

Advocating for the right of every child to a safe, permanent, and loving family.



WHO WE ARE

Joint Council on International Children's Services is a membership-based advocacy organization which puts into action the phrase—a safe, permanent and loving family for every child.

Founded 33 years ago as a grassroots organization focused on intercountry adoption, our work now includes the strengthening and preservation of families, finding permanent families for orphans, education and research, government relations, public policy, standards of practice and ethics. From humble beginnings, Joint Council

has evolved into an internationally recognized and effective advocate for children in 52 countries.

Who are we? We are the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

WHAT WE DO

WE ADVOCATE on behalf of children. We advocate through our *International Relations Initiative* which serves to develop relationships, resolve issues, create collaborations, and expand opportunities with governments to positively affect children in need of permanent parental care.

WE RAISE AWARENESS. Through our Global Awareness Campaign, Media Relations and grass roots mobilization, we bring the issue of children without a family to the forefront of public discussion and most importantly affect change. Our campaigns have resulted in articles and interviews with CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, NY Time, NBC, NPR and countless websites and blogs.

WE CONDUCT RESEARCH. And we educate governments, professionals and the public. Through our Education & Research Programs such as Government Briefings, Distance Learning, Annual Conference and Medical Institute, Joint Council elevates the standards, practices and ethics of those who serve children in need.

WE MOBILIZE. Our grassroots campaigns are one of Joint Council's key strengths. These campaigns have resulted in changes to laws, regulations and policies and have most recently resulted in four major pieces of legislation in the U.S. Congress. Joint Council has also been successful in contributing to groundbreaking legislation such as the Intercountry Adoption Act and the Child Citizenship Act.



WHERE WE ARE GOING

As the world continues to change and become more complex, there will be an increasing need for Joint Council to represent vulnerable children and families by becoming a more active and valued player in the international child welfare community. Progressive partnerships with Joint Council, U.S., and foreign governments, lawmakers, and other NGO's will serve to improve the lives of the countless children who need loving families to live, grow, and thrive.

Current projects include the Families for Orphans Act, the *Be the Answer* Campaign, and the *Build Families, Not Barriers* petition.