



**IN A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY
HOW DID WE DO?**

OUR IMP ACT

2020 Annual Report



KIDSAVE

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Dear Kidsave Supporters,

In a year when in-person events weren't possible, we are proud to say we found new ways to connect kids with prospective families. In 2020 Kidsave hosted 123 virtual events for Summer Miracles and Weekend Miracles kids.

These efforts paid off.

- Of the **42 Summer Miracles kids** who joined events virtually from Colombia, **76%** are headed for adoption or are matched with host families for their visit to the U.S. in 2021. We sent each child a holiday gift and dinner to let them know how much we care.
- Of the **61 children and teens in Los Angeles County** who attended events, **67%** are now connected to a caring host mentor or in an adoptive match. We also sent our kids care packages and holiday gifts from their wish lists.
- We recently launched our **Weekend Miracles Program in Houston** and hosted 4 events virtually working with **10 children and teens**. We also helped provide back-to-school readiness packages for **100 kids** in Harris County, Texas foster care.

Internationally our work flourished. In Ukraine we served **80 young adults** through our corporate mentoring program. We worked with **45 children** through our Ukraine family visit program: **78%** of these kids are now living with families. In Sierra Leone, we helped **17 children find families**, and we provided **350 families with crucial humanitarian aid**, school supplies, and food to help them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year may have had a few setbacks, but there were never any step backs from our mission to find forever families for every child.

Thank you so much for your amazing support!



Elizabeth Dresing



Joni Noel

Elizabeth Dresing and Joni Noel
Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees

Please give at [Kidsave.org/donate](https://kidsave.org/donate)

Or send a check to Kidsave, PO Box 39293, Los Angeles, CA 90039-0293

100% of public donations support our programs thanks to the generosity of our Guardian donors!

OUR IMPACT

Despite the challenges of 2020, we couldn't give up on our kids who already felt alone and isolated. So, we moved our in-person "Meet The Kids" events online and saw meaningful relationships flourish. In fact, last year, 125 kids were connected in adoptive, host or mentor relationships. Kidsave assisted 450 families with humanitarian aid and school supplies and helped more than 700 kids here in the U.S. and around the world. Domestically we helped kids build meaningful connections with mentors and families and helped them face the challenges of COVID-19 with care packages. Overseas we helped with programs that connected kids with forever families and mentors and provided much-needed school supplies and humanitarian aid.



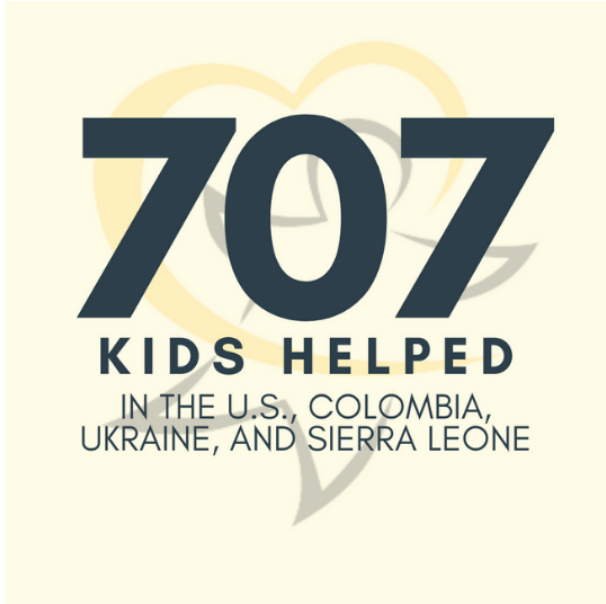
123
VIRTUAL EVENTS
CONNECTING KIDS WITH PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES



125
KIDS CONNECTED
IN ADOPTIVE, HOST AND MENTOR RELATIONSHIPS IN 2020



450
FAMILIES ASSISTED
WITH HUMANITARIAN AID AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES



707
KIDS HELPED
IN THE U.S., COLOMBIA, UKRAINE, AND SIERRA LEONE



SETBACKS. YES. STEP BACKS. NEVER!

A message from Randi

Dear Friends,

2020 was a challenging year for all of us. A year that has affected so many, especially our kids. It pushed us all out of our comfort zone and beyond what we thought was possible.

Pushing limits is what has made Kidsave what it is today. When my co-founder Terry Baugh and I started Kidsave, we wanted to create opportunities for kids in foster care and orphanages to meet and get to know people with the goal of helping them find forever families. Government authorities told us (in several languages), "It's not possible!" To which we replied, "It is possible – it has to be -- because children's lives are at stake." I'm glad we didn't listen to the naysayers then. "No matter the obstacles," is part of the Kidsave culture today.

So, this year when we were told our monthly in-person events and summer programs were "not possible" we found new ways to make that vital connection between our kids and our potential families happen. In fact, we tripled down, increasing the number and frequency of events by taking them virtual. We hosted an astounding number of events for Weekend Miracles and Summer Miracles kids. And many of them are now in adoptive, hosting and mentoring relationships with caring adults. In a year when we were told the kind of success we've experienced in previous years was "not possible," we've served more than **700 kids** in the U.S., Colombia, Ukraine, and Sierra Leone.

For this "never give up" hard work and dedication, I appreciate my amazing team. Their countless hours and innovative spirit made it possible. And at a time when so many of us are suffering heartache, I'm especially thankful for glimmers of hope. These stories of kids finding their forever families keep us going.

It's the kind of dedication our kids need and deserve.

I know it's not easy. Being a parent in any year is hard. In my life as an adoptive mom, I've personally experienced the challenges and joys of parenthood. In the middle of the challenges, we have to remember our kids are worth it. They are worth the effort. The time. The love. Love that pushes past the limits, the struggles, the difficulties. Love that gets us to a place of support and triumph is what all our kids in foster care need.

As we head into 2021, I'm thankful for the sustaining gifts of supporters like you. You've helped us push the limits and continue our vital work. I hope that you will join us in continuing to make a difference and help us create more forever families in 2021.

Sincerely,

Randi Thompson
CEO, President | Adoptive Mom

14,165 children served, 1999-2020.

79% of all Summer Miracles children who participated in our program were matched for adoption or will be hosted in 2021.

77% of participating U.S. foster youth connected through adoption or guardianship or via hosts/mentors.

Kidsave's Model for Success

Kidsave's Family Visit Model has been refined over 22 years and is considered best practice among child welfare professionals. It serves the hardest-to-place youth, often between the ages of 9-18. Our international model begins by ensuring that all attempts to reunify the child with the biological family have been made. When reunification fails, relationships in the child's history are reviewed to see if a relative or friend might be the permanent family solution for that child. If that fails, then children are introduced to host families who become that child's partner in finding a permanent connection.

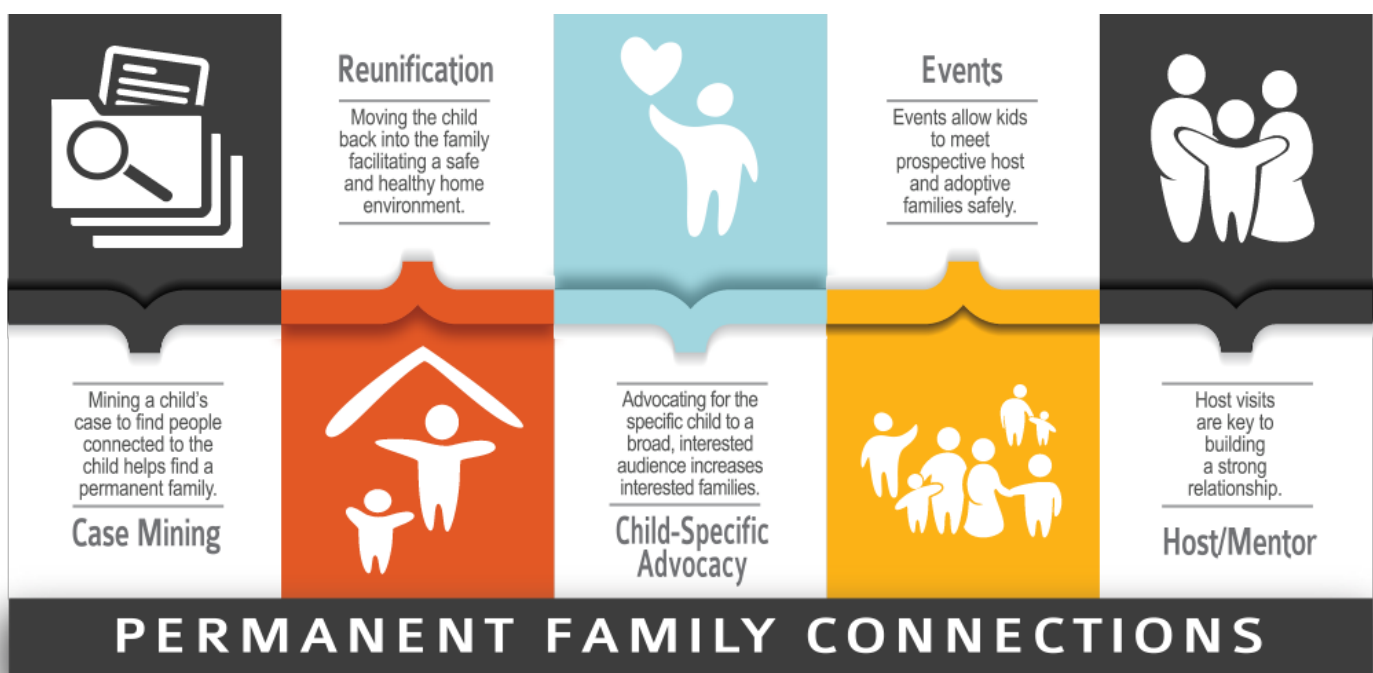
In the U.S., our model starts with child-specific advocacy and continues through hosting and adoption matches. The main purpose of our programs is to place children in loving, permanent homes. Working to find families for older kids is time-consuming and challenging. Through our programs we want to ensure they don't have to exit the child welfare system without the safety net of a family or a mentoring relationship. Without the support of caring adults, the odds are against these teens graduating from high school or college, finding a good job, or having the example of a successful family life from which to build their own.

Weekend events and child-specific advocacy help expand the reach to find the child a forever family in the U.S. and internationally. In 2020 we learned that virtual meet ups can play a huge role in helping children and families continue to build organic connections when in-person activities aren't viable. We plan to incorporate virtual meetings as part of our standard strategy to help kids find families from now on.

Our model is effective and unique in child welfare because it:

- welcomes people without home studies to meet kids;
- enables people to host children without committing to adopt them;
- embraces kids who may be ambivalent about adoption, but need a permanent family connection;
- introduces children to others who might be open to adoption;
- provides interactive events that give children and adults a safe space to connect; and
- gives kids a voice and a choice in adults who may become their forever family.

Throughout this report, you'll find examples of Kidsave's Family Visit Model and its effectiveness to move children into families even in an unprecedented year.



Kidsave Volunteers

At Kidsave we rely on the strength and commitment of our volunteer base. Our small but mighty staff is able to execute our programs with the help and hard work of our incredible volunteers. Our volunteers host children, recruit families, create events, serve on committees, find auction items, build attendance, get the word out, support fundraising, support programs, and help with logistics. From community volunteer teams, to virtual event volunteers, to hosts, we appreciate every person who helps make our programs possible each day!

In 2020 we relied heavily on our volunteers to drive our Summer Miracles and Weekend Miracles virtual activities. English and Spanish translators were especially crucial to families and Colombian kids connecting.

Thank you to every translator, event facilitator and volunteer family who joined any of our 123 virtual events.

Your support made all the difference and helped children find families. Your dedication was a constant reminder to our kids that they aren't in this alone.



Kidsave Guardians

Financial transparency, authenticity and responsibility is at the forefront of Kidsave operations. **To make sure 100 percent of our public donations directly support our life-changing programs, Kidsave has enlisted a vital group of contributors.** These Guardian gives support Kidsave's general operating costs and are the backbone of our operations. Their yearly contributions are pivotal in keeping Kidsave sustainable.

You can learn more about becoming a Guardian by contacting Randi Thompson at 1-888-KIDSAVE or randi@kidsave.org.



Kidsave Partners for Change

In 2020 Kidsave strengthened partnerships with both sponsors and amazing, socially responsible brands. Our featured Partners for Good in 2020 were [WonderTent Parties](#), [Foodstirs](#), and [My Day Screen](#). These companies have selected Kidsave as a partner for good, donating a portion of their proceeds to support our work.

Learn about becoming a Kidsave Partner for Good by contacting Director of Development Bonnie Williams at 1-888-KIDSAVE or BonnieW@Kidsave.org.



Julie gets adopted despite pandemic

Weekend Miracles in the United States

Kidsave recruits caring adults who are interested in helping older foster kids and connects them to these amazing kids through monthly events. During the pandemic Kidsave moved the program to a virtual format and multiplied the number of opportunities for kids and adults to get to know each other. Connections sparked through trivia, Pictionary, baking and more, at least twice a month.

In a virtual event year, Kidsave made sure each child and teen still had a voice and a choice, a say in their experience. At the end of each event, kids could evaluate and indicate who they would like to get to know better. Families and kids would then be able to connect one-on-one, and head toward a hosting relationship or an adoptive match. In a year when most systems slowed down, host families appreciated the program because they could bypass traditional processes.

It continued to provide an entryway for families interested in domestic adoption or mentoring to get to know kids.

Kidsave is known for training other organizations to implement our model to ensure more kids find lasting connections. Here's where you can find kids in foster care benefitting from Kidsave's Family Visit Model in the U.S.

- **Colorado:** CHOICE is a program of Raise the Future, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Human Services.
- **Los Angeles :** Kidsave's flagship Weekend Miracles program is a partnership between Kidsave and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
- **North Carolina :** Facilitated by the Congregation for Kids Network (CFK), North Carolina Weekend Miracles is a collaboration of the For Charlotte Mission Network and Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services.
- **Texas:** Weekend Miracles Houston launched virtually in 2020 helping older kids in foster care in Harris County (Houston) find families and build connections.
- **Washington, DC:** The DC Family and Youth Initiative (DCFYI) supports children in foster care in the District of Columbia, providing them with family and extended family connections.

Julie Gets Adopted Virtually!

May 19, 2020 was an unforgettable day for Julie. Four months shy of her 18th birthday, her adoption day had finally arrived. But this wasn't your typical adoption. In the midst of the pandemic, Julie found herself face to screen with a judge as her adoption was finalized over a video-call. With several family members, friends, supporters and Kidsave staff all watching, this beautiful moment unfolded.

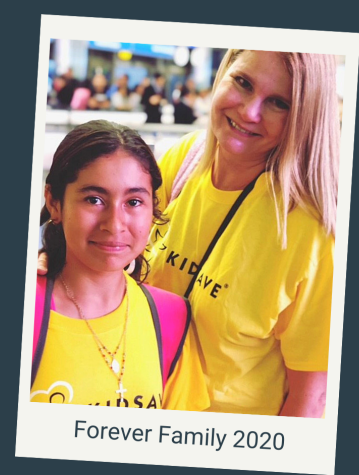
Julie had "officially" found her forever family.

[Read More in Stories on our Website](#)

573 children and teens served through Kidsave Weekend Miracles 2005-2020 (not including affiliate programs)

73 children and teens served in 2020

77% of active participants have found a connection through adoption, legal guardianship, family reunification, or a lasting relationship with a host since 2005.



Mafe found her forever family this year.

Summer Miracles

Kidsave Summer Miracles is a Family Visit Program for children who need families from countries outside of the U.S. Often a last resort for many kids, the program provides the opportunity for children growing up in foster care and orphanages in their country to meet an adoptive family in the United States. Summer Miracles is a volunteer-powered program. Guided by Kidsave staff, volunteer coordinators in communities across the U.S. engage other volunteers to operate summer hosting programs in their areas. This year our volunteers helped us with a previously unimaginable feat.

In a COVID-19 year, we canceled our annual summer trip and did something unprecedented in child welfare in Colombia! With ICBF (Colombia's child welfare agency) and Casa De La Madre, Kidsave launched an innovative pilot program to help kids and families get to know each other virtually. We were the first organization to host advocacy events via Zoom, with prospective families and Colombian children.

The results were remarkable. Not only were we able to keep families and kids engaged in group settings, but we set up one-on-one opportunities for families and kids to get to know each other more. This interaction resulted in 17 kids moving to straight adoption and 15 kids finding host families for spring 2021.

And while most of our families from 2019 were devastated to have their adoption process delayed because of travel restrictions, we helped them stay encouraged and up to speed on their kids' well-being. By the fall of 2020, families were overjoyed to travel to Colombia and reunite with their new sons and daughters. Read about one such family below.

A Family Meant to Be: Linda and Mafe Taylor

Linda Taylor met and hosted 12-year-old Maria Fernanda (Mafe) from Colombia in 2019.

After an incredible Summer Miracles program, Linda sent in her intent to adopt Mafe. Linda worked on finalizing her adoption for months. Then COVID-19 hit and delayed the process even further.

Linda stayed positive and Kidsave staff helped Linda connect with Mafe until they could reunite.

Mafe was able to make it home in time for the holidays.

[Visit our website to read our News and Stories.](#)

2,015 participating children, 1999-2020.

42 children served in 2020.

76% of the children in 2020 who participated in virtual events will be adopted or hosted in 2021.

Sierra Leone

"Thank you Kidsave for saving my life."

Over the past four years we have reunified more than 230 children in southeastern Sierra Leone with their biological/extended families. A small team of social workers, who work with Kidsave's partner in Sierra Leone, the Foundation for Integrated Development (FID) recently visited their villages to make sure the children are fed, safe and attending school. The social workers found that even though the children were not in any danger, many were not getting enough food, and nearly 60 of them could not obtain their report cards for the last academic year or continue their schooling because their families could not afford to pay the school fees.

Moreover, the Sierra Leone government set a strict curfew and other rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. The curfew and rules made it difficult for people to buy and sell food daily in the marketplace, as they normally would. Sierra Leoneans do not typically have pantries or refrigerators to keep extra food.

In response, Kidsave sent funds to buy food staples (rice, sugar and salt) and school supplies, and to pay for the modest school fees so the children could stay in school. Our social workers faced many challenges – not just getting from village to village – but also distributing food to our families because the need for food is so widespread. Kidsave is also helping these families get the extra money they need to grow their own food during this terribly difficult time.

Although Kidsave's reunification efforts in Sierra Leone have been largely on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, we recently reunited 17 orphans with family members.

The need in 2020 was to help these families survive. Our hope is to be able return to reunifying children with families sometime in 2021 when, we all hope, food security is no longer an issue. Funding is needed, and Kidsave welcomes your support for this program. Choose Sierra Leone in the drop down on our [donation page](#).

1,052 total children served since 2010.

350 children supported with crucial humanitarian aid, school supplies, and food to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

17 children found families in 2020.



Abel Mansaray, who was reunified with her grandfather in Buma village, said, "I feel like [I] am dreaming.. your school and food support cannot go off my memory as it has taking over a week without eating rice which is our staple. I promise to make you proud and become a good girl. Thank you Kidsave for saving my life."



Bockari Sawaneh receives school and food aid support from Kidsave – Bockari Sawaneh said "Kidsave school and food support is a blessing to my new family. COVID-19 has seriously affected our household, as all the monies saved by my Aunt is no more. She also lost her job. Your support will go a long way in alleviating our suffering. Thank you Kidsave and thank you FID."



Blessing, Francis and Peace Kamara in a joyous mood while receiving the food and school support.

Ukraine

In Ukraine there are over 100,000 children in state care, 10,000 of whom “age out” of care every year alone – unemployed and without a family or mentor to guide them as they navigate the challenges of independent living. Few receive additional education once they leave state care. Kidsave developed the Pathways to Success Program to prepare orphans and foster children (ages 14–18) who are about to age out of care, as well as orphanage graduates (ages 19-23), for independent living. The program engages businesses, communities and caring mentors in Ukraine to help prepare a generation of at-risk youth for a successful future.

This program has demonstrated that, on average, 50% of participating youth establish mentor-mentee connections, 80% have increased their self-confidence and self-esteem, and the majority of participants have improved essential personal and professional life skills.

In 2020 Kidsave launched a successful virtual mentoring event where more than 500 children logged on to hear from famous Ukrainians, TV presenters, sportsmen, businessmen, bloggers, actors, singers and others who shared their experience and knowledge, answered questions about finding a job, choosing a profession, achieving goals, and living independently.

Kidsave’s Pathways to Success program was also chosen in Ukraine as one of eight finalists to present at the European Mentoring Summit in 2020. Tatiana Stafford, Program VP and Director of Kidsave Eastern Europe and CIS, led the presentation for Kidsave. The Summit provided opportunities for sharing research, experience, and best practices that will provide meaningful assistance to older orphans and foster youth in developing essential life skills, emotional literacy, and workforce readiness, as well as finding internships and jobs.



Kidsave’s Family Visit Model is active in Ukraine. As part of Ukraine’s reform effort to deinstitutionalize approximately 100,000 children, Kidsave implemented a pilot program in the southern regions of Kherson and Mykolaiv. Along with local partners, Kidsave developed systems whereby social workers, citizens, and faith-based communities collaborate to move children into host and, ultimately, permanent families.

In 2020 Kidsave worked with 45 children and teens and ultimately helped 78% move out of orphanages and move in with families.

80 total youth served through corporate mentoring and the Family Visit Model in Ukraine in 2020.

45 youth served through Family Visit Program in 2020.

78% are now living in families.

Statement of Activities 2019

Kidsave's fiscal year ends December 31. We strive to complete our annual audit by July. Our Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities for FY 2019 follow. For a complete view of the audit, visit [Financials](#) on our website.

Kidsave International, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2019
(with comparative totals for 2018)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2019 Total	2018 Total
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents				
—Note 2	\$ 499,148	\$ 261,064	\$ 760,212	\$ 675,916
Investments—Note 5	51,665		51,665	60,197
Contributions and grants receivable, net—Note 6	58,300	144,784	203,084	283,545
Accounts receivable	315		315	259
Prepaid expenses	26,176		26,176	13,104
Security deposits	4,842		4,842	6,842
Total Current Assets	640,446	405,848	1,046,294	1,039,863
Non-Current Assets				
Contributions and grants receivable—Note 6		110,560	110,560	117,919
Total Non-Current Assets		110,560	110,560	117,919
Total Assets	\$ 640,446	\$ 516,408	\$ 1,156,854	\$ 1,157,782
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 93,375	\$	\$ 93,375	\$ 106,468
Total Liabilities	93,375		93,375	106,468
Net Assets				
Without donor restrictions	547,071		547,071	459,311
With donor restrictions—Note 9				
Purpose restricted		261,064	261,064	264,314
Time restricted		255,344	255,344	327,689
Total Net Assets	547,071	516,408	1,063,479	1,051,314
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 640,446	\$ 516,408	\$ 1,156,854	\$ 1,157,782

Statement of Financial Position 2019

For a complete view of the audit, visit [Financials](#) on our website.

Kidsave International, Inc.
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2019
(with comparative totals for 2018)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2019 Total	2018 Total
Operating Activities				
Support and Revenues				
Contributions and grants	\$ 1,014,845	\$ 984,994	\$ 1,999,839	\$ 2,337,415
Government contracts	25,750		25,750	
In kind contributions				
Note 12	239,012		239,012	116,974
Miscellaneous income	1,314		1,314	1,789
Net assets released from restrictions	1,060,589	(1,060,589)		
Total Support and Revenues	2,341,510	(75,595)	2,265,915	2,456,178
Expenses				
Program services	1,891,606		1,891,606	2,009,981
Supporting services				
Management and general	202,285		202,285	188,825
Fundraising	163,702		163,702	176,933
Total Expenses	2,257,593		2,257,593	2,375,739
Change in Net Assets from Operations	83,917	(75,595)	8,322	80,439
Nonoperating Activities				
Income on investment— Note 5				
	3,843		3,843	4,900
Total Nonoperating Activities	3,843		3,843	4,900
Change in Net Assets	87,760,000	(75,595)	12,165	85,339
Net Assets at Beginning of Year				
	459,311	592,003	1,051,314	965,975
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 547,071	\$ 516,408	\$ 1,063,479	\$ 1,051,314

**THAN
ANY
WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.
KID
YOU**

@kidsave

