

For Joint Council:

Tom DiFilipo

August 17, 2009

Thomas J DiFilipo
President & CEO

Date

For Adoption Service Provider:

(Print full name of ASP)

(Signature)

Date

(Print name and title)

For ASP's In-country Representative:

(Signature)

Date

(Print name and title)

ATTACHMENT: A copy of the most recent Annual Report (including Development Activities) which has been filed with the Ethiopian Ministry of Justice.

Adoption Service Providers Licensed by the Government of Ethiopia	Accredited by the Government of the United States	Signatory to the Joint Council Standards of Practice for Ethiopia	Denied Accreditation by the Government of the United States	NOTES
Adoption Advocates International	Yes	Yes	-	-
Adoption Associates, Inc.	Yes	Yes	-	-
Adoption Avenues	Yes	-	-	-
All God's Children International	Yes	Yes	-	-
America World Adoption	Yes	-	-	-
Bethany Christian Services	Yes	Yes	-	-
Better Futures Adoption Services	Yes	-	-	-
Buckner International	Yes	Yes	-	-
Children's Home Society and Family Services	Yes	Yes	-	-
Children's Hope International	Yes	Yes	-	-
Christian World Adoption	Yes	Yes	-	-
Dove Adoptions International	Yes	-	-	-
Gladney Center for Adoption	Yes	Yes	-	-
Holt International	Yes	Yes	-	1
Hope Adoption Agency	-	Yes	-	-
Illien Adoptions, Inc.	Yes	Yes	-	-
International Adoption Guides	Yes	Yes	-	-
International Adoption Net	Yes	Yes	-	-
WACAP	Yes	Yes	-	-
West Sands Adoptions	Yes	Yes	-	-
Wide Horizons for Children	Yes	Yes	-	-
Celebrate Children	-	Yes	X	-
Children's House International	Yes	Yes	-	-
NOTES:				
1 Holt International is not the list of licensed adoption service providers as provided by the Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington DC. However, Holt signed an agreement with the Ministry of Justice relative to finding families for children on December 17, 2007.				

***LETTER'S
OF
SUPPORT***

Dear COA,

April 11, 2009

Our family is currently adopting two girls from Ethiopia through the adoption agency Celebrate Children International (CCI). We began the adoption process in September of 2008. This is the second time we have adopted, the first from China through another agency. Although the adoption of the girls is not complete (I plan to travel to Addis Ababa within the next 4 weeks), my wife and I want to communicate with you what we have experienced from CCI to date:

Honest - Everything has been up front. From the fee schedules to updates on the girl's welfare, we have been told the facts. There have been instances when we have not liked the facts (i.e. US Embassy in Ethiopia coming out last month with a new TB medical program which may delay the adoption process). However, we feel we have been dealt with fairly and with integrity from CCI to us.

Compassionate - About every month or so, we have received updated pictures and video of our girls. It's reassuring to see them and to see that they're being well taken care of. In fact, last month (March 2009) we sent with Sue Hedberg some 'care packs' for the girls. We received a video of them opening the very packs we sent. It was precious to us.

Communicative - From our experience, Sue Hedberg and Angela Vance have gone above and beyond what is required to make sure all of our questions are answered. It has been common for us to have correspondence with Sue via e-mail after work hours, late into the night, or on week ends. Every question we have asked has been answered quickly and to our satisfaction.

Ethical - We have been impressed with the ethics and integrity of CCI. It is clear to us from the forms we fill out (mainly governmental), to the contract we agreed to with CCI, to the legal representatives they use in Ethiopia for the court proceedings, that everything is above board. This process with CCI has been nearly identical to our Chinese adoption through our Hague accredited agency.

All adopting families need to understand the risks involved in the adoption process. There are circumstances above and beyond the control of adoption agencies. Governments can change laws on a dime to which children and agencies become trapped in bureaucracy. This is one of the many risks involved in a venture such as adoption. However, from what we have seen, CCI has proven themselves honorable and worthy of the accreditation of Hague. We ask you to consider our personal testimony on their behalf to reconsider them for Hague accreditation.

Respectfully,

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of the sender.

Subject: In support of CCI

April 9, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support of Celebrate Children International (CCI) in its appeal for Hague Accreditation. We are the [REDACTED] family, and we successfully adopted three children from Ethiopia through CCI this year, 2009. Our process will soon be complete as we have one child home and two coming next week, but I am writing this on behalf of the many children and families that have yet to be united through the tireless efforts of the folks at CCI.

I have been to Ethiopia three times in the last six months. I researched several agencies before signing with CCI. I am a teacher and author, and had the opportunity to see first-hand how CCI operates in Ethiopia and the tireless work taking place on behalf of children and families. In this changing international climate, I found Sue Hedberg and all of the staff at CCI to be open and honest about the adoption process, the fee schedule, and very candid about the many changes taking place in Ethiopia. The CCI staff impressed me with its respect of the people of Ethiopia, and their customs and concerns. Sue Hedberg and her staff worked closely with us as well as their Ethiopian counterparts to ensure that each adoption followed U.S. and Ethiopian rules and laws. There was clear communication between families and CCI staff, and we received regular medical reports and updated photographs of our children in the months before we traveled. I can personally attest to the integrity and professionalism of all of the good people working with CCI to ensure the safety, medical care, and careful placement of adoptive children from Ethiopia. Our children are beautiful and healthy, and according to well-known adoption expert, Dr. Laurie Miller at the Tufts International Adoption Clinic in Boston, our daughter "exceeds expectations in every area", with respect to her physical health, emotional stability, and general development.

We wanted to make our voices heard, as our journey has been so positive. We hope that CCI will be granted Hague accreditation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sue Hedberg

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 2:26 PM
To: jflowers@coanet.org; Stacy_Lewis@dcf.state.fl.us
Subject: CCI

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently became aware there is an adoptive parent who has dedicated her time to damaging the reputation of Celebrate Children International. I am saddened by this one person's actions and would like to share my experience.

From the very first contact with Sue Hedberg and the staff of Celebrate Children International, I was treated with respect and honesty. I am truly grateful for the integrity and professionalism of Sue Hedberg and Celebrate Children International. I brought my son home in September of 2006. My adoption experience was pleasant as well as timely. With each phone call to CCI, I was given immediate attention and honest answers. At the initial contact, I was given a realistic time-line, financial expectations as well as specific steps in the adoption process. I was extremely pleased with CCI and withdrew my paperwork from another agency to begin adoption with CCI.

Celebrate Children International is one of the most professional and honest agencies my husband and I have witnessed. During our adoption day, we were extremely grateful for how organized CCI was. We saw how many other families with other agencies were struggling due to lack of information or preparation. Once we returned to our hotel, we became even more aware of our good fortune and blessings to have worked with CCI after hearing the negative experiences from other families and their agencies.

I cannot express how pleased I am with CCI. They were there for us every step of the way throughout our adoption journey and will forever remain close to our family. Since bringing our son home, we have referred two of our friends to CCI. They have both brought their children home and have also had positive experiences. Please feel free to share this information with others.

Sue Hedberg

From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** Saturday, October 31, 2009 7:05 PM**To:** Sue Hedberg**Subject:** letter

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family worked with Celebrate Children International over the course of a year in adopting our five year old daughter, [REDACTED]. We began the process around September 2008 and brought our new child home from Ethiopia in July 2009. She joins our other three children [REDACTED]. CCI was professional, compassionate and every detail of our adoption process was executed perfectly. We couldn't have asked for a better experience.

Since coming home, we've been in touch with Sue Hedberg and Angela Vance as we continue to update them on [REDACTED] transition. Through this process, we've learned CCI has been accused of trying to "convince" birth mothers to give up their children.

When we decided to adopt a child and chose Ethiopia, we had many international agencies to choose from. Because we were adopting an older child, we wanted as much information as we could get in order to make the right decision for our family. We chose CCI because and it was clear to us that they could provide accurate and complete information on children that were waiting to be adopted. CCI provided us with DVD videos of [REDACTED] with her mother during the time they were discussing the adoption process. It clear from the video that all of these discussions were happening in the presence of the orphanage director and it was also clear that [REDACTED] mother had made the decision to put her up for adoption prior to this initial meeting. CCI spent a lot of time asking [REDACTED] mother questions through the director to make absolutely sure she knew the type of decision she was making and what the adoption process meant. If we would have thought in any way that [REDACTED] mother had to be convinced to give up [REDACTED] for adoption, we never would have went through with it. Since [REDACTED] has been home and has become more conversant in English, she has told us stories about how she experienced the transition in Ethiopia and it's clear to us that, lack of food and the overall inability of her mother to care for her were the reasons she was put up for adoption.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to us directly, don't hesitate to call [REDACTED] write.

Dear Sue,

I have an amazing story to share with you about how His will WILL be done! Back in January, we were interested in a little boy that CHI had on their waiting child list. We prayed about it and felt like we were to move forward on and pursue the adoption of [REDACTED]. We know CHI well having adopted through them 3 times. When I called, there was a family who's dossier was already in Ethiopia and they had first refusal of [REDACTED]. We waited weeks when they decided, falling more and more in love with the pictures we had, but the other family said yes. We were very sad, but happy for him that he had a home. Last week, CHI called me and said the family had backed out and he needed a family who is paper ready. I explained that we had committed to [REDACTED] with CCI, and they understood that. I was so sad for little [REDACTED] but totally dedicated to [REDACTED]. I grew to love him as well! We thought about pursuing both boys. We prayed and we prayed. Over the weekend I felt in my heart that something was amiss with [REDACTED]. I felt uneasy, thus all the pestering e-mail I sent you. I prayed Saturday night for a clear sign from God about what He wanted us to do. I asked God to show me clearly His will. Then last night I got the e-mail from you saying that [REDACTED]'s birth mother wants him back. It broke my heart for sure...but that sign is about as clear as they come. [REDACTED] though we should wait and see your options, so I e-mailed you back asking for those. I did as he asked. I grieved all night long for little [REDACTED] and prayed for his life. Then today I researched what it would take to switch agencies back to CHI with our dossier already in Ethiopia. Everyone was so helpful, and CHI even said they would waive their requirement to have our 171H before our dossier is submitted to court. When I told Mike all I'd learned today he told me that one of the things he was worried about was that our dossier is done, and CHI wants the 171H in there, and that if they had said they would waive that requirement for us, that was yet another sign and we should move forward with [REDACTED] and CHI. We are only able to do this, which we truly believe is God's will, because you so fairly agreed to refund our money when we lost [REDACTED]. Thank you for that Sue. When I spoke to Laura at the Assistant Stork today and explained the situation to her she said that CCI and CHI are two of the best agencies out there, and when I said that you had agreed to give us a refund she said that she thinks so highly of you and Angie, and you always do what is right. Many agencies don't, so thank you Sue. Laura said that she will need our dossier back as there are a few forms that are CHI specific that need to be changed, and she'll have to take it back to the State Department and re-authenticate it. She said to ask you to please have it Fedexed back to her. Her address is below, and you have our Fedex number.

Sue, I have the highest possible regard and recommendation of you and of CCI. Having worked with 4 agencies now, you and CCI go above and beyond the call of duty. I will be hitting the adoption agency rating groups and giving CCI a 5 star rating. I would also be happy to be a reference any time. Thank you for all you so for the children, thank you for all you did for us, thank you for all you did for [REDACTED] and thank you for offering to return our dossier and issue us a refund so we are able to move forward on the adoption on our boy at CHI. We are so grateful to you.

Blessings
[REDACTED]