Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital
At Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, we’re committed to making the world a better place for children. Since 1887, we’ve brought together some of the world’s most outstanding scientists, surgeons and clinicians to create one of the nation’s finest children’s hospitals — one that consistently ranks as the best children’s hospital in the Midwest in U.S. News & World Report. It’s success we attribute to our continuing belief in enriching the lives of children not just here, but around the world.

Thanks to all of the families with whom we have had the pleasure of working, especially those that contributed content and photos for the brochure.
About the Rainbow Adoption Health Service

The Adoption Health Service supports families throughout the adoption process by providing pre-parenting education, pre-adoptive counseling, review of medical information, and post adoption support and medical services.

Our goal is to optimize health outcomes for internationally and domestically adopted children by providing comprehensive, high-quality care through a child-centered approach.

OUR STRENGTHS INCLUDE:

• Three decades of international experience with children.
• Second international adoption clinic established in US.
• Adoption reviews conducted by a team of specialists.
• Pre-adoptive parenting classes for adoptive families.
• PARTners in-home post adoption follow-up program.
• Unlimited access to our specialist team throughout the entire adoption process.
• Extensive knowledge of adoption procedures in over 30 countries.

Our experts specialize in counseling families regarding the cultural and health implications of international adoption, as well as identifying and treating health conditions that may impact adopted children, such as attachment disorders, fetal alcohol syndrome, developmental delays, malnutrition and a variety of infectious diseases.

Since 1996, the Adoption Health Service has assisted in more than 2000 successful adoptions. The Adoption Health Service, directed by Anna M. Mandalakas, MD, is a multidisciplinary team of pediatricians, pediatric specialists, nurses, social workers and therapists.

Our physicians and staff have first-hand experience working with children from other countries, as well as extensive experience navigating the domestic foster care and child welfare system.

The Adoption Health Service is a specialty clinic that works in collaboration with primary care providers and pediatricians. Our staff also works closely with physicians in more than 30 major pediatric divisions ranging from cardiology to urology. Specialists from Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, ranked the best children’s hospital in the Midwest, can help diagnose, manage and treat the many conditions that may be present when your child arrives home.

“[I cannot say enough about how wonderful this service is. Please continue to grow. My family is willing to participate in anything that you do.”

Marisa Herran, MD, Therese Dragga, RN, Jane Holan, MD, Eva Holsinger, MD, Anna Mandalakas, MD, Stephen Nipple, Lindsey Houlihan, MSSA, LISW, ABD
International Adoption

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

Pre-Parenting Education for Families Adopting Internationally

These sessions (held three times a year) are designed to prepare prospective parents for the adoption process and post-adoptive period. Sixteen hours of classes are taught by physicians, nurses and multiple specialists in allied health fields. Topics include medical, behavioral and developmental issues, attachment and bonding, triad issues, trans-racial adoption, culturally competent parenting, well childcare and child safety, occupational therapy, speech therapy, early intervention services, and adoption support groups.

Pre-Adoption Consultations

Pre-adoptive consultation services are individualized to meet each family’s particular needs. Whether you have no information or detailed reports, our team of physicians and nursing staff can provide you with information and tools needed to make an informed decision about an adoptive placement. During these extensive meetings, our experts help you to understand the individual needs of your prospective child. You have unlimited access to our services as you obtain additional medical information regarding the child, and we provide family support until your child arrives at home.

Post-Adoption Support and Follow Up Services

In addition to a detailed physical examination, our physicians routinely screen for hepatitis B and C, HIV, syphilis, tuberculosis, rickets, intestinal pathogens, elevated blood lead levels, metabolic disorders and anemia. We offer comprehensive immunization screening to ensure that your child is protected without receiving unnecessary additional shots. Detailed developmental tools are used to establish a baseline assessment of development from which to track progress in the coming months and years. A critical assessment of behavior and attachment is completed. You and your child’s pediatrician will receive detailed recommendations about any interventions your child may need and suggestions on how to best encourage your child’s “catch-up” growth and development. These visits are scheduled soon after the child’s return home as well as 3, 6 and 12 months after adoption in coordination with the child’s primary care provider.

PARTners (Prevention, Assessment, Referral and Training for Adoptive Families)

PARTners is a follow-up home-based program designed to decrease parental stress and enhance parent-child relationships in adoptive families in the post-adoption period. The program targets young adopted children, who are at-risk for health, developmental and socio-emotional difficulties as a result of pre-adoptive experiences. It is designed to strengthen and preserve adoptive families, improving family function and success in adoption. The families receive a weekly visit which consists of an assessment, parent training provided as an intervention session (addressing areas such as attachment, communication, cooperation) and referral to other services, if needed. It is a strength-based model to assist parents in learning additional skills to bolster the parent-child relationship.

“...
**Domestic Adoption**

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

**Kinship Care Program**
This new program provides expanded pre-adoptive preparation, individual family consultations prior to adoption, and comprehensive medical, developmental and behavioral services for older (8–12 year-old) children in kinship care during the first post-adoptive year. A social worker provides monthly home visits. Through this pilot program, we will learn more about the needs of kinship care providers and the children in their care. Our model will focus on recognizing the strengths within the family. Our goal is to positively promote permanency through adoption as well as to maximize physical, psychological and developmental health outcomes for children placed with relatives.

**Multi-Ethnic Placement Act Evaluations**
In collaboration with the Cuyahoga Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS), we provide evaluations for children awaiting adoption. The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) is a federal law prohibiting delay or denial of adoption or placement due to race, color or national origin. Our multidisciplinary team of a psychologist, a developmental pediatrician and social worker provide this service to children under the guidance of CCDCFS to support adoption.

**Rainbow Center for Global Child Health**
The Adoption Health Service is just one service under the umbrella of the Rainbow Center for Global Child Health, sharing in the mission and vision to make a positive difference by addressing the medical and mental health needs of children throughout the world. The Center promotes service, education and research to improve the health of children in developing countries and is recognized for its educational programs in pediatric disaster relief. Dr. Karen Olness, the Center’s Founding Director, has worked with internationally adopted children since 1974 and continues to play an active role in the Center. Dr. Olness, an expert in developmental and behavioral pediatrics, has helped children in developing nations for more than 30 years. She also is the adoptive parent of two children, including one from abroad. In 2006, Dr. Anna Mandalakas and Dr. Marisa Herran were named Co-Directors of the Center and are dedicated to furthering Dr. Olness’ mission to advocate for children both domestically and internationally.

- First Center for international child health in the US.
- First pediatric residency track for international health in the US.
- First comprehensive training program in the world for children affected by disasters.
- First pediatric fellowship program for global child health in the US.
- First domestic training program to care for children in a humanitarian crisis in the US.

“Thank you all for being here. It is such a relief to know there are so many resources for adoptive families in Cleveland. We are especially grateful that the Adoption Health Service exists. It is such a great comfort to know we will be in such good hands.”
Eva Holsinger, MD
Dr. Eva Holsinger graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and trained in Pediatrics at Akron Children’s Hospital. She worked as a community pediatrician and was on staff at Akron Children’s Hospital and Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine for over 4 years. Dr. Holsinger also joined the Center in 2003 as a fellow in International Child Health, where she provided post-adoptive clinical care and pre-adoption consultations with the Adoption Health Service. She co-directs our Cleveland-based International course on Humanitarian Emergencies, and was also co-director of the Humanitarian Emergencies course taught in El Salvador in 2006. Dr. Holsinger has extensive experience working in Latin American countries, and she is particularly interested in the physical and mental health consequences of child trafficking and gender-based violence.

Eva joined the staff of the Adoption Health Service in January 2007 following completion of her fellowship (2006). She is leading our efforts to expand our services and care for more children in the greater Cleveland area through the provision of additional clinical sites and educational forums. She is also Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Anna Mandalakas, MD
Dr. Anna Mandalakas directs the Adoption Health Service and plays an active role in the Northeast Ohio adoption community to support child-centered adoption. In addition to the many clinical services she provides through our Adoption Health Service, she routinely provides lectures to raise community awareness about the special needs of children adopted internationally.

Her educational efforts have been directed towards a wide variety of audiences including parents, teachers, psychologists, school administrators, community physicians, nurses, and health care professionals in training. In recognition of these efforts, the Adoption Network Cleveland chose Dr. Mandalakas as the 2003 Triad Advocate of the Year.

Dr. Mandalakas completed her undergraduate studies in Medical Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University. After obtaining her medical degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, she returned to Cleveland and completed her Pediatric Residency (1997) and International Child Health Fellowship (2000) at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. Additionally, she received her Master’s degree in Epidemiology from Case Western Reserve University (2000). She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.
“It is hard to put into words what an amazing blessing this program and this class has been to us. The staff is so passionate about sharing all they have learned about the subject through both personal and professional experiences. We are so glad that we got connected with the program.”

Marisa Herran, MD
Dr. Marisa Herran obtained her Medical Degree at the University of Puerto Rico Medical School of Medicine. She completed her training in Pediatrics at the University Children’s Hospital in San Juan. Dr. Herran moved to Ohio in 1983, and served at-risk children for over 15 years until joining the Center in 1999. She has worked overseas with refugees, displaced families and children in orphanage settings. Her interests are general pediatrics and international child health. She directs our Center’s Latin American projects, has translated the Center’s disaster training curriculum into Spanish and co-directs our domestic and overseas disaster courses. Dr. Herran has worked with displaced populations and unaccompanied minors in Kosovo and Sudan. She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Therese Dragga, RN
Therese Dragga graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. She has cared for children and their families at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital for more than 25 years, and joined the Adoption Health Service in 2002. She provides extensive education for families throughout the adoption process. Therese maintains certification as a CPR instructor and is active in her neighborhood as a member of the local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Therese also volunteers for an organization that collects useable medical supplies and redistributes them to other parts of the world where they are needed. She and her husband have two grown children.

Jane Holan, MD
Dr. Jane Holan is a board certified pediatrician who has completed fellowship training in developmental pediatrics and has worked with children with special needs for 20 years. Her fellowship training was at the Child Development Center in Memphis, Tennessee, and at Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. Dr. Holan was on staff at the Medical College of Ohio, where she started the clinic for children with Down Syndrome. She served as medical director at The Blick Clinic in Akron, Ohio for over a decade, where she continued the program for children with Down Syndrome as well as children with other developmental challenges. She has worked with Summit County Children’s Services to evaluate at-risk children in foster care for developmental concerns. She also served as the developmental pediatrician for the Early Intervention Program in Stark County for several years. Dr. Holan is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Rainbow in the division of Pediatric Neurology and provides medical and developmental assessments for domestically adopted children in the Adoption Health Service pilot program for children in kinship care.

Lindsey Houlihan, MSSA, LISW, ABD
Lindsey Houlihan is a graduate of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University with a master’s degree (MSA). Lindsey is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW) with over 16 years experience in social work with families and children. She is currently working on her PhD in Social Work, with an emphasis in attachment and attachment disorders. Lindsey began working with the Adoption Health Service at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital in 2001, coordinating pre-adoptive parenting classes for families who adopt internationally. Since 2006 Lindsey has been the Program Director and therapist for the Adoption PARTners post-adoption program to provide family support for internationally adopted children, as well as directing a new pilot program in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Department of Children’s and Family Services, which provides comprehensive educational, medical, developmental and behavioral services for older (8–12 year old) domestically adopted children in kinship care. Lindsey is also the adoptive parent of a daughter from China.

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