

Bethany[®]

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**For more than 75 years, our
faith has inspired us to stand
for children close to home
and around the world.**





For 75 years,

Bethany has been changing children's lives by ensuring they're surrounded by a loving family. We know the difference family makes, and we believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive in a secure and caring environment.

In 2018, vulnerable children in the U.S., families around the globe, and refugees and immigrants faced significant challenges. As an organization, we had to adapt and expand to ensure their needs were met—because that is exactly where God calls us to be, with the overlooked and ignored.

Our work together matters. It brings hope. It saves lives. It literally changes a child's world. And we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your dedication to family this past year.

Please continue to partner with Bethany as we work to serve more kids and families in 2019.

Gratefully,

President & CEO

400,000+
children in
the U.S. are
in foster care

FOSTER CARE

Beyond their comfort zone

Tim and Michelle had no intention of becoming foster parents. But when they learned that children within their community needed caring families, everything changed. They welcomed siblings into their home and started an incredible journey into foster care that neither had expected.

“Autumn was this 8-year-old firecracker of a girl with missing front teeth,” Michelle said. “Craig was a shy 10-year-old boy who worked his way into our hearts.”

Months later, they welcomed Craig and Autumn’s 4-year-old sibling, Devon, to their home.

“That’s when we decided it wasn’t about us,” Michelle said. “It was about the kids, and there was no reason we could think of to say no. They’d already endured so much.”

Tim and Michelle kept saying “yes” to children in need of foster care in the U.S.

Bethany’s ongoing foster care support helped Tim and Michelle navigate the challenges and celebrate the joys of fostering. After six years, the family has welcomed 112 children into their home.

“God has been generous to my family and me by stretching us beyond our comfort zone,” Michelle said. “We’ve been shown that we’re capable of so much more than we knew.”



Image is changed to protect privacy.

Bethany believes every child deserves to be loved, connected, and safe.



GLOBAL FOSTER CARE

Home again

Sophonie* was born in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. She spent her early childhood with her dad, who worked hard to make ends meet for Sophonie. But everyday life was a challenge. When it got too hard, Sophonie left home to go live with her mom.

Sophonie's mom struggled to take care of her. She waited for things to get better, but they didn't. Sophonie didn't feel safe and was desperate to go home.

Terrified, she ran away in search of her dad. But Sophonie was lost.

When the Haitian police found her, they contacted Bethany. Through Bethany's Foster Care program in Haiti, Sophonie was cared for by safe, temporary foster families. For nine months, foster families committed to love, protect, and comfort her—providing stability through family-based care.

Meanwhile, Bethany worked to locate Sophonie's family, and on Christmas Eve, she was reunified with her dad.

"Seeing my girl again after nine months is my Christmas gift," he said. "I need nothing more from the Lord."

What's so powerful about Sophonie's story is that through foster care, she was able to receive the love and comfort only a family can provide—and was not placed in orphanage. With Bethany's ongoing support, the Haitian government continues to support family-based care for children in need.



**We stand for birth
parents, foster
parents, and
adoptive parents—
every parent who
needs support.**

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

Walking into a new life

Two years ago, Kashonder was living in a van with her five children. But she knew it wasn't the path she wanted for her family. So Kashonder decided to pursue her education and become a nurse.

"I knew it would take a big change to put my kids on a different track," she said.

During one intense semester, Kashonder missed a day of clinicals when her van broke down. According to program policy, if she missed one more day, she'd have to withdraw.

"I was scared to lose this chance to create a more stable future for my family," she said. Foster care seemed like her only option, and she even considered calling CPS on herself. Then she saw a Bethany ad for Safe Families for Children. That changed everything.

Over the next seven months, Host Families cared for Kashonder's children while she finished her degree. Cheering her on, the families became a support network she'd never had before. The day she graduated, Kashonder felt like she was walking into a new life. She hopes her story inspires her children and other women to imagine a better future for themselves.

FAMILY PRESERVATION

After the earthquake

Mona Jean lost her home in the earthquake that shook Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2010. A makeshift tent tied together with sticks, plastic, and tarp was built in the place of where her home stood.

“I had many problems,” Mona Jean said. “I could not feed my children. I couldn’t even send them to school.”

Without life’s essentials, families are at risk. Bethany’s Family Empowerment and Preservation program helped provide nutritious food, health care, and vocational training for Mona Jean.

“My life has changed,” Mona Jean said. “I’ve been able to feed my children, and now they’re all in school. With God, Bethany has helped me provide those things for my children.”

But Mona Jean’s story is just getting started—she’s captured a vision for the future she wants to create. Equipped to fund and start her own business, Mona Jean now sells goods and food to earn an income and work toward becoming self-sufficient.

“My life is getting better,” Mona Jean said. “I’ll be able to continue to build my business and buy a home for me and my children.”

**More than
80% of the 8
million children
in orphanages
have a living
parent.**

**There are more
than 630,000
abortions in the
U.S. each year.**

PREGNANCY COUNSELING

Ends that meet

Felicia was working hard to make ends meet for herself and her 10-year-old son when she learned she was pregnant. Her mind raced: she couldn't continue at her job because it required heavy lifting; but without it, she risked losing her apartment.

She and her son had recently experienced homelessness, and she knew it would be twice as hard with two children. She'd always been good at figuring things out, but it scared her to realize she didn't have a plan—how could she afford another baby?

Felicia considered abortion and adoption, but she never thought she'd be able to parent. Lisa, her pregnancy counselor, listened and gave her information about her options. The more Felicia felt her baby growing, the more she wanted to parent. She asked God to make a way.

People came forward and helped her buy diapers, a car seat, and a crib. Bethany's Life Impact Fund helped with some of her bills. Her tax refund covered a few months of rent. The day her son was born, she felt so happy knowing she would take him home.

"Sometimes we don't know the answers," Felicia said, "but it's OK to ask for help. Sometimes we have to have faith."

DOMESTIC INFANT ADOPTION

A greater purpose

When Brandon's son, Tate, was born in 2006, parenting wasn't an option, but he wanted to be part of Tate's life. When Brandon chose Jennie and Sean to adopt Tate, their open adoption plan changed all of their lives.

Jennie and Sean initially agreed to send photos and letters through Bethany. And they were happy to do this. They knew Brandon's love for Tate, and they knew nothing they could share with him would ever fully express their thanks.

Each week, Jennie would mail the envelope. And each week, Brandon would write back. It became clear this relationship would continue to grow. They soon exchanged phone numbers, set up visits, and began celebrating holidays together—just like family. Twelve years later, their relationship is still going strong.

“Having Tate in my life means the world to me,” Brandon said. “I know he looks up to me, and that gives me a greater purpose.”







GLOBAL REFUGEE FOSTER CARE

No longer alone

When soldiers attacked Amani's village in South Sudan, her father was killed and her family fled. In the chaos that followed, Amani was separated from her mother and siblings. Today, 12-year-old Amani lives in a refugee camp in Gambella, Ethiopia.

Many children like her could tell a similar story. More than 24,000 children live in Amani's camp without the stability or protection of a family.

Every day, Amani lives with the fear that she is still not safe. Food, clean water, and other vital resources are in short supply, and other girls her age have been abused and trafficked. She struggles to imagine what her future will hold.

In 2018, Bethany began providing services for refugees in Gambella, Ethiopia. Mental health specialists are helping children and families process the deep trauma they've experienced. Foster care specialists are training safe adults inside the camp to be foster parents for unaccompanied children.

Amani now lives with a foster mother who is a neighbor from her home village. Although she has already seen a lifetime of loss, she doesn't have to face it alone.

**44,400 people a day are
forced to flee their home;
over half are under 18 years old.**

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

He belongs

Growing up in Afghanistan was extremely difficult for Amir. As a kid, he was shot by the Taliban and his father was kidnapped by terrorists, who burned his family's house down. But he's also a survivor.

Amir became a refugee. One day, he was crying outside a store. Someone asked, "Is that a cry for help?" Amir told them, "No—the only cry for help is if you believe there's help to cry to."

He arrived in the U.S. through Bethany's Refugee Resettlement program. For the first time in his life, he felt like he belonged. Today, Amir wants to earn a college degree, so he can make a difference in the world.

Now, he believes God has a plan for him.

"Please continue to open the door to my fellow refugees and immigrants," Amir said. "Thank you for your kindness, for feeding me and clothing me, and may God bless you."

Amir shares his story not because it's unique, but because it's one of millions.



**We stand for children—
the ones hurting at
home, and the ones
unprotected at a border.**

**In 2018, together we served 53,737
expectant parents, children, and families
in the United States and around the world.**

AROUND THE WORLD

11,265

served through foster care
within their own country

165

served through adoption
within their own country

2,701

refugees helped to adjust
to life in another country

7,256

served through family
preservation services

IN THE U.S.

6,465

served through
domestic infant,
international, and
foster care adoption

2,786

benefited from
pregnancy counseling
services protecting
unborn children

4,167

received post-adoption
services to help them
thrive as a new family

2,391

cared for through
Safe Families for Children

4,981

served through
foster care

3,817

refugees helped to
adjust to their new life
in the United States



Together, we can change the world through family.

RESULTS OF GENERAL OPERATIONS:

SOURCES OF REVENUE	2018	2017
Reimbursement for Children's Services	\$ 76,889,000	\$ 69,710,000
Adoption and Counseling Fees	26,493,000	28,308,000
Investments and Other Revenue	2,102,000	2,015,000
Donor Contributions	17,764,000	16,945,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 123,248,000	\$ 116,978,000

EXPENSES	2018	2017
Pregnancy and Adoption Services	\$17,781,000	\$18,536,000
Children's Services	98,797,000	92,032,000
Support and Fundraising	6,623,000	5,753,000
Provision for Future Services	47,000	657,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 123,248,000	\$ 116,978,000

"I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me."

MATTHEW 25:40 (MSG)



**Demonstrating the love and compassion
of Jesus Christ by protecting children,
empowering youth, and strengthening
families through quality social services.**



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

Cover Photo by Brian Kelly

