



LEARN ABOUT KIDSAVE

For additional information visit [Kidsave.org](https://kidsave.org) or contact:
Jenny Lawhorn Sammis | jenny@kidsave.org | (202) 503-3104



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 -17) 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 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 access education and find rewarding jobs.

Otherwise, the statistics are staggering. Of the more than 320,000 kids in U.S. foster care, over 10,000 will age out this year. Half will experience an arrest or conviction. Many will turn to prostitution and be trafficked, and about 1/3 will end up on the streets. Four of 10 will become teen parents. Many will not finish high school, and very few will attend or graduate from college. Heartbreakingly, 10% will commit suicide.

Internationally, the numbers are hard to pin down. But at least 2-8 million children live in institutions. Science 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 programs work to pave a better way for these kids. A future where they can thrive.



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 adoption 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 [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.

Through our programs worldwide, more than 16,000 children have connected with the families or caring adult mentors they so desperately need.

And worldwide, through our partner programs, over 500,000 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

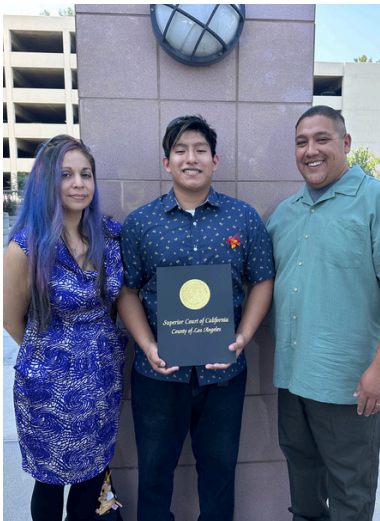
WEEKEND MIRACLES

Los Angeles, Houston, and Virginia



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 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. As of 2020, 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, and residential treatment centers throughout the Houston area. And as of 2024, Kidsave partners with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to serve children and families in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Since 2005, Weekend Miracles has served over 1,000 older kids across these three locations. Additionally, 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

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. Nearly 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

kidsave.org/summer-miracles



KIDSAVE PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine

Kidsave began working in Ukraine in 2016 when the Ukrainian government implemented an Institutional Childcare System Reform Strategy to take approximately 106,000 children out of full-time and long-term facilities and move them into families. This was a major effort as many of the kids were disabled, older, or 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, partnering with local NGOs such as Moi Dom, Ukraine Without Orphans, and the International Leadership and Development Center (ILDC).

Kidsave is also co-founder of the National Mentoring Association in Ukraine. Our Corporate Mentoring program, Pathway to Success, connects older youth and teens aging out of institutional care with professional mentors. For children who have no adult connections, mentors can help put them on track for continued education and employment. The Pathway to Success Program helps at-risk youth develop workforce readiness, improve economic self-proficiency, and find internships and job opportunities. This program has continued strong during the war.

Contact:
Tatiana Stafford
tatiana@kidsave.org





KIDSAVE PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL

The Kidsave Miracles Center

On February 24, 2022, when the war in Ukraine began, Kidsave began evacuating children and families out of active combat zones. Evacuees in Ukraine call Kidsave's team there "Angels of Hope." To date, our team has helped evacuate over 30,000 children and families to safety and delivered 4,500 tons of humanitarian aid.

During the war, we've continued our mission to help older orphans find safety and security and have supported the youth in our Corporate Mentoring program, Pathway to Success.

In 2024, we opened the **Kidsave Miracles Center**, a haven in western Ukraine where orphans and children separated from family can be safe, reconnect with their childhood, and receive therapeutic services. While the kids enjoy life at the Center, our team works behind the scenes to reunite them with relatives and kin or connect them with loving adoptive families.

Naming and sponsorship opportunities are available for the Kidsave Miracles Center. Contact Tatiana Stafford at tatiana@kidsave.org to learn more.



Contact:
Tatiana Stafford
tatiana@kidsave.org

kidsave.org/ukraine-miracles-center



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.

Contact:
Jenny Lawhorn Sammis
jenny@kidsave.org

www.kidsave.org/reunification



MAKE A LONG-TERM IMPACT FOR KIDS!

“Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.” - Fred Rogers

Making sure every child has a caring, committed adult in their life has countless benefits – from literally saving a child’s life, to changing government attitudes and, of course, changing the trajectories for potentially millions of children. When a child has a family, they can move from despair and loneliness to confidence and hope. They can blossom into their potential and make a mark in this world.

Kidsave’s proven model is changing the way governments think about older children in foster care and the way they look for new family connections for these kids.

There are many ways to support the work of Kidsave to bring this model to the world.

1. Become a Guardian by making a multi-year funding commitment to support Kidsave’s mission
2. Create a special named fund to support a particular program, international or domestic expansion
3. Donate stock, other securities or IRA gifts to support Kidsave
4. Choose a gift that allows you to see progress during your lifetime.
6. Join our Legacy Society -- leave a gift legacy that will benefit Kidsave’s mission after your lifetime.



Contact:
Randi Thompson
Randi@kidsave.org
310-642-7204



KIDSAVE MEDIA KIT

QUESTIONS?

communications@kidsave.org

WEBSITE

kidsave.org

FIND US ON SOCIAL

[@kidsave](https://www.instagram.com/kidsave)