



The Ties Program

Uniquely
Inspired Global
Adventures

January 2015



What's New at The Ties Program? Sneak Peak

MAGIC FORMULA TO BIRTH COUNTRY TRAVEL STILL WORKING AFTER 20 YEARS!

Not everything is new at The Ties Program.

Our flagship Adoptive Family Homeland Journeys continue to give adoptees and their families amazing life changing experiences.

Click on the country below to find information on upcoming heritage travel experiences in your (or your child's) country of birth.

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[Cambodia](#)

[Chile](#)

[Colombia](#)

[China](#)

[Ethiopia](#)

[Guatemala](#)

[India](#)

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Our New Name The Ties Program— Uniquely Inspired Global Adventures.

You may have noticed a change in our name. For 20 years, we have been known for our dedication to adoptive family travel. But as the New Year dawns, we are seeing a need to provide other kinds of travel programs. Hence our new name. As we move forward, we'll be adding service trips and philanthropic journeys among other things.

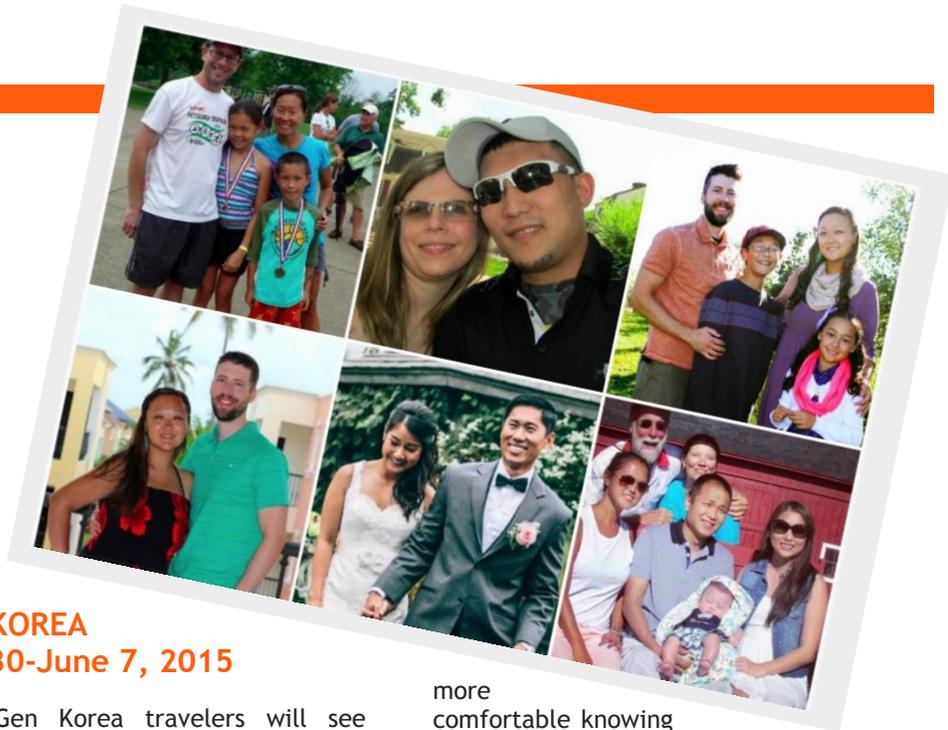
Next Generation Programs: For Adult Adoptees and Those Who Honor Them

The Next Generation of adoptees is here, moving into and through adulthood, with a **whole new set of needs**.

- The need to experience their birth country at a *different* level.
- The need to connect on an everyday level, to people with whom they share a common heritage.
- The need to share their birth country with the new people in their lives (significant others, spouses, children and close friends), as well as with others (parents, siblings, grandparents) in their lives—all who have honored them.
- And in some cases, the need to reconnect or try to connect with birth family.

While on a Next Generation journey, you will be in the care of an adult adoptee, a Next Gen Ties staff member, and a wonderful English speaking Next Gen guide.

Staff will be geared toward YOUR generation, your needs, your dreams.



New: Next Gen KOREA May 30-June 7, 2015

Next Gen Korea travelers will see Korea through a new lens.

Take in a 4D movie Korean style, eat chicken at a baseball game (no hotdogs there!), have a street-food adventure, take drumming and cooking classes, and stay a night or two in a traditional Korean Hanok (wooden house) or do a temple stay.

Yes, you'll sing (or shout) a little at a noreabang too.

And, you'll have a chance to visit your social service agency, and do adoption related visits if you'd like. The Next Gen Team will help you with all the details.

[Request Information](#)

Who are Next Geners?

Here is a rough look at the ages and stages of Next Geners.

18 to 25, and have traveled to their birth country. Younger Next Geners who have traveled to their birth country tend to like a sense of autonomy. They might like the idea of traveling sans parents, but at some level might feel a bit more secure if a parent or parents were in country at the same time, perhaps doing different things. (They may also see the advantage of being able to go to Mom or Dad when they run out of money!) And Mom and Dad might feel a bit

more comfortable knowing they are close by if needed.

25 and up, with significant other and possibly their children, and their children's grandparents. In the 25 and up range, Next Geners life tends to look very different. They might be single or married, with children or not. They might enjoy traveling with others in the same age range. They might like to travel with their kids, so that the kids can get a better sense of what the adopted parent's background is about. They might even like to travel with their kid's grandparents, to help with the kids, and to continue the lifelong journey of adoption together.

18 to 25, and not yet traveled to their birth country. This age range of Next Geners may be comfortable traveling with our Flagship Ties Program. Within our family trip, there are typically 18 to 25 year olds traveling along with their parents and siblings. We separate the older kids and their families into a group in and of itself. If not, there are Motherland Tours that take the 18 to 25's only. We have opted not to do a Motherland trip as we feel most international adoptees traveling to their birth country for the first time benefit from traveling with a personal support team beyond their peers.

Other Next Gen Countries? See below.

Other Next Gen Countries

We are also developing programs for older adoptees in other countries. As the needs of international adoptees change, you can count on The Ties Program to be there. And, as we've typically done, we'll rely on your input. **Where would you like to see a Next Gen program?**

[Email us.](#)



Service Trip-India Nov. 20-29, 2015

Join us for a special departure of Ties Journeys of Discovery that focuses on service to others (along with some play time!) We will base in Udaipur, home of Foster Care India headed by Ian Forber-Pratt. Working with Ian and his lovely wife, we will deliver books and games on the Book Mobile, which serves children in the poorest areas of the city. Together, we'll plan a party for the children in care—we'll even have a cooking class as we learn to make food for the party. For those who love animals, take some time to volunteer at the world famous Animal Aide Center.

We'll also take an overnight trip to the tribal village of Dungarpur where we will hike up to a temple overlooking the lake. And, yes, we'll have time to shop.

Most importantly, we'll learn about the people of this area of India. It will be a meaningful and magical journey.

[Email us for details.](#)

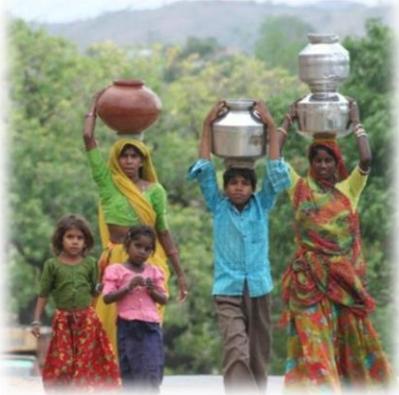
Service Trip-Guatemala July 20-28, 2015



Join us for a special departure of Ties Journeys of Discovery that focuses on service to others (along with some play time.) Together, we'll deliver bunk beds to families in need via the Bunk Bed Project. We'll spend time at two different orphanages, giving children the attention they so deserve. We'll visit rural villages to learn about how sustainable progress is being made to keep people healthier. And we'll participate in the backyard school project.

But that's only the beginning. We'll find time to zip line, and of course shop in the charming city of Antigua, where we will base. Free time will give you a chance to plan something that your family would especially like to do.

[Email us for details.](#)



Other Service Trips? Trips with another focus?

Would you like to do a service trip in another country?

Would you prefer a journey that focuses on food or art or a particular profession or interest?

[Let us know!](#)

Private or Semi-Private Travel

Are you more of an independent traveler?

In every country we serve, we have done private or semi-private arrangements for families who prefer to travel independently. We can arrange for hotels, transportation, guides/translators, meals, and sightseeing. We can also arrange for you to visit people and places important to your (or your child's) adoption.

[Contact Us.](#)

Birth Family Search & Reunion

In many countries we serve, we are able to help with birth family search and reunion.

Over the years, we have found international reunion to be very healing for all involved.

But as you can imagine, it is complicated and requires deep thought before proceeding. We are available to help you think through these important issues, as well as provide a variety of resources.

[Contact Us.](#)

Gift of Identity—Travel Grants for International Adoptees

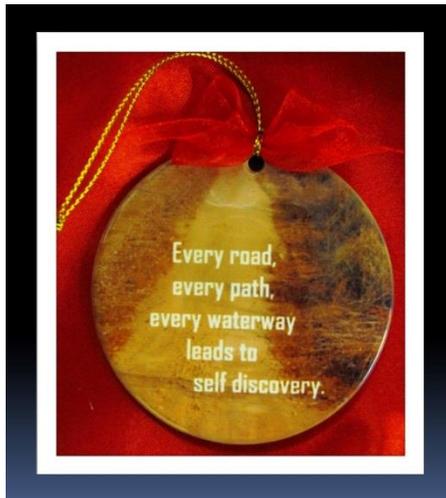
The Gift of Identity Fund, Ltd. provides grants of up to \$5000 to international adoptees visiting their birth country with the goal of helping them understand their identity and heritage. Adoptees of any age can qualify. To learn more about GIFT, please visit the [GIFT website](#).

GIFT is a 501(C)(3) non-profit.

Holiday Ornament Benefits GIFT Recipients

Do you know someone who could use an uplifting message? Maybe someone who's had a difficult life journey?

Brighten their day and help fund GIFT grants.



“Every road, every path, every waterway leads to self discovery.”

[Learn about this ornament & order information.](#)

TWEENS & TEENS: WHAT I WOULD TELL YOU IF I COULD FIND THE WORDS

A workshop (FOR ADULTS) you won't want to miss. You may even want to plan one in your area!

If you are raising a tween or teen, have raised one, or will raise one, chances are they are holding back on their thoughts. It's what my daughter calls “restricted information.”

“Why is it restricted?” I ask, holding on to her every word, listening for clues for what is on HER mind, despite the fact that via my professional work, I've got a pretty good clue.

“Because I don't want to hurt you, or make you feel bad about stuff,” she replies.

“But what stuff?” I ask.

“You know Mom, just stuff.”

So what's the stuff? What are tweens and teens pondering in the corners of their minds?

The answer: questions and thoughts related to:

1. Fitting in
2. Their relationship with their adoptive family & adoptee loyalty
3. Feelings related to their birth family and birth country
4. And the double whammy—things that combine both birth and adoptive family
5. Understanding background, a.k.a. Life History
6. Poverty in birth country
7. Why? Why? Why? (to a million things)

8. Abandonment issues, insecurities, and control

9. Self-worth & guilt

10. Hope

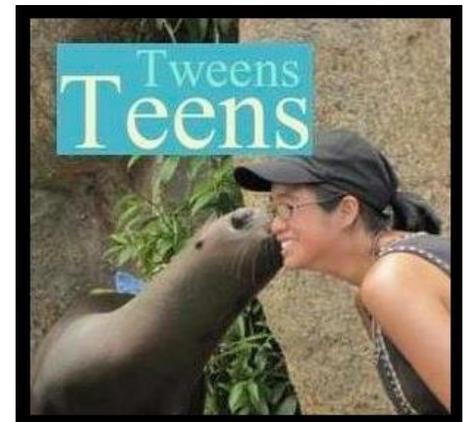
This workshop looks at concrete questions and thoughts that MAY be going through your child's mind, or MAY be soon.

In this very interactive workshop, you will hear and experience the thoughts of international adoptees...the “restricted information” shared openly and honestly by adoptees themselves.

It will provide insight to help you create a strategy that will strengthen your relationship with your child.

The Ties Program has presented this workshop across the United States, often times in conjunction with an adoption agency or support group.

If you would like more information on bringing Teens and Tweens to your area, please email Info@AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com.



The Ties Program: Uniquely Created Global Adventures
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