

equipping  
families to be  
the answer



  
**BETHANY**  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

annual report 2015

you are  
**equipping  
families**  
to be **THE ANSWER**



*As we're counting down the months to the next Presidential election, we've heard numerous campaign promises to fix all of the country's woes. Acknowledging voter frustration last spring, one candidate quipped, "You have a right to be angry ... but anger is not a plan."*

*How do we respond when more than one million pregnancies end in abortion each year; when 141 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents; when 402,000 children in the U.S. are in foster care; when 23,000 teens age out each year without family support? In the face of such pain for innocent children, this overwhelming reality is worth our outrage and dismay. But that is not a plan.*

*Bethany's heart is for children, and we believe every child deserves a loving family—that's where they thrive best. Bethany's plan is to equip families to be the answer for children in need, whether it's to help a biological family stay together, a foster family for a hurting child, or an adoptive family for a child in need.*

*The pages that follow share some of the ways Bethany's plan is put into action every day. Rooted in experience, best practice, and compassion, our programs and services give help and hope to vulnerable people when they need it most.*

*With your Bethany support, **you too** are equipping families, like those you'll meet in this report, to be the answer for children. In the midst of overwhelming need, your generous giving—and God's generous blessing—enables us to put our plan into action to bring and keep more families together. Thank you for standing with us.*

*Bill Blacquiere, President, CEO*

Since 1944, Bethany has been equipping families to be the answer for children in need. We do this in more than 120 offices across the United States and in more than 15 countries.




In the U.S., we provide counseling and support for expectant parents facing unplanned pregnancies. We create and nurture families through adoption and post-adoption services, foster care, family counseling, refugee services, and our Safe Families for Children™ ministry.

Globally, we are pioneering in-country foster care and adoption programs that keep children in families, in their own communities, rather than in institutions. Our international adoption programs specialize in finding families for older children, sibling groups, and children with special needs. We also offer Global Consulting services to churches and organizations looking to implement a family-based approach to orphan care.

In all we do, we are inspired and led by our faith to show God's love to those who are close to His heart.





Ammy was  
**the answer for**  
her daughter,  
Delaney.

pregnancy  
counseling &  
life impact

Ammy's life hadn't turned out the way she'd hoped. Pregnant, alone, and with no financial stability, she felt mentally and emotionally broken—hardly in a position, she thought, to bring a child into the world. She assumed abortion was her only choice.

A friend introduced her to Bethany. She found practical help and support without judgment. There she talked to a counselor who told her Bethany could offer other options if she wanted to know more.

Ammy enrolled in counseling classes and—for the first time—she began to see new doors open and set new goals for her life. She began to feel whole.

And then she had a revelation:

"The people who surrounded me never once judged me," she said. "They helped me look to my future instead of at my past. That's when I realized I did have what it takes to parent my child. I felt free."



**[bethany.org/Pregnant](https://bethany.org/Pregnant)**  
**[bethany.org/LifeImpact](https://bethany.org/LifeImpact)**

MacArthur and Terreon were **the answer for** Keaira and MacKinley.



domestic  
adoption

When MacArthur and Terreon married, adoption was one of the first things they discussed. They didn't know a lot about open adoption, but after attending a Bethany training class, they were interested in pursuing that option so their child would also know their birthfamily.

In their 40s and seeking to adopt a baby, the couple wondered if a birthmother would choose them. But when Keaira first met them, she could see they would be loving, down-to-earth parents for her son. Knowing she could still have a relationship with her son gave Keaira the confidence to choose adoption.

"The first thing MacKinley does when he wakes up in the morning is smile, and it just makes my whole day," MacArthur said. "Being a parent is an awesome feeling."

MacArthur and Terreon want MacKinley's birthmother to share in this joy, too, and their open adoption relationship allows that to happen. "We went in with one perception of what adoption would be like, and we tried to stay positive," Terreon said, "but we never-in-a-million-years thought it would be this positive."

*See more of this family's story online.*

[bethany.org/Adoption](https://bethany.org/Adoption)  
[bethany.org/PostAdoption](https://bethany.org/PostAdoption)



**101,710 CHILDREN** impacted worldwide in 2015

**242**

**INTERNATIONAL  
CHILDREN**

were welcomed  
into adoptive  
families in the  
United States

**2,860**

**EXPECTANT  
PARENTS**

benefited from  
pregnancy counseling  
services protecting  
unborn children

**473**

**OLDER  
CHILDREN**

in foster care were  
helped to find a  
forever family

**649**

**INFANTS**

were  
welcomed by  
their adoptive  
parents

Bringing Families Together.  
Keeping Families Together.



**11,635**

**CHILDREN**

benefited from  
ADOPTS, youth, and  
family counseling

**69,476**

**INTERNATIONAL  
CHILDREN**

were impacted through our  
international social services

**2,864**

**REFUGEE CHILDREN**

received a warm welcome  
and were helped to adjust  
to their new life in the  
United States

**4,634**

**CHILDREN**

received post-adoption  
services to help them  
thrive within their  
new families

**2,558**

**CHILDREN**

were cared for through  
Safe Families for Children™

**2,346**

**CHILDREN**

found a temporary, caring  
home in foster care





foster care  
adoption

Doug and Missi were  
**the answer for**  
**Robert.**

Robert's early childhood was marked by a series of legal guardianships, foster care placements, and residential care. By the age of 15, he had all but dropped out of school and assumed he wouldn't live to see 18. A brush with juvenile detention, and help from a caring therapist, sparked his desire to make better choices. For the first time, he started thinking about his future.

Since 2007, Doug and Missi had been foster parents for mostly young children. In 2012, they sensed God calling them to open their home to an older teen. In their home, Robert found the structure and stability he needed to get back on track at school. His grades improved and he made friends. After 12 foster placements, Robert was finally home with his forever family.

Robert not only lived to see 18, but he celebrated the day with family and friends. Later that year, they celebrated his adoption. This is the difference a family can make.

[bethany.org/](https://bethany.org/)  
FosterCare

[bethany.org/](https://bethany.org/)  
FosterCareAdoption



Keith and Kristy were  
**the answer for**  
Elijah and Malachi.



international  
adoption

After 15 years of marriage, two children, and years of volunteer work with orphanages abroad, Keith and Kristy sensed God gently working in their hearts. In time they understood—He was calling them to adopt a child with special needs.

“We started by speaking with a Bethany adoption specialist, and we felt God’s Spirit telling us to trust Him,” said Kristy. What followed were “random” emails, videos, and texts about Down syndrome. Kristy looked at Keith and said, “I think we can do this.”

Kristy and Keith received a Caring Connection grant that allowed them to adopt not one, but two children. After living apart in foster families in Hong Kong, twins Elijah and Malachi are now together in a loving forever family.

“People say our boys are ‘lucky’ to have us, but we are the ones blessed beyond measure,” Kristy said. “Elijah and Malachi love unconditionally in a way that I admire and desire to show others.”

[bethany.org/  
InternationalAdoption](https://bethany.org/InternationalAdoption)

[bethany.org/  
CaringConnection](https://bethany.org/CaringConnection)



child & family  
sponsorship

One Family sponsors were  
**the answer for**  
**Yordanos and her family.**

In 2012, Yordanos was an excellent student who loved to read, sing, and express herself artistically. She was living with her mother, grandmother, uncle, and younger brother in one of the poorest areas of Ethiopia. Her father had passed away, and her mother's chronic illness made it impossible for her to work. The family subsisted on the wages her uncle earned as a security guard.

Bethany's One Family sponsorship ministry covered the cost of school fees and supplies for Yordanos and her brother. It also provided food and basic health care for the family. The additional monthly support not only kept this family together, but it also kept this family's spirit alive. For the first time they could imagine a different life, and they finally had the resources to live into that new reality.

Within three years, Yordanos' uncle found additional work to supplement his income. They also acquired rental property to bring in a little more. Yordanos has completed her first year of college. An accomplished artisan, she dreams of starting her own business to sell her original cloth designs.

This family emerged stronger, self-sufficient, and positioned to reinvest in their community.

[bethany.org/OneFamily](https://bethany.org/OneFamily)

**Praise the Lord** for another blessed year serving children and families worldwide. Much of what Bethany accomplished in 2015 resulted from a focus on both near-term planning and long-term strategy—and donors who supported us and encouraged us to do more.

*The more I learn about our organization and engage its people, the more impressed I am by their love for and impact on others. We continue to counsel, advocate for, and lift up those who need a loving family.*

*Our stories tell it all. I met a trauma counselor who was the last best hope for an older adopted child. I listened to a couple who were working with 18 children in our Safe Families for Children™ ministry. And then there is the foster care program we started in Haiti and the contract we signed with South Africa to deliver social services in their country by their own people.*

*I'm grateful for Bethany's wonderful people and the great work they do to equip families to be the answer for children in need!*

*Tom Despard, Board Chair*



## RESULTS OF GENERAL OPERATIONS:

SOURCES OF REVENUE	2015	2014
Reimbursement for Children's Services	\$52,594,000	\$49,087,000
Adoption and Counseling Fees	28,198,000	29,221,000
Investments and Other Revenue	1,685,000	1,533,000
Donor Contributions	15,201,000	14,544,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$97,678,000</b>	<b>\$94,385,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Pregnancy and Adoption Services	\$19,336,000	\$19,599,000
Children's Services	73,494,000	69,495,000
Support and Fundraising	4,796,000	5,016,000
Provision for Future Services	52,000	275,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$97,678,000</b>	<b>\$94,385,000</b>

"Every good and perfect gift is from above..."

JAMES 1:17 NIV



Bethany Christian Services demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.



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[bethany.org](http://bethany.org)

1.800.BETHANY (238.4269)

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