



BETHANY[®]
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
annual report 2016



BETTER
together

bringing & keeping FAMILIES TOGETHER

At Bethany, we envision a world where every child has a loving family—that is where they thrive best. Our range of services supports this vision in 36 states and in 15 countries.

*Some of our services—such as domestic, international, and foster care adoption—**bring children and families together.***

*Some of our services—including foster care, post-adoption support, sponsorship, refugee resettlement, and Safe Families for Children™—**keep families together.***

*Some of our services—like pregnancy counseling—can accomplish both. The key word that drives what we do is “together.” Children need families. Families need training and support. **Bethany needs partners like you, so together we can serve more children and equip families to be the answer for children in need.***

Thank you for your partnership.

Bill Blacquiere, President, CEO

The key word that drives what we do is **together.**



Adam and Hayley adopted their son, Theo, from China after a long road of praying, hoping, fundraising, working extra jobs, and watching God provide exactly what they needed at just the right time.

moving HEARTS

They received a call about a young boy who had been born blind in his left eye. Their oldest daughter had also been born blind in her left eye, and they knew right then God had prepared them for this. A few months later, Theo's sisters and brother welcomed him home.

Bethany's Caring Connection fund provided assistance with Theo's adoption and his medical needs. He will be fitted for a prosthetic eye this year, and his sister is excited to mentor him on how to protect his seeing eye. She was thrilled that God brought her a brother just like her.

"The adoption process was an amazing experience," said Hayley.

"What seemed daunting at times always worked out in the end. We learned firsthand about humility—not only in asking for help raising funds but accepting financial blessings, knowing God was moving in people's hearts to bring our son to us."

bethany.org/CaringConnection
bethany.org/InternationalAdoption

Theo's photo provided by hH Photography & Design



213
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN

were welcomed into
adoptive families in the United States

FOREVER changed

Jesse and Krista knew from the beginning that they wanted to adopt. They thought they would have biological children first and then grow their family further through adoption, but they trusted that whatever was to be would be in God's timing, not theirs.

Bethany supported Jesse and Krista throughout their adoption process with training, adoption education, and timely communication from their adoption specialist. When baby Siboney came into their lives, Jesse said it was love at first sight.

Finally holding her in their arms, Krista had to remind herself that Siboney was really their child. "We'd waited so long and wondered if it would ever happen," she said.

"Then all of a sudden, she was here, and I was a mom."

"The best part of parenting is when I come home and see her smile," said Jesse. "She giggles, kicks, and screams. And after we feed her at night, I read some stories with her. We are forever changed by this little life."

644
INFANTS

were welcomed by their
adoptive parents

bethany.org/Adoption



Born in Rwanda, Benoit spent years living in refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. He was always at the top of his class in school, but he didn't have parents to pay his tuition or support his efforts. When his teachers told him he likely wouldn't finish, he was desperate to prove them wrong. "Somehow I knew success was coming," he said, "but I didn't know how to achieve it. I had hopes for a new life in the U.S."

Benoit was 17 when he was resettled with a foster family in Michigan. He went from living in constant chaos and danger to a safe home where he had his own room. That tangible sense of security gave him a foundation he could build on. "I learned what a family is and how it operates," he said. "I had siblings that referred to me as their brother. I had a dad who taught me how to shave and how to drive a car. I was able to continue my education. I never would have experienced these things otherwise."

Ten years later, Benoit is a college graduate and a U.S. citizen. He is also a youth specialist with Bethany's Transitional Living Center in Grand Rapids, and he is giving back at Bethany by helping other refugee youth. "I am so grateful, and that's why I came back to work at Bethany, to help other refugee youth just like me. I want them to know they have support and a bright future ahead," he said. "The sky is the limit."

bethany.org/Refugee
[bethany.org/RefugeeFoster Care](https://bethany.org/RefugeeFosterCare)



brighter
FUTURES

4,421

REFUGEE CHILDREN

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



bethany.org/FosterCare
bethany.org/FosterCareAdoption

Family photo provided by Still Creation Photography

When Sloan and Dustin inquired about becoming foster parents to two brothers, 15-month-old Zion and 4-week-old Triumphant, they had no idea what the future held. Fostering brought challenges as Sloan and Dustin learned how to love strongly but hold on loosely.

Within a few months, they learned the boys' mother was expecting a third child who would enter foster care at birth. "We asked God to show us if we could care for two very young children and a newborn," said Sloan. "With support from our family, friends, and church, God provided all we needed—and then some."

● **PURE**
joy

Sloan and Dustin welcomed baby Noah into their home where he met his two brothers. After two years as foster parents, they became adoptive parents to Zion, Triumphant, and Noah. "We went through some crazy, hard times together," said Sloan. "Our boys are now five, six, and seven. They are all in school and thriving in life. Currently they have a love for Star Wars, music, sports, playing outside, and wrestling! We are so abundantly blessed by them and we consider it pure joy."

2,388
CHILDREN

found a caring, temporary home in foster care

552
CHILDREN

in foster care were helped to find a forever family

As a 21-year-old college student, Ashley* never thought she would experience an unplanned pregnancy. She was scared and unsure what to do next. Those close to her encouraged her to have an abortion, even offering her money to go through with it. But as an adoptee herself, Ashley made a life-affirming decision to create an adoption plan. She met with a Bethany counselor who helped her build a support system and a future for her unborn child.

"Cindy was there to answer my questions and my 3:00 a.m. phone calls," Ashley said. "She helped me look through waiting family profiles and think about what I wanted my child to have in a family."

During this time, an unexpected health condition forced Ashley to quit her job. She didn't know how she would support herself and receive needed medical care.

Through Bethany's Life Impact Fund, Ashley was able to receive the assistance she needed to pay rent and utilities, allowing her to make the best decisions about her pregnancy.

At seven months pregnant, Ashley had chosen an adoptive family for her unborn child, but she still had doubts whether she was making the right decision. "I just prayed, 'Lord, I'm losing my mind. Please help me!'" she said. "Within minutes, I felt a calming peace."

Today, her son, Sam*, is a happy boy full of laughter and smiles. Ashley's relationship with his adoptive family continues to grow, and she loves hearing from them and receiving photos.

**Names and photo have been changed to protect privacy.*

2,768

EXPECTANT PARENTS

benefited from pregnancy counseling services protecting unborn children

bethany.org/Pregnant
bethany.org/LifeImpact



calming
PEACE

Bethany Global is bringing and keeping families together so children can have homes and families right in their own country. This is possible through Bethany's groundbreaking in-country adoption, foster care, and family preservation work, supported by our Global Family Sponsorship fundraising ministry.




blessed
TOGETHER

84,054
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN

were impacted through
our international social services

bethanyglobal.org



After Kerline's* father died, her mother surrendered her to an orphanage because she was unable to care for the young child on her own. The Haitian government later decided to close the orphanage due to its poor conditions, and Kerline needed somewhere else to go. Without Bethany, Kerline would have been transferred to another orphanage. Instead, Kerline became part of Jean* and Samuel's* family through foster care.

Bethany has been working in Haiti since 2007, and launched a foster care program there in 2015. Jean and Samuel had completed Bethany's foster parent training and were ready to welcome Kerline into their home.

Kerline is healthy and happy with the love and support of her foster family. Jean and Samuel love caring for Kerline and are very committed to her. They feel blessed to provide a safe, long-term home for her.

**Names and photo have been changed to protect privacy.*

2,571

CHILDREN

were cared for through
Safe Families for Children™

4,989

CHILDREN

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

11,290

CHILDREN

benefited from
ADOPTS, youth, and
family counseling

2,388

CHILDREN

found a temporary, caring
home in foster care

644

INFANTS

were welcomed
by their adoptive
parents

4,421

REFUGEE CHILDREN

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

together we
have impacted

117,503

CHILDREN WORLDWIDE in 2016



552

CHILDREN

in foster care were
helped to find
a forever family
through adoption

84,054

**INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN**

were impacted
through our international
social services

2,768

**EXPECTANT
PARENTS**

benefited from
pregnancy counseling
services protecting
unborn children

213

**INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN**

were welcomed into
adoptive families in
the United States



BETTER together

Theo's family photo provided by hH Photography & Design



*On behalf of the
many children
and families that
Bethany served in
2016, thank you!*

You have helped to make a difference in people's lives.

Because you gave, Bethany was able to serve more children in tough circumstances, more families in crisis, more expectant parents, more refugees, and more adoptive and foster families. You have joined us to be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to a world in deep need.

I invite you to support Bethany with your prayers as well as your continued gifts. Many challenges and opportunities lie ahead for Bethany—some exciting, others difficult—but God has always provided. I am humbled that God has led you to be part of this good work that touches so many lives. And I trust He will be faithful to complete it.

Garth Deur, Board Chair

RESULTS OF GENERAL OPERATIONS:

SOURCES OF REVENUE	2016	2015
Reimbursement for Children's Services	\$63,090,000	\$52,594,000
Adoption and Counseling Fees	28,199,000	28,198,000
Investments and Other Revenue	2,204,000	1,685,000
Donor Contributions	15,743,000	15,201,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$109,236,000	\$97,678,000
EXPENSES		
Pregnancy and Adoption Services	\$18,819,000	\$19,336,000
Children's Services	84,289,000	73,494,000
Support and Fundraising	5,308,000	4,796,000
Provision for Future Services	820,000	52,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$109,236,000	\$97,678,000

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me."

MATTHEW 25:40 (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.



901 Eastern Ave NE
PO Box 294
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294

bethany.org

1.800.BETHANY (238.4269)

 facebook.com/bethanyfans

 twitter.com/bethany



bethany.org/blog

youtube.com/BethanyChristianSvc



instagram.com/thisisbethany

