

Hi, my name is Alex. Now I bet you are thinking that I'm going to come up here and rant to you about LGBTQ, and you are probably thinking, "We know you're gay Alex; shut up." However, that is not what I'm here to talk to you about today. I am here to tell you about WACAP. WACAP is an adoption agency that my mom works for. Being adopted myself, WACAP means so much to me because it's the only reason I'm here talking to you today. The main reasons you should donate to WACAP that I'll be talking about today are,

1. what WACAP has accomplished in the past,
2. the fact that they don't only find homes for children, and
3. how the money will be used.

I will also talk about a story of an orphan I know and some common thoughts and questions that run through many orphans' minds on the daily.

WACAP has found homes for over 11,000 kids ages 0 to 18 worldwide since 1976! That's over 40 years! A lot of them were teenagers just like us! Think about how you would be right now if you didn't grow up with you parents or guardian. You might still be in an orphanage, wondering where you belong. Wondering if anyone cares. You start to think no one does. Then...one day, someone comes and adopts you. Giving you love, caring for you, and keeping you safe. Finally, you have a family. Family doesn't have to be blood related. If it did, I would not have any. No family. Think about that. Think about how that feels to not have anyone. Blood does not make family. Love makes family.

I have a friend who is a freshman. His name is Zane, and he is adopted from China. He gave me permission to add in what he said about WACAP: "WACAP does so much. Because of them, many kids in need of families now get to go home with one. I may not know much about my birth family, but the life I have with my mom and dad now I would never give up. Other children from other countries get the same opportunities as me because of WACAP. I will always be grateful for them putting me into the loving arms of my mom and dad."

I also talked to Zane's mother who works at WACAP and she had this to say; "My favorite part about working at WACAP is seeing the children that finally go home. Knowing that we helped them find their forever family."

Common thoughts that cross orphans' minds are "Why wasn't I good enough?" or "What did I do wrong? These questions go through my mind every freaking day. Just because my parents left. Without the love and protection of a family, kids fall into deep depression and it gotten so bad that some consider suicide. I don't want that for other kids.

Not only does WACAP help find families for kids in different countries, they help make those countries safer and healthier for the people there. They have programs that help kids go to school, so they don't have to live in orphanages just because their parents can't stay home to take care of them. And Bill Gates gave them a grant so they could build a physical therapy center in China for people who need it. Before Mr. Putin, the Russian president, passed the law that there would be no more international adoption from Russia, WACAP would literally buy meals for the kids in the orphanages there so they wouldn't starve. Back then, they didn't get a lot of food in the orphanages. The main thing I had there was oatmeal and juice.

If WACAP got the money, what would they do with it? Well, they would use it to help them travel to different countries to help the kids there by finding out who they are so they can find families for them. Now obviously 20 dollars cannot do all that, but WACAP was so excited our teacher is giving us this assignment that they have about 15 people right now who will match the 20 dollars if this essay wins the contest. That's 300 dollars!

Now you know what WACAP has accomplished in the past, what else they do besides adoption, what they would do with the money, and that if you choose WACAP, they get 300 dollars instead of just 20. This is important because all kids deserve families. All kids deserve love. Help these kids find the love and support they deserve. I know that this will not make it all better but I know that this can at least help. Maybe one day you will decide to adopt. I've said it before and I'll say it again. Blood does not make family. Love makes family.

By Alex Reed