PROJECTS



TELL THE STORY

There are over 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system. The problems they face are outside of their control and the solutions they need are beyond their reach. While they can't knock on the door of the Church and plead, "help me," we can on their behalf! Proverbs 31:8 tells us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. We are called to 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 hurting children in our own backyard.

GOALS

Develop strategic attention grabbing tools
We will continue to develop cutting edge strategies through dynamic blogs and social media presence, Google ads, geofencing and much more. Our top-of-the-line communications team seeks to create an inspiring and engaging marketing strategy utilizing the most modern tools we have access to.

Participate in over 30 events to engage church leaders aorund the U.S.
Engage thousands of new pastors and church leaders by sponsoring and participating in 20+ events and conferences each year. $150,000 will allow us to offer resources and team members to countless points of contact at each of these events across the nation. These resources will begin to tell the story to people who have never understood the realities of foster care.





TRAIN THE CHURCH

Hearing that there are 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system can feel intimidating. That is, until you realize that there are 350,000 churches in the U.S.! If every church had one foster family, we could empty out the system today! Sounds easy, right?

With the Church as the solution, the orphan crisis is problem solvable. This is true! But, with a high burnout rate among foster families, the problem extends deeper. Studies show that 50% of foster families who become licensed today will quit after a year, and another 50% will quit the next year! These statistics are staggeringly high. The number one reason these families are quitting is a lack of support. They can't do it alone! That's where Backyard Orphans comes in. We help churches start foster care, adoption, and support ministries.

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. With the Church as the solution, the orphan crisis is problem solvable...if everyone--every demographic and church--owns the problem and becomes part of the solution!

GOALS

Guide 15 churches through our 18-month process to a sustainable ministry
Backyard Orphans will continue to equip one church at a time to build a sustainable and effective foster care and adoption ministry. We will equip 15 churches through an 18-month process that includes workshops, coaching, exclusive resources, partner development and a robust ministry launch.

Develop resources like our church leader prayer guide: prayer.backyardorphans.org
We ask our team the questions: What needs do pastors have? And how can we seek to meet those needs? These have led us to dozens of new resources being developed that help churches in multiple areas including, connecting with child welfare, equipping kids in serving other kids and how to effectively pray for the foster care system. You can see an example at prayer.backyardorphans.org

Train 38,000 Orphan Care Ambassadors
The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. These children are often voiceless and we need to equip more church leaders to speak-up for these children. This new program will have a global scale. It will have prerecorded videos that will be a click-through online training for church leaders to become certified as Orphan Care Ambassadors to engage the over 350,000 churches in the U.S. to understand the plight of vulnerable children and to articulate the Biblical church-based solutions.

Train NextGen church volunteers to care for children who experienced trauma
Whether a church leader realizes it or not, there are already children from hard places attending their church. Serving these kids "like normal" may not be the most effective way to communicate love and care for kids in these situations. Trauma makes things more complicated and NextGen volunteer teams can serve kids from trauma in incredible ways with the right training and tools. Backyard Orphans will continue to train these volunteers to serve all kids from hard places.

Train church staff in understanding Bible-based orphan care
Foster care and adoption ministry cannot be both effective and a silo ministry within a church. This ministry affects every department within a church. Our team of trainers will continue to educate entire church staff teams in understanding a Biblical perspective of orphan care.

EQUIP NETWORKS

In addition to training individual churches, we have the opportunity to equip entire networks (communities of churches working in collaboration together). To equip a network is to reach a multitude of churches. It is ministry multiplied! We present a proven, sustainable strategy that, when woven into the DNA of the network, establishes an orphan care culture that will outlast the current leadership.

We have seen great success in this network model throughout the country and beyond. What we're finding is that regional, state, and national network leaders desire to lead their churches in orphan care. They feel the burden of the Biblical mandate, but are often overwhelmed by the process. Perhaps they don't know where to start, how to form the critical partnerships necessary, or what the best practices are. It can be intimidating, but our team is equipped to help!

GOALS

Train 2 U.S. networks annually
A network of churches can be denominationally, geographically or culturally connected. These connections unite groups of churches to reach more people. As a network works together, they are able to help churches grow in a healthy way. Equipping networks through workshops, coaching, resource development, and incredible ministry launches. $127,000 will allow Backyard Orphans to equip 2 networks per year, which can in turn train dozens of churches.

Train 2 international networks annually
The need for orphan care ministry is not exclusive to the United States. We are committed to multiplying this movement around the world. Each year we plan to develop culturally appropriate versions of our training programs and empower believers around the world to reach kids through the local church.



RAISE UP LEADERS

The future ministry of orphan care depends on a future generation of leaders called to the cause. We are committed to raising up leaders through our Trainer Summit and college engagement strategy.

Our Trainer Summit is designed to help us reach more children. Addition helps us grow, but exponential impact only happens when we multiply ourselves. With God's help, one Backyard Orphans trainer is able to impact the lives of 170 kids in one year.

Our college engagement strategy exists to reach the next generation with the message of orphan care. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We need future pastors preaching James 1:27, future business owners funding non-profits, and future leaders engaging churches around the globe.

GOALS

Train 5 additional leaders at our Trainer Summit in Dallas, TX
Each year, we meet in Dallas, TX to download the knowledge this team has accrued over the last decade to train churches. Each Summit will train around 5 new trainers from all around the U.S.

Preach in and equip 2-3 colleges in caring for children, youth, and families involved in foster care
College is a great place for young people to discover their passion and decide their future mission. Exposing college students to the need of foster families, church ministries and social workers will recruit more leaders in each of these areas. $10,000 will allow our team to reach 2-3 more colleges this year.

Train up and care for an excellent staff team to carry out the mission, vision, and strategy of Backyard Orphans
Being a good steward of finances is important, being a good steward of the team God has given us is crucial. Without people there is no voice to share and without voices there will not be people to answer the call to foster, adopt and support. We will train up new staff and care for them as they care for kids who need family. This will create an even more excellent team to carry out the mission, vision, and strategy of Backyard Orphans.

Create and implement a multiple year StratOp plan for Backyard Orphans
After 10 years of equipping churches to foster, adopt, and do orphan care we need the next 5 year written out mission and vision. Habakkuk 2:2 tells us to write out the vision, make it plain, so that others can run. God is opening up monumental opportunities and our team is committed to steward these state, national, and global opporunites. We want to avoid mission drift and remian laser focused. This training also positions us to assist these network opportunites to implement similar written strategies.





HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE

Go to **donate.backyardorphans.org** to give a one time gift or set up a recurring gift to continue seeing kids find family all year-around.

MAIL

You may mail your checks to
PO Box 127 Midlothian, TX 76065.
Checks payable to Backyard Orphans