



2022 IMPACT REPORT



4 INITIATIVES



TELL THE STORY

With a strong internet presence, engagement on social media, and attendance at key events, we can bring awareness and voice to the over 400,000 children in U.S. foster care.



TRAIN THE CHURCH

The best place to find families for kids is in the local church. The more churches we train, the more healing homes are found for hurting children.



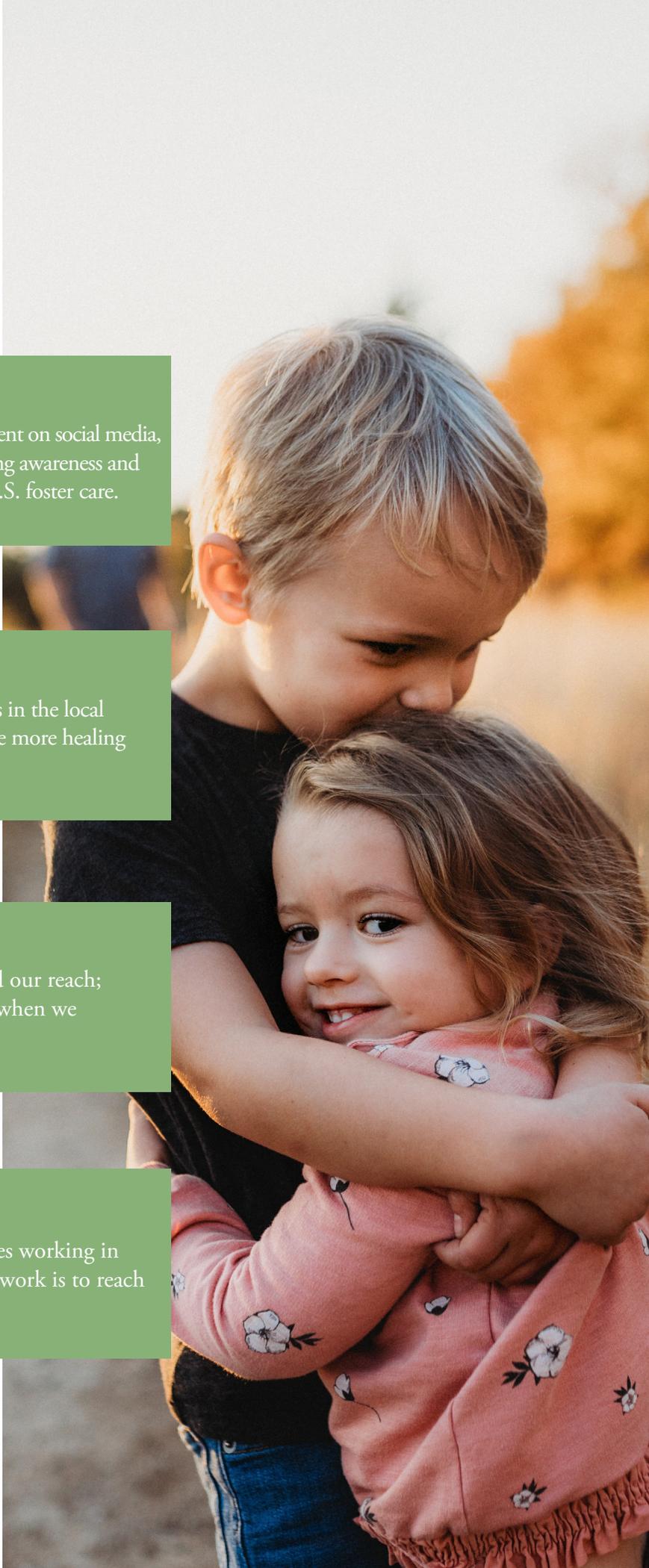
RAISE UP LEADERS

Additional trainers allow us to expand our reach; exponential growth can only happen when we multiply ourselves.



EQUIP NETWORKS

Networks are communities of churches working in collaboration together. To equip a network is to reach a multitude of churches.



2022 IMPACT OVERVIEW



OVER 500 KIDS Found Healing Homes



38

States Impacted



96,674

Total Miles Traveled



153,415

Minutes on Zoom Calls



298

Licensed Families



19,822

Ounces of Caffeine Consumed



465

Churches Engaged



817

Orphan Care Volunteers

Value of Volunteer Hours: \$2,544,791.60



1

International Network Engaged

2022 EXPENSES



PROGRAM	\$266,224.51
ADMINISTRATION	\$105,524.63
FUNDRAISING	\$78,934.27

TOTAL \$450,683.41

MOVING BEYOND OUR BACKYARD



When Backyard Orphans was established in 2011, the mission was determined with both national and international churches in mind. It's always been the goal to see local churches caring for the kids in their own backyard. Texas helping Texas' kids. New York helping New York's kids. Guatemala helping Guatemala's kids. You get it. We knew what God was starting in the United States, He wanted to take around the world.

“When the plane touched town in Honduras, I couldn't help but have flashbacks to the work God helped us accomplish in Guatemala for the last decade. I was grateful to have waded in the shallow end of international orphan care, but this opportunity was like jumping in the deep end! And it all started with a conversation at a Backyard Orphans booth.

‘We need your help in Honduras,’ Tara, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Identity Missions said to me. Through our conversation, it became clear that we shared the same mission. For nine years, Tara and her team at Identity Mission had been working to engage local Honduran pastors in foster care and adoption ministry. Was this God leading us to officially launch the international side of Backyard Orphans? We couldn't wait to see what God had in store through this new opportunity.”

—Eric Porter

The road to Honduras was full of checkpoints and preparation. The biggest hurdle to overcome was the language barrier. How could we guarantee that our strategic language would not become lost in translation? We needed to ensure that our translators were emphasizing Biblical and Church language over government language. We also had to find a way to help pastors see the value of placing hurting children in healing homes. In some cultures, orphanages are the only solution known. In others, children are placed in families but are treated more like servants. But God's way of adoption is different. Psalm 68:6 says that God places the lonely in institutions? No, “God sets the lonely in families!”



4 Resources Translated
to Spanish



“Faith is lived in the deep end of the pool. I had never been to another country, let alone taught in one! I pushed through feelings of insecurity. I worked to set aside my fears of inadequacy. Could I successfully teach cross-culturally? The answer? God gave me everything I needed. And not only did he guide me through, but he increased my confidence to a level far greater than it was before! The cracked door of Backyard Orphans' international ministry was about to be flung wide open.

—Leah Stovall

God was so faithful to our team as we ministered to the Honduran pastors. We were not only bringing them inspiration, but information on how to develop foster care, adoption, and support ministries in their local churches. We were telling pastors things they'd never heard before, and it was exhilarating to witness their reaction. We look forward to hearing the miracle stories that will come from the Honduran church orphan care ministries, and we are believing that one day there will be more families waiting for children than children waiting for families in Honduras!

We know that our work in Honduras is just scratching the surface of what God wants to do internationally through Backyard Orphans! God has given us the vision and opportunity to help the world reach the kids in their own backyard. Now, we need the partnership and provision to see it through. We believe one day God will bring in the funds to build out an international department in Backyard Orphans. Would you consider being a part of this initiative? Give today at donate.backyardorphans.org



STUCK

On January 10, 2022, the Georgia Bulldogs claimed the title of NCAA National Champions, defeating Alabama with an impressive final score of 33-18. This win sparked a spirit of celebration for all Georgia fans, and prompted a congratulatory text from our Founder and CEO, Eric Porter, to his former college roommate, Pastor Carl Nichols. One simple text about college football opened the door to a conversation about orphan care in the church, both the importance and the challenges of it.

Pastor Carl leads Relevant Church in Locust Grove, GA, just outside of Atlanta. Years prior, he had introduced foster care ministry into the DNA of the church, but the pandemic of 2020 brought things to an unexpected halt. The church experienced changes with key community partnerships and faced some controversial cultural challenges as well. In short, they felt stuck. They knew they had the capacity to impact the foster care community of Locust Grove, but they didn't know how to move the mission forward given the circumstances.

At Backyard Orphans, we meet churches where they're at, whether they're brand new or simply "stuck". Our model equips churches to work with local child welfare and child placing agencies, and we know that can be difficult. Sometimes the relationship between church and state benefits from having a mediator to facilitate healthy boundaries and define clear roles. This enables both parties to work



8 Churches Trained



together cohesively for the sake of more children finding families.

We were honored to be able to guide Relevant Church as they built the necessary relationships in their community. Despite the unique cultural challenges that required navigating, we were able to help establish smooth processes that allowed all parties to work together. The mission was beginning to move forward again!

Relevant Church successfully launched their orphan care ministry on October 15th, 2022 and we could tell right away, this church was all in! Church staff and members alike helped to bring all of the pieces together. God blessed Pastor Carl with an ability to communicate clearly and translate Biblical principles into the orphan care space. This is so important to the success and sustainability of an orphan care ministry—promotion from the pulpit, implementation from the pew! And that is exactly what we have seen from Relevant Church. Since launch Sunday, their passionate work has led to 13 families interested in foster care and/or adoption and 21 volunteers eager to wrap around and provide support.

“Investing in the life of one child won’t change the world. But for that one child, it will change his or her world.”

-Pastor Carl Nichols

We are humbled and grateful to be able to serve churches like Relevant Church. We know that there are others around the nation who are passionate about orphan care, but need a guide and a roadmap to begin (or perhaps begin again). That’s where we come in! Whether your church is starting from scratch or feeling stuck, Backyard Orphans is here to help! Learn more at our website or connect with our team at nextsteps.backyardorphans.org.



1000 MORE

Orphan care is an everyone ministry. There is no denying that God gave a biblical mandate to care for vulnerable children, but it can be intimidating and overwhelming. Many people avoid this ministry not for lack of heart, but for a lack of know-how. And how will they know how unless someone teaches them?

Trainers are the backbone of ministry at Backyard Orphans. They are the “beautiful feet” sent to train church leaders to do the “work of the ministry” called orphan care (Ephesians 4:12). Each year we seek to recruit more trainers, so that more churches can raise up more families, so that more hurting children can find healing homes! 2022 was no different! This November, we saw God multiply our team yet again!

The Trainer’s Summit is meant to provide an immersive and relational experience for each participant. Our goal is for trainers to leave equipped to guide church leaders in developing a foster care, adoption, and support ministry. Attendees are given the necessary resources and opportunities to begin utilizing the gifts God has given them for this purpose! They are trained in the Backyard Orphans E3 model: to Engage, Equip and Empower churches in orphan care service.

The 2022 Trainer’s Summit was outstanding! We commissioned 5 new trainers who will continue their preparation with an additional 6 months of coaching calls and modeling-based training. Once a trainer has been fully equipped, he or she will help an average of 200 kids find families annually! That’s 1000 kids who can be reached through this year’s class of trainers!



**5 Trainers
Commissioned**



The beauty of the Trainers’ Summit is that it is made possible by the collaboration of many. One of our partner churches hosted the event. Volunteers served by gathering supplies, organizing meals, and creating a comfortable learning environment. And other organizations helped by recruiting and sending leaders to attend and complete the training. (Potential trainers are vetted over the course of weeks or months before receiving an invitation to join us in DFW for the 3-day Summit.)

We believe God is going to continue sending us trainers so that more kids can find family, and ultimately find Jesus!

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” Romans 10:14-15

To learn more about Trainer’s Summit and how you can become a trainer, visit nextsteps.backyardorphans.org.



A MOVEMENT FOR THE VOICELESS

Vision is “the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom” (Oxford English Dictionary). Habakkuk 2:2 says, “And the Lord answered me: ‘Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.’”

11 years ago, God gave us a vision for church-based orphan care that launched us on an incredible journey. When we saw the overwhelming problem of 400,000 kids in U.S. foster care, God pointed out the solution: 350,000 churches.

The vision we saw was of such great magnitude that writing it down felt overwhelming. But the biggest question remained: how in the world do we get those kids into the families of these churches when most Christians don’t know there is a need and most pastors have never been trained to navigate the foster care system? To add to the conundrum, we were new to this space, learning as we went. We found ourselves with crystal clear vision but a strategy that God seemed to be revealing piece by piece.

When we began, foster care and adoption ministries were few and far between and there were no networks of churches joining forces to help kids find families. Over the last decade, however, we have seen God work miracles. The number of churches, networks, and missionaries involved in foster care and adoption has grown exponentially! We have seen firsthand the power of collaborative effort within the “Big C” Church. Across denominational, geographical, and demographical divides is God’s Church moving together toward a common goal: to see more hurting children find healing homes.



281 Attendees at AGFCN Conference



It all started with one trainer engaging, equipping, and empowering one church at a time to serve the kids in their one community. As we grew, so did our capacity. God gave us favor to begin training networks. As of today, Backyard Orphans has had the privilege of helping 15 networks (each representing between a dozen and 600+ individual churches) launch a formal orphan care ministry!

Vision, collaboration, and multiplication. We’ve seen these themes woven throughout our journey, but three weeks ago we experienced them like never before at the launch of the Assemblies of God Foster Care Network (AGFCN) Conference! Scan the QR code to check out the highlight video!



Walking into the sanctuary on opening night of the conference was electric. Nearly 300 church leaders from 38 states (including Hawaii and Alaska!) and 41 networks were represented! The effort to put on an event like this allowed 27 different foster care organizations to collaborate together to serve the churches.

The service kicked off with an excitement that is difficult to explain. We were standing in an answered prayer. “Revival will come from this conference, from the kids represented in this room,” proclaimed many leaders in many different ways. It was the start of something huge and everyone present could feel it. History was being made.

Many giants of the faith had believed for years that God would create a network for church leaders such as this, and even the commissioner of Texas stated, “We don’t pray without following it up with action... The Church should be a refuge and a safe place. Is it?” The commissioner charged all Church leaders with these powerful words.

In unity, every church leader in the room was praising and believing God for His vision to come to fruition: that one day there would be more families waiting on children than children waiting on families.

It was not just a moment, it was a movement for the voiceless. Hearts were stirred. New ministries were birthed. Long term ministries were given fresh vision. And everyone left ready to start something.

We believe God will continue to build on the things He sparked in October 2022 at the AGFCN Conference. Next year we anticipate being joined by even more pastors, churches, and networks. We believe all 13,000 Assemblies of God churches can and will do something for the 400,000 kids in U.S. foster care. We can’t wait to see what God will do through you! The dates have already been set for 2023. Visit agfostercare.network/conference2023 and save the date so you don’t miss out!





YEARS OF IMPACT

Since 2012, we have seen...

3

Intl. Networks Engaged

1,650

Kids found Healing Homes

22

Networks Impacted

85,028

Oz. of caffeine

38

States Impacted

466,419

Miles Traveled

216

Churches Trained

475,779

Minutes on Zoom Calls



Let's stay in touch!



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