


BETHANY
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

annual report 2017



by **FAITH**



As Bethany Christian Services' new president and CEO, I am honored to continue Bethany's mission and vision that began almost 75 years ago. Faith in action is brought to life in Hebrews 11 and helps set the momentum as part of Bethany's legacy: people stepping out in faith, mobilizing, dreaming, and taking next steps (large and small!) to help more children and families.

In 2017, for example, someone stretched to give a sacrificial gift. Someone told their refugee story for the first time at an event. Someone engaged their church to think differently about global orphan care. Someone became a foster parent. Someone made the brave decision to create an adoption plan. Someone welcomed a child into their family and home.



Their faith fuels ours, that God will provide, sustain, and empower us to do Kingdom work for His children worldwide.

Bethany envisions a world where every child has a loving family. We could never dream like this on our own. But by faith—together—we're enabled to do immeasurably more.

*Thank you for your faith in us.
Chris Palusky, President, CEO*

Now
FAITH

is confidence
in what we
hope for and
assurance
about what
we do not see.

HEBREWS 11:1

As a single mother of two children, Jennifer* was working two jobs to provide for her children's needs. When she discovered she was pregnant again, she was angry with herself.

"I wasn't planning to have any more children," Jennifer said. "I was doing okay with my kids, but I had no idea how I was going to take care of another baby. I didn't know what to do."

She learned about Bethany during a visit with her doctor. In a step of faith, she followed up with a pregnancy counselor to talk. Jennifer shared her story with the counselor and expressed her uncertainty about parenting another child.

"Because of [Bethany's support], I was able to make the decision to parent my baby. This wouldn't have been possible without help from the Life Impact Fund."

**Name and photo changed to protect privacy.*

bethany.org/Pregnant
bethany.org/LifeImpact

"I'd already had several abortions and was seriously considering another one," Jennifer said. "I felt like I had no choice. But the counselor assured me Bethany could help and told me the main goal was to keep my stress low, so my baby could have a stronger start to life."

When Jennifer needed to reduce her work hours during her pregnancy, the Life Impact Fund helped to cover the cost of her rent. "I needed emotional support, but I also needed financial help, and Bethany provided those things," Jennifer said.

finding
HOPE



PATIENT **faith**



When Marvin and Lydianne began considering adoption, one of their biggest concerns was the expense.

"It looked so overwhelming to us, but we decided to step out in faith and let God work out the details," Lydianne said.

"God laid it on generous hearts to give. We could not have done it on our own."

Six months later, after many ups and downs, they received a call about a 5-week-old baby girl born with significant medical needs.


"We were thrilled to learn that we'd finally been chosen to be parents to this precious little one."

Two weeks later, the couple brought daughter Kara into their home. She underwent a successful surgery for hydrocephalus—a condition that results in excess fluid on the brain—and made a quick recovery.

"Kara has brought us much joy. We give God all the glory and praise for His many blessings."

bethany.org/InfantAdoption





Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and shortly before the outbreak of civil war, Abdoul lost both of his parents at a very young age. He lived as an orphan with his siblings and grandmother until they made the decision to go to Rwanda as refugees.

Life was challenging in Rwanda. At 7 years old, Abdoul had to learn a new culture, a new language, and a new way of life, and only received enough food to eat once a day.

“We had no country, no home, no identity, and no right to work,” Abdoul said. “I lived

in refugee camps, and it felt like my life meant nothing on this earth. I had no hope for tomorrow.”

After years of prayers and living in the camps, Abdoul and his siblings were offered asylum in the United States and arrived a year later. A Bethany case manager and Abdoul’s foster parents were there to welcome him when he got off the plane. Abdoul’s faith enabled him to embrace the unknown and acknowledge the life God had been preparing for him.

“When I arrived at the airport, I met people who opened up their hearts,

their homes, their cars, and their lives to me just so I could rebuild my life,” Abdoul said. “My foster parents taught me how to be a man of purpose, how to help those who need help.”

Bethany provided trauma counseling and life-learning support to help Abdoul and his siblings adjust to a new culture. “Refugees come to this country without knowledge of how to build new lives,” Abdoul said.

Abdoul is now enrolled in college and studying international relations with concentrations in human rights and political science.

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for Bethany’s support and the help they continue to show me and many other fellow refugees.”

bethany.org/Refugee
bethany.org/RefugeeFosterCare

embracing **LIFE**

Dan and Annette were already living a busy life with five children when they adopted 17-month-old Clara. Born with a rare and life-threatening congenital heart defect, the couple was told she wouldn't survive the year.

When they consulted with a cardiovascular doctor, they were warned that the costs of surgery would present a financial hardship for their family. But Dan and Annette believed it was God's work for them, and they were willing to do it.

"Clara wouldn't have received the surgery she needed without adoption, so we had to get her out of the orphanage and into a family," Annette said.

One year later, Annette was preparing for an advocacy trip to China when she saw a picture of a young boy, Lewis, diagnosed with the same heart condition as Clara. The couple felt God had prepared them to be Lewis's parents and decided to step out in faith once more by adopting Lewis and welcoming him into their family and home.

Dan and Annette knew both children would need special care, including open heart surgery. After undergoing successful heart surgeries, the two 3-year-olds are now thriving and enjoying their preschool classes.

"Throughout this process, we've seen God's hand providing for us in many ways," Annette said.

"We're so grateful to Him for giving us friends who are willing to help and for Bethany's assistance through a Caring Connection grant."

HEART warriors





OPEN arms



Keith and Sally were young when they married and started their family. As their children became teenagers, their home was filled with their kids' friends, and they enjoyed spending time with the teens.

When Keith and Sally entered "empty nest" years, they missed the energy and excitement of having teens in the house. They became licensed foster parents and welcomed Paul, an 18-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They got to know some of Paul's friends from the transitional living home where he'd been living, and they realized the need for families for older teens.

They continued to grow their family through foster care adoption with TJ (16) and Dominick (15). Both boys had experienced multiple placements and dissolved adoptions and needed the stability of a family.

A few years later, Anson (14) joined the family from Hong Kong. He'd spent eight years in foster care

in Hong Kong, but his future was uncertain. At the age of 18, he would "age out" of foster care and lose access to services for his disabilities.

"Before this experience, we were blind to the needs of older children who need families," Keith said.

"You hear about teens in foster care and think they'll cope somehow. But they need someone to call them on their birthday or someone to talk to when they're having a bad day. The idea of loving others and giving special care to those who don't have fathers is woven throughout Scripture. We have a window right now to make a difference for these boys."

Parenting a 3-year-old and a newborn is challenging. It's more challenging as a single parent, and harder still when you are battling postpartum depression. Without a job or a support system, Shanice felt overwhelmed. "I found myself crying all the time," Shanice said. "I felt helpless."

Shanice was afraid that she could permanently lose custody of her children, but a social worker at her hospital told her about Safe Families for Children (SFFC). Shanice was uncertain at first. She had never been away from her children before and her youngest was only 4 weeks old at the time.

Her fears were calmed when she met Shane and Kris, the SFFC host family, who would be caring for her children while she got back on her feet. "From the day I met them, I could tell they were really nice people," Shanice said.

With new faith and confidence in the SFFC ministry, Shanice was able to

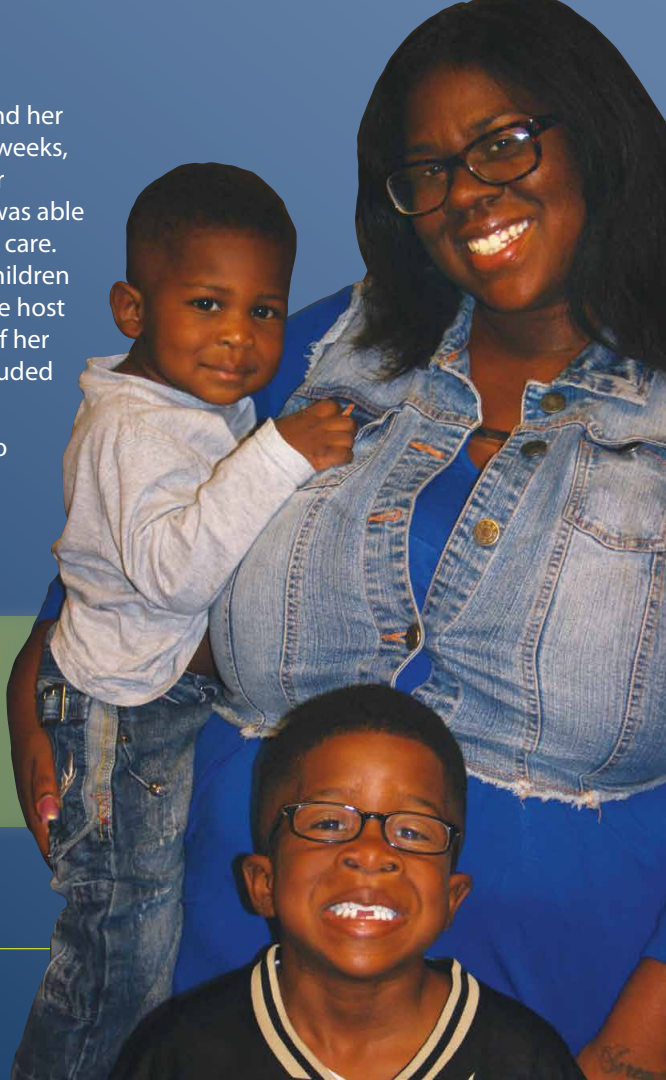
take important steps toward building a future for herself and her children. Over the next three weeks, she received treatment for her depression, found a job, and was able to arrange for long-term child care. Shanice was able to see her children whenever she wanted, and the host family regularly sent photos of her children so she could feel included in their day-to-day activities.

"There aren't enough words to express the way I feel about the experience," Shanice said. "I felt so much stronger with Shane and Kris' support."

"It feels good to have support from people who love and care for you."

new
BEGINNINGS

bethany.org/SafeFamilies





Children in families is Bethany Global's priority. Our family preservation program, supported

by Global Family Sponsorship, strengthens families so they can stay together. We help families meet basic, immediate needs; but we don't stop there. We provide life-skills and business training that equips parents to earn an income, become self-sustaining, and continue caring for their children. When it's not possible for children to stay with their biological families, Bethany's foster care and in-country adoption programs bring children and families together within their own communities, cultures, and countries.





family **PRESERVATION**

When Mehret's husband abandoned their family and home in Ethiopia, she was left alone to care for newborn twins, Natanium and Bethlehem. Unable to provide for her children, the struggling new mother went to live with an aunt where she and her babies slept on the floor of the one-bedroom home.

Mehret feared for her children as she watched them become malnourished and withdrawn. By faith, she sought help and was soon referred to Bethany's family preservation and empowerment program.

With support from sponsors, the family received nutritious food and medical care. Mehret received help with child care so she could find a job that would provide for her young family.

Sponsorship was transformational for this family. The twins, now healthy, attend day care while Mehret goes to work. She now has hope for the future, and she dreams that both of her children will receive an education.

bethany.org/Global

bethany.org/FamilySponsorship



346

were served through family preservation services in the United States

5,973

were served through domestic infant, international, and foster care adoption

4,306

benefited from youth and family counseling

4,058

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

12,539

were served through global social services and trainings

In 2017, together we served **45,875** expectant parents, children, and families in the United States and around the world.*

*2017 statistics reflect the number of individuals directly served

3,078

benefited from pregnancy counseling services protecting unborn children

9,429

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

2,298

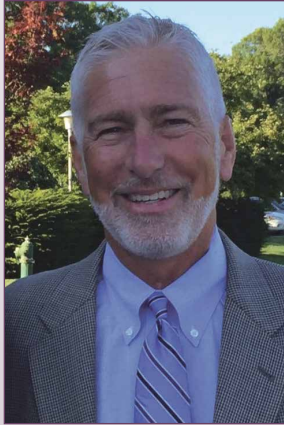
were cared for through Safe Families for Children

3,848

were served through foster care services



The basic foundation



On behalf of the many children and families that Bethany served in 2017, thank you!

on which children build their lives is knowing they are safe and loved. Without this foundation, children struggle with core issues, including identity and trust. Children learn early to see the world as a threatening place or a place of opportunity. They will carry that lens into adulthood, shaping how they see their place in that world.

Our goal at Bethany is to give all children a safe, loving family—the foundation on which they can build the rest of their lives. Whether through foster care, adoption, refugee resettlement, or counseling, we work tirelessly to make sure children have a strong family to call their own.

We have entered 2018 with a great sense of anticipation. We are grateful to Bill Blacquiere, who served faithfully

as CEO for 12 years, and we welcome Chris Palusky as our new president and CEO. We also welcome new board members who will provide leadership at the national and branch levels.

Thank you so much for partnering with us in this great work. We have an amazing opportunity to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting children, empowering youth, and strengthening families. We could not do this without your support. We ask for your prayers, and we thank you for the resources you have so generously shared.

Let us go out and do the work God has prepared us to do!

Blessings,

*Garth Deur, National Board Chairman
Bethany Christian Services*

RESULTS OF GENERAL OPERATIONS:

| SOURCES OF REVENUE | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Reimbursement for Children's Services | \$69,710,000 | \$63,090,000 |
| Adoption and Counseling Fees | 28,308,000 | 28,199,000 |
| Investments and Other Revenue | 2,015,000 | 2,204,000 |
| Donor Contributions | 16,945,000 | 15,743,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$116,978,000 | \$109,236,000 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Pregnancy and Adoption Services | \$18,536,000 | \$18,819,000 |
| Children's Services | 92,032,000 | 84,289,000 |
| Support and Fundraising | 5,753,000 | 5,308,000 |
| Provision for Future Services | 657,000 | 820,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$116,978,000 | \$109,236,000 |

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

PSALM 100:5

Bethany Christian Services demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting children, empowering youth, and strengthening families through quality social services.



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