



KIDSAVE MEDIA KIT

2021

For additional information or to schedule interviews, contact:
Lauren Davis | Laurend@kidsave.org | (202) 503-3101



ABOUT KIDSAVE

Kidsave, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) charity, believes all kids, everywhere, deserve to grow up with the support of a loving, caring family. Its innovative programs in the U.S. and around the world help older kids (ages 9 -18) in foster care and orphanages find lasting connections and forever families. We ask you to join us in supporting Kidsave's life-changing work.

Become a champion for older, forgotten kids in care. Through no fault of their own, these kids are in a system that - as best as it tries - often falls short. Kids who just need a chance at finding happiness and family.

At Kidsave, we believe in giving these kids an opportunity to **find connections their way**. We empower them with a **voice and choice** in who they connect with and who becomes their family. Through our program, older kids form meaningful and lasting connections with adults who are there for them, no matter what.

Why? Because even one connected, caring relationship with an adult is pivotal in keeping kids out of trouble, helping them complete high school, avoid drugs, and find rewarding jobs.

Otherwise, the statistics are staggering. 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.

Internationally neuroscience proves that children who grew up in orphanages and institutions have reduced brain activity, reduced IQ, smaller brain size, and difficulty forming emotional bonds to others.

It's a tragic, vicious cycle worldwide. But Kidsave's program to pave a better future for children and teens in the child welfare system.



OUR STORY

Over twenty years ago, a single visit to a Russian orphanage created a ripple effect that has changed the lives of over 500,000 children and families around the world.

That visit by Terry Baugh in 1993 made her aware of a foster and adoptive system in desperate need of an overhaul. With Co-Founder Randi Thompson, herself an adoptive parent, the pair set about changing the outcome for kids in care, especially older kids ages 9 - 17 who are often forgotten, overlooked, and simply left to age out. And so **Kidsave** was born.

Through our innovative **Family Visit Model**, older kids get to know families organically, spending more and more time together building that all-important connection before moving towards adoption. Whether locally or around the world, it's a model that works, giving kids who once felt forgotten a voice and choice in who becomes their forever family.

With our Weekend and Summer Miracles programs alone, we've seen more than 14,000 kids find the love and support of a family they so desperately need.

And worldwide, through our partner programs, over 560,000 kids and families have been impacted and served.

But our job is not done.

We continue to be a champion for change. Our goal is to inspire governments, communities, and individuals to find and provide families and lifelong connections for their children.

**Kidsave Co-Founders and Adoptive Moms
Terry Baugh and Randi Thompson**





KIDSAVE PROGRAMS

WEEKEND MIRACLES®

Los Angeles and Houston

Weekend Miracles gives older kids in foster care a say in their future. Through our program, kids, ages 9-17, have a choice in who they get to know and ultimately who becomes their adoptive family or caring connection called a "host."

Families and kids meet and get to know each other during fun weekend events. Bonds develop organically and lead to hosting relationships built on consistency and trust. Hosts commit to spending time with kids at least 2 weekends a month for a year and championing to find their forever families.

In Los Angeles County, Kidsave works collaboratively with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to help older children in Los Angeles County's foster care system. And in Houston, Kidsave partners with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, and general residential operations, residential treatment centers throughout the Houston area.

Since 2005 Weekend Miracles® has served over 570 older kids in Los Angeles County, and 77% of continuing participants now have a permanent family or a connection to a caring adult. Kidsave launched Weekend Miracles Houston in 2020 and has served more than 12 older kids so far, connecting them with families and hosts.

Kidsave has trained other organizations over the years, and currently, kids in foster care benefit from the program in Colorado, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C.

Contact

Lauren Reicher-Gordon
lauren@kidsave.org

www.kidsave.org/weekendmiracles





KIDSAVE PROGRAMS

SUMMER MIRACLES®

International Adoption



Summer Miracles brings older kids, ages 9-15, who need families from Colombia to the United States for a three-to-five-week visit during the year. While they are here, the children learn about U.S. culture, attend camp, and most importantly, meet prospective adoptive families.

These children have little chance of finding adoptive parents in their own country. During their visit dedicated volunteers, host families, and kidsave staff work together to find them forever families.

Since 1999, more than 2,000 children have traveled to the U.S. from five different countries as part of the Summer Miracles program. More than 80% have found adoptive families.



Each year Kidsave works with volunteers in communities across the country to make the program a success. Local coordinators and families help to organize events, raise funds, and champion the kids through community and media outreach.

Kidsave provides training and support to participating host families. We partner with adoption agencies, child welfare advocates, and government officials to help older children find safe, loving, forever families.



Contact
Lauren Reicher-Gordon
lauren@kidsave.org

www.kidsave.org/summermiracles



KIDSAVE PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL

Sierra Leone

Kidsave has been helping orphans find families in Sierra Leone since 2010. At that time, many of the children who lost family during the civil war lived in orphanages. In 2014 the Ebola epidemic swept through Sierra Leone, bringing devastation and impoverishment. The epidemic made children's precarious situation even worse, leaving 8,624 children registered as Ebola orphans. As the confusion and danger of Ebola descended, Kidsave ramped up and focused on moving children out of Ebola interim care centers and orphanages and into families.



Without families, children do not thrive. Kidsave's goal is to support government and citizen involvement in support of these children and to help Sierra Leone rebuild their culture of children growing up in families. Kidsave works in concert with governments who are supportive of family care. Kidsave helps organizations support families so that children remain connected and the organizations become sustainable.

We provide training and financial support to partners in Sierra Leone who collaborate with their governments to identify and reunify children with members of their biological families. Kidsave works to ensure that children who move from institutions into orphanages are successful in their new homes. Social workers and para-professionals provide support to these families. And for those who need extra assistance, Kidsave offers micro-loans to help them make ends meet.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kidsave provided humanitarian aid to more than 500 families with critical food and school supplies.

**To help or invest in
Sierra Leone contact
Bonnie Williams
bonniew@kidsave.org**

www.kidsave.org/reunification



KIDSAVE PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine

Ukraine is implementing an Institutional Childcare System Reform Strategy to take about 106,000 children out of full-time and long-term facilities and move them into families. This is challenging as many of the kids are disabled, older, and part of sibling groups.

Kidsave supports this effort and works as part of a reform group organized by the Ombudsman for Children. Kidsave helps children and teens, ages 7-17, transition into families via adoption, guardianship, and long-term foster care through our **Family Visit Model**.

Kidsave developed systems where social workers and citizens collaborate to move children into families. Our partners include:

- The International Leadership and Development Center (ILDC) who adapted the Family Visit Model to Ukrainian. They will also support the training of professionals and lay partners.
- Moi Dom, a child-serving NGO in Kherson that leads the implementation.
- Ukraine Without Orphans will support family recruitment, hosting, and advocacy through the faith-based community.

Kidsave is also co-founder of the National Mentoring Association in Ukraine. Its goal is to provide an institutional foundation for connecting teens with professional mentors. For children who have no adult connections, mentors can help put them on track for education and employment. Kidsave operates the Employment Pathways to Success Program supporting individual and corporate mentoring. This program helps Ukrainian orphans and at-risk youth develop workforce readiness, improve economic self-proficiency, and find internships and job opportunities.

www.kidsave.org/family-visit-model/

Contact:
Tatiana Stafford
tatiana@kidsave.org



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QUESTIONS?
laurend@kidsave.org

WEBSITE
kidsave.org

FIND US ON SOCIAL
[@kidsave](https://www.instagram.com/kidsave)