



FaithBridge
2024
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

– Matthew 25:35-36 NIV

DEAR FAITHFUL PARTNERS,

As I reflect on another year, **it is never lost on me how many people are part of the FaithBridge story and the work God is doing among us.**

This work cannot be done without the support of each of our foster and adoptive families; each of our staff team members; or each of our Board members. **We also can’t do this without each of you, our donors and supporters.**

As you look inside this report, you will see how we meet children where they are – no matter which chapter of their life story they are in. Our programs are designed to support children of all ages through our foster care and adoption services, as well as young adults who were once in foster care as they take their steps toward independent living. **We are blessed to have served 2,259 children and youth in 2024, a 44% increase from last year.**

FaithBridge is more determined than ever to make sure children who have experienced trauma, neglect, and abuse find the **hope, healing, and unconditional love of Jesus.**

I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve these children and families alongside you.

May God Bless You,

Bob Bruder-Mattson
President and CEO



WHAT WE DO

Together we bring hope, healing, and love to Georgia’s foster children.

When children are brought into foster care, they need families to help them heal from the trauma from experiencing neglect and abuse. FaithBridge is the largest Georgia-based, Christ-centered child placing agency in the state.

We recruit, train, and support foster and adoptive families in local churches. We license these families to provide community-based, short- and long-term traditional, medically fragile, and therapeutic foster care and, when needed, adoptive homes.

We work with the state of Georgia to provide Child Life Histories for children who are eligible for adoption, ensuring they have all of their required documents to be adopted.

FaithBridge’s Youth Opportunities program collaborates with young people who have aged out of Georgia’s foster care system to assess their needs, set personal goals, and provide them with the support they need to **achieve successful independent lives.**

FaithBridgeU provides valuable live and on-demand training for foster and adoptive parents to help them face the unique challenges that come with parenting children who have experienced trauma.

OUR VISION

is for every foster child to experience the hope, healing and unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

is to mobilize, organize, and equip local churches to solve their community’s foster care crisis.

OUR IMPACT

64 NEW LICENSED FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

290 CHILDREN SERVED IN FAITHBRIDGE FOSTER HOMES



Pictured here:
Christine, her daughters,
and the Willinghams

OUR IMPACT

96% STABILITY
IN ONE
FOSTER HOME

62,864 NIGHTS
IN LOVING
HOMES

73 CHILDREN
REUNIFIED
WITH FAMILY

FOSTER CARE

**“We wanted Christine to always
feel like part of the family...”**
— Katelyn Willingham

Becoming homeless was not something Christine ever expected for her life – especially not with two little girls. But due to circumstances beyond her control, she suddenly had no place to live.

To make matters worse, her daughters were then removed from her care.

“That’s when my whole world flipped upside down.” Christine was devastated, but she was determined to be reunited with her children. **“All I could do was go to work, go home, and keep pushing forward.”**

Fortunately, the children were placed with FaithBridge foster parents Katelyn and Philip Willingham.

Christine and Katelyn began emailing almost every day. Christine, eager to receive photos and stories about her daughters’ days with the Willinghams, found peace knowing that her children were being well cared for. Soon, she began meeting Katelyn for breakfast every Tuesday.

“We talked about everything – the girls, ourselves. Christine was open enough to share her story and struggles with me,” Katelyn recalled.

“We wanted Christine to always feel like part of the family, especially as we sat around the dinner table together.”

Christine would record herself singing bedtime songs, and the children would listen to them every night. Lily, Christine’s oldest, memorized a prayer for her mommy: **“Lord, keep her and watch over her, guide and direct her life.”**

What began as a broken situation, God was slowly restoring – knitting together a new forever family for Christine and her two sweet girls. **Reunified in December, the girls now get to do their bedtime routine in person.** The families remain a big part of each other’s lives, celebrating holidays and family events together – giving Christine and her girls the kind of support and connection they never had before.



Pictured here:
Chloe and the Klabon family

ADOPTION

“I’m so grateful that God basically picked her up and put her in our family.”
– Colleen Klabon

In 2024, 39 children were adopted into FaithBridge families. These children and teens, each in a different chapter of their life, found new beginnings in forever homes. Some had been in the foster care system for a long time, **anxiously waiting and hoping for a family to call their own.**

Chloe is one of those teens. She was 12 years old when she was placed into foster care and proceeded to bounce from home to home. **By the time she was 16, she was living in a group home and had given up hope that she would ever have a family again.**

After a lot of prayer and consideration, Travis and Colleen Klabon felt God calling them to open their home to a teen. Their daughter, Palmer, had just turned 10 and they knew it was the right time to take the first step toward adoption. They contacted FaithBridge, who they heard about through StonePoint Church.

When they met Chloe, they knew that this was God’s plan. Just like any first meeting, things were new and a little awkward, but Chloe and the Klabons quickly hit it off and it all felt right.

“The first night I was here, I was just excited. Like I hadn’t been in a home in so long, it felt like a dream come true,” Chloe recalls.

Before they knew it, they had settled into their new normal as a family of four.

“It’s a good feeling that God has put us in this place, and now we have two daughters,” says Travis.

Chloe officially became a Klabon in November of 2024 and to make her adoption weekend even better, Chloe was baptized by her new dad in church that Sunday.

OUR IMPACT

112 FAMILIES TRAINED TO
BECOME FOSTER PARENTS

39 CHILDREN ADOPTED BY
FAITHBRIDGE FAMILIES

[Click here](#)
to learn more about the Klabons



Pictured here:
UGA student Mila Singh

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

FaithBridge helps foster youth achieve self-sufficiency.

In the state of Georgia, **more than 700 youth age out of the foster care system annually**. 60% are more likely to experience hardships such as homelessness, incarceration, joblessness, early parenthood, and substance abuse. Nationally, only 50% of foster children graduate from high school, and **less than 5% graduate from a four-year college**. Many don't have the ability or funds to have stable housing and lack the life skills and knowledge to become self-sufficient.

More often than not, **many don't have connections with adults and parental figures who can guide them through challenges** such as seeking financial aid, applying to schools, getting an apartment, or opening a bank account.

FaithBridge's Youth Opportunities program **collaborates with these young people** to assess their needs, set personal goals, and provide them with the support they need **to achieve successful independent lives**.

In 2024, FaithBridge **delivered support, coaching, and case management to 296 young adults who are actively pursuing their post-secondary degrees**.

Additionally, the FaithBridge Founders Scholarship was awarded to three deserving young people who had been adopted into FaithBridge homes.

OUR IMPACT

296 YOUNG ADULTS PURSUING
POST-SECONDARY DEGREES

100% HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION RATE

[Click here](#)
to hear Mila's story



Pictured here:
Celebration Church volunteers
setting up the new washer and dryer

CHURCH PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Celebration Church has been a dedicated FaithBridge partner since 2015.

Celebration Church has been a dedicated FaithBridge partner since 2015, serving children and families in Hall County. **Throughout this partnership, they have remained steadfast in their mission to serve.** One thing that has set them apart is that they have consistently hosted monthly Encounter events to raise awareness, provide education, and offer opportunities for people to engage in caring for the vulnerable.

Celebration’s Community of Care team, led by Lindsey Martin, Lisa Mills, and Melissa Perry, has been a consistent source of support for the foster families in their area, **providing the much-needed wraparound care these children and families need.** Here is just one example of this team’s powerful impact:

“The Rowe family was caring for a sibling group of 3 ages 8-13. **They were in the process of reunification with their mother and one of the older children commented that she would miss having her own washer and dryer for her clothes when she left the Rowe home.**

Kristen reached out to the Community of Care leaders who then sent the request for a washer and dryer to the church. **One of our Bible study groups located – and paid for – the washer and dryer.** On reunification day, members of the worship team delivered and installed the washer and dryer for the family; **it was a beautiful representation of the church body coming together to support families being restored.**”

Celebration Church’s commitment is truly inspiring. They have not only been faithful community partners, but their financial generosity has been equally overwhelming. **FaithBridge is deeply grateful for our special partnership with them – without it, we couldn’t fulfill our mission.** We truly are better together!

OUR IMPACT

264 FAMILIES INTRODUCED TO FOSTER CARE

14 NEW CHURCH PARTNERS



Pictured here:
FaithBridgeU users,
Sean and Megan McGrath,

OUR IMPACT

576 CHILD LIFE HISTORIES

2,176 PEOPLE EMPOWERED WITH TRAINING THROUGH FAITHBRIDGEU NATIONALLY

FAITHBRIDGEU

Our vision is for all foster and adoptive families in America to have access to high-quality training.

FaithBridgeU is an online learning management system that offers world-class, trauma-informed training from more than 35 national content creators. It provides tools to meet foster and adoptive parents’ specific needs and is proven to help with family retention and placement stability. It is currently being used by foster parents in 29 states with 12 agency and church partners.

What people are saying:

- “We know if we’re stepping into an unknown with a new placement that it’s a new resource we can go to and quickly learn and have easy access to.”

– Sean McGrath, FaithBridge Foster Parent
- “We have worked with many different training programs and websites over the years but FaithbridgeU is by far the superior resource that we use all of the time now.”

– Ashley McKinley, Referral Coordinator, 7Homes in North Carolina
- “We had a placement of three kids with their grandparents and the grandparents really struggled. A couple of kids, we found out later had Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder [FASD], and FaithBridgeU, through its library of resources, had some resources to be able to really take a deep dive as to understanding what FASD is, the effects, and how to best serve those kids in their home.”

– Ryan Stanton, CEO, Compass Nebraska

Click here
to learn more about FaithBridgeU.com





Pictured here:
Rick Jackson

FAITHBRIDGE 2024 GALA

“...organizations like FaithBridge, people like you...left their comfort, left their own safety to step into my mess to be with me.”
— Austin Ludwig

In November, we hosted our fourth annual gala at Phase Family Center in Alpharetta. The theme “Always with Me. Right Beside Me,” encouraged attendees to join us in supporting and assisting children and youth, regardless of what chapter of their life they are in, and equipping them to write their next chapters.

We were blessed to have Rick Jackson, Founder and CEO of Jackson Healthcare and FaithBridge Board Chairman, share about the history of FaithBridge Foster Care and his personal connection to the mission.

“Time and time again, individuals, churches, organizations like FaithBridge, people like you in this room left their comfort, left their own safety to step into my mess to be with me.” Austin Ludwig, singer-songwriter, speaker, and foster care advocate, joined us as our keynote speaker for the evening. After experiencing 15 years of abuse and trauma, Austin found healing through the transformative love of Jesus and has spent the past 12 years in full-time ministry.

The evening provided a reminder of the incredible impact that generosity and walking with children and youth in need can have. Through the support of those in the room and all of our investors, children and youth in foster care were given the opportunity to experience hope, healing, and love.

[Click here](#)
to view highlights from the 2024 Gala



Bob Bruder-Mattson and Mila Sing, who is part of our Youth Opportunities program



Austin Ludwig addresses the crowd.



Kevin Avery and Taylor Scott of the Kevin and Taylor Show were our emcees.

CHILD LIFE HISTORIES

FaithBridge completed 576 Child Life Histories in 2024.

In 2024, more than 1,700 children in the Georgia foster care system were unable to be reunified with their families and became eligible for adoption.

Each of these children is **required to have a compilation of documents** that tells their life story **called their “Child Life History.”** This is comprised of official records like medical and education as well as information about their lives including milestones reached, major life events, and family information.

These books, often spanning thousands of pages, are shared with potential adoptive families to help them understand the children’s backgrounds. They also serve as a way for the children to stay connected to their personal history after adoption.

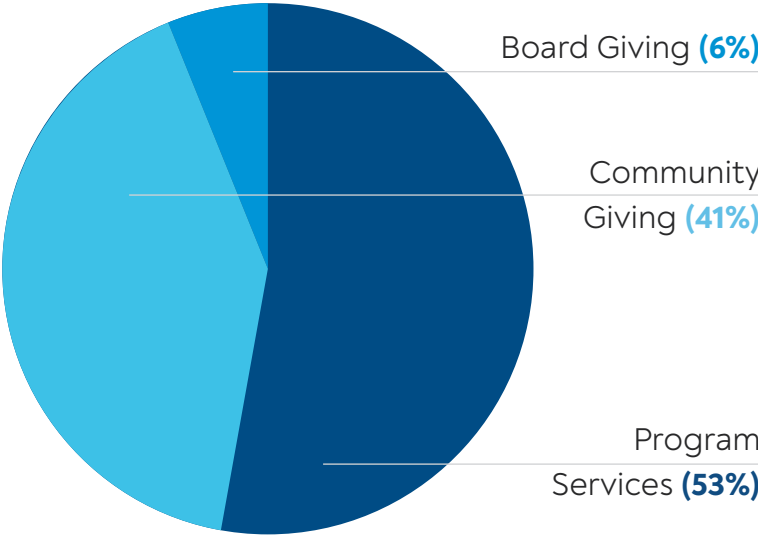
These Child Life Histories make an enormous impact by supporting each child on their journey toward finding a permanent, loving home.



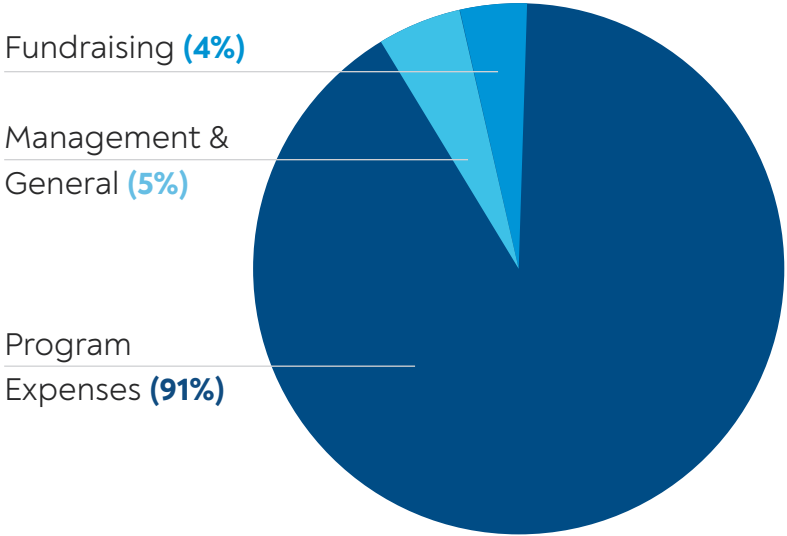
FINANCIALS



REVENUE



EXPENSES





STATE & NATIONAL IMPACT

We are honored to be able to make an impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

OUR BOARD & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

President and CEO

Bob Bruder-Mattson

Board Chairman

Richard L. Jackson

Board Secretary

Wayne Stolz

Board Treasurer

Leslie Kurtz

Board Members

Charles Evans

Laurence Powell

Here is a list of some of our accomplishments in 2024:

OUR IMPACT

Added new FaithBridgeU users in **28 states**

Participated in the **first national Foster Care Collective** at WinShape Retreat with Bubba and Cindy Cathy

Provided leadership on the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Cohort that **developed recommendations to improve outcomes for Georgia’s transition-age youth in foster care**

Met with **Utah’s child welfare legislative oversight panel and First Lady Abby Cox** as part of American Enterprise Institute’s (AEI) Child Welfare Innovation Working Group

Led the instructional workshop, **“Winning the War on Talent: Recruiting, Retaining, and Engaging Employees for Mission Success”** at the 2024 CAFO Summit in Nashville, TN



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FaithBridge

With roughly 1,600 children waiting for adoptive homes each year and more than 11,000 children in foster care in Georgia, we believe the answer to this crisis is the church.

This is why we partner with local churches to help raise up and license adoptive, foster, and respite families. A Christ-centered foster care and adoptive ministry not only allows churches to care for vulnerable children and their families but also provides a way to support foster and adoptive families.