



Love in Action

FaithBridge Foster Care • Impact Report 2017

Dear FaithBridge Ministry Partner,

When I was a young boy, my father volunteered to drive the church bus several Sundays a month. He did this for years and I would ride along with him on those mornings as he picked up church members who did not have their own transportation.

Mrs. Gautreau's home was a regular stop. She was a small woman, about five feet tall, and beyond her child bearing years yet she always got on the bus with several teenagers. These young men, who towered over her, were "her boys."

I didn't know what foster care was at the time, but I did know that Mrs. Gautreau was a mother figure to each of these boys. They were part of our church community and it was perfectly normal that this tiny woman would have a group of large teen-aged boys with her each Sunday. Some would come and go, and others would remain with her over the years. One even remained a member of my church community through adulthood.

All of those boys experienced the love of Jesus while they were in Mrs. Gautreau's care. They all experienced being part of my church community and because of that, it has become part of my own story. **I was witnessing love in action.**

In 11 years, FaithBridge Foster Care has placed 1,184 children in loving Christian homes.

These children, just like the boys who lived with Mrs. Gautreau, have been introduced to the love of Jesus. It doesn't end there. Their stories have touched 73 church congregations, 670 foster families, 217 adoptive families, their biological families, and countless others. I don't know how many young men Mrs. Gautreau cared for, but her legacy lives in each of them and their families as well as in me. God did a mighty work through Mrs. Gautreau all those years ago and He is doing mighty work through you and FaithBridge today.

I believe He is just getting started.

In this report you'll see a glimpse of how your support is making a difference in the foster care crisis in Georgia. One community, one church, one child at a time.

As we look ahead to 2019 we have some exciting things on the horizon. We are in a unique position to make a bigger impact on more lives and I hope you'll join us as we continue to share the hope, healing and unconditional love of Jesus Christ with children in foster care.



Bob Bruder-Mattson
President & CEO

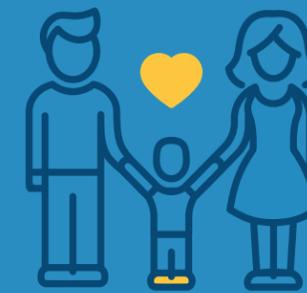
P.S. Thank you for your partnership with FaithBridge! Because of your support, so many foster children are experiencing the love of Jesus.

104
reunified with family



350
children served

753
individuals introduced
to foster care



119
new licensed
foster families

58,656
days children have been
in Christian homes

*19% increase from 2016



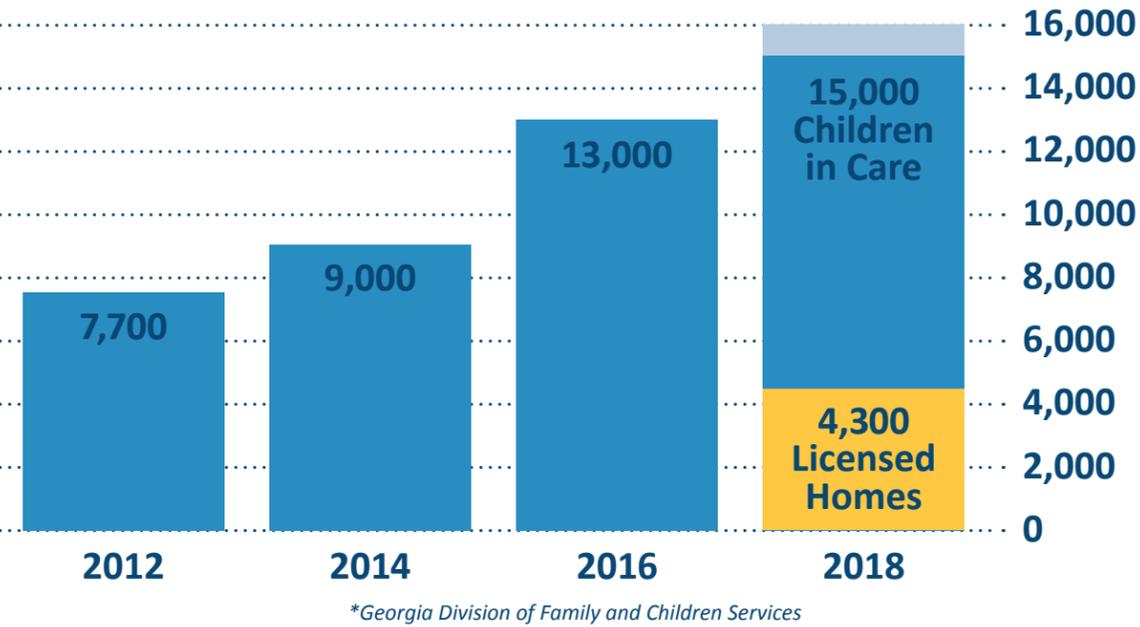
38
adoptions

8
new partner churches



841
total volunteers

We reported last year that the number of children in foster care has doubled in five years. It continues to grow at an alarming rate. While we see a decrease in the number of children living in poverty (Annie E. Casey), we continue to see the opioid crisis causing more and more children to be separated from their parents while they get the help they need.

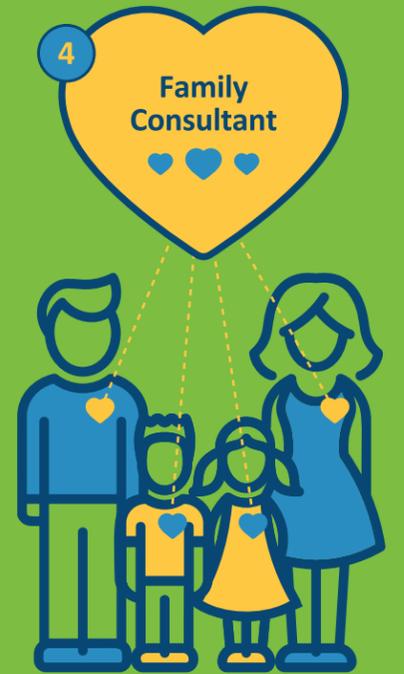


As Georgia's largest Christ-centered Licensed Child Placing Agency, FaithBridge Foster Care's model of partnering with churches creates growing and sustainable foster care ministries. **We partner with local churches offering both traditional and therapeutic programs** and we help recruit, train, license, and support foster families within each ministry. We do this by placing children in loving Christian homes, providing Biblically based training, guiding our churches to develop a Community of Care for each family and providing a FaithBridge Family Consultant (a FaithBridge employee who partners with each family for their fostering journey) to each of our families so that they **never foster alone**.

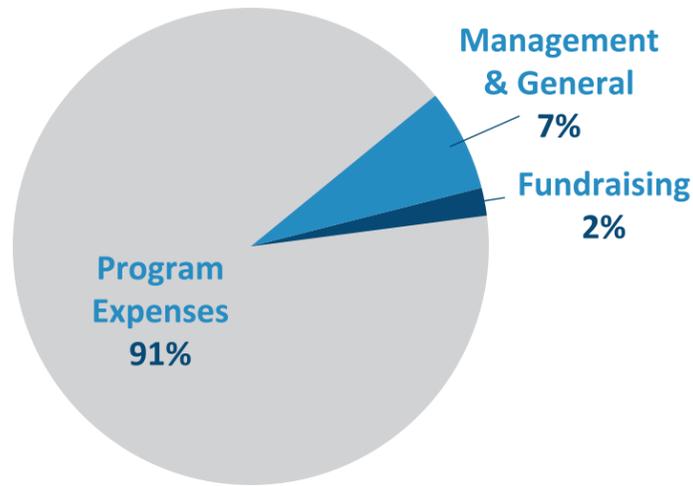
The Church is God's **Plan A**. There is no **Plan B**.



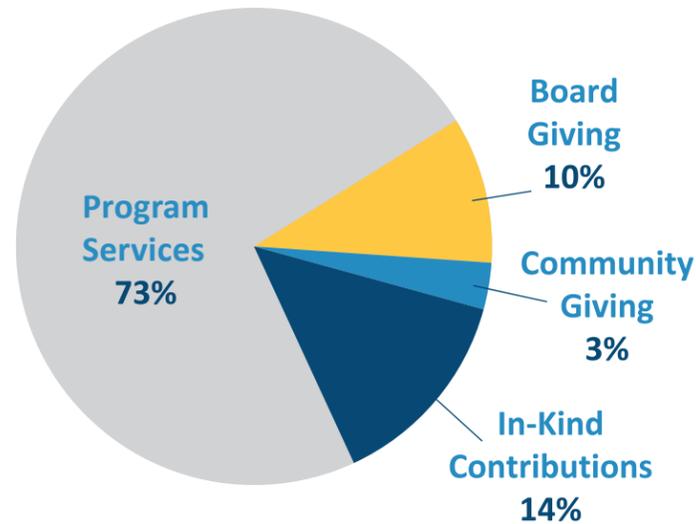
The FaithBridge Difference



Expenses



Revenue



Source: 2017 Audited Financial Statements

Our Board of Directors gives 10% to cover all management, general, and fundraising expenses.

100% of every dollar donated goes directly to help foster children!

Board of Directors + Executive Leadership

Richard L. Jackson - Chairman

Michael Kendrick - Treasurer

Wayne Stolz - Secretary

Bob Bruder-Mattson - President & CEO

Laurence Powell

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Ronald Blue

Meet the Schoomakers. When the Schoomakers heard that little Carson* was going home, they started the process of transitioning as they had done several times before. Carson was going to be placed with a relative who lived a short distance from the Schoomakers' church, Four Points Church in Acworth, Georgia. Julie and James Schoomaker have two biological children, Isabel (14 years old) and Brad (12 years old). James explained that it is a challenging experience for the entire family when they are receiving a placement and when a placement leaves because there is so much preparation that the entire family undergoes.

"But it's all worth it," James explained as he reflected on the challenging experience, "There is nothing easy about this work but we must think about the big picture."

Carson's "big picture" was that he had biological relatives who loved him dearly and were able to open their home to care for him. The Schoomakers were happy to experience a snapshot of this precious baby's life and although it was difficult when it was time to go, they were excited to see a family reunified and lives transformed.

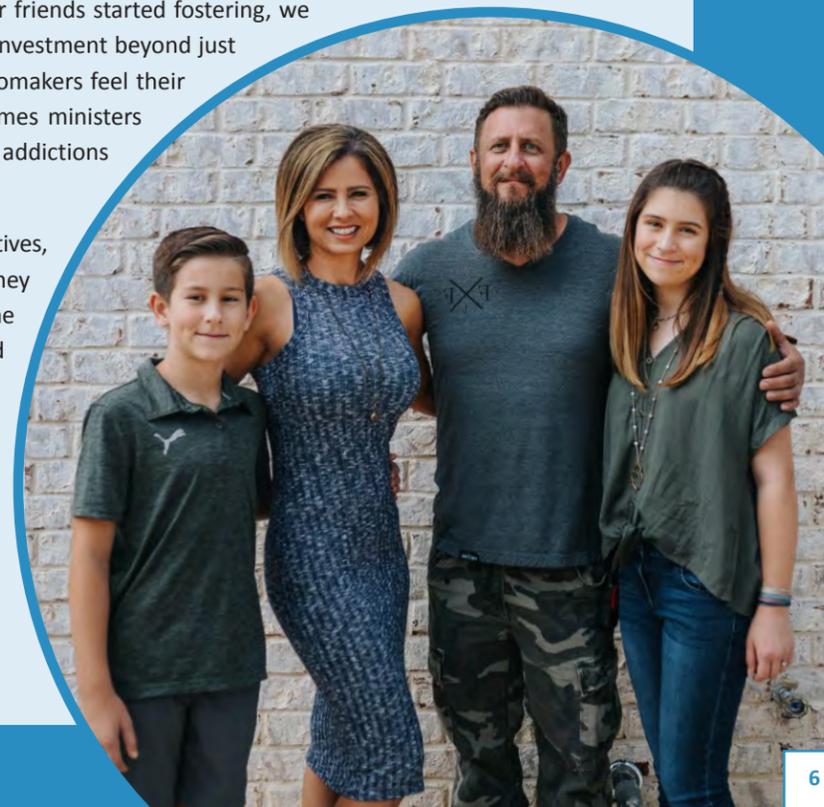
The Schoomakers experienced God's amazing ability to transform situations not only in the lives of the families they support through foster care, but also in their personal lives.

"My husband was transformed by Christ three years ago and the transformation I saw in him and our family has amplified my existing faith immensely. When my husband felt called to foster care, I wasn't hesitant to follow," Julie says.

James didn't grow up a Christian but now, he celebrates three years of sobriety and three years as a Christ Follower. This is his truth. This is his big picture.

"What a huge testimony to be able to show people in your life that they can be transformed and that God can change anyone," James says, "But when our friends started fostering, we honestly thought they were crazy! This was an investment beyond just children but a whole family ministry." The Schoomakers feel their biggest calling is to birth family restoration. James ministers to a number of birth parents who struggle with addictions hoping to see more lives transformed.

So when the Schoomakers met Carson's relatives, they immediately invited them to church. They planned to meet at service on Sunday. Little did the Schoomakers know, although they had planned baby Carson's departure out of their home, they would not have to plan his departure out of their lives. Carson's relatives loved the service and community so much that they made Four Points their permanent church home. Now, the amazing community of Four Points Church will play a part in framing baby Carson's big picture for years to come.





\$4,000
Cost to Acquire a
New Church Partner*



Result
Foster Children in
Loving Christian Homes

*Based on 2017 actual costs



\$5,000
Cost to Recruit and
License One Foster Family*

Last year FaithBridge Foster Care celebrated 10 years in ministry. The very first church to partner with FaithBridge was Mt. Bethel United Methodist, located in Marietta.

Since 2007, Mt. Bethel has cared for 92 children with the help of 32 foster families, 15 respite families, and 55 volunteers.

“One of the co-founders and current board members of FaithBridge is Wayne Stolz who was instrumental in establishing the partnership between FaithBridge and Mt. Bethel UMC,” said Stephanie Watts, a foster parent and Mt. Bethel’s foster care ministry advocate. “FaithBridge helped us re-launch our ministry four years ago as *Called to Care*, and FaithBridge’s leadership helped to identify new leadership and support through Mt. Bethel.”

For Stephanie, as well as Mt. Bethel’s leadership, their foster care ministry allows them to live out James 1:27. “God commands us to care for orphans, and we are fulfilling our specific calling to care for children in need of a family,” she said.

FaithBridge’s Community of Care is vital to Mt. Bethel ministry.



“I could not imagine fostering without it,” Stephanie said. “To know you are not doing this alone and that you will have breaks and support when you need it is huge. It makes the foster calling less daunting and also demonstrates how the body of Christ works together to care for these precious children of God.”

Throughout the last 10 years, Mt. Bethel has engaged their church in a variety of ways to help spread awareness about *Called to Care*. Pastors have spoken about foster care and the need from the pulpit, they’ve recognized foster parents during worship services, shown videos in service and online, made and worn *Called to Care* t-shirts, hosted Encounters and training sessions and more.

“Having support from church leadership is very important and the more support we have received from the church when it comes to awareness, the more productive our launches have been,” Stephanie said. “We also have found it effective to specifically focus on whatever area is the greatest need for our ministry at that time whether it is volunteers, respite or foster families. Any personal contact you can have with people – whether that is speaking to a Sunday school class/life group or one-on-one conversations – has been more effective for us than written communication.”

We celebrate our longest-standing church partner and we look forward to serving even more children and families in the years ahead.



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 Northside Church
 NorthStar Church
 Perimeter Church
 Rehoboth Baptist Church
 Relevant Church
 Revolution Church
 Stonecreek Church
 The Square
 Tri-Cities Church
 Vertical Life Church
 Vintage 242
 Wildwood Baptist Church
 White Stone Fellowship
 Woodstock First Baptist Church

James 1:27

“Religion that God our
 Father accepts as pure and
 faultless is this: to look
 after orphans and widows
 in their distress and to
 keep oneself from being
 polluted by the world...”



*Thank you for your
 support of Georgia's
 children in distress!*





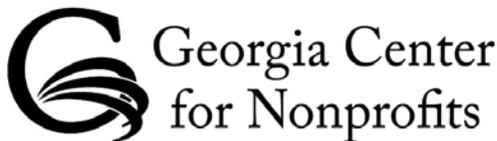
Our Vision

Every foster child will experience the hope, healing,
and unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

To mobilize, organize, and equip local churches to help
solve their community's foster care crisis.

This results in inspired and growing church ministries, foster care ministry families who are using their gifts and growing deeper in their relationships with Christ and foster children who are placed in loving Christian homes to create cycles of family stability.



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