



# **KIDSAVE ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021**



**KIDSAVE**  
Forever families  
for all kids, everywhere.

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# DEAR SUPPORTERS,

In 2021 we reintroduced ourselves with a new tone of voice and brand look and feel. We revamped and reframed our language while maintaining our core mission of finding older kids a permanent place to call home. We reintroduced ourselves as Kidsave, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) charity, that believes all kids, everywhere, deserve to grow up with the support of a loving, caring family. Our innovative programs in the U.S. and around the world continue to help older kids (ages 9 -18) in foster care and orphanages find lasting connections and forever families.

We brought our point of difference to the forefront: at Kidsave, we believe in giving kids an opportunity to find connections their way. We empower them with a voice and choice in who they get to know 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.

We invite you to 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. These children need, want, and deserve a chance at finding happiness and family.

We ask you to join us in supporting Kidsave's life-changing work.



*Elizabeth Dresing*



*Joni J Noel*

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

**Please Donate 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!**

# NEW LOOK SAME COMMITMENT



Dear Friends,

I am both humbled and proud to say that for more than two decades, Kidsave has been at the forefront of change in the child welfare system. Our innovative Family Visit Model continues to be a game-changer, giving older kids in care a chance, not only to find forever families, but also to have a voice and a choice in who that family is.

As we reflected on the challenges of these past years, we felt the need to renew our vow to older kids. We would stand louder and prouder in sharing our vision of a world where the loss of a child's potential due to neglect is no more, and where people everywhere make sure all children grow up in stable, loving families. As we looked at all Kidsave has achieved and all we want to accomplish moving forward, it felt like the right time to refresh how we present ourselves and what we stand for. So, we brought a team of marketing experts together to make sure our brand lived up to our reputation. A new look and feel emerged.

Our new logo places our kids at the center of our hearts and all we do, surrounding them in love, support, and that all-important connection. We call it our "Connection Heart" as it represents a coming together of different pieces to form a lasting bond.

We use a bright, bold variety of colors used to reflect the diverse make-up of all the families we support. Our families come in all shapes, sizes, and types: the championing host family, the guiding life-long mentor family, and the adoptive forever family. We've always felt family consists of equal parts connection and commitment, not bound by blood but bonded by love. And our commitment to diversity and inclusion goes far beyond our branding. It is paramount in our everyday operations and reflected in the very fiber of how we serve our diverse and deserving kids.

We're excited to share the next phase of our journey with you. We encourage you all to join us in becoming a community of champions for these amazing kids. With your ongoing support, we can continue our life-changing work of finding forever families for all kids, everywhere.



Randi Thompson  
Kidsave Co-Founder, CEO | Adoptive Mom

**14,458** children served, 1999-2021

**74%** participating U.S. foster youth connected through adoption or guardianship or via hosts/mentors in LA

**76%** of children in our Summer Miracles program have been matched with adoptive families since 1999.

# A TRIED AND TRUE MODEL



We've refined our Family Visit Model over the last 23 years, and child welfare professionals consider us the gold standard. Our model specifically serves the hardest-to-place youth, often between the ages of 9-18.

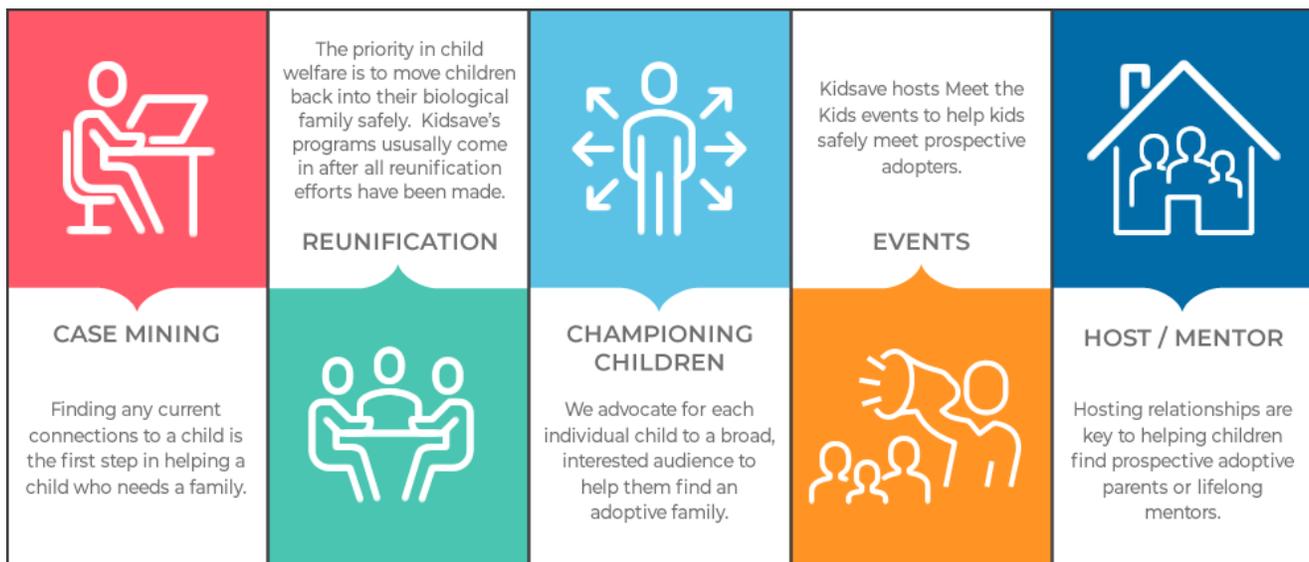
Our international model begins by ensuring that all attempts to reunify the child with the biological family have been made. When reunification fails, relationships in the child's history are reviewed to see if an extended relative or friend might be the permanent family solution for that child. If that 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. Through our programs, we want to ensure teens don't have to exit the child welfare system without the safety net of a permanent family or a mentoring relationship. Without the support of caring adults, the odds are stacked against these teens, often preventing them from completing high school or college, finding a good job, or having the example of successful family life from which to build their own.

Our programs open the door wider for kids and families to connect. Weekend events and child-specific advocacy help expand our reach to find the child a forever family in the U.S. and internationally.

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.



# VOLUNTEERS KEEP US GOING!



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

## 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 givers support Kidsave's general operating costs and are the backbone of our operations. Their yearly contributions are pivotal in keeping Kidsave sustainable.

**100%**  
Donations from our special group of donors, Kidsave Guardians, cover our operating costs so 100% of public donations support our programs.



You can learn more about becoming a Guardian by contacting Randi Thompson at 1-888-KIDSAVE or [randi@kidsave.org](mailto:randi@kidsave.org).

## Kidsave Partners for Change

In 2021 Kidsave strengthened partnerships with both sponsors and amazing, socially responsible brands. Our featured Partners for Good in 2021 were [Wondertent Parties](#), [Foodstirs](#), and [My Day Screen](#), and we were proud to welcome [Barley Canadian](#). In early 2022, CBIZ joined our partners, and we continue to forge more partnerships. 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](mailto:BonnieW@Kidsave.org).





**After 10 years in foster care, Joshua met Susan at a Kidsave Weekend Miracles event. In October of 2021, their adoption was finalized and their journey as a forever family continues.**

When you meet Joshua, you see a happy-go-lucky teen with a ready smile and engaging personality. You might be surprised to learn that he entered foster care when he was just three years old. Joshua has had more than his share of loss and disappointments for a child his age, including failed adoption matches. Like many other older kids in foster care, the older he got, the harder it became to find a forever family.

Joshua's life began to change when he was introduced to Kidsave by his social worker. At a Kidsave Weekend Miracles bowling event, Joshua met Susan. From that moment on, they began to build an incredible bond that eventually led to an adoption match! The pair even was featured on A&E's *The Day I Picked My Parents.*"

Two years later, Susan often tells Joshua, "a family has each other's back, and we love no matter what. No one is perfect, and we don't expect perfection." Susan and Joshua now get through the tough times together. "Joshua has had a lot of disappointment of life," says Susan, "and I want to make sure he knows that when something disappoints him now, he no longer has to deal with it alone."

**After nearly 11 years in foster care, Joshua's adoption was finalized, right after his 14th birthday!** Joshua and Susan celebrated his adoption by returning to the bowling alley where they first met, a moment they'll never forget.

In Los Angeles and Houston, Kidsave uses our Family Visit Model to find forever families and lasting connections for older kids like Joshua in foster care between the ages of 9 and 17. Through our "Meet the Kids" and "Connection Events," kids get a voice and a choice in who they want to spend more time with, get to know, and who might ultimately become their forever family. This unique model creates more meaningful and lasting connections and has been adopted by organizations in Washington, DC and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Kidsave makes training available for county governments, cities, and nonprofits. Kidsave has directly served more than 677 children and teens through Weekend Miracles in Los Angeles, and our pilot programs in D.C. and Fairfax, VA since 2005.

[.kidsave.org/weekendmiracles](https://kidsave.org/weekendmiracles)

**677** children and teens served through Kidsave Weekend Miracles 2005-2021.

**85** children and teens served in 2021 in LA

**27** children and teens served in 2021 in Houston

**74%** of active participants found a connection through adoption, legal guardianship, family reunification, or a lasting relationship with a host since 2005 in our flagship program in LA.



**Laura had done everything to prepare for this moment, but when the day arrived to meet 12-year-old Maria at the airport, she felt an overwhelming flood of emotion.**

Laura says that the 30-second walk from her car hit her the hardest. “Walking to the terminal, I got this immense feeling. I started crying, and that’s when it hit me. I remember thinking, ‘this is real. This is happening.’”

Maria too was a ball of emotion, nervous and tired from the long trip. Laura hadn’t gotten any sleep the night before either, so they had that in common, Laura explains, smiling. This was only the beginning of their journey.

**Laura knew she would adopt Maria and had already started the process. Their adoption was finalized right before the holidays season.** Together at last, and ready to tackle the good times and bad, Laura gives this advice for future host families. “People who are thinking about hosting or adopting through Kidsave, follow your heart,” she says.

**“Whether you have the intention to adopt or not, you have the opportunity to change a kid’s life. They will 100% change yours.”**

Kidsave Summer Miracles is Kidsave’s original Family Visit Program, designed for children who need families from countries outside of the U.S. 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, and volunteer coordinators from communities around the country work with Kidsave to make it all happen. Guided by Kidsave staff, groups mainly in the New York Tri-State area, Southern California, Chicago, and Washington DC, along with individual families around the country, welcomed children to the U.S. This year our volunteers helped us with a previously unimaginable feat. We facilitated three hosting programs in 2021 with a goal of giving as many children as possible a chance at finding families.

Kidsave brought a total of 86 children from Colombia in the spring, summer, and winter. As of December 31, 2021, of the children who traveled, 74% (64 children) were matched for adoption.

Since the program’s inception in 1999, two thousand and forty-five (2,045) older children have participated in Kidsave’s Summer Miracles program; 76% of these children have found permanent families.

[kidsave.org/summermiracles](https://kidsave.org/summermiracles)

**2,045** participating children 1999-2021

**86** children served in 2021

**76%** of the children who participated in Summer Miracles in 2021 were matched for adoption.

# SIERRA LEONE



**Gladys Tucker, 15, was brought to an orphanage in 2015 after losing both parents to Ebola. In 2021 she was reunited with a surviving member of her family.**

Social workers recently found her grandmother in the gold mining community of Baomahun. Her grandmother was overjoyed to find Gladys and to now have the chance to take her in and raise her.

Gladys said this to the gathered crowd of her new home village on the day of their reunion:

I feel like [I'm] daydreaming today to have finally got reunited with my only grandmother in the community I had always wished to spend the rest of my life, after my education. Life without my village and family members in the orphanage was ever incomplete, as it has always brought pain and sorrow in my heart, as if there is nobody left in my family to have me home. Today, I am the happiest on earth and grateful to Kidsave and FID for supporting my life dream.

Since 2010, Kidsave has worked in Sierra Leone, getting more than 1,100 kids out of orphanages and into vetted families – nearly always with kin. This year, with our partner, the Foundation for Integrated Development (FID), we've directly helped more than 55 kids move in with families.

In 2021 Kidsave conducted family-tracing and case-mining for older orphans who believed they had living relatives who could raise them. As a result, fifty-five (55) children were placed with kin or host families. Thirty-four (34) of these children and their families were provided with school and agricultural support.

One hundred ninety-one (191) caregivers, social workers and stakeholders were trained about the rights of children, their proper care, and how to monitor and protect them. Community connections events were held to find host families for five children who could not be reunited with extended family or kin.

[Read more](#) about how Kidsave helps sustain reunifications and trains villages on children's rights.

**1,052** total children served since 2010

**55** children found families in 2021



# UKRAINE

**Kidsave has worked to help older orphans in Ukraine since 2016, introducing emancipated youth to the working world, and later moving children from orphanages and into families.**

When the Ukrainian government implemented an Institutional Childcare System Reform Strategy to move an estimated 106,000 children living in full-time, long-term facilities out of institutional care and into families, Kidsave was fully committed. Kidsave supports this effort and works as part of a reform group organized by the Ombudsman for Children.

Kidsave helped children and teens, ages 7-17, transition into families via adoption, guardianship, and long-term foster care through our Family Visit Model. At the end of 2021, Kidsave had moved a total of 144 children in Mykolaiv and Kherson out of orphanages and into families.

Kidsave is also a 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.

Kidsave's Employment Pathways to Success program serves youth ages 14-21, who are soon-to-exit or exiting government care, by providing them with assistance in developing essential life skills, emotional literacy, and workforce readiness, as well as finding mentors, internships and jobs. The program served thirty (30) new youth in 2021, and forty-five (45) youth from prior years.

In 2021 Kidsave's Family Visit Pilot Program in Ukraine served twenty (20) new youth and continued to aid forty-one (41) youth from prior years. Of the 61 children in the pilot program, thirty-six (59%) have moved out of orphanages and into permanent family care. Another fifteen (25%) were matched with dedicated hosts/mentors. The pilot program concluded in December 2021, but through Kidsave's training of partners, another 108 children were moved out of orphanages and placed in families: 44 children with kin/extended family members, 62 in family group homes, and two with adoptive families. Because of the massive success of this program, **Kidsave was in the process of expanding this program to six additional regions when the war began.**

*Since the crisis started, Kidsave has continued to operate both programs to the best of our ability, but we have allocated much of our resources to rescuing more than 26,000 people and providing more than 600 tons of aid.*

Visit [kidsave.org/standwithukraine](https://kidsave.org/standwithukraine) to see a timeline of our rescue and humanitarian aid efforts.

**75** teens served in 2021 through  
Corporate Mentoring

**144** children placed in families

For a complete view of the audit, visit  
Financials on our website.

Kidsave International, Inc. Statement of Financial  
Position December 31, 2021  
(with comparative totals for 2020)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021 Total	2020 Total
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash—Notes 2	\$ 2,316,934	\$ 123,284	\$ 2,440,218	\$ 1,755,607
Contributions and grants receivable, net—Note 6		142,350	142,350	280,988
Prepaid expenses and other assets	43,923		43,923	28,763
Security deposits	3,042		3,042	3,041
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,363,899</b>	<b>265,634</b>	<b>2,629,533</b>	<b>2,068,399</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Contributions and grants receivable—Note 6		176,665	176,665	206,665
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>176,665</b>	<b>176,665</b>	<b>206,665</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,363,899</b>	<b>\$ 442,299</b>	<b>\$ 2,806,198</b>	<b>\$ 2,275,064</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 37,215	\$	\$ 37,215	\$ 44,291
PPP advance—Note 8				216,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>37,215</b>		<b>37,215</b>	<b>260,291</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
EIDL loan—Note 9				150,000
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>				<b>150,000</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>37,215</b>		<b>37,215</b>	<b>410,291</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions—Note 10	2,326,684		2,326,684	1,218,948
Purpose-restricted		123,284	123,284	158,172
Time-restricted		319,015	319,015	487,653
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,326,684</b>	<b>442,299</b>	<b>2,768,983</b>	<b>1,864,773</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,363,899</b>	<b>\$ 442,299</b>	<b>\$ 2,806,198</b>	<b>\$ 2,275,064</b>

Kidsave International, Inc. Statement of  
 Activities  
 Year Ended December 31, 2021  
 (with comparative totals for 2020)

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>2021 Total</u>	<u>2020 Total</u>
<b>Operating Activities</b>				
<b>Support and Revenues</b>				
Contributions and grants PPP grant income	\$ 1,689,663	\$ 740,088	\$ 2,429,751	\$ 2,218,290
Summer Miracles host fees	432,000		432,000	
Government contracts	154,700		154,700	
In-kind contributions—Note 14	27,500		27,500	70,000
Interest and dividends	11,997		11,997	36,877
Miscellaneous income	2,069		2,069	
Net assets released from restrictions	296		296	6,077
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>943,614</b>	<b>(943,614)</b>	<b>3,058,313</b>	<b>2,331,244</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Program services</b>				
Weekend Miracles	636,729		636,729	394,767
Summer Miracles	456,753		456,753	315,239
International In-Country Permanency Programs	113,349		113,349	134,233
Permenency Initiatives	483,345		483,345	369,985
Public Education	168,907		168,907	150,974
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>1,859,083</b>		<b>1,859,083</b>	<b>1,365,198</b>
<b>Supporting services</b>				
Management and general	222,070		222,070	184,495
Fundraising	72,950		72,950	110,067
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,154,103</b>		<b>2,154,103</b>	<b>1,659,760</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>1,107,736</b>	<b>(203,526)</b>	<b>904,210</b>	<b>671,484</b>
<b>Nonoperating Activities</b>				
Income on Lake Show investment—Note 5				129,810
<b>Total Nonoperating Activities</b>				<b>129,810</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>1,107,736</b>	<b>(203,526)</b>	<b>904,210</b>	<b>801,294</b>
<b>Net Assets at</b>				
Beginning of Year	1,218,948	645,825	1,864,773	1,063,479
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,326,684</b>	<b>\$ 442,299</b>	<b>\$ 2,768,983</b>	<b>\$ 1,864,773</b>



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**KIDSAVE**

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kidsave.org

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