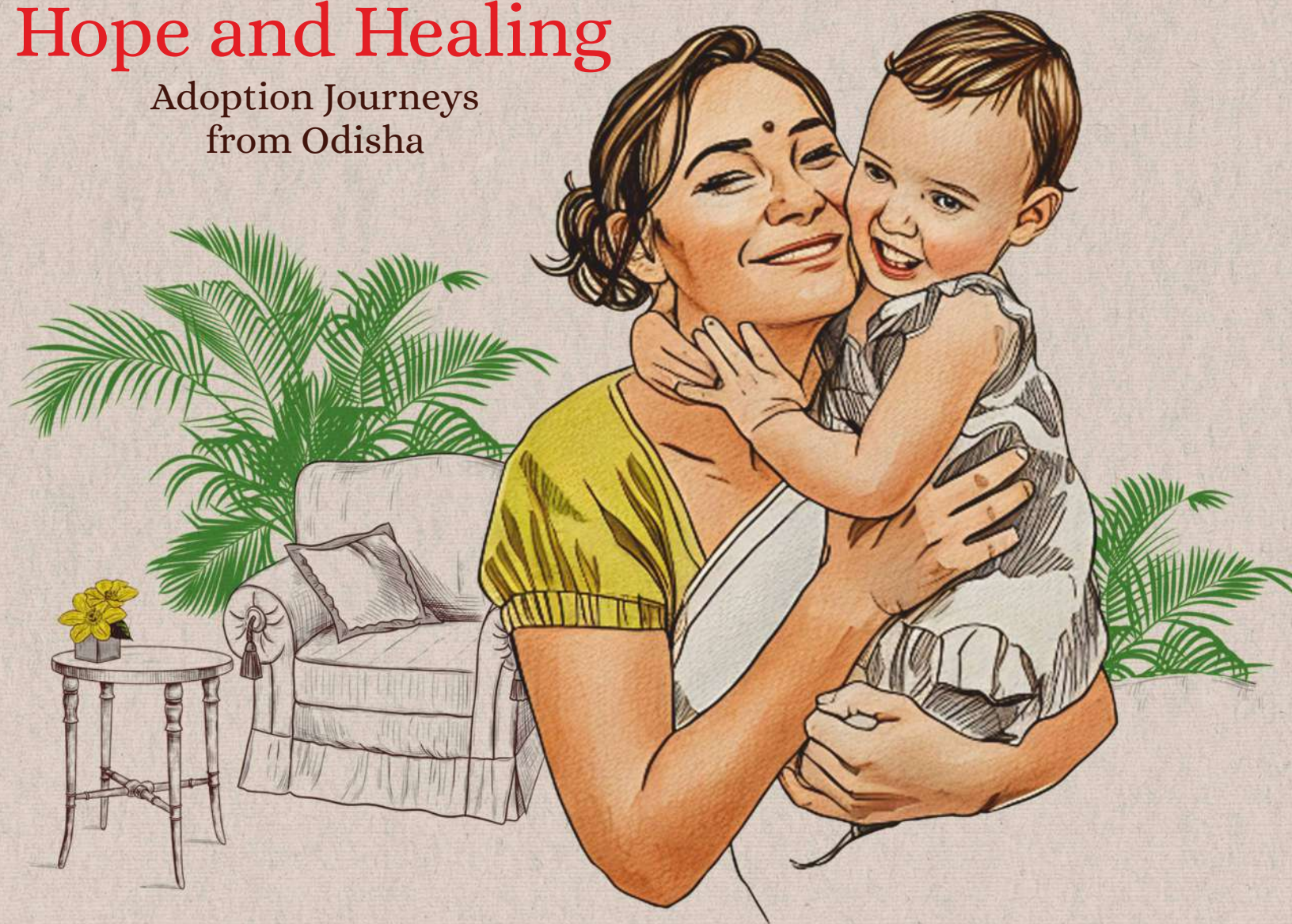




Stories of Hope and Healing

Adoption Journeys
from Odisha





Stories of Hope and Healing

Adoption Journeys
from Odisha







MESSAGE

Children are not only the future-they are the foundation, the builders of the very fabric of our society, economy and humanity. To protect them is not a choice-it is our most sacred responsibility and duty.



Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

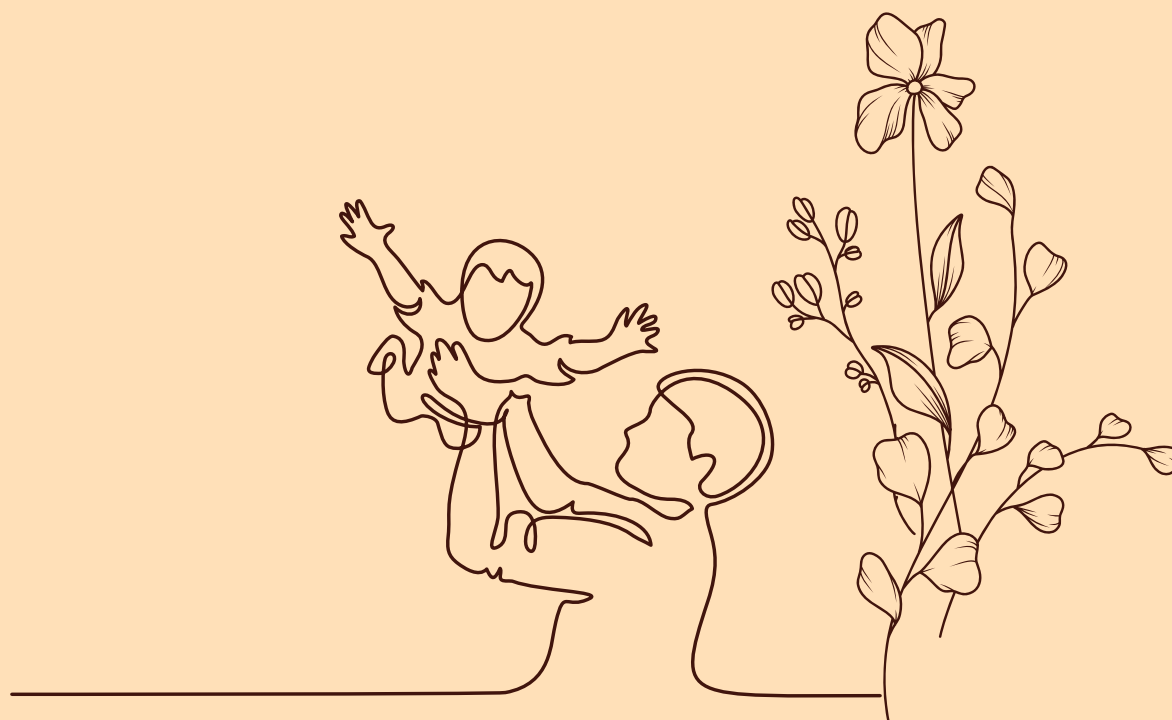
It gives me immense pride to dedicate this Coffee Table Book on Adoption-an evocative compilation of transformative stories that celebrate love, belongingness, and Odisha's unwavering commitment to every child's right to a family. These stories are not just personal recollections, they are portraits of resilience, healing, and hope, etched in the hearts of adoptive parents and children who found each other against all odds.

Adoption is one of the most profound expressions of humanity. It transforms not only the life of a child but also of the family that opens its heart. In Odisha, we believe that a family is not defined by blood alone, but by the bond of unconditional love.

The government stands steadfast in its resolve to strengthen family-based care and child protection. The state has actively worked to ensure the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Adoption Regulations 2022, ensuring that adoption processes are streamlined and is also child-centric. Through integrated adoption services, legal safeguards, and emotional support mechanisms, we are working to ensure that every child in Odisha grows up in a safe, nurturing, and loving environment. Odisha has taken strong steps to build an inclusive, responsive adoption ecosystem-where every child is given a meaningful life.

In each story lies a journey-of a child who once waited, and a parent who once yearned. Together, they found home. Through this, we build a future where every child is cherished, every home is filled with hope, and every heart is connected by the simple yet powerful truth: family is where the future begins.

(MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI)





Smt. Pravati Parida
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

MESSAGE

Some children come from the womb, others from the heart-but all deserve the same love: unconditional, selfless, and everlasting.

Adoption is not a fallback; it is a powerful, conscious choice-a deeply personal act that carries profound social meaning. It restores what many vulnerable children have lost- love, identity, belonging, and hope. For a child who has lived through abandonment, silence, or years inside an institution, being chosen is not just a moment, it is a turning point. It says: You matter, you belong, you are home.

And for the parents, often ordinary people with extraordinary compassion-it is a journey that redefines love, care and protection. It is not biology, but care, bonding and belief that builds a family. It is in the late-night lullabies, the hand held on the first day of school, the patience during tantrums, and the unwavering voice that says, "I'm not going anywhere."

This Coffee Table Book is a celebration of those sacred journeys. These are not just stories of adoption, they are stories of healing from past traumas, of trust rebuilt, and of lives transformed by love that asked for nothing in return. They also remind us of the silent strength of children who have faced unfathomable loss and still dared to dream. Behind every story lies a stark truth- thousands of children still wait, carrying the invisible scars of their past trauma.

We believe adoption is not an act of charity, it is an act of justice and rights. It affirms the child's right to a family, to stability, and to a future. It is a commitment to walk with them, not just through childhood, but through life.

In Odisha, the commitment to children's welfare is at the heart of the adoption process. Through stringent implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Adoption Regulations 2022, the state has created a system that not only meets legal standards but also honours the emotional and social needs of every child in need of care. The state's work reflects a deep-seated belief that every child deserves the love, security, and chance to thrive in a family environment.

As we celebrate these powerful journeys, let us collectively pledge to make adoption more visible, inclusive, and free from stigma. Let us build an Odisha where no child grows up waiting, and every home has space for love to grow-without judgment, without conditions, and without delay.

Smt. Pravati Parida



Smt. Shubha Sarma
Principal Secretary,
Women & Child Development Dept.
Government of Odisha

MESSAGE

With deep humility, I present this Coffee Table Book on Adoption-a moving tribute to the families who chose love, to the children who found belonging, and to the countless invisible hands who work every day to turn waiting into homecoming.

As a state we owe this to every child, who could not get to choose their beginning, but deserves a better middle, and has a right to a beautiful end. Each story captured within these pages tells of a quiet revolution, of a system slowly but steadily shifting from protection to belonging, from care to connection, from institutions to families. In a world where childhoods are often compromised by loss, abandonment, or uncertainty, adoption becomes a powerful act of healing, both for the child and the family that chooses them.

Odisha is proud to stand at the forefront of this change.

The State has taken deliberate strides to build a responsive adoption ecosystem, but systems do not raise children, people do. This book is a symphony of hope, not only of unbreakable bonds between the selfless love of adoptive parents and the resilience of children, but also the caseworkers, counsellors, social workers, Specialised Adoption Agencies, the entire child protection teams and Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency, who quietly weave together stories of unconditional love, resilience and the creation of families from broken pasts. These testimonies also celebrate the courage of a mother who embraced a child not born of her body, of a father who chose to love unconditionally and protect fiercely, and of a child who dared to trust again.

Odisha adheres to both global standards and national legal frameworks, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Adoption Regulations 2022, and international commitments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption. This has ensured that the adoption process is not only legally compliant and transparent but also aligned with the best interests of children.

In line with this commitment, this Coffee Table Book serves as a mirror, held up to the conscience of our society and the state, resonating that children do not belong in institutions- they belong to families. And it is the responsibility of the State, supported by a sensitive society, community and the entire ecosystem of care workers, legal frameworks, and adoption agencies, to make that possible. In this shared responsibility lies our collective humanity, and through it, we create a future where every child is given the chance to thrive in the embrace of a loving family.



Ms. Monisha Banerjee
Director, ICDS and Social Welfare
Women & Child Development Dept.
Government of Odisha

MESSAGE

Every child, regardless of how they come into this world or the circumstances they face, has the right to grow up in an environment where they are nurtured, protected, and loved. This right, to be part of a family, is enshrined in our constitutional values and collective responsibility as a society. Adoption gives this right a name, a face, and a future.

This Coffee Table Book on Adoption is a tribute to families and is a tapestry of second chances. The narratives, tender, vivid, and full of grace—are more than stories, they are reminders of the life-changing power of love and belonging. In Odisha, adoption is not only guided by care and responsibility, but also by a deep cultural ethos of compassion. We believe that every child should grow up with identity, protection, and the unconditional love, care and support of a family. That belief has shaped our journey, from strengthening adoption systems and legal protections, to building awareness and challenging stigma around adoption.

This book is a celebration and a challenge. It celebrates the families formed not by chance but by choice, and it challenges us to break down barriers, challenge myths, and ensure every child finds a loving home. As you turn these pages, let the stories stir you, inspire you, and call you to action. It recognizes the bravery of children who trusted again. The unconditional love of parents who stepped forward to adopt. And the silent devotion of those who work behind the scenes to turn uncertainty into belonging.

May these stories inspire action and remind us all that somewhere, a child is still waiting—and we all have a role to play in their homecoming.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

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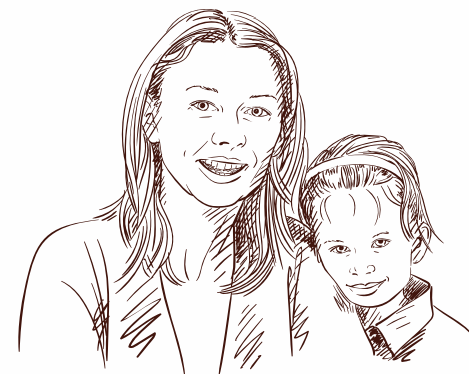
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Why Adoption Matters

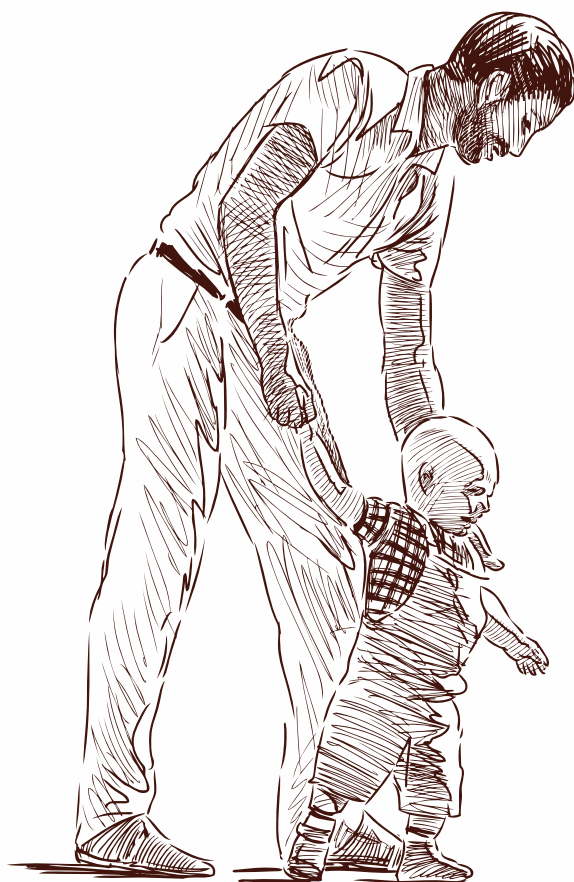


Every child has the right to grow up in a safe, loving, and permanent family- a right that lies at the heart of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and is upheld by India's Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which lays down the framework for both in-country and inter-country adoption, placing the best interests of the child at its core.

Complementing this, the Adoption Regulations, 2022, notified under the JJ Act and administered by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), ensures transparent, accountable, and child-centric adoption processes.

Whenever a child gets separated from parental care- due to abandonment, orphanhood, or surrender- the state and society must come together to ensure the child is not left behind. The state and society must step forward to ensure that every child's right to a safe and protective family is recognised and upheld through sustained, responsive and child- centric systems.

In a world where millions still grow up without families, adoption becomes an act of justice, inclusion, and healing- a way of restoring what every child is born deserving: love, identity, and belonging. In Odisha, every adoption is a reaffirmation of this right-not just to be raised, but to be raised in love, with dignity, and in the embrace of a family.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Adoption in Odisha: An Overview

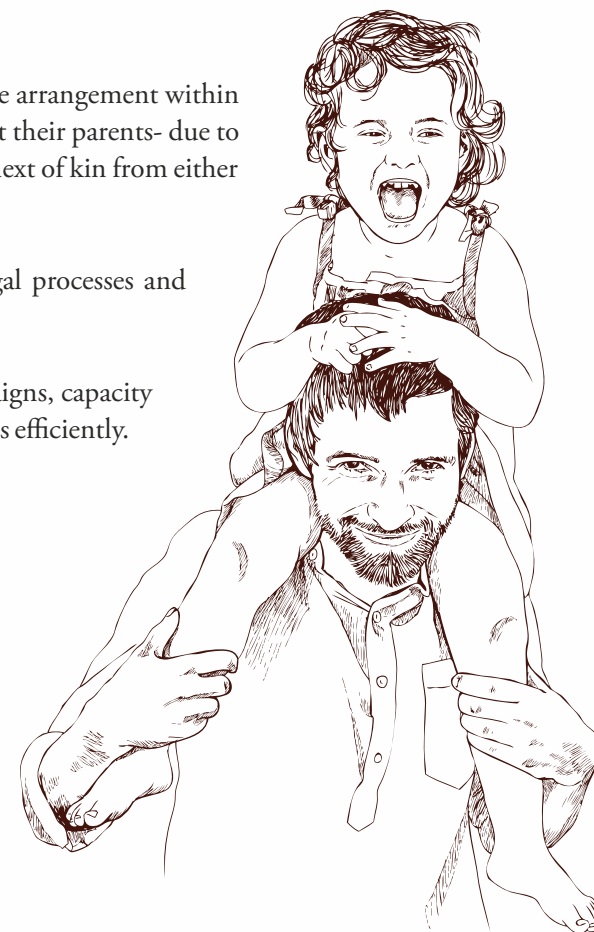
- Historically, in Odisha, as in many parts of India, adoption was traditionally an informal and private arrangement within families and lacked formal legal frameworks. Often referred to as kinship adoption, children who lost their parents- due to poverty, abandonment, or conflict- were absorbed into the extended family, usually cared for by the next of kin from either the maternal or paternal side.
- Over the years, the state has witnessed a transformation with the establishment of structured legal processes and capacitated institutions dedicated to child welfare.
- The shift towards a more organized adoption system has been marked by increased awareness campaigns, capacity building initiatives for stakeholders, and the integration of technology to manage adoption procedures efficiently. These efforts have contributed to a more transparent and child-centric adoption ecosystem in the state.



In-Country
Adoption



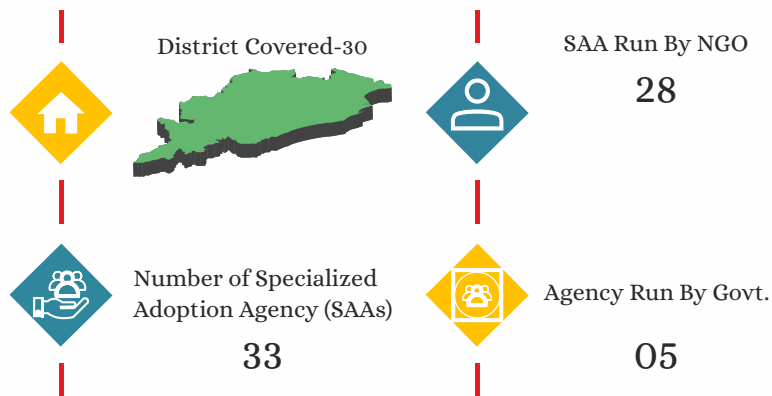
Inter-Country
Adoption





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

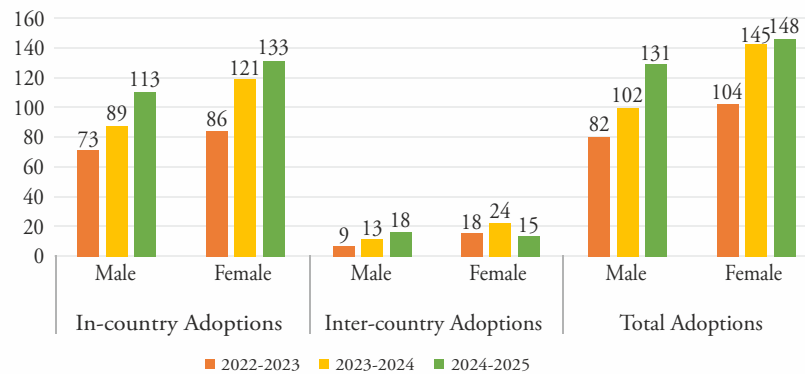
Overview - Adoption Landscape in Odisha



Every child yearns for a loving embrace, a name of their own, and a place to belong. In Odisha, this dream is becoming reality through 33 Specialized Adoption Agencies across all 30 districts.

These agencies quietly transform abandoned beginnings into cherished futures- ensuring that every child is not just cared for, but deeply loved, valued, and given the right to grow in a safe, nurturing family.

Data and impact: Adoption Trends in Odisha (2022-2025)



Over the past three years, Odisha has witnessed a remarkable 50% rise in adoption numbers- growing from 186 in 2022-23 to 279 in 2024-25.

In-country adoptions surged by 55%, while inter-country adoptions saw a 24% increase, reflecting smoother processes and greater public awareness.

The adoption of both boys and girls has steadily risen, with notable progress in the adoption of older children. Particularly heartening is the growing number of girl child adoptions- signaling a powerful societal shift towards gender equity and inclusive family values.



STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Odisha's Vision on Adoption: A family for every child

Odisha envisions a future where no child grows up without the warmth and security of a family. Through inclusive policies, strengthened adoption framework, and inclusive and responsive systems, the state seeks to build a child-centered ecosystem that ensures every child's right to love, care, and belonging.





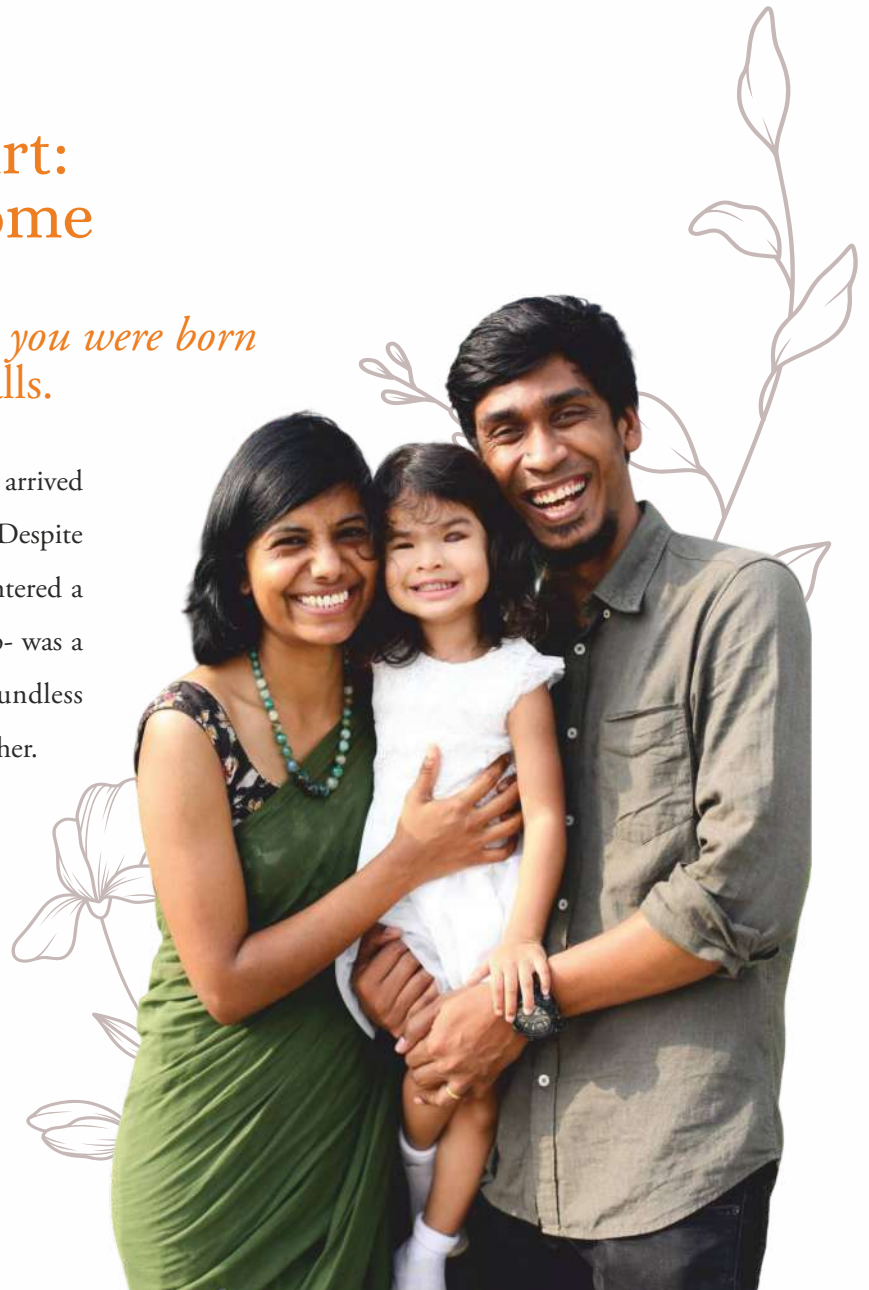


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Born from the Heart: Emma's Journey Home

"Some children are born from the womb; you were born from our hearts," Daniel recalls.

In the quiet lanes of Nabarangpur, a special child named Minakhi waited for a miracle. It arrived from Hyderabad- Daniel and Lalitha Ecka, a couple guided not by chance, but by a calling. Despite doubts, they embraced adoption with unwavering faith. Renamed as Emma Ecka, she entered a world where love was the only lens. Each milestone- from her first rhyme to her first step- was a triumph, nurtured by belief and unconditional care. With artificial eyes and boundless encouragement, Emma now skates, cycles, and sings- defying every label once placed on her. Once a child who could only dream of seeing the world, Emma now meets it with open eyes and a fearless heart. She is not just a girl who overcame the odds- she is living proof that love can heal, transform, and create what once seemed impossible. In the eyes of the Ecka family, Emma is not only a daughter- she is the miracle they never thought they could have. Together, they write a story of love, happiness and joy, which transcends all boundaries.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Adoption is a journey of growth-where love knows no bounds and family is chosen, not defined by blood.”- Daniel and Lalitha Ecka





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Redefining Parenthood: The Mudgal Way

“We had come for one and returned with two.”

In a society where infant adoption is often preferred, the Mudgals chose a different path, rooted in empathy and a silent rebellion. They adopted Jayanta and Rohit Jani, brothers aged 9 and 10 from Odisha, not out of ease but conviction. A conviction that every child, regardless of age, gender or circumstances deserves a family. What began as single adoption grew into a bond with two siblings rescued by Childline and nurtured in a Children's Home. Despite language barriers, past trauma and emotional wounds, the Mudgals welcomed them into their Bangalore home-and hearts.

From wildlife park visits to bedtime stories, every shared moment became a bridge. Vasavi paused her career to teach them English, their love was built, not inherited, brick by brick, with patience, love and care. Jayanta and Rohit didn't just find shelter- they found healing, identity, and belonging. By embracing older children, the Mudgals didn't just become parents, they became changemakers.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

"Parenthood isn't about age or blood, it's about choosing love when it's least expected and most needed." - Venkatesh and Vasavi Mudgal





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Under the Pink Fan: A Home Built on Heartbeats

“Aira was given a princess's welcome”

When Ananya and Arjun painted the children's room pink, walls, curtains, even the fan- it wasn't just décor, it was hope. Though unsure how or when, they believed daughters would complete their story. They chose to forgo IVF and surrogacy, embracing adoption with open hearts, believing that parenthood is built on bond, not blood. Aira arrived just after her first birthday. “Her birthday was on the 6th-Arjun's lucky number,” Ananya shares with a smile. Kiara joined them in 2021, turning the two into four. From sleepless nights to stargazing and birthday cakes, every moment became a memory. Aira calls Ananya her best friend. Kiara's laughter fills their home with joy and happiness. Despite stray remarks about adopting girls, love surrounded them. Friends threw a lunch for Aira even before she came. Their once-quiet home, now hums with giggles and dreams. Beneath the pink fan, they weave a story of love and embrace: rooted, radiant, ever-growing.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Adoption didn't make us parents-love did. And that pink fan? It always knew”
- Ananya and Arjun





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Pallavi's Promise: Love that heals

"Everyone has a story to their existence."

From a young age, Pallavi believed families aren't just born- they're built with love and intention. In a world where adoption was misunderstood or seen as a last resort, she chose it as a bold, hopeful first choice. In 2014, despite stigma, Pallavi and her husband adopted their first daughter, Misha, marking not just the end of longing but a profound beginning. Their family grew with Varsha- a child with a history of hardship, hunger, trauma and premature responsibility. Varsha's growing memories were not of a safe family, or love and happiness, but of violence, fear and trauma. Pallavi not only erased her pain, she embraced it, knowing that the cracks hold stories too. "Everyone has a story to their existence," she told Varsha, "and yours is one of courage." With steady love and care, Varsha began to heal, finding rhythm in sports and creativity. This is not just a story of family, but of restoration through adoption.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





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‘Pallavi didn't just adopt a child, she embraced a story,
and helped it find a new ending.’



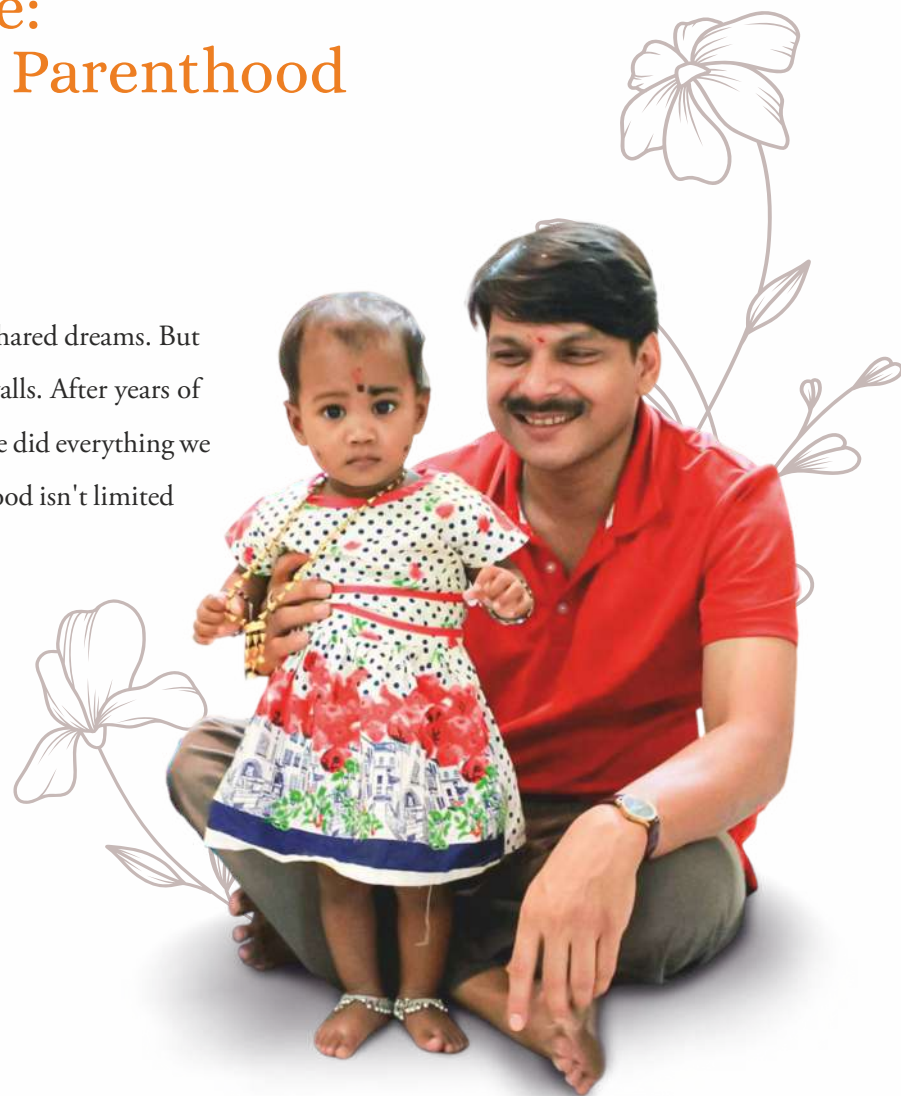


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Inspired by Love: Tukaram & Priya's Path to Parenthood

In the quiet village of Sundar Nagar, Tukaram and Priya built a life rooted in love and shared dreams. But one longing remained unfulfilled, the joy of a child's laughter echoing through their walls. After years of trying and unanswered prayers, they found themselves in quiet acceptance. "For years, we did everything we could to conceive," Tukaram reflects. "But slowly, we began to understand that parenthood isn't limited to biology." This realization marked the start of a new journey.

When their neighbors, the Patel's, adopted a baby girl, Tukaram and Priya were deeply moved. "Their love, their bond, it was so natural and beautiful," Priya shares. "We saw ourselves in their shoes and knew that love makes a family, not blood." With faith and encouragement from the Patel's, they embraced adoption. Today, their home overflows with stories and laughter- a living reminder that sometimes, witnessing love leads you to your own.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Watching our neighbors adopt was like seeing our future unfold-it gave us the courage to dream again, and the strength to make it real.”-Tukaram





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Chosen with Love: A Single Mother's Journey to Mishka

In her early twenties, when the world expected conformity, Chetashri chose a path of her own- motherhood not through tradition, but through love and unwavering will. Unfazed by society's silent judgments and without a partner, she embraced adoption with courage. "I always knew I wanted to be a mother," she shares, "but I didn't need to give birth to feel that bond."

From Odisha came Mishka, a "gift of love" and "source of light," whose first meeting grew into laughter, trust and belonging. Their life together unfolded in sleepless nights, doctor visits, and joyful dances- a song of resilience and devotion. Where once there was silence, now there is light. Family, Chetashri learned, is defined not by blood, but by the unyielding bond of love and sacrifice.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“I chose Mishka, and she chose me back. That's all that ever mattered.”
says Chetashri





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Maa” The Word that changed everything

“Some bonds are not written in blood, but spoken in the first word that finds its way to your heart- like 'Maa'”

The first time Alipsa said “Maa,” Sivakumar and Karpagam stood still, their hearts swelling with a joy beyond words. That simple word held years of longing and silent hopes. “That one word held all the love we had waited to give,” Karpagam says, eyes shining with a parent's happiness.

Born in Malkangiri, Odisha, Alipsa was left at Mission Ashra, declared abandoned after her mother sought treatment for mental illness. Yet, far in Tamil Nadu, Sivakumar and Karpagam awaited the child who would fill their home with laughter after four long years.

When the call came in December 2023, they knew she was theirs. With Alipsa's adoption finalized in February 2024, their lives blossomed with love and joy. “People say she's adopted,” Karpagam says softly, “but she's entirely ours.” Alipsa didn't just come into their lives, she completed them.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“She didn't grow under my heart, but in it- and every 'Maa' reminds me that love makes a family whole,” says Karpagam.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

When the Wait Became Worth It

*“Some children come into our lives by birth, others by destiny-
but all are born from the heart.”*

“Every day we waited felt like a lifetime-but when we saw Janhavi, we knew it was her all along,” says Pradip Gupta.

For Pradip and Binata from West Bengal, parenthood was a journey marked by four years of longing in silence. “There were days we wondered if it would ever happen,” Binata admits, “but we never stopped believing a child was waiting for us.”

Janhavi, abandoned as a fragile five-month-old at a bus stop in Keonjhar, was rescued and cared for by a Specialized Adoption Agency. Meeting her was overwhelming. “She was hesitant, unsure-but so were we,” Pradip recalls. “Yet in that moment, something clicked, we felt alive. She was meant to be ours.”

Supported by love and patience, Janhavi now belongs to a world that believes in her. “She came through adoption, but in our hearts, she was always ours,” Binata says. Their journey is one of love that transcends blood- a promise fulfilled.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“In her smile, we found peace. In our arms, she found home,”
say Pradip and Binata.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Not Found-Meant To Be

“He came into our lives as Purvansh, and blossomed into our Devansh.”

After years of yearning, the Agarwal family embraced adoption- not out of desperation, but out of hope. A hope as deep as the love they were ready to give.

When they first saw him, there was no fanfare, just quiet recognition. “He wasn't just a child waiting to be adopted. He was our son,” Ranjita recalls. With that knowing, they gave him a name: Purvansh- a name that spoke of light, new beginnings, and purpose.

The early days brought both learning and wonder. From midnight feeds to playful giggles, their bond grew stronger with every passing day. “The first time he smiled at us, it felt like our entire world lit up,” Anil says.

Surrounded by a loving community, Purvansh was embraced wholeheartedly. Today, his laughter fills every corner of their home. “He now lives in our hearts, entirely and forever.” Anil said.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“A child found, a family completed, and a love beyond words,”
say the parents.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

When Science Waited, Love Answered

“Sometimes, love leads us to unexpected paths-not to fill a void, but to find the child who was always meant to be ours.”

For Dr. Sailendra Narayan Routray and Rashmirekha Routray, life had always followed careful precision, except in that one place where their hearts ached the most: ‘Becoming parents.’ After two decades of togetherness and longing for a child, they embraced adoption as a beautiful new chapter filled with hope and love.

The wait was long. Each day passed with silent prayers and unshaken faith, even through a global pandemic. But when their son finally arrived, everything changed. The first time he called her “Maa,” Rashmirekha wept. In that one word, two decades of longing found their answer. “He was always meant to be ours,” Dr. Routray shared, his voice full of quiet certainty.

Now, laughter fills their once-silent home. A bicycle in the yard, toys scattered across rooms- every detail radiates joy. In adoption, the Routray family found a miracle that was chosen- with love, patience, and unwavering belief.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Some miracles aren't born, they're found. And when he called me 'Maa', I knew every moment of waiting had led us here.” - Rashmirekha Routray





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

The Gift of Parenthood After Years of Waiting

*'MAA'- "That one word MAA, wrapped itself around my heart
and made time stand still." - Recalls Nirupama*

For fifteen long years, Nirupama and Chinmaya Sahu walked the silent corridors of hope, each turn marked by silent prayers, each room echoing with dreams of a child never held. When Krishna arrived, barely eight months old, eyes shimmering with unspoken words, he became the dawn of the nights they had waited for. Adoption, for them, was not a last chapter but a sacred prologue- a conscious act of love where biology bowed before destiny. Their once-lifeless home now dances with the patter of little feet, laughter and sense of belonging. Each gesture, each cuddle, each whispered “Ma” and “Baba” rewrote the meaning of belonging. In Krishna, they found not only a son but a soul they had always known as their own.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Krishna completed our lives”
Chinmaya expresses.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

The Wait That Was Worth Raahi

“She wasn't just a child we adopted. She was the child we had always been waiting for.” - Saloni

In the stillness of long-held dreams, Raahi arrived like a dawn breaking over a dark horizon; just five months old, yet already carrying the promise of a thousand tomorrows. For Ketan and Saloni Bhogate, that first embrace was not simply an act of holding a child, but a moment which felt like a home found its missing heartbeat. Years of quiet longing, silent tears, and unspoken prayers melted away in the warmth of her tiny fingers wrapped around theirs. Adoption was never a compromise, it was their soul's chosen path, a reservoir of love seeking a name. And Raahi gave that love not only a name, but a rhythm, a direction, a laughter, a life and a future. From whispered lullabies to sunlit giggles, every day since has been a testament to the magic of belonging in their family. In her, they did not find what they lacked, they found what they were always meant to have: a daughter, a destiny and a complete world.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“She wasn't born into our family, she made us a family,”
reflects Saloni





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Fatherhood, Redefined

*“Parenting is not about gender or marital status. It's about showing up-every single day.”
“I had love to give, and they needed a home. We chose each other.” -Sambeet*

As a single father, Sambeet's path to parenthood was neither paved with convention nor eased by approval. But when Subhransu and Swetanshu entered his life, they didn't just fill a void, they rewrote the meaning of family. There were no dramatic beginnings, just quiet acts of connection: a child resting in his lap, a bond forming without words. The journey was layered with challenge- breaking through hesitations, he faced not just the everyday trials of parenting alone, but also the silent battle of breaking stigma around caregiving, love, and what it means to be a father. Even through every sleepless night and questioning gaze, Sambeet chose patience, love, and unwavering commitment, proving that presence matters more than perfection. Now, the joy and laughter echoing through their home is not just sound, it is a living testament to the silent selfless love of a father who chose to build a family with nothing but his heart.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Adoption didn't just make me a parent- It made me whole”
says Sambeet



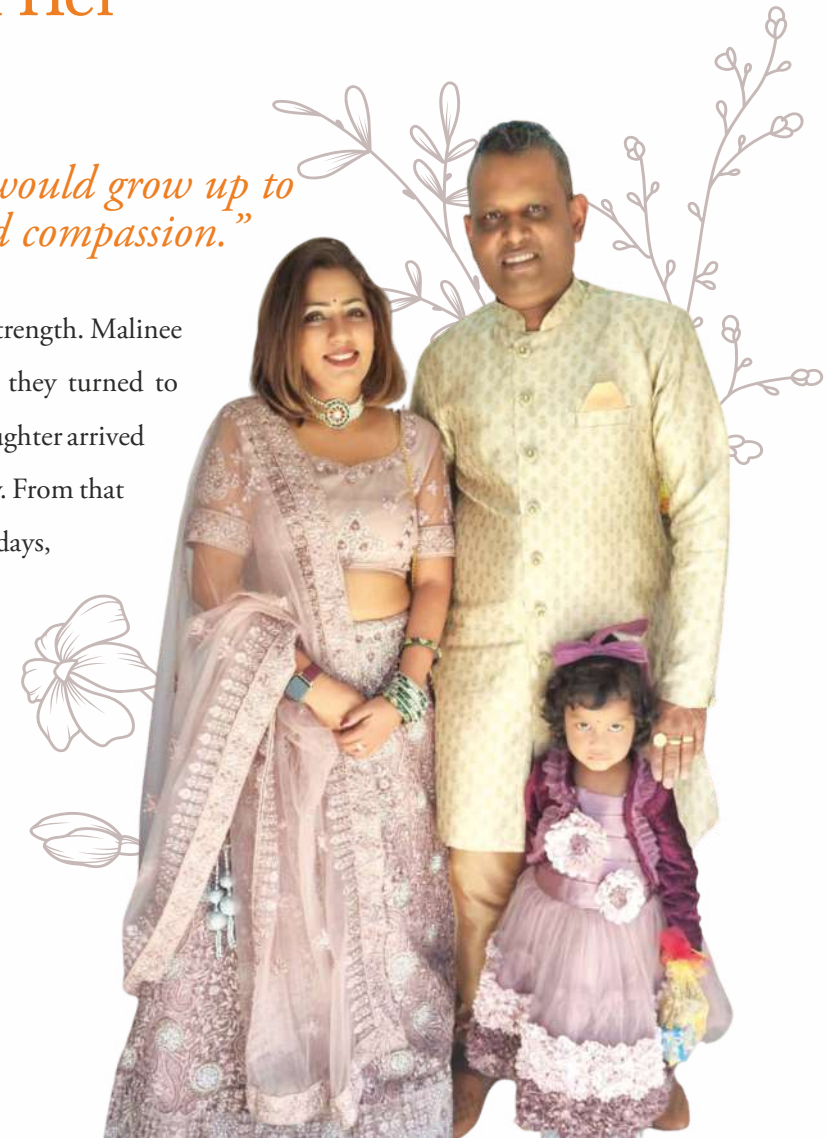


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Our Forever Began with Her

“We always dreamed of raising a daughter who would grow up to heal others- a doctor, a woman of strength and compassion.”

For Malinee Ramsorrun and Pritam, the journey to parenthood was shaped by love, hope, and strength. Malinee had always dreamt of having children. After years of trying and facing medical challenges, they turned to adoption-not out of despair, but from faith in the family they deeply believed in. The day their daughter arrived felt like magic. When Malinee held her tiny hand for the first time, all the waiting melted into joy. From that moment, life became a collection of cherished memories, beach walks, parks, Lego games, birthdays, and the sweet sound of “Mama” and “Papa.” Though the beginning brought its share of challenges with new food, language, and routines, their daughter adapted quickly, embraced with love and care. Today, their home hums with the joy of belonging, a place where love speaks louder than words, and every moment feels like a homecoming. Their bond wasn't born from blood, but from a deep, enduring connection that made them a family in the truest sense of the word.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Adoption isn't second-best- it's destiny in disguise. The love is worth the wait”
says Malinee





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

The Finger That Held Our Heart

*“The moment he grasped my finger, we knew he was ours.”
- Dr. Biplab Banik*

When the Das family first laid eyes on their son at a Sishu Ashram, the world seemed to pause. In that single moment—a tiny hand reaching out—years of unspoken longing, prayers whispered into empty rooms, and hearts heavy with waiting dissolved into quiet wonder. Nandita could only cry, her tears carrying the weight of a motherhood finally realized. Bibhan did not come into their lives by chance; he came as destiny, as a promise fulfilled. Bringing him home wasn't about completing a family—it was about beginning one. His first “Maa,” the small, eager arms stretched out for his father, the laughter that spilled into once-silent corners—all of it felt like breathing for the very first time. They did not give him life, but he gave their's meaning. In every bedtime whisper, every shared prayer, every ordinary moment made extraordinary by love, they found what they had always been searching for: not just a child, but the heartbeat of home.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“It wasn’t about finding a child-
it was about finding our child.”





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Complete, At Last

She was small, serene, and somehow, already theirs. “In that moment,” Avik recalls, “we were no longer waiting- we were already a family.”

Avik and Samadrita Banerjee had everything the world could offer, success, stability, and the love of a close-knit family. But in the quiet corners of their hearts, there was an ache no one else could see—a longing not for completeness, but for someone to share their overflowing love. When they first held tiny Shrinidhi at the adoption centre, it was as if time whispered, you were always meant to find each other. No hesitation, no doubt, just a sacred knowing. That day, the waiting ended, and a new life began, not just for her, but for them. She was welcomed with lamps and tears of joy, her arrival transforming their house into a home reborn. In the gentle weight of her body, in every sleepy breath and wide-eyed smile, they found meaning. Parenthood didn't make them stronger; it made them more human. She did not only complete a family, she created one.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Shrinidhi made us whole, we never felt the need for a biological child. Adoption is love, pure and simple,” reflect the Banerjees.







STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

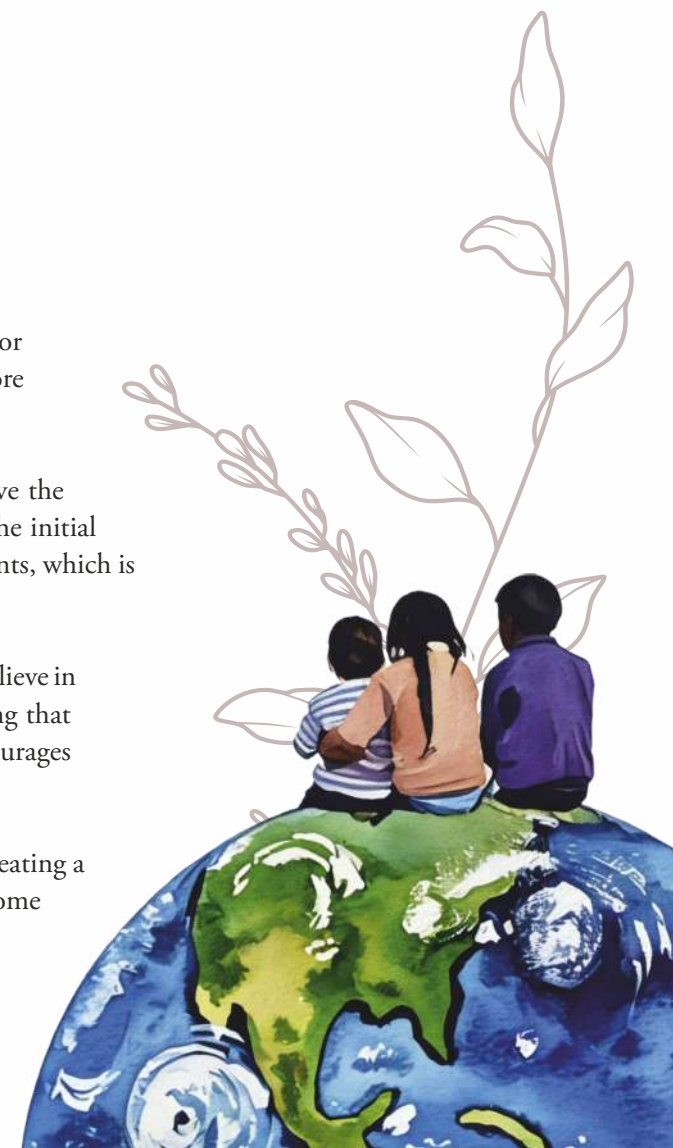
A Global Embrace: The Emotional Tapestry of Inter- Country Adoption

In 2023, Italy witnessed 119 children finding homes through inter-country adoption, a heartwarming endeavor facilitated by International Action Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA) Italy. But this journey, far more than mere paperwork, was a deeply emotional odyssey- a union of families from different corners of the globe.

AFAA's dedication goes far beyond administrative tasks. They ensure that adoptive parents and children have the support they need through complex legal and medical procedures, and they are present at every step, from the initial match to the final adoption. A key part of their work is preparing children for the meeting with their new parents, which is often a mixture of hope, nervousness, and dreams of a new life and family.

Post-adoption, AFAA continues to provide crucial support by organising workshops and cultural events. They believe in celebrating the child's heritage, offering lessons in Hindi, and introducing Indian cuisine to families, ensuring that children retain a connection to their roots. Their approach encourages transparent communication and discourages secrecy, advocating for families to embrace their adoption journey openly.

This comprehensive approach to inter-country adoption is about more than just legal procedures. It's about creating a foundation of love, trust, and cultural respect- all the while that children are given the opportunity to grow in a home where they are loved and cherished.



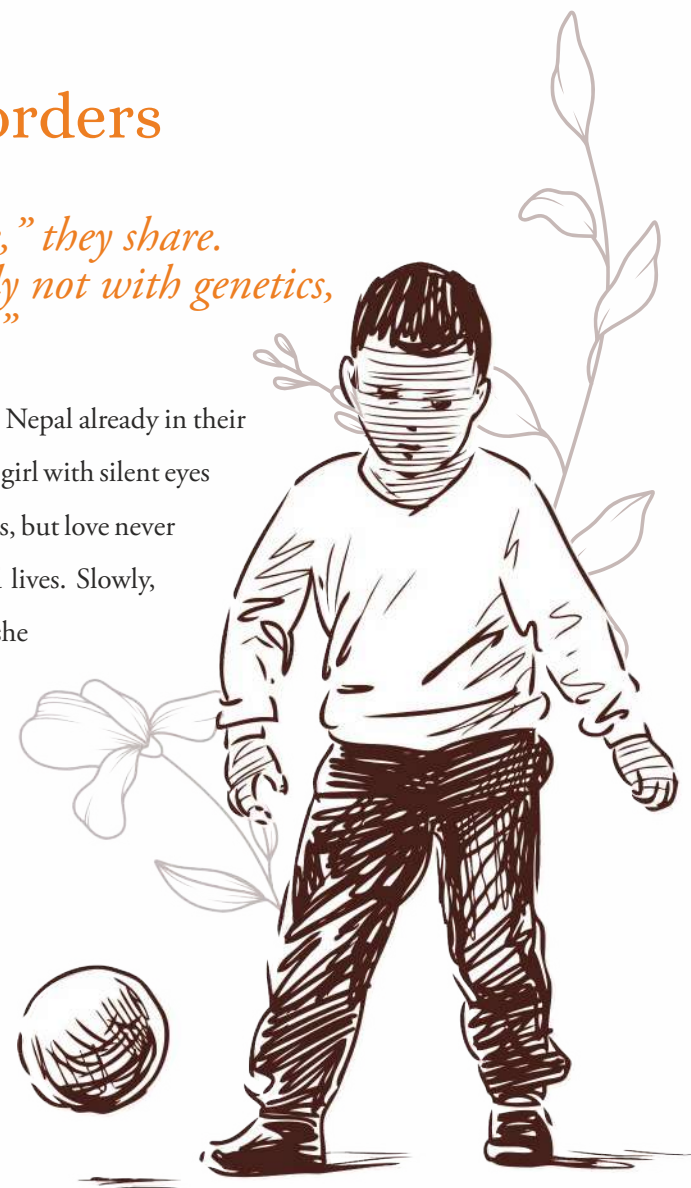


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Bound by Love: The Landinis' Journey Beyond Borders

*“Adoption, for us, is not just about giving a child a home,” they share.
“It’s about choosing to love beyond boundaries, to build a family not with genetics,
but with intention, commitment, and heart.”*

In a quiet Italian town, the Landini family carried love that reached across oceans. With a daughter from Nepal already in their arms, their hearts still longed to give more. That longing led them to India, where they met Anjita—a small girl with silent eyes and a spirit too strong for her years. The path wasn't easy. The wait was long, the paperwork seemed endless, but love never flinched. In those weeks in India, it wasn't just signatures exchanged— it was hearts, stories, love and lives. Slowly, Anjita's timid glances turned to unwavering joy and trust, her timid smiles became bold laughter. Today, she runs through their home with joy, going to school, creating art, and shining bright in every space she touches. She didn't just find a family, she brought theirs into bloom. In every bedtime story, every shared meal, and every whispered “Ti amo,” (I love you) they are reminded- ‘family is not built by blood, but by the brave, beautiful choice to love without borders.’





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Every child deserves to belong. And when love leads, it creates a family that no border or biology can define.”



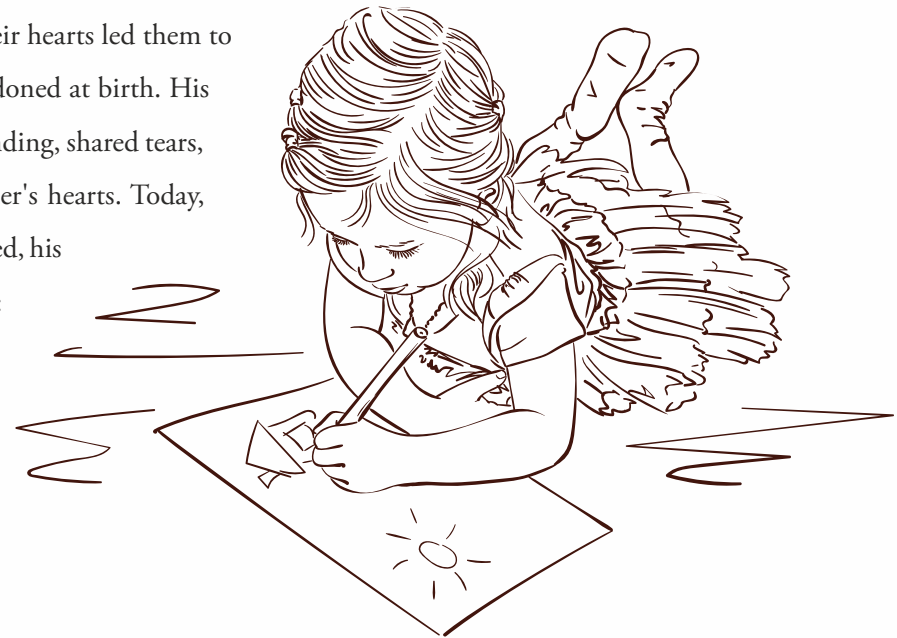


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Darshan's Journey: A Bond Beyond Sight

“He was on the special needs list, and we knew in our hearts he was meant to be ours.”
-Silvia

The Darshan family in Italy today lives a story stitched together by courage, compassion, and unshakeable love. Already parents to Rossy, adopted from the Dominican Republic, Silvia and her husband followed their daughter's wish for a sibling, and their own belief that no child should grow up without a family. Their hearts led them to Darshan, an 8-year-old special child from India, born without his left eye, and abandoned at birth. His smile carried pain and hope in equal measure. It wasn't instant- it took quiet understanding, shared tears, and love that refused to give up. But slowly, they stitched themselves into each other's hearts. Today, Darshan laughs uninhibitedly, skates with joy, and dances in snow he once only imagined, his eyes full of wonder, and his heart full of dreams, including one which he holds closest: ‘one day to see the world with both his eyes.’





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Darshan's dream is now our dream too,” says Silvia. “Because adoption isn't just giving a child a home-it's giving them hope, dignity, and the chance to dream again.”

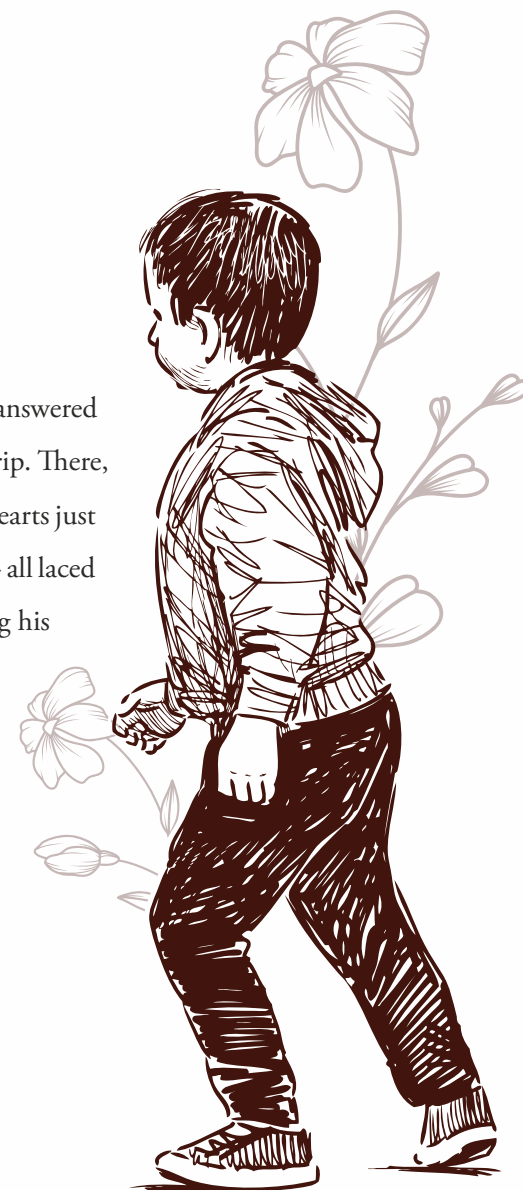




STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

The Giordanis and Subhankar: A Bond Beyond Borders

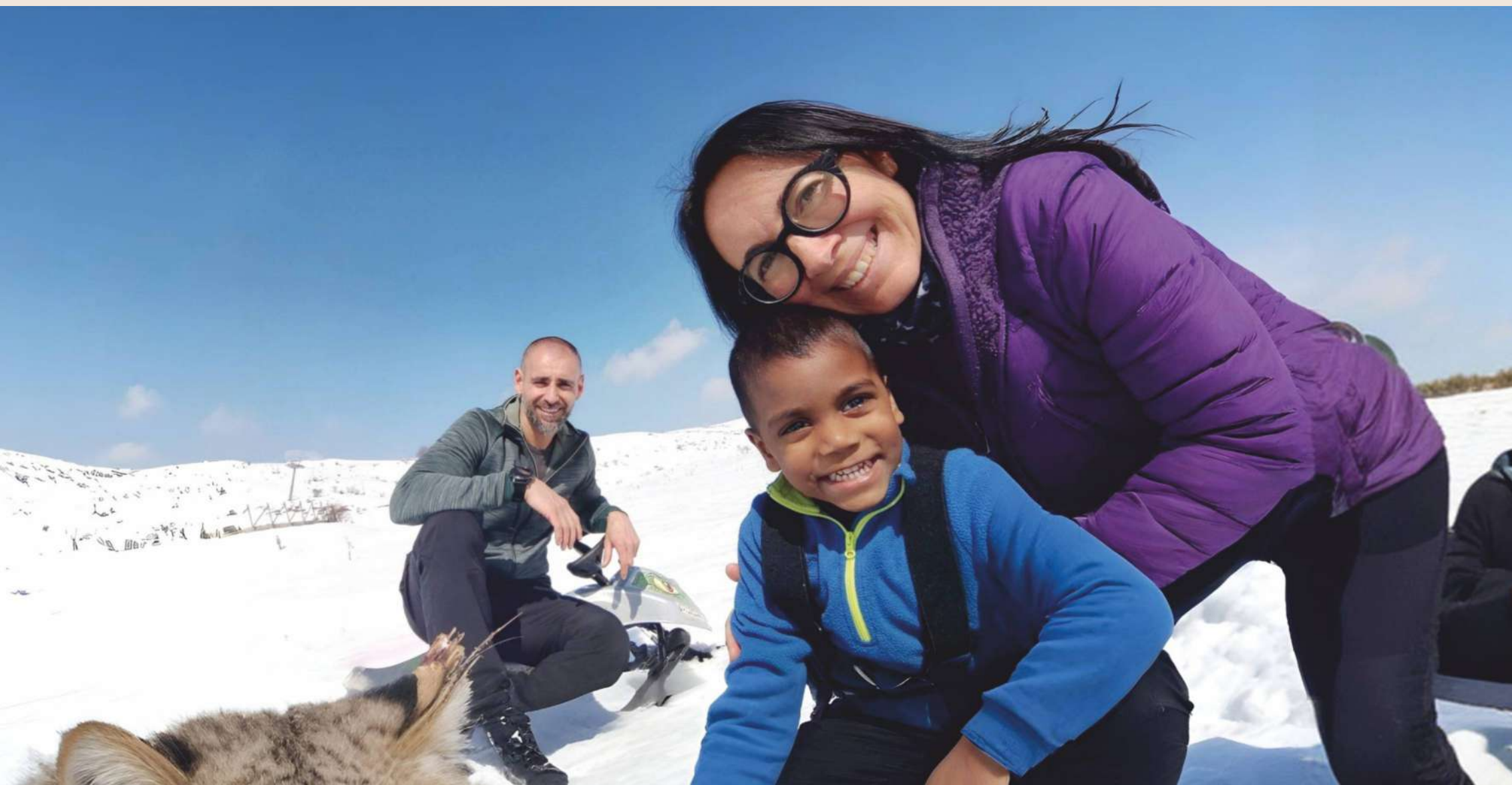
For the Giordani family from Italy, adoption was the answer their hearts had long been waiting for. After years of unanswered prayers and quiet heartache, they turned to India, a land already etched into their souls through a past volunteering trip. There, they met Subhankar, a gentle, watchful boy whose silent gaze spoke louder than words. “When we first saw him, our hearts just knew,” Aurora whispers. The early days were fragile: Subhankar’s first car ride, his first swing, his first glimpse of the sea- all laced with fear, wonder, and trembling courage. Slowly, trust took roots. They rebuilt their lives around his needs-learning his language, shaping routines, offering love without conditions. Subhankar began to speak Italian with joy, his laughter filling the once-quiet rooms. Each year, they mark the day he came home- a day that rewrote all their lives. In Subhankar, they didn’t just find a child. They found healing, belonging, and a love deeper than they ever imagined.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Subhankar didn't just enter our home- he entered our hearts. He's taught us that love is built and lived every day,” say Aurora and Manuel Giodani





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

A Whispered Yes That Changed Everything

*“The moment we laid eyes on Simran, we knew she was meant to be ours.”
-Francesca*

Francesca and Pucci Martini of Italy never imagined parenthood would come not through birth, but through fate. After years of silent heartbreak, they followed a pull they couldn't explain- one that led them to India. There, they met Simran-a two-and-a-half-year-old girl whose smile lit up something forgotten in their hearts. When she wrapped her tiny arms around them, it wasn't with hesitation-it was with love that felt like coming home. The first days together were tender and with challenges. There were no grand gestures, only small, brave steps, learning each other's rhythms, offering comfort in silence, and slowly replacing fear with trust. And then, one day, her voice broke the stillness: “Mummy. Papa.” These were not just names, but a promise of belonging. Now, their home is full of light, laughter, and belongingness. In Simran, they found not just a daughter, but the answer to a longing they could never name, a testimony that love, when chosen freely, can heal across oceans and time.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Simran is our guiding light- she's brought joy we never knew we were missing,”
reflects Martini.



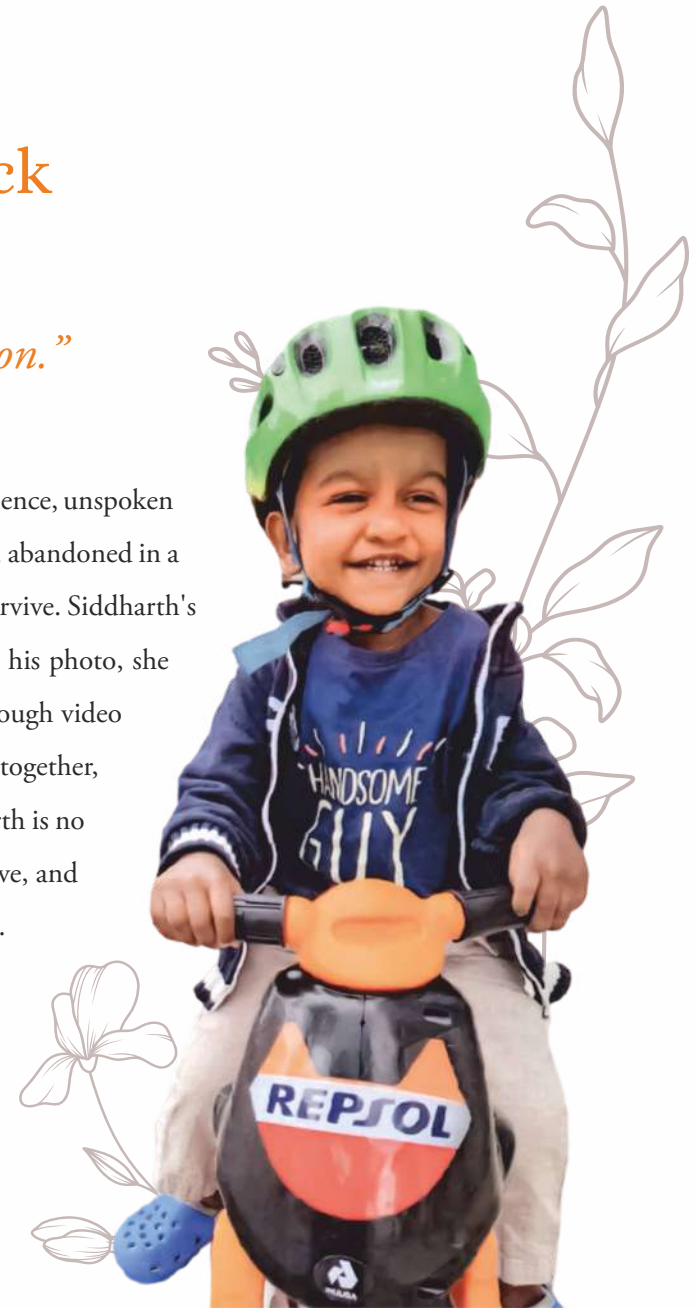


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

The Child Who Chose Me Back

*“The moment I held him, I knew-this was my son.”
- Petra Maria Byrsell*

For Petra Maria Byrsell of Sweden, the journey to motherhood was deeply personal-shaped by quiet resilience, unspoken longing, and a heart full of love waiting to be shared. And far away, in a town in Odisha, a newborn boy, abandoned in a plastic bag by the roadside, struggling with hydrocephalus and developmental delays, was fighting to survive. Siddharth's life, rescued by CHILDLINE, was cradled by compassion until destiny intervened. When Petra saw his photo, she didn't see a child with a condition, what she saw was her son. Their bond began across continents through video calls, exchanging gestures, and growing recognition. It was their first embrace that stitched their stories together, hers of waiting, his of survival. She held him not with pity, but with purpose and pride. Today, Siddharth is no longer a statistic of abandonment, but a boy brimming with curiosity and light, his days filled with love, and possibilities. In each other, Petra and Siddharth found not rescue, but redemption. A family, born of faith.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





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“He teaches me strength, just by being himself,”
reflects Petra.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

A Journey of Unspoken Bonds

*Every day begins with 'Mom' and 'Dad'
-that's when we know we did the right thing.” - Maria*

In what was once the silent chambers in Malta, the laughter of three children now fill the spaces of Anthony and Maria's life. Years ago, after a long struggle and longing for a child, they turned to adoption, not to mend what was missing, but to bestow the love they had long carried in their hearts. From across the world, in India, came Nimmi, Firdosh, and little Gudia, a sibling trio with eyes full of questions and hearts full of hope. Their first meeting was tender. Nimmi and Firdosh reached for their new parents quickly, but Gudia hesitated, until she slowly climbed into Maria's lap and rested her head on her chest. That moment, Maria says, spoke all the words that years of longing never could. The days that followed were filled with challenges-language & cultural barriers, unfamiliarity, adjustment issues, but love and patience carried them through. Today, school drawings vibrant colours cover their walls, and the word “family” for them lives in every shared smile, healed scar, bedtime story and whispered goodnight.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“They weren't born to us, but they were born for us,”
says Anthony.



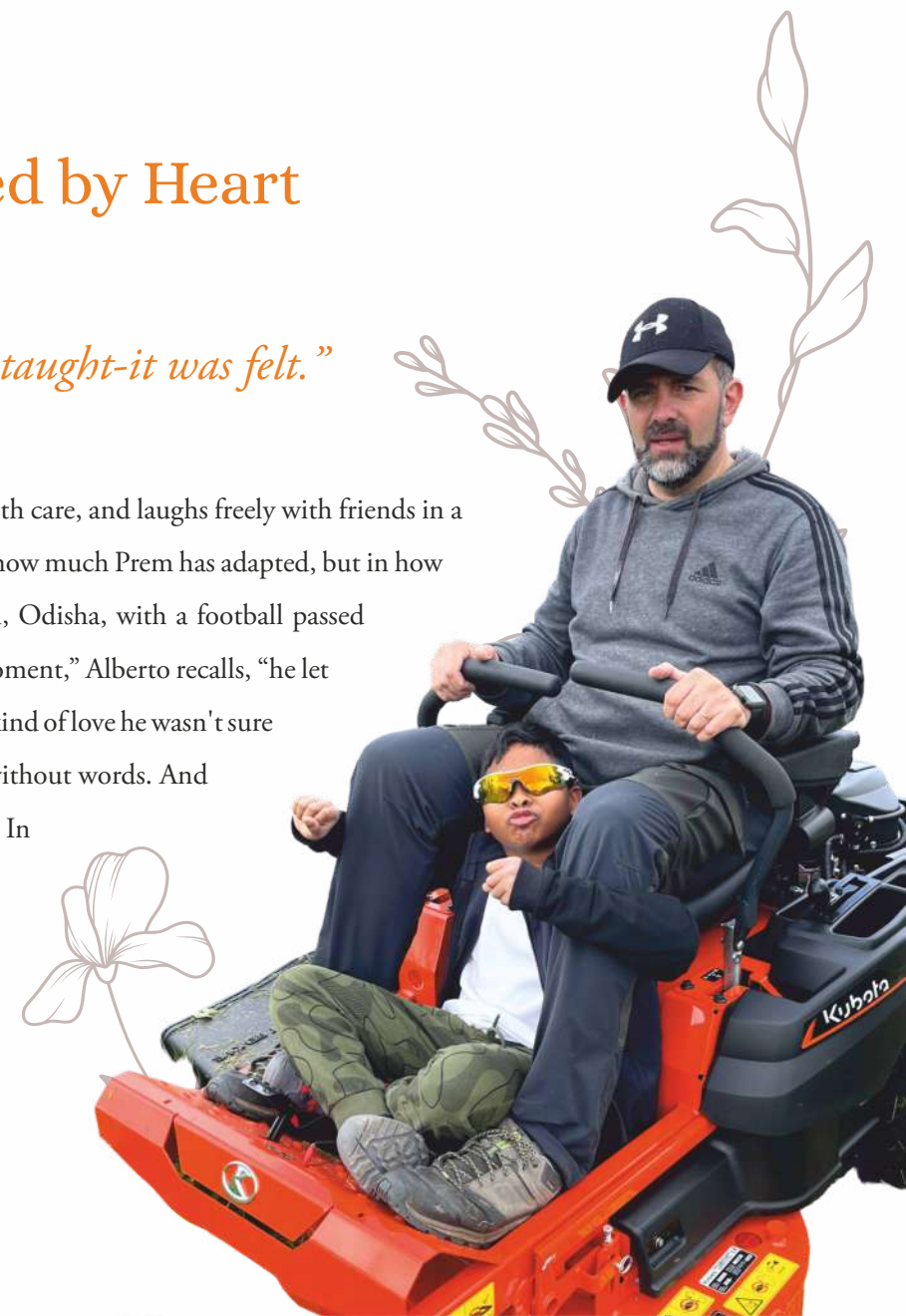


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Adopted by Love, Accepted by Heart

*The day he called us Mom and Dad wasn't taught-it was felt.”
- Francesca*

At 12 years of age, Prem today cycles through quiet lanes in Italy, sets the dinner table with care, and laughs freely with friends in a language once foreign to him. But for Alberto and Francesca, the true miracle lies not in how much Prem has adapted, but in how gently he allowed them into his once-guarded world. Their journey began in Gajapati, Odisha, with a football passed between strangers. That game, that laughter, broke the silence between them. “In that moment,” Alberto recalls, “he let us in.” Prem’s early days in Italy held uncertainty with new tastes, new routines, a strange kind of love he wasn’t sure how to trust. But trust grew slowly, in whispered bedtime chats, in quiet meals shared without words. And then one day, he said it: “Mom, Dad.” Not as a lesson, but as a feeling finally safe to name. In that single moment, they knew they hadn’t just given Prem a home. Rather he had given them a home and a family.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Adoption isn't about rescue, it's about being accepted in return.
That's the true gift,” reflects Alberto.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

She Made Us Whole

*“She was right there, and we knew-our lives had changed forever.”
- Aslam & Naziya*

For Aslam and Naziya Bhikoo from New Zealand, the road to parenthood was paved with five long years of waiting, administrative work, and unwavering hope. And then, one quiet, life-altering moment in India, they met Layla Subha for the first time. In her eyes, they saw not just a child, but the heart of the family they had prayed for. With over a month spent bonding in India, a fragile trust began to bloom. Though frightened by new sounds, car seats, and strange beds, Layla felt safe in their arms. “She slept well, she ate well-we knew she felt home,” they recall. Today, her giggles echo through their home, her small hands reaching for books, the cat, the sky. Turning just one year old, Layla has brought a universe of joy. For Aslam and Naziya, parenthood has changed them, it taught them to slow down, to listen, to love without condition. Their dream for Layla is simple: ‘to grow into a strong, joyful, fearless and independent woman.’





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Don't fear the wait-when your child calls you theirs, it's all worth it,”
say Aslam and Naziya Bhikoo.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

A Family Complete: Emily's Journey Home

Every smile she gives us feels like a blessing.” - Jessica

Little Emily's laughter now dances through the Muscat home in Malta, a melody of love, healing, and dreams finally realized. For Jessica and Daniel, the path to parenthood was marked by unseen trials and tender hope- moments of waiting, of loss, and of silent nights filled with dreams yet to be fulfilled. Yet, they never gave up. “We knew our child was out there, we only had to find her,” Daniel says. After three and a half years of waiting, they met Emily, and in a single moment, their world shifted. Jessica remembers it as a dream, too beautiful, too sacred to explain. Emily, once a stranger, now clings to their hearts with fearless joy. Mornings begin with laughter, afternoons with park swings, and evenings with bedtime cuddles. Even Benji, the family dog, has found a new best friend. Jessica, now on parental leave, soaks in every moment. Daniel, working from home, watches their daughter bloom. Emily is not just their child- she is their answered prayer, their forever, their home.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Adoption made us whole-we didn't bring her into this world, but we'll spend our lives showing her how deeply she's loved in it,” affirm the Muscats.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

Chosen with Courage: Sanvi's Story of Love Without Limits

"We didn't adopt out of pity—we adopted because every child deserves to be chosen." - Megan

The Arnold family, already parents to three biological children, didn't seek to fill a gap, they simply followed a quiet, unwavering call of the heart. That call led them to Sanvi, a small and fragile two-year-old from India with a congenital heart condition and sorrow far beyond her years. She arrived not with smiles, but with tears and trembling hands wrapped tightly around Megan's neck, as if clinging to give life to herself. That first night, heavy with fear and grief, was met not with fear, but with love, gentle arms, whispered lullabies, and unspoken promises of forever. "We saw past the diagnosis," Raid says. "We saw our daughter." The days that followed were not easy--touches flinched from, words unspoken, but slowly, Sanvi bloomed. Her laughter returned, her spirit stirred, her eyes began to shine. The Arnolds didn't just welcome her, they wove her in, heart and soul. In Sanvi, they found not just a child, but a truth: that family is not born, it's beautifully chosen.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“Her heart may be fragile, but her spirit is the strongest we've ever known,”
says Megan with a mother's tenderness.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

A Heartfelt Journey of Belonging

“Sometimes, the heart knows before the mind does—that love can find its way not through birth, but through belonging.”

Brian and Emily always believed that family isn't defined by what's missing-but by what the heart is ready to give. Though already parents to two biological children, their hearts still longed for more. “We didn't adopt because we lacked a child,” Emily said. “We adopted because we knew a child awaited the kind of love we had to offer.”

That child was Sai Pratima-a bright girl from Cuttack. When their eyes first met, she waved and blew a kiss goodbye-a gesture simple yet profound. “In that instant,” Brian recalled, “we were no longer strangers-we were hers.”

Though the journey held challenges, doubts never took root. Sai, once shy, began to bloom-learning, laughing, and embracing her new life. From after-school hugs to bedtime stories, her presence transformed their home.





STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING



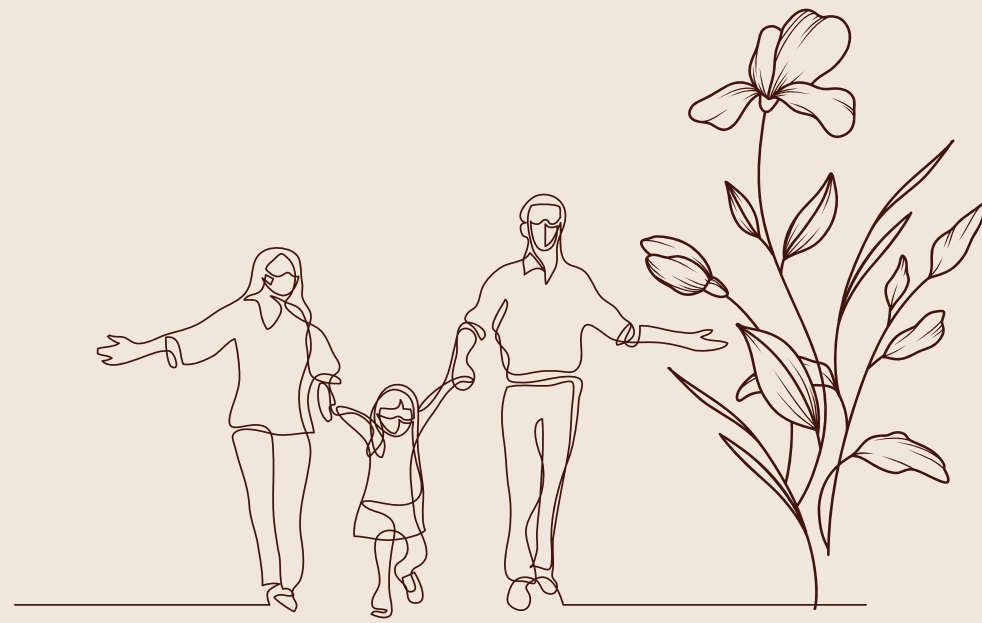


STORIES OF HOPE AND HEALING

“To cradle a child not born of your body but perfectly placed in your life—there is no greater beauty,” Emily shares!









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