



香港明愛  
CARITAS - HONG KONG

THE OFFICIAL SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HONG KONG  
天主教香港教區社會服務機構

**BY HAND**

Our Ltr. Ref. CSW/G/0127/2004

25 March 2004

Mr Fung Pak Yan  
Asst Director, Family & Child Welfare  
Social Work Department  
8/F Wu Chung House  
213 Queen's Road East  
Wanchai  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Fung

**Adoption of Special Needs Children**

We are writing to express our disappointment of being excluded in the current discussion of placement of special needs children in relation to the Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2003. We believe that we can make positive contribution on the ground that we have been involved in the adoption service for over forty years. We also express once again our keen interest in working on placing hard-to-placed children to overseas families.

We have offered our service to find homes for special needs children in the early nineties and requested to have a list of children available. However, our request has never been entertained. We feel disappointed that our interest was not mentioned in the information on special needs children placement provided to the Bills Committee. Furthermore, we have already developed our networking overseas for the placement of special needs children and our partners show eagerness to find a caring home for the children. Attached please find some correspondences for your reference. We would like to draw your attention that one of our partners even received 2-5 enquiries monthly about our program. You can see that there is an urge to provide positive links to those who are interested in offering a home for our Hong Kong children. Therefore, we appreciate if you could update us on the progress of the accreditation mechanism and when we could start to discuss in details about placement of special needs children.

Yours sincerely

Dr Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.  
Director  
Social Work Services

Encl.

TW/cl

c.c. Hon. Margaret Ng

國際明愛成員 Member of Caritas Internationalis and through its affiliation  
Caritas - Hong Kong has consultative status (Cat. B) with ECOSOC, UNICEF, FAO & UNESCO and is on the special list of ILO.  
明愛大廈 602 室 Room 602 Caritas House  
香港堅道二號 香港郵政總局信箱 352 號 2, Cuine Road, Hong Kong. G.P.O. Box 3522, Hong Kong.  
電話 Telephone: (852) 2524 2071 圖文傳真 Facsimile: (852) 2536 9215  
電子網頁 Web Site: <http://www.caritas.org.hk/swsl> 電子郵箱 E-Mail: [sws@caritas.org.hk](mailto:sws@caritas.org.hk)





# Christian Adoption Services, Inc.

624 Matthews-Mint Hill Road • Suite 134 • Matthews, North Carolina 28105-1775

April 10, 2003

Dr. Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.,  
Director, Social Work Services  
Room 602 Caritas House  
2 Caine Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Chang:

I am appreciative of your letter in which you informed me of the forthcoming policy changes by the Hong Kong Government that will allow Caritas-Hong Kong to handle overseas adoptions, especially of special needs children.

I am excited to learn of this good news since we have always enjoyed working with your program. As you know, it often takes an asserted effort of several child-placing agencies to recruit the most appropriate family for any child, especially if the child is beyond infancy, physically or mentally challenged or with a negative social history. During this agency's twenty-four year history, we have witnessed some remarkable placements of special needs children. We welcome the opportunity to be part of your network of licensed NGO's to find permanency for orphaned children.

With this letter, I am enclosing a notarized copy of the agency's most current license which is valid until October 1, 2004. Should any additional information be needed from Christian Adoption Services as we work to renew a cooperative agreement for the placement of special needs children, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanks again for your letter and the opportunity work in partnership with Caritas-Hong Kong.

Most sincerely,

James M. Woodward  
Executive Director

b頁 1 - 1(E)

Social Work Services (03)

寄件者: <JandDWoodward@aol.com>  
收件者: <swsho@caritassws.org.hk>  
傳送日期: 2003年9月5日 上午 11:42  
主旨: Greetings for Dr. Joyce Chang

Dear Dr. Chang

I am hopeful that you received the fax that I sent to you earlier this week. Although we have not communicated recently, I was wondering what progress that Caritas might be making towards being allowed to process adoptions out of country.

I assume that you did receive my letter dated April 10, 2003 in which I expressed the interest that I have for Christian Adoption Services to be recognized as a partner agency with Caritas for adoptive placements of children, the majority of which are likely to be with special needs.

Since I will be in the Philippines to attend a conference the first week of October, I may be able to visit with you on Friday, October 10 before I return to the United States to discuss the program more fully. I will be making my flight itinerary soon so any input that you might have on the issues I have address will be most helpful.

Most sincerely,

James Woodward  
Executive Director  
Christian Adoption Services, Inc.  
Matthews, North Carolina



## NEW BEGINNINGS

Family and Children's Services, Inc.

141 Willis Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501  
Telephone (516) 747-2204  
Fax (516) 747-2505

May 23, 2003

TIMOTHY SUTFIN  
Executive Director

Dr. Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P., Director  
Social Work Services  
CARITAS - HONG KONG  
Room 602 Caritas House  
2, Caine Road, Hong Kong  
G.P.O. Box 3522, Hong Kong

Re: Your letter Ref. CSW/G/0290/2003

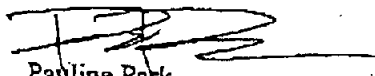
Dear Dr. Chang:

Thank you for your kind letter of March 2003. It was very informative, and I would like to know more about the changes in the local policy on overseas adoption. I would like to introduce myself to you, since my mother, Pooja Park, MSW, has relocated to Vietnam to serve as a lay missionary for a three-year stint. My name is Pauline Park, and I have been working at New Beginnings for almost ten years, as a social worker, and now most recently, as Coordinator for our China programs. I hope that any future working relationship with you will be as fruitful as previous years. New Beginnings Family and Children's Services may be able to find good families to place waiting special needs children. As you may know, our agency is licensed in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Florida, and we have placed children in many other states.

However, we are interested to know whether the requirements remain the same for prospective adoptive applicants. For example, must one or both parents be of Hong Kong/Chinese background? Are there marriage or age restrictions? Is there any way to estimate the waiting time for assignment and arrival? Also, would the prospective applicants be allowed a sex and/or age preference? We have a high number of applicants who are of Chinese descent who may be open to a special needs child, but we would need to inform them of the severity of the special need in order to educate them for a successful placement.

New Beginnings would appreciate any further information you could give regarding the above questions. Our past cooperation with you has resulted in several happy families with beautiful thriving children from your agency. These adoptive families could not speak more highly of the facilities there and the loving care given to the children. New Beginnings could proceed with the full confidence that the children are well cared for there. We look forward to receiving any other information you might have. Thank you.

Yours truly,

  
Pauline Park  
NBFCS

Social Work Services (AY)

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寄件者: <Newbeginn@aol.com>  
收件者: <swsho@caritassws.org.hk>  
傳送日期: 2004年1月13日 AM 04:32  
主旨: International Adoption - Dr. Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.

January 12, 2004

Dr. Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.  
Director  
Social Work Service

Dear Dr. Chang:

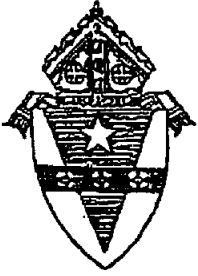
I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing this email in regards to your overseas adoption program. We received a letter from you in March 2003, informing us that changes in local policy have restricted placement of adoptees to only special needs children. We would be grateful for further information on your program, so that we can guide our adoptive families to the most appropriate program for them and for the children they adopt. We receive an average of 2-5 inquiries per month on the Hong Kong program, mostly from couples who have Chinese descent and who are originally from Hong Kong. We are not certain at this time whether adopting from Hong Kong would be a viable option for them because we are unclear of waiting times, children available, age and sex preferences, and any restrictions in the program.

We have had a wonderfully cooperative relationship in the past few years with CARITAS, and would appreciate any feedback you can give regarding the Hong Kong adoption program.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and wishing you a most healthy and prosperous Lunar New Year to come, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Pauline Park  
New Beginnings Family & Children's Services, Inc.



**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Holy Family Center  
227 North Eighteenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 • (215) 587-3900 • Fax (215) 854-7100

March 19, 2003

Dr. Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.  
Director  
Social Work Services  
Room 602 Caritas House  
2-8 Caine Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Chang,

We are pleased to be of assistance in placing special needs children.

We will make every effort to find appropriate homes that are able to provide stimulation and nurture for these special children as well as the necessary cultural competency to assist the child in developing a strong, healthy self-esteem and a love for and appreciation of Chinese heritage.

We look forward to our continuing association.

Sincerely,

*Mary Lark Merman*

Mary Lark Merman, MSS, LSW  
Administrator  
Adoption Services



April 10, 2003

Caritas - Hong Kong  
ATTEN: Dr. Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.  
Director Social Work Services  
Room 602 Caritas House  
2, Caine Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Chang,

We were delighted to receive your recent letter informing us that your agency will soon be accredited by the Hong Kong Government to handle overseas adoptions, especially those of children with special needs.

Please accept this letter as confirmation that World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP) is pleased to accept your invitation to work with you to find families for special needs children. We have valued our past working relationship, and look forward to continuing this work as soon as you are allowed to do so by the Hong Kong Government.

As you know, WACAP has a long history of finding families for special needs children. We have developed a new program within the agency called the Family Finder's Project that I am sure will benefit your children with special needs.

As you have requested, enclosed is a copy of WACAP's current license. Please let me know what other information you need at this time. We look forward to partnering with you and serving those children in greatest need.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Knowles*  
Barbara Knowles  
Assistant Executive Director

enc.

cc: Mary K Duncan  
Janice Neilson

Mailing Address:  
Box 88948  
Seattle, WA 98138  
Street Address:  
5 S. Second St.  
Renton, WA 98055  
6.575.4550  
6.575.4148 fax  
wacap@wacap.org  
www.wacap.org



Dr Joyce S.H. Chang, J.P.  
Director  
Social Work Services  
Caritas - Hong Kong  
2, Caine Road  
Hong Kong

Contact: Rebecca Lau  
Section: Intercountry  
Telephone No: (02) 9865 5916

Dear Dr Chang,

RE: Adoption and Placement of Special Needs Children

I am writing in relation to the letter that you sent to Rt. Rev. Pell of Caritas Australia dated 29.1.99 and which we received on 24.5.99.

Our Department has established adoption programmes with a number of overseas countries and Hong Kong is one of them. Under our adoption agreement with Hong Kong, we have to work through the Hong Kong Social Welfare Department in cooperation with International Social Service - Hong Kong Branch. All children entering Australia for the purpose of adoption have to meet the medical standards that the Australian Commonwealth Government sets before our Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs would issue an entry visa to them. These medical requirements may preclude some of the special needs children coming to Australia if they have health problems.

Presently, we do not have any prospective adoptive applicants in New South Wales who have expressed an interest in adopting special needs children from Hong Kong specifically, however, we do have applicants who are willing to consider adopting older children from other overseas countries. If you have particular children that need families, we could write to all our prospective applicants to see if any of them are willing to consider those particular children. We would need some details about the children of course for the prospective couples to think about. It would also be necessary for the adoption procedure to be handled through the Hong Kong Social Welfare Department.

Adoption Services Branch NSW Department of Community Services

Level 13, The Ferguson Centre, 130 George Street, Parramatta 2150  
PO Box 3485, Parramatta 2124, NSW Australia  
DX 8250 Parramatta Facsimile: (02) 9689 3507 Email: [adoption@community.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adoption@community.nsw.gov.au)

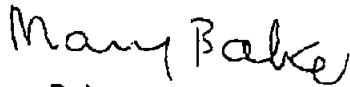


If you wish to speak to us on the telephone about this, one of our social workers speaks Cantonese and could ring you at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to write to us further if you wish. If you have internet access our email address is :

adoption@community.nsw.gov.au.

We look forward to hearing from you if you wish to have further discussions regarding your special needs children.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Baker  
A/Supervisor  
Intercountry Section  
ADOPTION SERVICES BRANCH

25 JUN 1998