

summer 2017

# ONE MORE CHILD

## THE ADVENTURE OF LOVING CHILDREN WELL

Connect your God-given  
passions with the constant  
needs of children and families.

 Florida Baptist  
Children's  
Homes

 the  
porch  
light

 Orphan's  
Heart



# SEEKING ADVENTURE?

## MESSAGE FROM DR. HAAG

President, Florida Baptist Children's Homes,  
The Porch Light & Orphan's Heart

We all long for adventure! Each of us has a different appetite for it. I have a friend whose sense of adventure can be summed up by substituting baked potatoes for hash brown casserole. Not me!

Christi and I share a spirit of adventure that has summoned us to whitewater rafting, skydiving, spearfishing and crazy long races, such as the 50-miler I ran in Utah last year.

But the most incredible adventure I have ever experienced involves caring for children. As Christians, we are called to an adventure filled with countless unknowns, and the most significant things we control are our faith and obedience. We do not know how everything is going to turn out, but we do know WHO is guiding our steps and that there is purpose in them.

The journeys of foster parents put them face-to-face with brokenness, where answers are not always immediately recognizable. They must trust that God will provide them wisdom.

I have personally gathered food to feed a hungry child in Lakeland. Our Harold Clark Simmons Compassion Center was instrumental in providing more than 3 million meals domestically and internationally in 2016.

The adventure has taken me to homes where children have been rescued from deplorable conditions, where filth and feces had to be shoveled out in order to collect their belongings. I have seen these children then thrive once they are given life-changing love by house parents, foster parents or adoptive parents.

I have treasured the relationship we have with kids across the globe, like Jeremiah, who was plagued with medical problems, but is now healthy, thriving and singing songs about Jesus because of our work through Orphan's Heart in Uganda.

This adventure has taken us inside the chambers of the Florida State Capitol to fight for children's futures, it has led us to emaciated communities around the world where God has shown us first-hand what His heart is burdened by, and it continues to lead me and our entire organization to meet the needs of One More Child and introduce them to the incomparable love of Jesus Christ.

In Philippians Paul writes, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As we stare down hardships in the lives of children and turn to God to process the tragedies we see, we press on.

We press on for children in our safe home that provides healing and restoration for girls victimized by sex trafficking, realizing that so many more are bonded as sex slaves across the state and around the world.

We press on in a culture where so many children live in unstable families.

Through this adventure I have rejoiced, with tears, as a mom and dad hold their adopted son or daughter for the first time; I have witnessed first-hand the transformation that is possible for a Brave Mom when they have fled from violence or a dysfunctional family and finally have a safe space to raise their child or children; I have been elated to see a child experiencing his or her very first "real" Christmas with presents, a tree, and a celebration of Jesus' birth.

At Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart, we want to show you the opportunities to match your greatest passion with our unchanging mission of providing Christ-centered care to children and families.

We invite you to an adventure where we don't know all the places you will go, the weathered faces you will encounter or the heartbreaks that will drive you to your knees. We do know that lives will be changed and the impact will be eternal as together we embark on a lifelong journey to share God's love with One More Child.

Jerry T. Haag, Ph.D., CFP®

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# CONTENTS

summer 2017

## 3 FACES OF FOSTERING

Meet some of the amazing people who make it possible to meet the needs of One More Child in the foster system.



## 6 WHEN THE "UNEXPECTED" HAPPENS

Where can mothers turn when they find out they are pregnant and feel all alone?

## 7 A DIVINE PRESCRIPTION

An East Coast trio meet a gravely ill baby 3,500 miles away.



## 11 "IT WAS LIKE A FOREIGN WORLD"

How house parents helped shape a teen whose life had been marked by trauma.

## 12 STARTING WITH CLASSROOMS, POINTING TOWARD CHRIST

Get an inside look at how Orphan's Heart's partnership in Uganda is raising a generation that is educated and filled with hope.

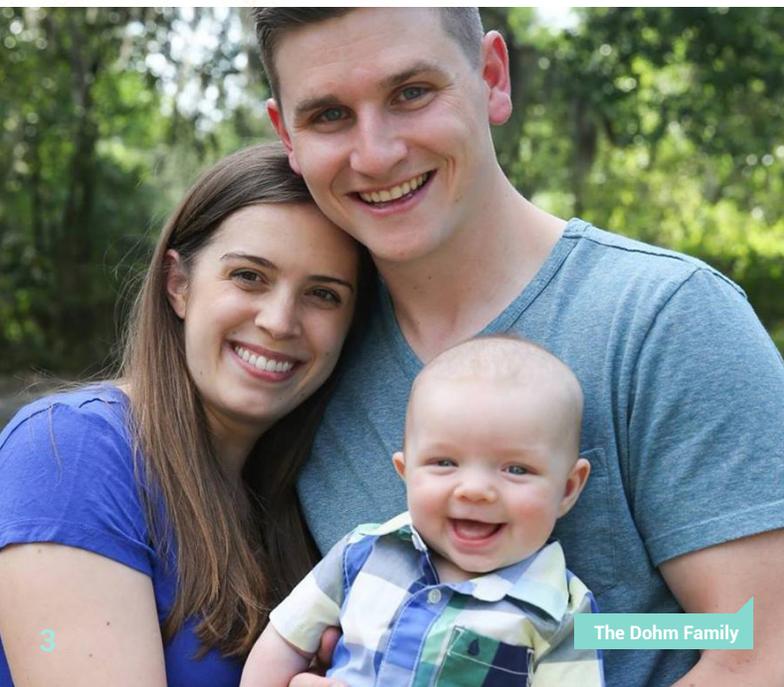




The Bump Family



The Staats Family



The Dohm Family

# FACES *OF* FOSTER CARE

Amazing couples at all stages of life are opening their homes to share the love of Christ with children in the foster care system. Check out just a few of the rock stars who allow us to place hundreds of children in loving Christian homes, and consider how you might be next!

## JOHN AND KRISTA BUMP

Tallahassee

### How many years have you served as a foster parent, and to how many children?

We are in our eighth year fostering and have fostered 54 children. We have adopted five of those children.

### Why did you become a foster parent?

I (Krista) love to say ... my husband (John) made me do it! Truthfully, however, for more than five years John had a deep calling to foster. But I felt as if my heart could not handle the pain of taking in children only to see them leave. Over the years, Jesus softened my heart and I finally said "Yes." John's passion was right! Jesus took my biggest fear and turned it into our greatest strength. Though it is painful, what we love most is seeing Jesus heal and reunite families. More than 40 of our foster children have been reunited with their families, who in turn, become our family in most cases.

### Why do you continue to be a foster parent?

We often ask ourselves this question, especially after adopting our fifth child two years ago. But we constantly find ourselves saying we have the room and love. Therefore, we say "Yes." Almost always, I (Krista) find myself crying after a child leaves, and my sweet son Jack consoles me. I tell Jack, "I don't know if I can do this again." In Jack's childlike faith, he says, "But the babies need us, Mom." My biological children are amazing and loving with each foster child.

### Describe your family dynamic.

We have a 23-year-old biological daughter who does not live at home but is an amazing big sister. As mentioned, we have one biological son, Jack, who is 11. Out of the 54 children we have fostered, we have adopted five: Davieon, 7; Jamail, 6; twins Josiah and Johnathan, 4; and Valayeh, 2. Also, we currently have two

foster daughters who are 18 months old and 5 months old. We homeschool our children, and John is a building contractor.

**What's your favorite activity to do as a family?**

Our favorite family activity is camping. We have an RV and travel with all nine children, going to the mountains, hiking and camping.

**What has God taught you as a foster parent?**

God has taught us many things, the biggest lesson being trust! Jesus is in charge and we are not. We can't control many things in the foster system, and though it is hard because of the love and adoration we develop for each child, we know and trust that Jesus sees them and loves them more than we ever could. Jesus is with each child, and the love and kindness we shared will always be in their hearts.

**FRED AND PRISCILLA STAATS**

Orlando

**How many years have you served as a foster parent, and to how many children?**

We're starting our seventh year and have fostered eight children. We had one set of siblings for 3 years and 9 months.

**Why did you become foster parents?**

It was Sanctity of Life Sunday at First Baptist Orlando. A former foster child spoke and her message really touched our hearts. The following Saturday, we went to the church's Crisis Center to see how we could help. At that point, we were directed to Florida Baptist Children's Homes. The following week, FBCH held an orientation and we were there, ready to sign up! We both had retired and originally had planned to buy a fifth wheel and travel.

**Why do you continue to be foster parents?**

We truly believe this is what God has called us to do. Nothing else has been as challenging and rewarding as helping children who have been neglected or who are in danger. Helping these children live

a better life for as long as we have them makes life worth living and far outweighs anything else we could be doing.

**Describe your family dynamic.**

We are retired and have five biological children and 10 grandchildren. However, we felt there was more we could do, since even the grandchildren are growing up.

**What's your favorite activity to do as a family?**

We all love going to the Orlando Science Center. There is something there for everyone and often our grandchildren go along with our foster children.

**What has God taught you as a foster parent?**

Love and patience. God will be there in your time of need with the answer.

**ERICH AND ERIN DOHM**

Lakeland

**How many years have you served as a foster parent, and to how many children?**

We have been foster parents for two years and have fostered five children (two respite, one sibling group of three).

**Why did you become a foster parent?**

There was a righteous motivation to live out the Gospel and bring reconciliation to broken families. However, there was also a silent expectation of personal fulfillment and satisfaction associated with parenting a young child. Little did we know the Lord would turn our expectation for one child into a sibling group of three. Our idol of personal fulfillment was quickly revealed as the transition was tougher than we expected. However, God has been gracious to redeem our motivations for foster care and transform our hearts for the orphan. God has lavished grace upon grace, giving us more joy through loving and parenting our three foster children than we ever could have imagined.

**Why do you continue to be a foster parent?**

We're still on our first placement. If/when they are reunified, we will continue to foster because we know the huge need

for foster families. We want to continue to love on foster children and their families.

**Describe your family dynamic.**

We currently have three foster children, ages 5, 3 and 2. We also have a biological son who is 4 months old. Our family dynamic has continued to change over the past two years, as we did not have any biological children when a sibling group was placed with us. Soon after, we learned our foster children had a sister. Six months later, we welcomed her into our home. One month later, we found out we were expecting our first biological child. Over the course of 16 months, we went from zero to four children. We are learning every moment, and we are thankful for God's grace carrying us through all the transitions.

**What's your favorite activity to do as a family?**

Our foster children love to do anything outside! We frequently go to the park, take evening walks around our neighborhood and go out for ice cream. We also will take some longer day trips to the beach, zoo, theme parks, etc.

**What has God taught you as a foster parent?**

God has taught us that Jesus Christ is enough. All too often, we find ourselves trying to be the functional "saviors" for our three foster children, trying to shield them from brokenness. We are often reminded that we have no control over the final outcome for our foster children. But, we also are reminded that we serve a good and gracious God, and for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28). Foster care is God's calling in our lives. We have learned that Jesus Christ will always meet us no matter how hard the case. Jesus gives us sweet glimpses of His love for us and the children we serve on His behalf.

**TO FIND OUT WHEN OUR NEXT FOSTER CARE INFORMATIONAL OR TRAINING CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED, VISIT FBCHOMES.ORG OR CALL 1-855-51-CHILD.**



Eleanor and  
Wayne Robison

# FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO HUMBLE SERVANTS

"Once you are saved and a Christian, giving comes from your gut," said Eleanor Robison.

Eleanor and her husband, Wayne – the founders of Rulon International in St. Augustine – epitomize what it means to live out that statement. They graciously partner with many organizations focused on caring for children, including Florida Baptist Children's Homes. Rulon International is a leader in its field of high-end architectural wood ceiling and wall systems, but its leadership extends far beyond the business realm. As self-proclaimed cheerleaders of the "underdog," Wayne and Eleanor diligently seek to glorify God through their work.

"Eleanor and I have a mission and ministry to follow God's instructions in the Bible to care for and help the orphans, widows and poor on this earth," Wayne said. "We believe Florida Baptist Children's Homes is an organization doing this service for The Lord, and our company, Rulon International, has been very blessed in being able to help their organization."

Wayne, one of 15 children in his family, and Eleanor, who grew up in Scotland with 10 siblings, come from humble beginnings.

"We grew up with nothing, barely had any clothes," she said.

Their personal histories are close to their mind as they work to change the lives of other children in need.

As faithful partners in the ministry of FBCH, Wayne and Eleanor are providing the resources to meet the physical needs of many children. But it's the spiritual impact – the healing power of God's love – that they know will make an eternal difference for generations to come.

"God has given us the ability ... to give," Eleanor said. "It's a miracle. The more we give, we just can't out-give."

**Over the next three years, Orphan's Heart is slated to provide nearly 40,000 meals in Tanzania and more than 75,000 meals in Uganda to children in need through several of its longest standing feed programs.**

Our capacity to impact the lives of thousands of children through life-changing food and nourishment was made possible by the planting of a seed and God's abundant grace.

The seed was planted seven years ago when an Orphan's Heart mission team traveled to Uganda and saw the overwhelming need to feed countless children living in severe poverty. From that seed grew the implementation of feeding programs in Soroti and Kamonkoli, Uganda, and Moshi, Tanzania.

The continued success and sustainability of each feeding program is possible because of the diligent efforts of obedient workers who help run the programs, the selfless donors who faithfully fund the programs, and the willingness of people coming together for the same purpose of feeding and nourishing One More Child.

"I've had the privilege of making consistent visits to Uganda, which has provided me the chance to witness, over time, the remarkable effects that proper nutrition has had on the health and well-being of the children," said Dr. Jerry Haag, president of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart.

Feeding programs and child sponsorships – which help provide food to children and their families – are a critical part of being able to share the love of Christ. Proper nourishment allows these children to develop and maintain healthy bodies and minds, which, in turn, allows them to grow closer to and stronger in Christ.

Every gift to our feeding programs makes it possible to provide life-changing food to more children and share with them the love of Christ.

"It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What is important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:7-9 (NLT)



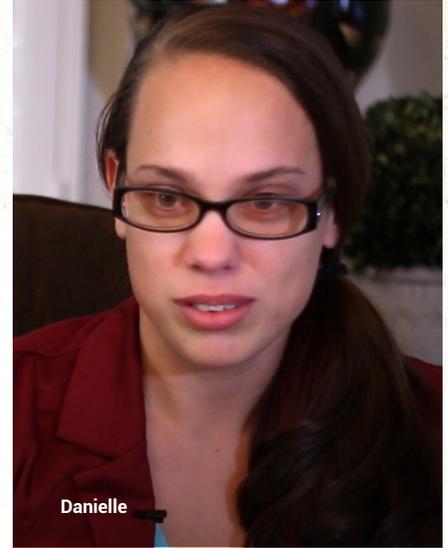
**To make a special gift to feed One More Child today visit [OrphansHeart.org/give-now](http://OrphansHeart.org/give-now).**



Sierra



Christine



Danielle

# TACKLING THE UNCERTAINTY OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES

Their names are Danielle, Sierra and Christine. They are 25, 21 and 36 years old.

If they bumped into each other at the store, they would probably politely smile at each other – however, they would have no way of recognizing the shared roads they have traveled.

They are on solid ground today, working toward brighter futures for themselves and their loved ones, armed with a true understanding of what it means to be loved by Christ. But at one point, each faced an unexpected intersection and encountered the life-altering reality that many women in our communities are blessed with – or “hit with,” depending on their circumstances or state of mind: **unplanned pregnancies.**

In 2010, the most recent year with established data from the Guttmacher Institute, more than 200,000 women in Florida faced unintended pregnancies;

women from all different backgrounds, facing completely unique, yet starkly comparable circumstances.

Danielle said when she found out she was pregnant “it was scary,” and she didn’t know who to turn to or where to go.

Sierra said it was a “shock” and she started to think about her options – possibly abortion or maybe family raising her child.

Christine, the mother of four children, realized she didn’t have the resources to care for another child, and almost immediately, she knew she wanted to place him for adoption.

At Florida Baptist Children’s Homes, we understand the anxiety and uncertainty that comes with unplanned pregnancy, and our expert, compassionate staff is dedicated to supporting women and families facing these tough decisions.

Our team helps pregnant women explore life-affirming decisions that give them freedom to determine the best option for them and their children. We offer open adoptions, semi-open adoptions and closed adoptions. If a woman chooses

adoption, she is provided profiles of potential adoptive families and has the opportunity to talk with them and meet them.

Through our Sanctity of Human Life program, we provide educational resources to more than 200 pregnancy care clinics around the state, and we encourage churches and individuals to refer women who could benefit from our services.

A referral to Florida Baptist Children’s Homes ensures that women like Danielle are provided ongoing support and shown the incomparable love of Christ. Danielle said she felt so loved when she was reading through profiles of prospective adoptive families, and a letter in the packet said that the parents were already praying for the birth mom who was reading it. Ultimately, Danielle chose adoption for her child, and we want to help more women and children experience the same joy.

“I wasn’t just giving my child away and walking away,” she said. “I was placing my child with a family that would give him love and attention and all of the things he needed.”

To find out how Sierra, Christine and Danielle’s stories played out, and to learn more about how you can help women facing unplanned pregnancies, visit [FBCHomes.org/unplannedpregnancy](http://FBCHomes.org/unplannedpregnancy).



# TINY HANDS, BIG GOD

How God used mission team members to help restore a fragile life.



Carlos being fed by a team member in mid-March, just days after he arrived at the Malnutrition Center.



At 44 days old and weighing merely 3 pounds, Carlos Alexander was helpless when he arrived at the Malnutrition Center in San Juan, Sacatepéquez. After he was abandoned by his mother, the government placed Carlos at the center. He was struggling to eat, gain weight and sustain a sufficient body temperature. The Malnutrition Center successfully intervenes in the lives of hundreds of malnourished children each year, but Carlos' circumstances were so grave that even a doctor at the center found himself shaking his head in concern.

More than 3,500 miles away, three young women from Boston boarded a flight headed for the Malnutrition Center. One of the women, 30-year-old Briana Spohr, was a return mission trip participant with Orphan's Heart. Two years earlier, Briana fired up a Google search for "orphans in Guatemala." Her search produced Orphan's Heart. Briana quickly signed up for a trip, venturing to Guatemala for a life-changing experience.

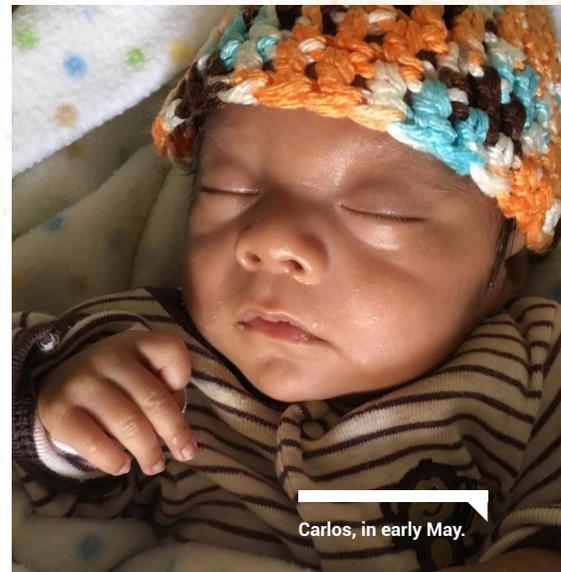
This time, Briana returned with her younger sister and her cousin. Briana's

sister, Felicia, is a clinical advisor with extensive experience with premature babies. Felicia had been on a medical mission trip before, and the opportunity to work with malnourished children with two of her best friends gave her high hopes for this trip. With wheels up, checked bags full of supplies and hearts filled with expectations, the "Boston crew" trekked to Guatemala ready to serve.

Twenty-four hours later, the team attended orientation. Carlos' grave situation was explained to the team for the first time. When



Felicia, a missions team member from Boston, played a big role in helping restore Carlos to health.



Carlos, in early May.

Each day of the weeklong trip, mission team members and center staff sacrificed their time and resources for Carlos. Female staff and team members frequently “kangarooed” Carlos – providing skin-to-skin contact – to help equalize Carlos’ low body temperature, a common symptom of malnourishment and prematurity.

In the United States, a baby in Carlos’ condition likely would be surrounded by tubes and incubators. But God saw Carlos’ situation differently and surrounded him with the body of Christ, divine appointments and a caring family at the Malnutrition Center.

Carlos’ story is a testimony of One More Child being affected positively by our Christ-centered services. Though Carlos’ future is unknown, his time at the Malnutrition Center ensures that his life will be defined not by abandonment and neglect but by his status as a child of God.

group assignments were determined, Felicia was assigned to Carlos’ group.

Among the supplies the women from Boston brought was formula designed specifically for premature babies just like Carlos. Approximately five days after Carlos’ arrival, hope emerged in his solemn situation.

Felicia, alongside Orphan’s Heart staff, worked extensively with Carlos during a critical time. Felicia also developed a deep

and almost inexplicable relationship with Carlos as she helped ensure his survival.

“She (Felicia) created a very special bond with Carlos, helping him ‘survive’ those first days at the Malnutrition Center,” said Olivia Juarez, national ministry coordinator in Guatemala for Orphan’s Heart. “Carlos also connected with everyone at the Malnutrition Center since his arrival, as our doctor, nurses, nannies and team members had the chance to care for him. Everyone is completely amazed at what God is doing in Carlos’ life.”

Every bottle, every cradle and every prayer mattered in the most critical moments of Carlos’ life. A few ounces at a time, Carlos began gaining weight, growing in strength and becoming more responsive every day. Within a few months, Carlos had more than doubled in weight, and today, mission teams and staff at the Malnutrition Center continue to be part of a story that God is scripting beautifully through faithful servants from all over the world.



NIGHT OF ONE MILLION MEALS  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart are excited to debut the One More Child Celebration Ball on **Saturday, September 16!** Save the date for an evening of great food, entertainment and fun as we join together to raise One Million Meals for children in need and to celebrate the incredible work God is doing. We hope to see you there!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT [FBCHomes.org/Celebration](http://FBCHomes.org/Celebration).

## GROWING HIS KINGDOM ONE MORE CHILD AT A TIME

Kevin and Norma Hazel are committed to sharing Christ's love with the world, and it begins right here at Florida Baptist Children's Homes and The Porch Light. They first learned of the ministry at a Women on Missions conference held at their church where a representative from FBCH shared the need to reach out and help children who were facing difficult life circumstances.

"After Kevin's retirement, we repurposed ourselves to include supporting selected charities and decided to tour the Lakeland campus. It was there that we learned of the excellent work being done with children and heard about The Porch Light ministry," Norma said.

Since that time, Kevin and Norma have given generously to God's great work through FBCH and The Porch Light. They provide educational opportunities for children living on the FBCH campuses to help them grow and thrive as they prepare for post-secondary education and future careers. They also support the incredible work taking place through The Porch Light. Through their contributions, the ministry provides hope and healing to young women who have been trafficked, as well as training and education to thousands more as we work to put an end to this terrible reality.

Kevin and Norma are committed individuals who share God's blessings to help reach One More Child for Christ. Their witness is an example for us all.

**KEVIN AND NORMA SAID IT BEAUTIFULLY:**  
"OBEDIENCE LED US TO TITHE; PRAYER LED US TO BE CHARITABLE; HIS SPIRIT LED US TO FBCH AND THE PORCH LIGHT. WE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SEEK THEIR PATH, AND HOPEFULLY JOIN US AND OTHERS IN GROWING HIS KINGDOM."



Kevin and Norma Hazel continue to help change the lives of children through FBCH and The Porch Light.

# SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN.

The Porch Light was proud to be a lead organizer, along with Into the Jordan Ministries and One Purse, for the 2017 Florida Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Day in Tallahassee on April 13. The event included a prayer breakfast, survivors panel, march to the capitol and press conference. Dr. Jerry Haag, president of Florida Baptist Children's Homes, The Porch Light and Orphan's Heart, was privileged to speak at the press conference, along with legislators and community influencers who are committed to combating sex trafficking.



“

**Our legislators play such an important role in crafting legislation to make sure that child victims are treated as victims and are not prosecuted as criminals.**

– Dr. Jerry Haag, President, The Porch Light

”



“

I believe that in every single generation we have an opportunity, a moment with which we're faced head-on with the realization that something is wrong, something very evil is happening in our midst. Each generation has a choice to make: Will it stand collectively to fight the evil, or will it turn a blind eye and let evil triumph in its very midst?

– Representative Ross Spano

”



To stay informed on important legislation regarding sex trafficking and find out how you can help fight it in your community, please **“like” The Porch Light on Facebook.**



## SENATOR CONTINUES TO FIGHT AGAINST SEX TRAFFICKING

Earlier this year, the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate submitted the 2017-18 budget to Governor Scott that include an appropriation to help increase The Porch Light's ability to care for child sex trafficking victims and educate more people about the heinous crime.

The governor approved the appropriation. It will make a significant impact in being able to make a difference in the lives of more children and in compelling more people to join the fight against sex trafficking.

We are especially thankful to our longtime supporter Senator Kelli Stargel, who was a sponsor of the appropriation. She has been a tireless advocate in the battle to protect the rights of victims and to help ensure laws are passed that maximize the punishment for predators.

We thank Senator Stargel for her bold leadership in the Florida Senate, which is helping bring justice and restoration to children who have been abandoned, neglected and abused.





Raeanna says Florida Baptist Children's Homes helped shape her into the mother she is today for her daughter, Aria.

# ONE CHILD'S STORY: FINDING PEACE IN CHAOS

At 3 years old, Raeanna's dad passed away of a drug overdose. Twelve years later, tragedy invaded her life again when her mom died of cancer. Raeanna was hurt, confused and without a place to call home.

"Rae," as she is called by those closest to her, grew up in Maine and was the youngest of five siblings who faced drug abuse and were absent most of her life. Following her mother's death, Rae struggled with behavioral issues. With Christianity far from her vocabulary, Rae lived a rebellious and "gothic" lifestyle. Rae's instability continued as she was passed around among family members

who could not adequately care for her because of the grip of various addictions. At 15, Rae found herself migrating from house to house living with friends. Eventually, jammed in a custody battle, Rae's aunt gained guardianship. Rae desperately needed some consistency and love.

When Rae moved to Florida to live with her aunt, her bad situation became worse. Rae's aunt abused her and then fabricated information about her niece to ensure her placement in a mental hospital. Typically, patients stay a week or less, but Rae remained in limbo at the hospital for nearly a month, when a glimpse of hope finally arrived. A doctor at the facility empathized with Rae's story and suggested a promising resolution: a loving Christian home at the Tallahassee campus of Florida Baptist Children's Homes.

Rae joyfully recalled the first time she stepped foot on campus.

"My first thought was, 'I get to live here?'" she said. "I felt immediate peace."

Over the next year, Rae lived in two different residential cottages under the guidance and care of house parents. From doctors' appointments to daily routines, she finally experienced structure that she described as "like a foreign world." House parents helped Rae prepare for adulthood, helping her pursue her God-given passions and providing her encouragement in her walk with Christ.

"My house parents represented Jesus to me, and they never once looked at us kids as a burden," Rae said.

Every day, children around Florida are having their stories rewritten and co-authored by the passionate commitment of house parents. We are always looking for the right couple to take on this God-sized challenge that offers immediate and eternal rewards.

Rae eventually moved back to Maine to live with her grandmother, and although life has thrown her plenty more curveballs, she recalls her time in residential care as being a solid foundation to stand on. Now 23, Rae is a proud, caring and faithful mother to her 3-year-old daughter, Aria, and aspires to become a writer.

Rae characterizes her walk with God as "sometimes bumpy," but very personal. She rarely makes decisions without thinking of God first and carries this principle into her parenting. Though she experienced loss and neglect, Rae credits God for redeeming her past and using Florida Baptist Children's Homes as part of her story.

BECOME A HOUSE PARENT TODAY AND HELP CHANGE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN LIKE RAEANNA. VISIT [FBCHOMES.ORG/HOUSEPARENTS](https://fbchomes.org/houseparents) TO LEARN MORE.

# INSTRUCTING MINDS AND EDIFYING HEARTS

The challenging reality of education in Uganda and how Genesis Primary School is flipping the script

At Genesis Primary School in Kamonkoli, Uganda students have access to textbooks, pencils and notebooks – remarkable tools for children who otherwise might be using sticks in the dirt to practice arithmetic.

The headmaster, Bernard, grins when talking about all the ways this school has created an environment that is conducive to learning, and he reiterates several times that the daily feeding program makes a world of difference for the children.

A 2014 UNICEF study discovered that more than 57 million school-aged children in Africa were not enrolled in school, and the top two reasons were lack of money and because family members needed the children to help at home.

Understanding this truth, Orphan's Heart set out to give children in Kamonkoli the opportunity to experience a top-notch, Christ-centered education. Orphan's Heart partnered with Hines Ugandan Ministry to build Genesis Primary School, which opened January 3, 2014. Today, more than 270 children are enrolled, and they are molded and inspired by a group of faithful, caring teachers.



Rose, one of the teacher's at Genesis Primary School in Kamonkoli, Uganda.

Offering children nutritional porridge and foods like bananas or hardboiled eggs every day may seem elementary to most of us in the United States, but it is just one of the many ways Genesis has set itself apart to make good on the school's motto: "Christ's ambassadors tomorrow."

It requires the generous gifts of donors, consistent support of child sponsors and fervent love of mission trip team members to sustain this vital ministry that is setting the stage for a brighter future in Kamonkoli. The teachers' unfailing dedication to students' academic progress as well as their spiritual well-being makes it possible to raise the next generation of Christian leaders.

For an inside glimpse at how Orphan's Heart is helping One More Child at Genesis, we turned to:

- **Bumba Dison, Orphan's Heart national ministry coordinator for East Africa**
- **Alison Wilson, Orphan's Heart director of international childcare**
- **Bernard, headmaster of Genesis Primary School**
- **Rose, a teacher at Genesis Primary School**

### How does the school system in Uganda work?

**Bumba:** Public schools are owned by the government, and the government emphasizes that all children of all ages should be in school. There are admission tests, but students aren't always placed in the appropriate grade or advised well because schools want the commissions associated with having students enrolled in their schools.

**Alison:** In Uganda, preschool is not part of the public school system, so students do not have the equivalent of pre-K and kindergarten. At Genesis, we offer middle and top class, which are the equivalents of pre-K and kindergarten. The elementary and middle school years are Primary 1-7. High school is Secondary 1-4. And then if you test well enough, you attend three years of specialized classes (Secondary 5-7) to prepare for university.

### How do children become enrolled in Genesis Primary School?

**Bumba:** There are two categories of students – those from the community who pay to attend Genesis and those who are sponsored by Orphan's Heart child sponsors. All students take admissions tests and are placed in an appropriate grade level based on their performance.

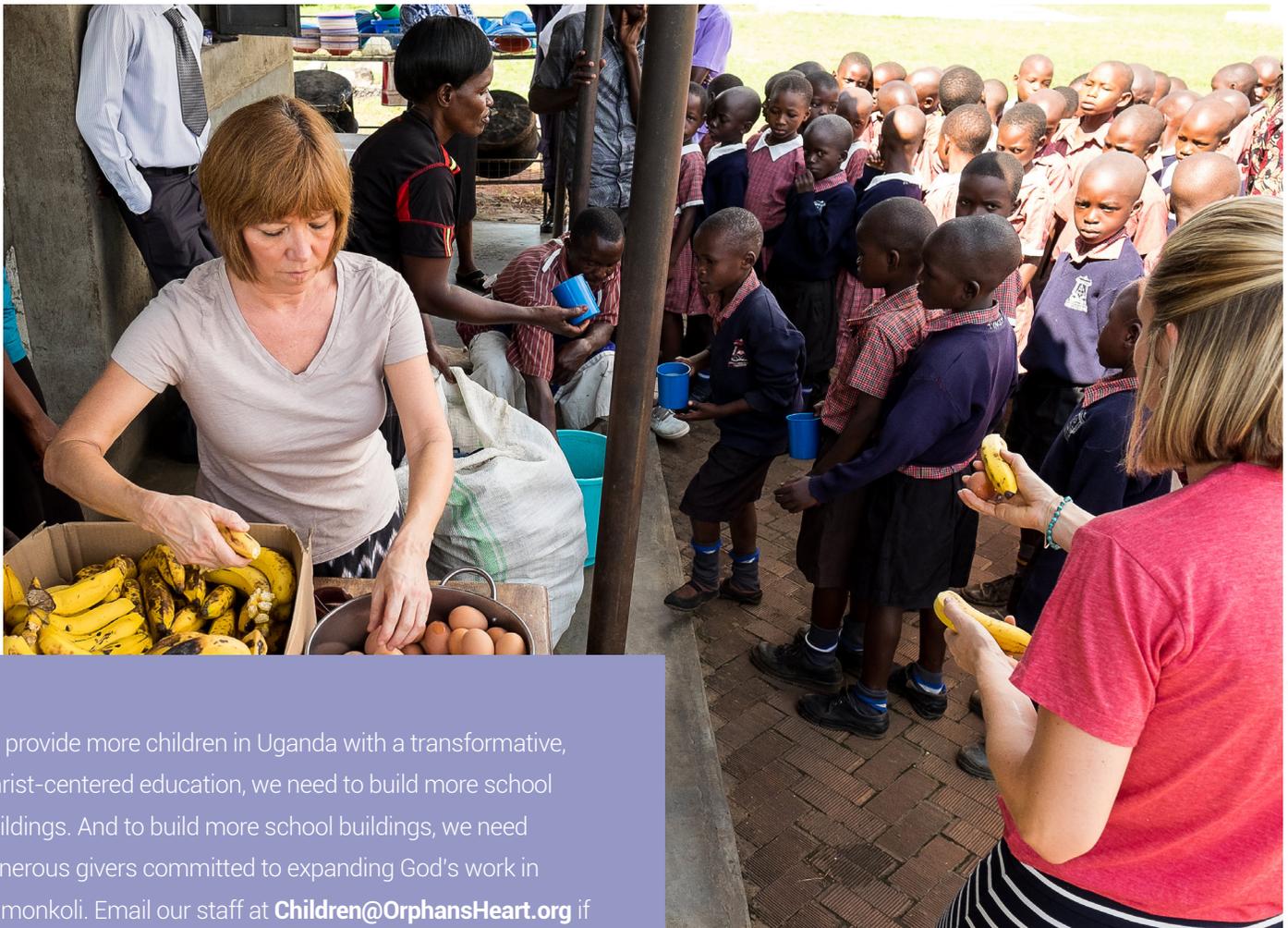
### What are some of the key benefits children experience from attending Genesis instead of a public school?

**Bernard:** We feed the children nutritious food, and the menu is always changing. Because of the feeding, the number of learners who are attending classes fully is 100 percent.

**Bumba:** In government schools, you find teacher-to-student ratios of 1:200 or even 1:250 or 1:300. At Genesis, our ratio is usually about 1:25 and the maximum in one class is 1:50.

Also, we have kindergarten, which is where children get a solid foundation for their reading, writing, etc. Our teachers are committed, willing to handle every student in their weakness.

**Rose:** I thank God for all the support that is given to us as teachers and as a school. It is the best of all schools around or in the district.



To provide more children in Uganda with a transformative, Christ-centered education, we need to build more school buildings. And to build more school buildings, we need generous givers committed to expanding God's work in Kamonkoli. Email our staff at [Children@OrphansHeart.org](mailto:Children@OrphansHeart.org) if you would like to learn more about helping us meet this need.



Share the LOVE OF LEARNING today by making a special gift to Orphan's Heart to support students in countries around the world.

[OrphansHeart.org/give-now](http://OrphansHeart.org/give-now)

**How is Bible study and Christian teaching integrated into the curriculum at Genesis?**

**Bumba:** The Bible study is normally taught in the morning during assembly time and then it is part of the daily schedule with subjects like religious education. For teachers, every Wednesday they share the Bible or they have Bible study classes after school.

**Alison:** When mission teams serve at Genesis we plan "school assembly" days with themes and activity stations. We do a group assembly with a Bible story, then have rotating stations through all the classrooms that support learning about the topic shared and demonstrate creative learning methods.

**Share a little bit about the impact donors and child sponsors have for One More Child in Uganda.**

**Bumba:** These children, many of whom come to us malnourished, have good nutritious food served to them. A nice dining hall was built where these sweet children sit while eating their food. They are in a very nice environment that is conducive to learning and they see the nice smiles of all the pupils in the school.

**Rose:** We are so blessed, and we thank sponsors for all the support that is rendered for Genesis Primary School. We are also grateful to Hines Ugandan Ministries (an Orphan's Heart ministry partner in Uganda), as well.

**What are the greatest needs people can step up and meet right now to help One More Child in Uganda?**

**Alison:** As the child sponsorship program continues to grow, we need more school buildings to be able to accommodate the children. It is vitally important that we keep the teacher-to-student ratio low to ensure the quality of education. We are running out of space in the existing classrooms! It's a wonderful problem and one we can address by funding the construction of additional school buildings. As the school grows, we also need to hire additional teachers. Our goal is have at least a three-year funding commitment for our teachers before hiring more. Other initiatives like hosting fundraisers to buy school supplies and library books are always needed to enhance the school as well. Pray for encouragement and strength for the school leaders and teachers who strive daily to impact the lives of children in their classrooms. By making a monthly recurring gift to Orphan's Heart, donors can help with regular needs as they arise.

**Alison:** Child sponsorship does cover a lot of the costs associated with a child attending Genesis Primary, but as a child gets older and goes to secondary school beyond Genesis, the sponsorship is not able to cover the entire cost. That's why Orphan's Heart has a special designated education fund that we encourage people to give to, so that every child has an opportunity to continue and complete his or her education.



Thanks to generous gifts, including a large grant from The Sister Project, a dining hall that can serve more than 400 people recently has been built on the Genesis campus.



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## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ONE MORE CHILD TODAY BY:

Please contact a campus near you if you can donate supplies. Campus needs may be found online at [FBCHomes.org/ways-to-help](http://FBCHomes.org/ways-to-help) or at [OrphansHeart.org/supplies](http://OrphansHeart.org/supplies).

### COLLECTING DIAPERS FOR CHILDREN

Leading up to Orphan Sunday on November 12, help us collect 600,000 diapers to fulfill a tangible and urgent need right now. For resources to help you host your own diaper drive within your church, business or neighborhood, visit [FBCH.org/OrphanSunday](http://FBCH.org/OrphanSunday).

### GETTING INVOLVED IN OUR ONE MORE CHILD BALL.

Join us for the exciting debut of the One More Child Celebration Ball on Saturday, September 16. Our goal is to raise One Million Meals for children in need! **For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [FBCHomes.org/Celebration](http://FBCHomes.org/Celebration).**

### LEARNING MORE ABOUT BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT (AND THEN BECOME A FOSTER PARENT)!

More than 16,000 children in Florida were removed from their homes in 2016 due to investigations of abuse, abandonment and/or neglect. YOU can be the one to provide a safe, stable environment for one or more of those children and share with them the life-changing love of Christ. **Start your journey today by checking out the calendar of foster care informational meetings at [FBCHomes.org/events](http://FBCHomes.org/events).**



## MAKE A CHILD SMILE WITH YOUR MONTHLY GIFT

Precious children in Tanzania are now available to sponsor through Orphan's Heart. Your monthly gift for a child in Tanzania, or in six other countries, makes a lasting change in a child's life and blesses his or her family! By providing necessities such as food, access to medical care, access to education and more, you are showing the love of Christ to your sponsored child! **Find your perfect match today at [OrphansHeart.org/child-sponsorship](http://OrphansHeart.org/child-sponsorship).**

