



**KIDSAVE**<sup>®</sup>  
Because Every Child Needs a Family

## OVERVIEW

Kidsave International is a U. S.-based nonprofit focused on finding families for older children in institutional care. Kidsave uses its signature Family Visit Model and other programs to help kids ages 7-18 in U.S. and overseas foster care systems and orphanages find lasting relationships with caring adults. Our programs build capacity for governments and NGOs worldwide.

### FAMILY VISIT MODEL PROGRAM

**Weekend Miracles:** applies Kidsave's Family Visit Model in the United States, placing American foster youth with local families for the weekend. Training is available for county governments, cities and nonprofits. The model operates in Los Angeles County, the Denver Metro area, Washington, DC, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and will soon expand to Houston Texas.

**Summer Miracles:** applies the Family Visit Model to inter-country adoption, serving foreign foster and orphan youth who have termination of parental rights and no option for adoption in their own country. American families for a 5-week summer visit with the purpose of adoption. Kidsave works with volunteer communities throughout the United States. Training is available for community groups, nonprofits, adoption agencies and faith-based organizations.

**Super Amigos:** the Family Visit Model working in Colombia to help orphans find families and connections. Kidsave trained the Colombian government in implementation and Super Amigos is now managed by the ministry for social welfare in Colombia, the Instituto Colombiano Bienestar Familiar. Kidsave seeks to provide training throughout Latin America.

**Sierra Leone:** Kidsave supports our partners with the Family Visit Model, reunification, post-placement support and economic strengthening.

**Russian Miracles:** training for government officials working in child protection, orphanage staff, and politicians in family finding and the Family Visit Model. Our partner in Russia is Childhood Keepers.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

**Teen Mothers:** keeps teen moms from putting their kids into orphanages by teaching them parenting and job skills. This program operates in Colombia and Russia.

**School of Life:** prepares "aging out" teens for independent living.

**Strong Shoulder/Pathways to Success:** support mentors for orphanage teens about to age out of the system in Russia and Ukraine.

**Public Policy/Advocacy:** promotes global improvements in government policies and practice.

# A PROVEN METHOD WITH GLOBAL APPLICATION

**Kidsave's Family Visit Model** can find permanent families and lifelong connections for a large number of children who otherwise remain institutionalized and grow up without family. It enables children to have a loving family, complete their education, find employment, and succeed in raising their own families. It also is a protective factor, supporting youth who might otherwise be susceptible to extremist groups, trafficking and crime.

Family Visits have successfully worked worldwide to find adoptive families and permanent connections for older youth (7-18) who otherwise would have no chance of having a family. The program is most useful once a child's file has been mined and efforts to reunify that child with kin have failed. At that point the Model includes:

## **Events**

Weekend events allow the children to meet potential host families in a safe, fun and interactive environment. After engaging at events, youth and families privately identify who they would like to get to know better. Kidsave then works to make that happen.

## **Host Family Visits**

Once a child is matched with a host, children spend summers or weekends with families who are committed to advocating for that child and finding that child a permanent family or committed mentor. Visits give children and hosts a chance to get to know each other. The children have an opportunity to experience family life and meet people who might ultimately be a lifelong connection.

## **Advocacy**

Host families use their circles of friends to help the child meet people who might be possible adoptive families. Media is used to attract attention to these children. Advocacy is a crucial piece to helping people get to know older children in need of families.

## **Mentors**

Kidsave's model also matches children with mentors who help insure at least one lasting connection to a caring adult.

## **Family Support**

Throughout the adoption and post-adoption process, families and children receive the support of social workers, therapists and other professionals to help them manage the transition for the child and family.

## **Contact**

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