



2017 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends of Kidsave,

We are so grateful to all of you who have supported us this year, and made our 20th year since founding Kidsave memorable and impactful.

We were fortunate to be working in five countries in 2017 – the United States, Colombia, Ukraine, Russia, and Sierra Leone. And in these countries, we served 1,676 children in foster care and orphanages.

This year we began supporting a major reform effort in Ukraine -- to deinstitutionalize 106,000 children over a 10-year period. The child welfare system in Ukraine literally needs to be rebuilt. We are part of a team working to put good practices into place there. In Ukraine we are training professionals to mentor and use our Family Visit Model – working to empower citizens to get to know these children so they can help these kids overcome years of deprivation.

Our Summer Miracles Program took a new turn in 2017, as we began supporting the Colombian government's efforts to increase the number of children who find families -- Colombia now allows same sex families to host and adopt Colombian children. Over 60,000 children remain in care in Colombia. The need is great and Colombia is committed to change.

In foster care systems across the United States, 111,820 children are waiting to be adopted. Many U.S. child welfare professionals seek families for the children they serve, and we believe our Weekend Miracles program is an important family-finding tool.

In Los Angeles County we have seen an overwhelming increase in interest in our Weekend Miracles Program from individuals and families who want to host and connect with local kids in foster care. And while it can take years to process an adoption, through the diligent efforts of our host families, kids are developing relationships with caring adults. Their bonds are the foundation of the family relationships we are helping them create. Our goal is to help other counties in the U.S. understand the benefit of connecting older kids to families -- instead of having 20,789 children leave the foster care system annually without a family to call their own.

In Sierra Leone we are training a small community of professionals to help reunite Ebola orphans with their extended families or find new families. We are challenged by their extreme poverty, and we are working to find ways to help these families manage the costs of an extra child to feed and educate.

One last bit of exciting news is that, thanks to a special group of donors who invest in Kidsave's core operating expenses, 100% of all public donations can go to support our programs. So, if you are moved to donate, you may do so at www.kidsave.org and know that 100% of your gift will be used to help kids find families.

We hope you will enjoy our report of activities in 2017. If you want to become involved as a host, a volunteer or a leader, please let us know. Thank you for your support of Kidsave.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Randi Thompson' and the second is 'Terry Baugh'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Randi Thompson and Terry Baugh,
CO-FOUNDERS**

Kidsave creates change so children grow up in families and connected to caring adults.

We collaborate with and support others with the goal of moving 1 million children into families by 2020.

Kidsave's direct service programs are used to demonstrate program effectiveness to government leaders and nonprofit partners. Since 1999 Kidsave has served a total of **11,743** children.

Kidsave has trained **2,435** child welfare professionals to implement and operate our programs worldwide, and over **50** organizations to implement and operate our Summer Miracles program.

Working with others, Kidsave advocates for change in the U.S. Congress and in key U.S. jurisdictions, and with international governments and practitioners. The education and training we have provided in Russia over the years has helped contribute to a dramatic reduction in institutionalized children. We estimate our work has helped decrease the Russian child welfare population from over 800,000 in 2004 to 81,170 in 2017. Family-based care is now a strategic priority in Russia. Since 2002 Kidsave's work also paved the way for funding of the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, USAID's 2012 Action Plan for Children in Adversity. Kidsave families, leading by example, have inspired others to host and adopt.



FAMILY VISIT MODEL



5,782

children have found families through Kidsave's Family Visit Model.

The Kidsave Family Visit Model is our unique program model for helping older children find adoptive families or permanent, lifelong connections to caring adults.

The challenges

- Older children, ages 9 to 18, are considered hard-to-place.
- The public is generally not aware of the problem of older kids needing families.
- Governments limit access to children in orphanages and foster care to protect them.

Without demand for adoption or connection with adults, these kids do not meet interested families and ultimately age out of care without families, sufficient education, or relationships with adults that can lead to jobs and prospects for a successful future.

How does it work? The Family Visit Model gives short-term visits with families to older, overlooked children who are growing up in orphanages and in foster care. Visits occur during school vacations and weekends. The model is unique in child welfare because it: (1) enables people to host children without committing to adopt them; (2) introduces kids to others who might be open to adoption; and (3) provides interactive events that give children and adults a safe space to become acquainted.



WEEKEND MIRACLES

Kidsave's Weekend Miracles program helps older youth in foster care who have no opportunities for finding a family. These children and teens are either living with foster families where there is no opportunity for adoption, or in group homes and residential care facilities. Almost all have been in multiple placements. They are unknown in their communities, and people who might be interested in helping them have no way of knowing who these children are.

Kidsave has created a program that helps engage people in the community with older kids in foster care who need families. Children attend weekend events where they have opportunities to interact and connect with interested families. Once connections develop at these events, kids have a chance to select adults that they would like to spend more time with. These adult volunteers become the child's host family. They commit to spending time with their host child twice a month, and helping that child meet an adoptive family. Once these connections are made, the youth begin to blossom. Hosts get involved in their lives -- with their school work, their foster placement and family plans. Sometimes, the hosts themselves become the child's permanent family.

In 2017, sixty-seven (67) foster youth actively participated in Kidsave's Los Angeles Weekend Miracles program. Mecklenberg County, North Carolina launched the program after Kidsave staff trained 150 professionals in the model.

396

older foster youth in Los Angeles County have participated since 2006. In 2017, 67 youth actively participated.

77%

of the foster youth who participated were matched for adoption, guardianship or committed mentoring.

Kidsave's goal is to expand this program. It is currently in operation in four jurisdictions:

- Los Angeles County, operated by Kidsave
- Washington, DC, operated by DC Family and Youth Initiative
- Mecklenberg County, North Carolina with partner Congregations for Kids. (New in 2017)
- Adams County, Colorado operated by the Adoption Exchange.

Kidsave has formed a Trustee Task Force to help expand Weekend Miracles in 2018.



A CHRISTMAS WISH COMES TRUE

In December 2015 at a Kidsave Weekend Miracles advocacy event, Andy and Trish Healy met 12-year-old Celia, a child who had been in the Los Angeles County foster care system for over ten years. Andy and Trish both felt an immediate connection to Celia. They couldn't wait for the next monthly Kidsave event, where they hoped to spend more time with Celia and get to know her better.

For Trish and Andy, Weekend Miracles was the perfect way to get to know a child before taking that big step to host or adopt. "What we loved was getting to know the kids in a pressure-free, engaging environment at these monthly events. It helped us get to know Celia in a more natural way – the connection felt organic and developed without pressure," said Trish. "We loved the fact that nothing was forced," added Andy. "The kids have as much say in who they connect with as the adults."

During the summer of 2016, six months after they met, Celia moved in permanently with Andy and Trish. That Christmas, Celia wrote her first-ever Christmas List, and at the top of her list was the wish to be adopted. Celia's wish came true when her adoption was finalized in December 2017. **"We are loving being first-time parents and watching Celia grow," said Trish. "Celia has made our house a home. She has made us a family. From the first weekend she stayed with us, we felt like a family and we are really looking forward to building our future together."**

SUMMER MIRACLES



1,833

older children have been hosted by families in cities across the U.S. since 1999. In 2017, 47 children traveled.

80%

of kids who traveled since 1999 have been matched with adoptive families.

Summer Miracles is an international hosting program that provides older orphans from foreign countries with summer visits with American families. People can host whether or not they are interested in adopting because all hosts act as advocates for the children, introducing them to people who are interested in adoption. Using Kidsave's Family Visit Model, interactive weekend events are held so that interested families can meet the children.

Summer Miracles is operated by a team of volunteers across the country. The dedication of these volunteers literally makes Summer Miracles possible. A big shout out to our amazing 2017 community coordinators: Alejandro Yepes, John and Karen Erikson, and Cathee Gelman.

In 2017 Kidsave gave 47 children summer vacations in the United States, 37 are in the process of adoption, and four of those not yet adopted are hoping to find a forever family through winter hosting.

Kidsave supports the Colombian government's efforts to find more families in the U.S. for orphaned children, and their recent addition of LGBT adoptive families to their child welfare guidelines. In 2017 Kidsave welcomed our first same sex host families.



A WAY TO WAKE UP SMILING

It started 29 years ago, when Scott and Darla were married. Darla said she wanted a lot of children and hoped to adopt. They had four children of their own, and then -- in one fell swoop --adopted three. When their youngest was 17, Darla searched online, found Kidsave, and read about the Summer Miracles program.

Darla saw a picture of three Colombian siblings who were not yet matched with a host family, but were still hoping to come to the U.S.

The oldest would soon turn 18 and be out of the orphanage on her own. Scott and Darla moved mountains to complete the paperwork that allowed the girls to travel with the Summer Miracles group, and in October 2017, they adopted all three girls.

Scott says, "lots of people say, 'you are angels to do this for anyone,' but honestly we are getting more out of it than they are." Darla added, "I love them like my own and can't imagine life without them." Scott noted contentedly, "I thought I was happy before, but now I wake up with a smile on my face each morning. They are extremely sweet girls who just needed a loving family environment."

COLOMBIA

Super Amigos

Super Amigos is a Family Visit Program designed to connect kids in institutions (i.e., orphanages) with Colombian families. Kidsave Colombia Foundation supports the training of government officials to implement and operate the program. In 2017, six hundred sixteen (616) children were served in 14 regions, and 420 ICBF professionals were trained to manage the program. A total of 1,500 mentor families were oriented, and 500 were matched with children as Super Amigos.

Through the program *Mama Mentora*, the Kidsave Colombia Foundation helps teen moms make decisions about keeping and caring for their babies, and finds mentors for the teen moms. In 2017, six hundred (600) teen moms were served.

Kidsave Colombia Foundation also helps prevent family separation through its *Familia Activa* program. In 2017 the program focused on guiding teens on risk prevention. Public officials were trained in the care of lesbian, gay, transgender, biracial and intersex youth.

The Kidsave Colombia Foundation is an NGO that was created by Kidsave to better enable sustainability of Kidsave's mission in Colombia. The Foundation operates the Super Amigos program in partnership with The Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF), Colombia's child welfare ministry.

4,613

Colombian children served.

1,937

professionals trained in
the Family Visit Model
and mentoring.



In December 2017, Kidsave provided a three-day training about LGBTQ families and youth to 44 government and child welfare professionals in Colombia. Developed in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the training covered topics ranging from terminology, myths and misconceptions to how to talk with children about being hosted and adopted by gay and lesbian families. The training also included many activities that generated empathy and understanding towards the LGBTQ community. Psychologists, social workers, and lawyers who work directly with children were in attendance.

One participant stated, “The training taught me to have a new perspective on what a family consists of, and to transform my thinking to generate attitudes of change, starting within myself.” Kidsave hopes to replicate the training throughout Colombia so that more waiting children have the chance to find families.

SIERRA LEONE



474

children served since 2010.

101

children were served in 2017.

In 2014 the Ebola crisis ripped through Sierra Leone. The world responded, contained the virus and left, leaving thousands of orphaned children in Ebola Care Centers and orphanages. Since then these children have been living without hope of ever seeing family again.

Through a partnership with the Federation for Integrated Development (FID), Kidsave is working to help these children rebuild their lives, ideally with extended family in their villages, or with new families when reunification is not possible. In 2017 Kidsave helped 101 children return to family life. Most of the children, 66%, were moved into the homes of relatives or family friends. An additional 26% were placed directly into new families.

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries on earth. Yet families, often women, are opening their homes to these children. However, their economic situations are such that feeding and educating an extra child can cause additional hardship. Consequently Kidsave is implementing a microlending program for women businesses owners who have taken in children and are at the most risk.



“SLEUTHS” HELP EBOLA ORPHANS FIND FAMILIES

“Social worker-sleuth” ought to be the job title for the staff at FID (Kidsave’s partner in Sierra Leone) who work to reunite children orphaned by Ebola with family members. Take the case of Paul, an 11-year-old who has spent the last 2.5 years in an orphanage in Pujehun.

Orphanage records offered a clue – the last known village of his family was Dumagbe. FID social workers travelled 46 km by motor bike to Dumagbe, found the village leader, and showed him Paul’s photo. Cautious and hesitant to give them information, the village leader first sent them to another village 8 km away – accessible only by a foot path – a two-hour walk. There, FID staff found a family member who knew Paul and helped find his grandmother, Rachael, who took Paul in to live with her.

Paul is happy to be back with his grandmother in his village.

FID’s team of three social workers, Edifra, Smith and Christopher, have reunited Ebola orphaned children with family members over the last year, and also placed them in non-kin homes when a kin-placement was not possible. In those cases, Kidsave hosted activities at which orphans and interested families met and began to get to know one another. Through these events and careful vetting, Kidsave's partner FID is giving these orphaned children families and a real future.

RUSSIA

Kidsave is proud of our work and accomplishments in Russia. When we started working in Russia in 1999, moving older kids out of orphanages and into families was a new concept. In Kidsave's first Russian Family Visit Program, orphanage workers had to take children home for the summer, as the community wasn't ready for such a new idea. Now adoption and placement of older children is a strong focus of the government and the Russian NGO community. Since 2004 the number of children in care in Russian orphanages and foster care has decreased from 800,000 to 81,170 in 2017. Family-based care is now a government strategic priority.

In 2017 Kidsave's programs in Russia supported 145 kids in host families, helped teen moms keep their babies, and gave teens internships and mentors from local companies. Additionally, 197 child welfare professionals were trained in our programs in 2017.

The year 2017 is the last year of operations for Kidsave's representative office in Russia. We are leaving in its place Childhood Keepers, an all-Russian non-governmental organization with a mission to move children into families and connections with caring adult mentors. Although the political situation for foreign organizations operating in Russia has recently become difficult, Kidsave has been fortunate to work there for the past 19 years. We will continue to provide Childhood Keepers with training and support as needed, which will serve our joint commitment of finding families and caring for children institutionalized in Russia.

4,240

Russian children served
since 1999.

1,247

professionals trained
since 1999.



TENACITY TRIUMPHS

It's hard to trust others when you've been hurt so many times. That's how Nastya felt in 2013 even as she attended a Kidsave picnic on Russia's Children's Day. There, she met Svetlana (Sveta) a Kidsave-trained mentor who volunteers to help older orphans as they approach adulthood so that they can create a good future for themselves. Nastya was living in a group home, without a family, and felt isolated. She was lonely and quiet and lacked confidence and communication skills. She wasn't easy to get to know.

But Sveta helped change that — gradually, and with a great deal of patience. Sveta is a positive, active businesswoman with Mary Kay Russia. When they first met, Nastya's strong temper and clear mistrust of Sveta were evident. They struggled to find common topics of conversation. It was rocky, and at one point Sveta nearly gave up. But then she dug a little deeper and asked herself, "If I don't help this girl, who will?" With that, she resolved to work harder to gain Nastya's trust.

When Nastya gave birth to a son, it was a turning point in her relationship with Sveta. She relied on her mentor, who taught her the responsibilities of child-rearing, housekeeping, and budgeting. She also began to believe in herself.

Today, Nastya and Sveta's relationship has gone from icy and cautious to warm and trusting. Sveta takes delight in Nastya's blossoming talents in needlework, jewelry-making, arts & crafts, poetry, drawing, cooking and — most of all — caring for her son.



UKRAINE

Ukraine presented new opportunities and challenges in 2017 as the Ukrainian government created a Reform Team to deinstitutionalize 106,000 children over the next 10 years. Many of these children have disabilities. The residents of these institutions are often young victims of some misguided orphanage officials who actively solicit children to move into institutions, tragically destroying bonds between children and families.

In early 2017 Kidsave launched our corporate mentoring program for orphans in Ukraine. This program will empower 200 underserved youth to succeed in life and become productive and engaged members of society. All at-risk youth participating in this mentoring program will improve their life skills and money-management skills, and develop leadership, technical and personal skills that will lead to greater self-esteem, increased employability, and financial stability in the future.

In April 2017 Kidsave began providing assistance to Ukraine's Reform Team, culminating in an October training of professionals in the Family Visit Model. From this training we identified partners who will work with Kidsave to conduct a Family Visit pilot project in Kherson, Ukraine. While Ukraine's child welfare system needs much work, the passion of committed volunteers in Kherson, combined with a strong family and church structure, holds great opportunities for the children of Ukraine.

FINANCIALS

Kidsave International, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2017
 (with comparative totals for 2016)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents— Note 3	\$ 566,495	\$ 571,284
Investments— Note 4	69,922	73,876
Contributions and grants receivable— Note 5	249,490	60,500
Accounts receivable		1,763
Prepaid expenses	23,635	11,402
Security deposits	5,092	10,853
	<u>914,634</u>	<u>729,678</u>
Total Current Assets	914,634	729,678
Non-Current Assets		
Contributions and grants receivable— Note 5	149,003	80,000
Property and equipment, net— Note 6		168
	<u>149,003</u>	<u>80,168</u>
Total Non-Current Assets	149,003	80,168
Total Assets	\$ 1,063,637	\$ 809,846
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 59,762	\$ 70,018
Deferred revenue	37,900	51,984
	<u>97,662</u>	<u>122,002</u>
Total Liabilities	97,662	122,002
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	385,677	487,255
Temporarily restricted— Note 9	580,298	200,589
	<u>965,975</u>	<u>687,844</u>
Total Net Assets	965,975	687,844
Total Net Assets and Liabilities	\$ 1,063,637	\$ 809,846

Audited financial statements available at www.kidsave.org/about-kidsave/kidsave-financials/

Kidsave International, Inc.
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2017
(with comparative totals for 2016)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>2017 Total</u>	<u>2016 Total</u>
Support and Revenues				
Contributions and grants	\$ 1,036,264	\$ 1,297,355	\$ 2,333,619	\$ 1,888,235
Government contracts	114,822		114,822	206,150
In-kind contributions				
—Note 12	212,511		212,511	127,306
Interest and dividends	290		290	53
Loss on Lake Show				
investment	(954)		(954)	(23,999)
Miscellaneous income	1,383		1,383	1,483
Net assets released from				
restrictions	917,646	(917,646)		
Total Support and Revenues	2,281,962	379,709	2,661,671	2,199,228
Expenses				
Program services	2,015,273		2,015,273	1,895,497
Management and general	183,981		183,981	170,115
Fundraising	184,286		184,286	126,258
Total Expenses	2,383,540		2,383,540	2,191,870
Change in Net Assets	(101,578)	379,709	278,131	7,358
Net Assets at				
Beginning of Year	487,255	200,589	687,844	680,486
Net Assets at				
End of Year	\$ 385,677	\$ 580,298	\$ 965,975	\$ 687,844



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To donate go to www.kidsave.org/donate or mail to:
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