

a family for  
every orphan



Goodbye  
Orphanage

**HELLO  
FAMILY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2017**



# A Letter from the Executive Director



## Goodbye Orphanage, Hello Family

Dear Friend,

When our first board members met back in 2008, they chose Mark 9:37 as a guiding Bible verse: “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” (NIV) This scripture has become ever more fitting over the years as you have helped welcome thousands of once orphaned children **into families in their home countries where they are lovingly embraced as sons and daughters in the name of Jesus.**

**In the past year, your gifts have helped 38,989 people in nine countries.** The message of children needing families rather than orphanages was spread, hundreds of social workers were trained, and lawmakers legally advocated for a child’s right to be in a family. You have helped mobilize churches to spearhead adoption efforts, reminding followers of Christ that they were once orphans, now adopted by God. As you flip through the following pages I hope you feel the gratitude behind the smiles of children like Milana (p. 4) and Othniel (p. 11) who have benefited from your support!

It is our goal over the next several years to deepen the connection between strategic programs (changing cultural mindsets, building legal infrastructure and policies surrounding orphan care, etc.) and their direct and measurable impacts on individual children and families. One of the biggest challenges we face is the ability to predict accurately how much funding will be available. THANK YOU for your generosity in 2017. With your continued partnership, we look forward to reaching thousands more orphans and vulnerable children in the next year.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Micala CH Siler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Micala CH Siler

# Mark 9:37

*Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.*





Photo by Amith Dutta

## Impact Summary: *Lives You Have Touched*



2,856 families  
received material  
support



38,640 adoption  
resources  
distributed



1,787 families  
reunited or  
strengthened



1,990 parents  
received  
adoption  
support or  
counseling



38,989 children  
& families  
helped



2.3 million  
reached  
with the  
message  
of adoption



127  
motivational events



1,978 social  
workers trained



110 calls made to  
adoption help lines

## A Family For Milana!

Milana was abandoned at an orphanage in Ukraine when she was only 1 month old. Orphanages there are typically overcrowded, often housing up to 250 children. This results in poor nutrition, unsanitary living conditions, abuse, insufficient access to medical care, and a complete lack of positive adult interaction. Milana craved to have a Mama and Papa—a family to call her own.

When Alexander and Yana met Milana at the orphanage, they immediately knew she was meant to be their daughter. **The only thing that stood in the way of Milana's adoption was a furnished bedroom in their home and funds for her medical expenses.** Thanks to you, these needs were quickly met and Milana was officially adopted! Milana now has her Mama and Papa and will grow up knowing the love of family. No assigned “value” can be placed on the worth of Milana's adoption. Milana will grow up with two loving parents that cherish her and will see her through life's ups and downs. Your generous giving towards adoptions like Milana's is not only changing that child's life, but their family as well.

**Thank you!**

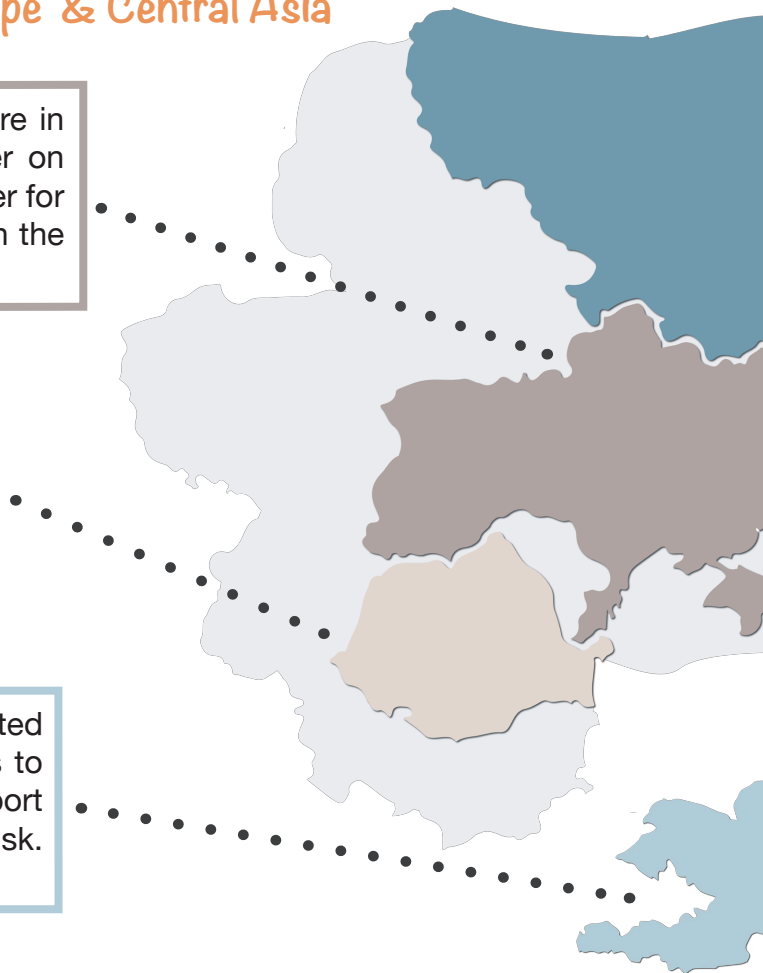


## Where Your Gifts are Working: Eastern Europe & Central Asia

**UKRAINE** Orphan care ministry is spreading like wildfire in churches across Ukraine! Churches often work together on projects and events, trainings and conferences, and prayer for orphans. This year, 250 families received support through the ministry of local churches.

**ROMANIA** Adoption laws are being improved through partnership with the government. Acknowledging that every child has a right to be in a safe and stable family, the government recently changed a law to clear abandoned children for adoption more quickly.

**KYRGYZSTAN** A crisis parenting class was implemented for vulnerable families this year. The goal of the class is to strengthen families through establishing a long-term support network for foster and adoptive parents and children at risk. Every family that attended remains intact and thriving!





**RUSSIA** Older orphans (age 16-17) are being trained in culinary school and restaurant management.

The goal is to give young adults the opportunity to develop job skills, preparing for life outside the orphanage. This program has been launched successfully in 3 cities. A similar idea is being developed for coffee shops.

In addition to giving these teens confidence and skills, the program shares the message of family care and the hope of adoption for children of all ages.

Photo by Ronnie Mosely



## Where Your Gifts are Working: Africa

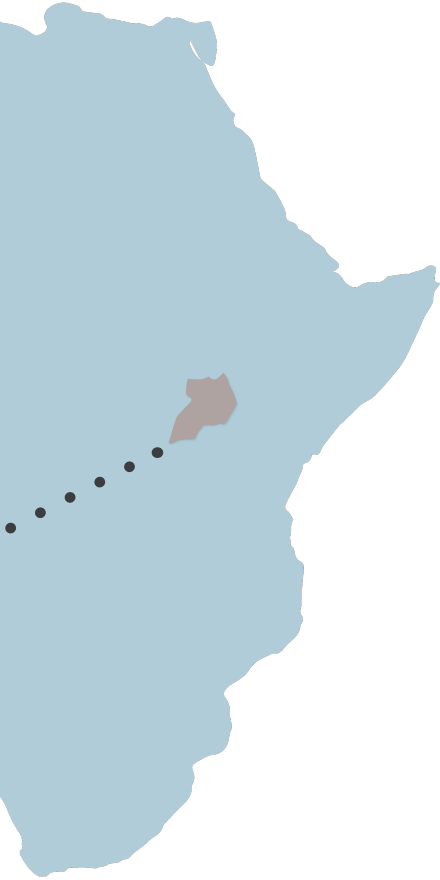
**GHANA Orphan Sunday** launched in Ghana this year, an event which promotes family-based care. The day highlighted the importance of foster care in Ghana and local key leaders were mobilized to help implement best practices in orphan care. Events for the celebration included sermons, congregational prayers for orphans, recruitment of foster families, and prayer for foster parents. Ghana is working toward a unified voice and effort to make sure every orphan can grow up in a nurturing and permanent home!

**UGANDA A national radio show** is spreading the news of family-based care and reaching thousands of listeners! The show discusses topics such as legal foster care, parenting, and strengthening vulnerable families. Listeners frequently call in to share how the show has impacted their lives and to get resources and help. For example:

- A doctor asked the host to come speak about family-based care and parenting at his hospital
- One woman decided to foster a child in her community after listening to the show
- A couple decided to adopt and asked for help with the process







**UGANDA** Nine-year-old John from Uganda became an orphan when AIDS took the lives of his parents. John, who is also HIV positive, is now adopted into a loving family!

He's growing up to be a wonderful young man and loves to play games with other kids, especially football.

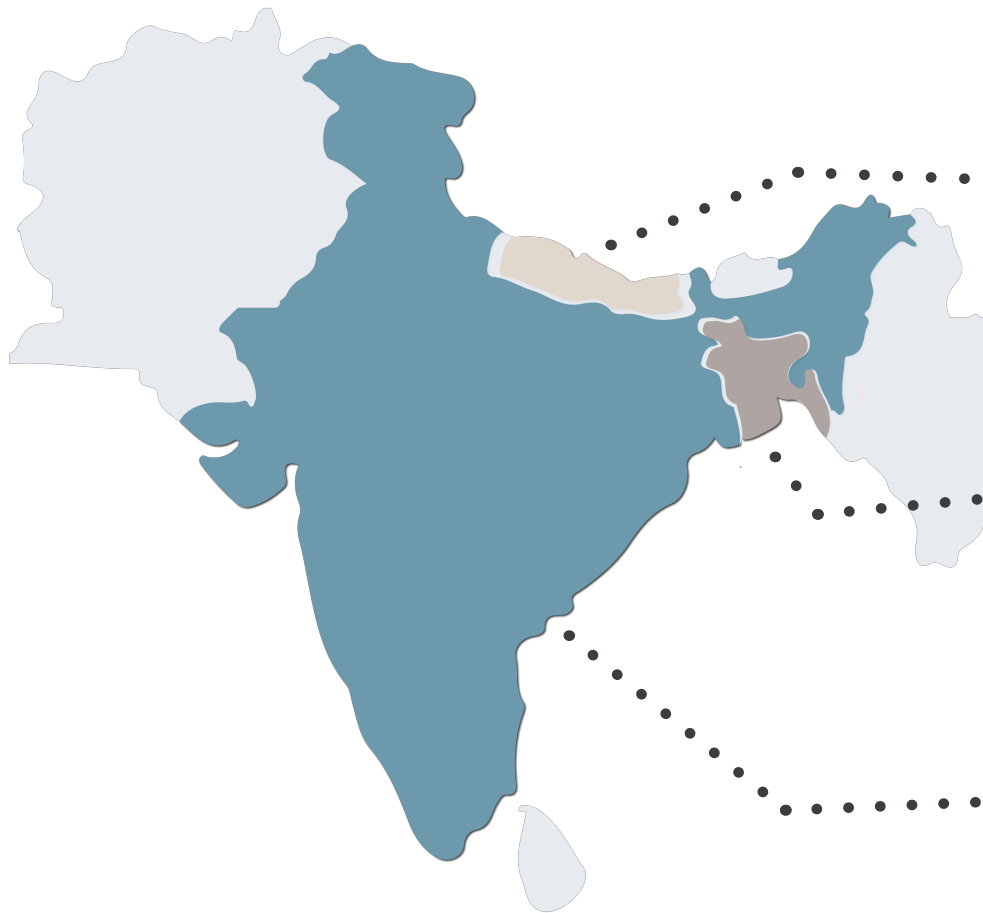


Photo by Amith Dutta



Photo by Amith Dutta

## Where Your Gifts are Working: Southeast Asia



**NEPAL Churches are helping single mothers start businesses and become self-sustaining.**

When Ansu's husband passed away, she was left alone to care for her two children. With limited resources and educational training, Ansu had nowhere to turn and almost sent her children to an orphanage. A nearby church heard our partners share about family-based care and family strengthening. When the church learned about Ansu, they gave her seed money to start her own food stand so she could make a living and keep her family together!

**BANGLADESH A family style foster home program** was launched in Bangladesh this year, providing a permanent home for 24 orphans! Kids just like Juliet now have a loving, Christian family! Juliet's mother died and her father could not care for her. He wanted her to work as a child laborer. Now living with her foster parents and 4 siblings, Juliet no longer lives in fear and can focus on her school work. She wants to be a police officer when she grows up.

**INDIA A foster care event** trained 100 orphan care leaders and government workers to help get children out of orphanages and into foster homes. Tools and resources gave these men and women support and guidance to operate legally and effectively. The goal is to change orphan care across India!

## A Family For Othniel!

“God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He’s so good to me.” Singing along with family, his brother playing the piano and his father leading the melody, Othniel (pictured second from the left) bounces up and down in his sister’s arms – the perfect picture of love and family. But just one year ago, this scene was nearly impossible to imagine.

As family of nine, **Sam Raj and his wife Mahima thought their family was complete. But as Sam Raj says, there is never a full stop (.) always a comma (,) when it comes to family,** and that became a reality for their own family when they met Othniel.

Othniel was born without eyes and a severe case of cerebral palsy. He was given up to an orphanage in India shortly after he was born. There, his special needs were not attended to and he missed many developmental milestones. Othniel lay on his back in crib, alone, surviving on only bottles of milk.





At three years old, Othniel could not speak, stand, walk, and eat solid food.

When Sam Raj and Mahima met Othniel at the orphanage, they knew he was meant to be their son. Naming him Othniel (meaning God is my strength), Sam Raj and Mahima prayerfully adopted Othniel into their family. A miracle in and of itself, as they had to get special permission from the local government because they had already adopted so many children.

**Through your giving, Othniel's adoption was fully funded!**

Othniel's adoption was vital to his survival. Once Othniel started receiving care from his family, he began standing, walking with the help of his family members, eating solid foods, and even singing! Thank you for making this adoption a reality for Othniel. The words of Othniel's song ring true – God is so good.



## From the Chair of the Board

Dear Friend,

A heartfelt thanks to YOU—whether a volunteer, partner, donor or advocate—it has been another year of exciting developments and numerous blessings in the lives of many thousands of children, families, and churches around the world. A Family for Every Orphan is truly an inspiring picture of a global community of like-minded individuals passionately working together to address the simple, yet challenging, call to care for orphans with a Christ-like heart (James 1:27).

In these pages, you will see many examples of growth and great outpourings of support to children who are in such desperate need of a loving, Christian family to care for them as one of their own. Know that the personal impact is so much bigger and so much better than the numbers, words, or photos can ever portray. These children ache for the love of a family and you have been an essential part of making that need a fulfilled reality.

While the task that is set before us seems (is!) daunting, our focus remains on the clear commands and promises of God; He alone is all-powerful, all-knowing, and a true Father to the fatherless. It is a true honor to partner with all of you in this mission and I want to express just how grateful and inspired all of us at AFFEO are by your continued generous giving of your time, talents, and resources! We pray that God will continue to strengthen, provide, and protect all of us as we share in the joys of serving orphaned children in gaining and maintaining their place in faithful families.

In Christ!

Oriah Longanecker

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9-10*

### BOARD

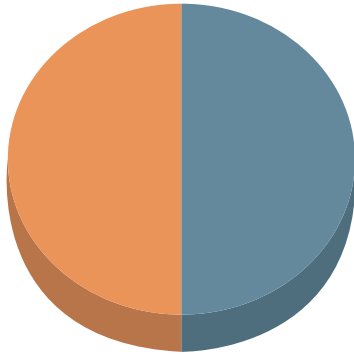
Oriah Longanecker, Chair  
Melinda Mandell, Vice Chair  
Karl Scheuerman, Secretary  
Paul Zhdan, Treasurer  
Anita Deyneka, Voting Member  
Jenn Foxworth, Voting Member  
Anthony Ritchie, Voting Member

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Natalya Ageyeva  
Karmen Friesen  
David Melilli, J.D., LL.M.  
Richard T. Moore, Esq  
Dr. Richard Scheuerman

# FY17 Financial Overview

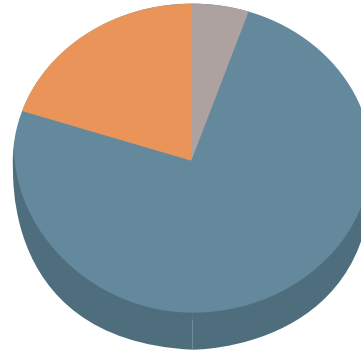
## Sources of Funding



**Individuals**  
50%

**Grants**  
50%

## Uses of Funding



**Ministry to Orphans**  
75%

**Administration**  
20%

**Fundraising**  
5%

## Financial Statement

<b>Revenue</b>	\$445,962
<b>Expense</b>	\$518,290
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	\$(72,328)
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	\$105,594

*NOTE: All financial figures for FY17 are unaudited as of press time.*

*Audited numbers will be available after February 15, 2018, and can be viewed at [afamilyforeveryorphan.org/financial](http://afamilyforeveryorphan.org/financial)*

## Why I Give: *Advocates in Action*

I wanted to help Othniel because he didn't have anybody to care for him and it made me feel sad. I told my kindergarten class and we did chores and kind acts so grown-ups would sponsor us and give money to help him get adopted. I feel glad I could help because now Othniel has a family.

*Keira's kindergarten class raised funds for Othniel's adoption (p. 11) by doing "acts of kindness."*



Keira

Joseph & Erica



Every time we see a picture of a child who is now a part of a loving family, our hearts are deeply touched and it is a great reminder to thank God for His adoption of each of us in Jesus! I had the honor of serving on the AFFEO board for four years and during that time came to admire not only the organization's staff, but also our partners overseas. AFFEO is truly living out God's call to care for orphans, and the families who are welcoming them into their homes are true heroes to these children and of the Kingdom.

*By giving and serving in leadership, Joseph and Erica enjoy sharing in the tangible picture of the Gospel calling to take care of orphans.*



We are so happy to have an avenue to support domestic adoption. As Americans, we tend to think solutions lie heavily in our own involvement. Domestic adoption brings a whole new mindset towards the orphan crisis and those in need. Playing any part in bringing a displaced child into a loving home is such a gift.

*Kelsey and Reed are the entrepreneurs behind Elegance Restored, a fair-trade clothing and jewelry boutique that gives 10% of its profits to support orphans through A Family for Every Orphan.*



*Kelsey & Reed*



*Anna Mae*

“Do more than is expected” was one of my mom’s mottos. She instructed me to extend my energy and time toward others especially to those who could not possibly give back to me. James 1:27 tells us, “consider and help the orphans in their affliction....” Someday we will see these needy children in heaven face-to-face at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and it will be to His glory and our great joy.

*Anna Mae has blessed countless children by making beautiful quilts and other sewing projects and giving all the proceeds to help orphans.*

# Working Towards A World Without Orphans



## A Family For Kristina!

Kristina was abandoned the day she was born due to intellectual and developmental disabilities. So, on her birthday, she lost the most precious gift a child could have—a family. Nobody inquired about her and nobody visited her. It didn't take long for Kristina to retreat within herself. She didn't communicate with anyone. Even while she was being fed, she would close her eyes ... it was as if she was separating herself from the world around her.

When she was one year old, everything changed. A local Ukrainian church rallied around Kristina, believing that they should **pray for every orphan**. After a year of fervent prayer for this special little girl, a family from that church decided to adopt her! Kristina no longer closes her eyes while she's being fed, and even smiled for the **FIRST** time this year! She has bonded well with her new parents and six siblings, three of whom are also adopted.

Kristina's story is a true testament to the power of prayer and God's heart for adoption. While we rejoice to know she now has a family, she also represents the thousands of children who are still waiting for their families. **For all of us to live in a world without orphans, there is so much more to be done.** Will you continue to partner with us so that children like Kristina will find their forever families soon?



Photo by Amith Dutta

Thank You!

## MISSION

A Family for Every Orphan helps orphans find loving Christian families in their home countries

## VISION

Our vision is a world without orphans

## CONTACT

info@afamilyforeveryorphan.org  
(360) 358-3293

## GIVE

A Family for Every Orphan  
PO Box 34628 #37939  
Seattle, WA 98124-1628  
[www.afamilyforeveryorphan.org/give](http://www.afamilyforeveryorphan.org/give)  
All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law



[www.afamilyforeveryorphan.org](http://www.afamilyforeveryorphan.org)  
facebook: a family for every orphan  
instagram: @afamforeveryorphan  
twitter: @fam4everyorphan

