situations, go unnoticed, or are ignored in Moldova every day. Many children are on their own, without supervision, or without parents. Too many children are in the hands of abusers, living in risky situations, or living with families in great need. This is why Carolina Adoption Services with your help is supporting the OIP. A few of the project's goals are to: Find and help children in need, support families in crisis, and train social workers.

AID & DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Development Funds overlap and intertwine with CAS humanitarian efforts in the foreign countries. Key to continued intercountry adoption is the exploration of new potential countries and the support and strengthening of relationships with existing countries.

- Three agency staff visited 4 different countries in an effort to provide needed aid to children, create new relationships and establish potential programs and to solidify existing relationships. These countries include Armenia, Moldova, Haiti, and France (consortium on Haiti).
- Families donated \$102,600 directly to orphanages to aid children this year.



A TOTAL OF \$129,150 IN AID & DEVELOPMENT HELPED TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF CAROLINA ADOPTION SERVICES!

CAS is making a difference in the lives of children overseas. We are grateful for the generous support of our donors and volunteers who make this possible. The wonderful families who complete their adoption often times take suitcases filled with items which are desperately needed by the orphanages. Each and every contribution makes a difference and CAS is blessed to be supported by people who share the same passion of changing the world...one child at a time.

MOLDOVA ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

To hope means to succeed. This is the motto of hundreds of disadvantaged youth from Moldova. They want to study, to get a decent job, to have a bright future. But without a family or support, the hope of a better life seems impossible. The aim of our program, which started in 2000, is to instill hope, courage, and self-confidence in disadvantaged young adults of Moldova and assist them morally and financially during schooling. When Julie Glandt visited Moldova in 2000, she understood that this country has a lot of smart and talented people who cannot succeed because of lack of means and support. So, she founded the “Moldova Orphan Sponsorship Program.” Today this program is 10 years old and we can firmly declare that it is successful due to the sponsors who offered support to our needy students. We are proud that over 80 students graduated this program and many of them have achieved their dreams.



Serghei Filatov

During the 2009-2010 school year:

- \$22,340 was provided to support youth/young adults while enrolled in advanced education
- Additional funds were given to host quarterly luncheon meetings by sponsors as gifts to students

Last year, 28 students received a quarterly stipend through the support of their sponsors. Eleven students graduated from their chosen fields. Three graduates are now working in Moldova, one is working abroad, and two are seeking employment. Among them, there are very successful graduates. Serghei Filatov is now in charge of administrating and developing computer programs at the largest candy factory in Moldova, “Bucuria.” Olese Turcan teaches English in India and also works at the Moldovan Embassy.



Olese Turcan

In fact, we could say that this year was very progressive. The most significant event was the establishment of the NGO “A RAY OF HOPE TO CHILDREN” in Moldova that allows us to extend our humanitarian activity there. Angela Arhip, who so far has been the Moldova Program Coordinator, now is also the director of this NGO. She has worked hard to establish it, to coordinate successfully the program, maintaining regular contact not only with our program’s students, but also with different officials. Her efforts are possible due to the support of CAS and the U.S. based coordinator who works hard to find sponsoring families and organizations. We have also made some changes in the title and the program itself; it is now the “Sponsorship Program for Disadvantaged Youth.” Working for such a long time at this program, we realized that it is not only great, but also necessary to extend it and offer support not only to orphans, but also to youth who come from needy families.

The need for sponsors is still great. There is a large waiting list for students to be sponsored. Students are referred to the program faster than new sponsors are secured. Our primary task at the moment is to work hard to find benefactors and to raise funds. This program is Carolina Adoption Service largest ongoing humanitarian aid project. Sponsors are varied – adoptive families, friends, small groups, and businesses. More information about the program can be found on our website, www.carolinaadoption.org.

APPLICATIONS & PLACEMENTS

APPLICATIONS BY TYPE

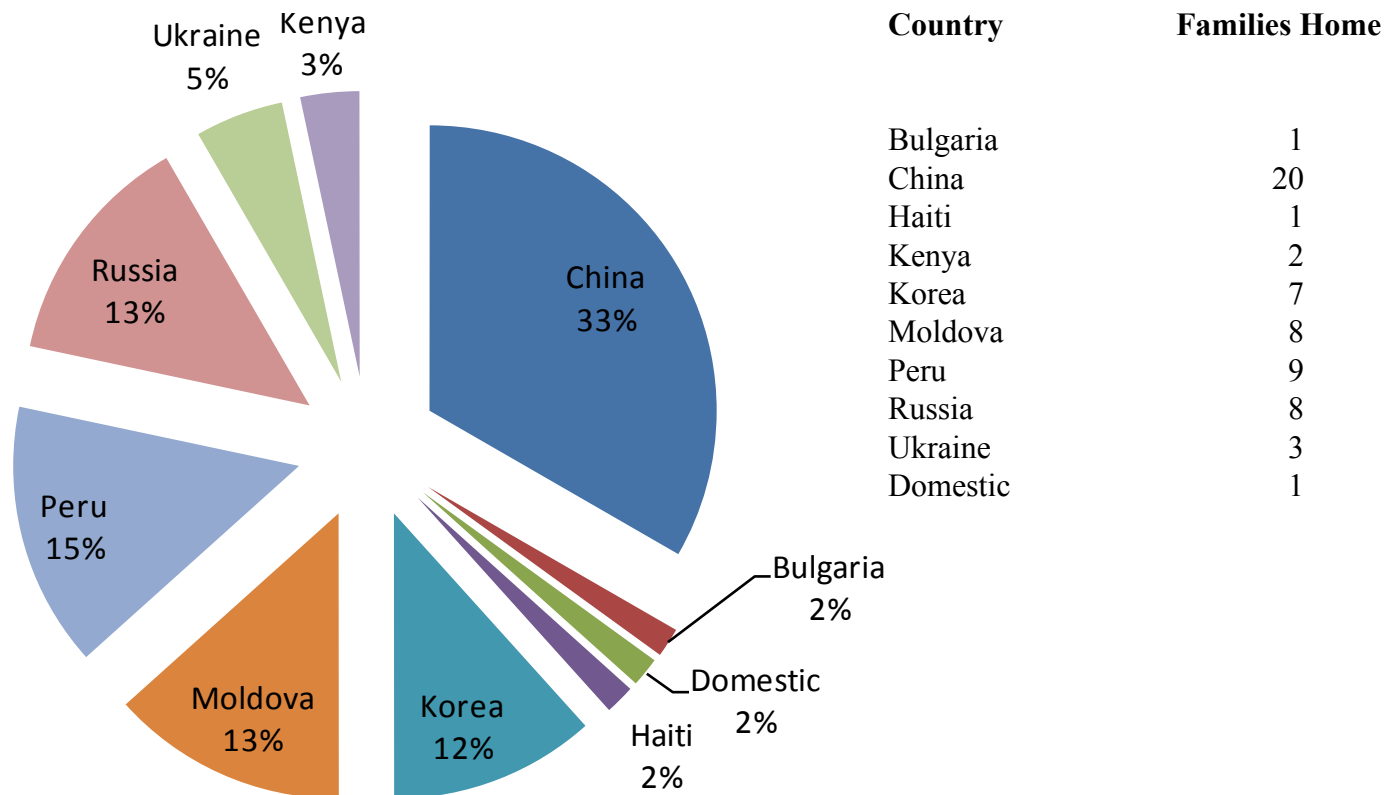
Placement Only	46	Partnership/AFTH	103
Homestudy Only	43	Parental	12
Homestudy Update	4	Relative	3
Homestudy & Placement	49	Birth Parent	1
Homestudy Verification	1	Total Applications	273
Post Adoption	11		

PLACEMENTS BY STATE

Colorado	1	New Jersey	4
Florida	2	New York	2
Illinois	1	North Carolina	19
Kentucky	1	Pennsylvania	10
Maryland	4	South Carolina	6
Massachusetts	1	Virginia	11
Michigan	1	Germany	1

PLACEMENTS BY COUNTRY

We placed 60 children with “forever families.” This chart shows the number of placements to families by country. China, Peru, Russia and Moldova had the largest numbers of children placed in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

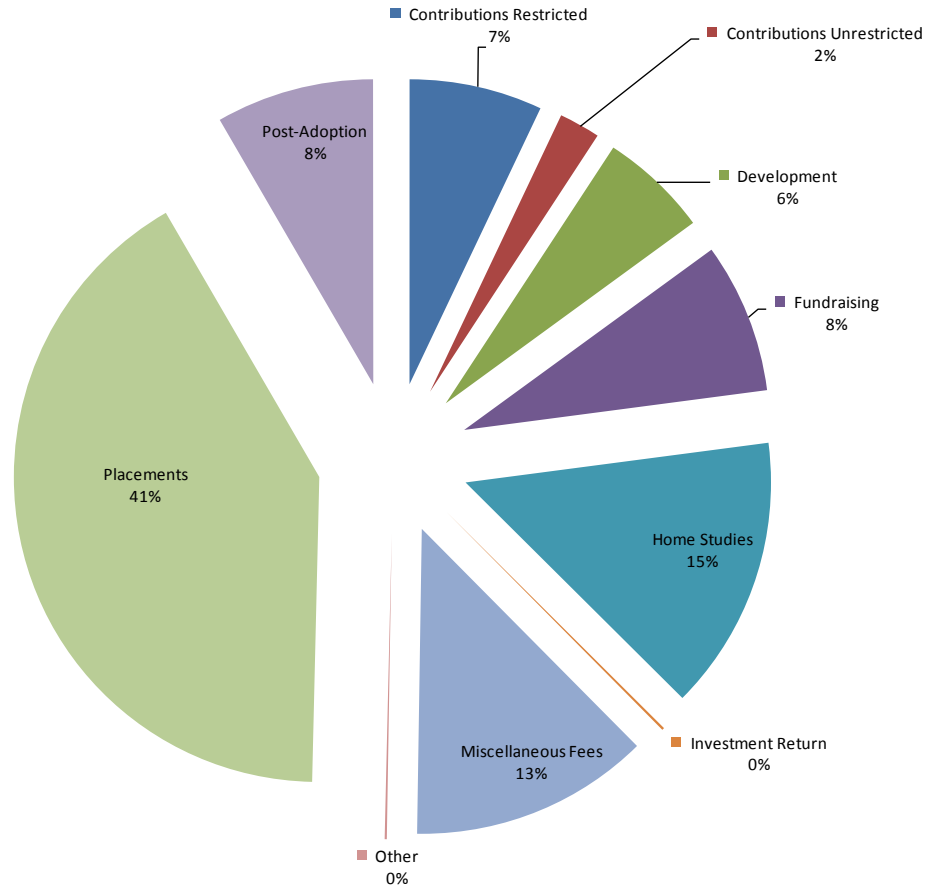


FUNDING REVENUES

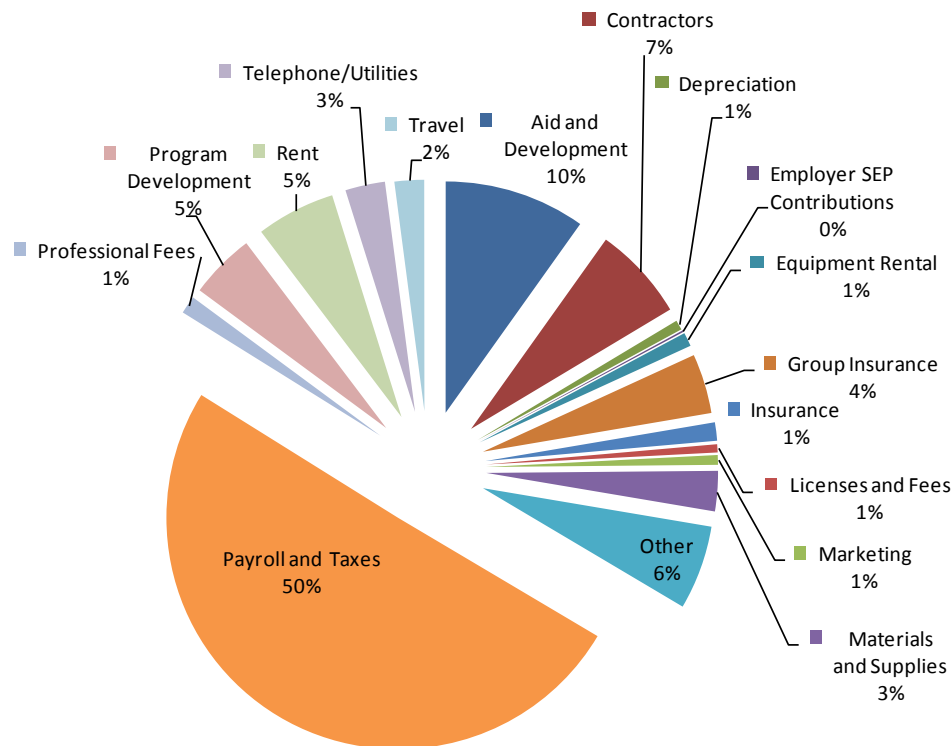
Placements	\$479,897
Contributions-Unrestricted	\$25,401
Contributions-Restricted	\$81,852
Fundraising	\$92,541
Home Studies	\$169,175
Development-Programs	\$66,795
Post-Adoption	\$97,360
Investment Return	\$1,451
Miscellaneous Fees*	\$147,323
Other**	\$1,315
Total	\$1,163,110

*Miscellaneous fees include step-parent fees, inter-state fees, escort fees, etc.

**Other includes Admin fees, inter-agency admin fees, and consulting fees



EXPENSES



*Other includes meetings, conferences, educational, dues, subscriptions, contributions, and gifts

Depreciation	\$8,955
Other*	\$76,953
Contractors	\$85,870
Aid & Development	\$129,150
Insurance	\$16,744
Licenses & Fees	\$7,469
Marketing	\$8,905
Group Insurance	\$54,796
Materials & Supplies	\$36,929
Program Development	\$59,931
Payroll & Payroll Taxes	\$660,704
Employer SEP Contribution	\$1,500
Professional Fees	\$16,274
Rent	\$71,876
Equipment Rental	\$12,689
Travel	\$27,288
Telephone/Utilities	\$36,052
Total	\$1,312,085

WE THANK OUR BENEFACTORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

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Two girls in Bulgaria dance.

Children in orphanages have few things that bring them joy, but they revel in the things that do.



Carolina Adoption Services, Inc. (CAS) is a children's charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children worldwide.

Carolina Adoption Services recognizes the rights of every child throughout the world to have a loving, life-long family. The agency is dedicated to provide supportive and personalized services to the adoptive family before, during and after placement. CAS is also committed to making a difference for children remaining in institutional care through ongoing humanitarian relief efforts. Carolina Adoption Services strongly advocates that adoption is a life-long process and that Carolina Adoption Services' role is to be a resource for meeting the educational, cultural, social and other needs of the international adoptive family.



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