



HOW IT STARTED >

In 1993 Terry Baugh went to Russia to adopt a child. While visiting the orphanage she saw babies languishing, without sufficient caregivers, without stimulation, and without any hope for families or a future. Later that year, her long-time friend and business partner, Randi Thompson, traveled to a Kazakhstani orphanage and saw the same thing – but she saw the older kids, who were being forced to leave the orphanage as early as ages 15 through 18 – with no place to go. Concerned with what they were seeing, Terry and Randi started doing their homework and discovered that millions of children were growing up in orphanages around the world – but no government entity was officially counting nor was there global support to deinstitutionalize these children and help them grow up in families. With a strong belief that it's not okay for children to grow up without parents, Randi and Terry started Kidsave to create change so children everywhere, especially older kids, would grow up in families or connected to caring adults. Since 1999 Kidsave has directly served more than 13,000 children.

ABOUT US >

Kidsave, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity, helps older children and teens living in U.S. residential facilities, foster homes, group homes, and orphanages overseas, find loving parents and lifelong mentors through our unique Family Visit Model. A volunteer-effort, Kidsave works with governments and communities worldwide to see that no orphan or foster child is forgotten, and every child grows up in a family with love and hope for a successful future.

IMPACT >

Connected, caring relationship with an adult is THE KEY FACTOR in preventing youth violence, and those connections help kids complete high school, avoid drugs, and find productive jobs. Neuroscience now demonstrates that institutionalized children have reduced brain activity, reduced IQ, smaller brain size, and difficulty forming emotional bonds to others. Children from U.S. foster care do not do well. About half end up in jail, girls turn to prostitution and are trafficked, 1/3 end up on the streets. About 10% commit suicide. Forty to sixty percent do not finish high school. Four of ten become teen parents; very few graduate from college. And children who have experienced these traumas can become successful adults under the care of a stable, loving adult. Because they have no parenting or family role models their children also end up in the system. It's a tragic, vicious cycle. These damaging effects and outcomes can be avoided with nurturing parental care.