

a family for
every orphan



2018 Annual Report

I am:
*no longer
an orphan*

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, A Family for Every Orphan gave more funds in 2018 than ever before to programs that resulted in orphaned children being united with loving families!

One of our major goals was to deepen the connection between strategic programs (at the infrastructure, cultural, and policy level) and the measurable impacts on families and children. Two examples of new programs in 2018 that did this were:

- 1,003 investigations of children in orphanages in India. Result: 104 children obtained an adoptable status (pg. 10)
- 25 videos of adoptable orphans in Ukraine shared in local communities. Result: 5 adoptions and counting (pg. 9)

Struggles we faced in 2018:

- religious persecution of some of our Christian program leaders

- lack of consistency in legal processes that support adoption and foster care in many of the countries in which we work
- our ability to show the faces of the children who need your help while protecting their dignity and not hindering their adoption process

We ask for your continued prayer on these issues!

Some things to look forward to in 2019:

- expansion of projects that resolve a child's legal status, leading to more adoptions or reunifications
- growth of projects providing ongoing services to families who have adopted
- launch of a new website with improved donation platform
- building a more robust financial team

As we have learned over the years, the journey of a child from orphanhood to thriving in a

family is not a straight line.

With your partnership, we are working at each point in the orphaned child's journey for them to be united permanently with a loving family.

Together we are laying foundations by helping to develop child protection laws and engaging with the church to activate change. Whether it is breaking barriers to shift cultures and mindsets towards family-based care for orphans or equipping families with practical tools, the ultimate goal is to see orphans in permanent, stable, loving families...to no longer see orphans, but the sons and daughters God created them to be.

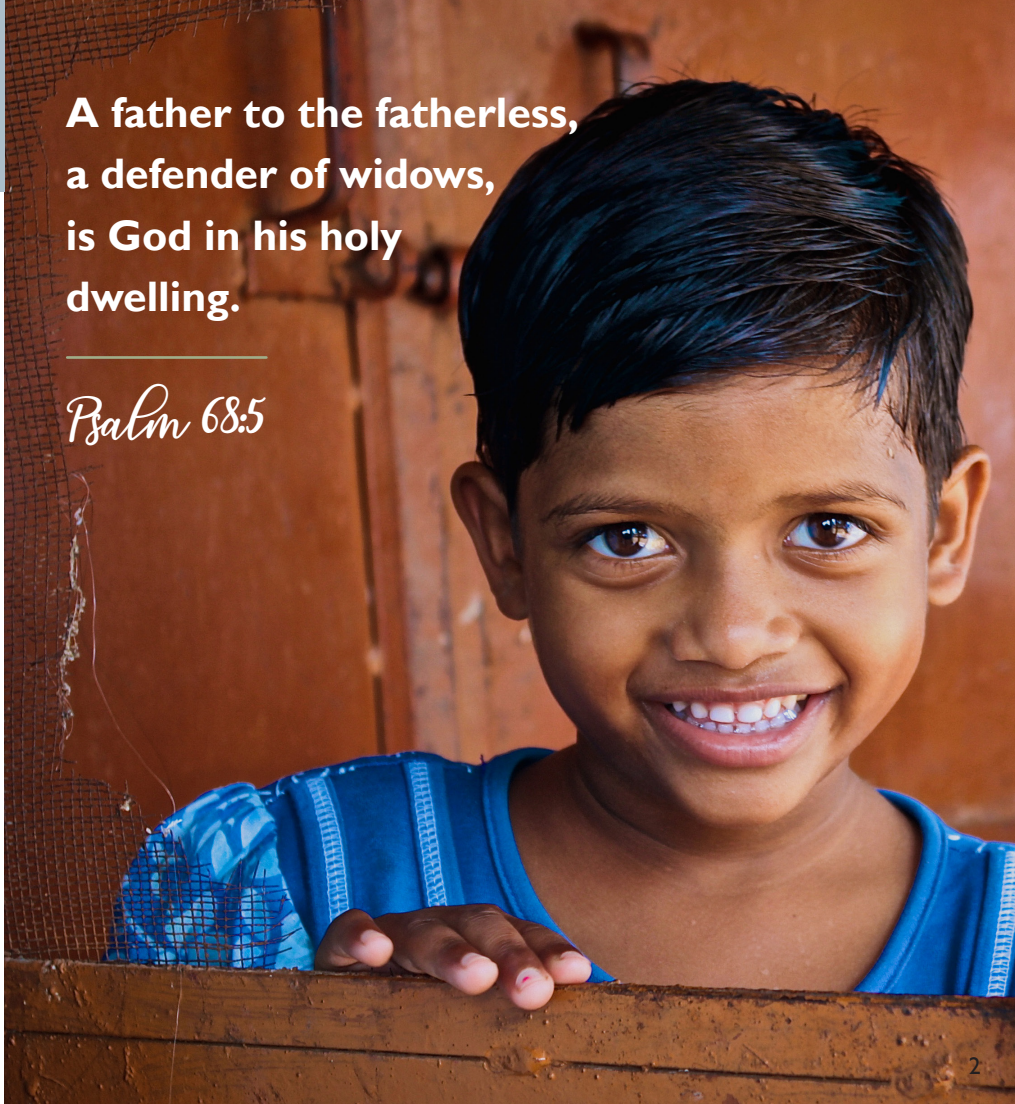
Thank you for joining us in this journey!

Micala CH Siler

Micala CH Siler
Executive Director

**A father to the fatherless,
a defender of widows,
is God in his holy
dwelling.**

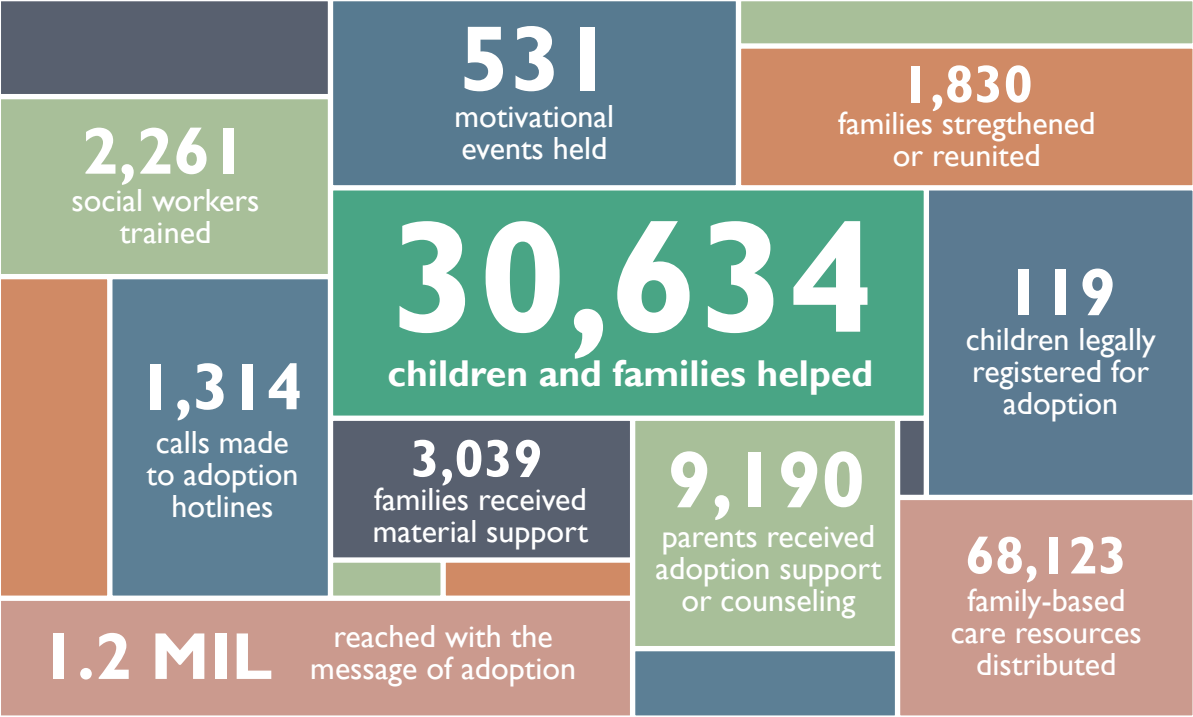
Psalms 68:5



Lives You Touched in 2018



Together with in-country partners, your gifts helped at every step of the orphan's journey to a family:





An Orphan's Journey to Family



LAYING FOUNDATION

Making sure child protection laws exist and family-based care for orphans is a priority for the government



ACTIVATING CHANGE

Sharing the vision of orphans in families and engaging the church and local community



BREAKING BARRIERS

Shifting mindsets and making sure orphans are given a chance to be adopted



EQUIPPING CAREGIVERS

Ensuring that adoptive and foster families, caregivers and social workers are equipped to care for children in a healthy way



FINDING FAMILIES

Creating permanency and stability for orphans through placement into a family, reunification, mentorship, and support



Kyrgyzstan When Adel and Erik decided to adopt a child, they didn't know how many **barriers** they'd have to break through to bring their daughter home. Not long after their decision to adopt, they attended the School for Adoptive Parents, a school that your gifts help fund!

The school's primary goal is to **activate change** in Kyrgyzstan and to help **lay foundations** to ensure local adoption is a viable option for families. The school **equips caregivers and adoptive parents** to care for children in a healthy way with the ultimate goal of orphans growing up in permanent, stable, and loving **families**.

After going through the school, Adel and Erik met a little girl named Sasha and began the process of adopting her! Sasha was six years old at the time and living in an orphanage that was unwilling to release her for adoption. Adel and Erik, along with their support team from the School for Adoptive Parents, pushed to have Sasha transferred to a different orphanage, which opened its doors to work with Adel and Erik on Sasha's adoption. Today, she is officially adopted! Sasha is just one of many children whose adoption journey followed a long and winding road. But in the end, she is chosen and loved!



I am:
protected




Paraguay Elizabeth had been living in one of Paraguay's largest orphanages for years. She was often left alone and didn't get much individual care. With so many other children to compete for attention, she began to withdraw. But all that changed this year!

In Paraguay, a main priority has been working with the government to reform child welfare laws and develop best practices for orphan care. The government has acknowledged the inherent right of every child to a family. With your help, they recently hosted a national seminar to bring in legal specialists from the UK to train their judges, public defenders and specialized prosecutors.

Why is it so important to work in the area of legal advocacy and child protection? Because without it, children like Elizabeth don't have the opportunity to be legally adopted. Today, Elizabeth is in a safe, loving family. She no longer has to compete for attention. She is just Elizabeth, protected and loved. Thank you for giving her a chance to learn and grow in her family!

Nepal Communities and churches in Nepal children. A little girl named Alisia and her of Nepal. They were both very ill and need them, providing much needed medical care within the church stepped in and brought A orphanage. **The church continues to w Alisia's education!** Through your giving, th spread throughout churches in Nepal!



I am
ev

are wrapping around orphans and vulnerable
mother were found in the cold mountains
ded assistance, so a local church embraced
. Alisia's mother sadly passed away. A family
Alisia into their family, keeping her out of an
wrap around this family and supports
ne vision of orphans in families continues to

n:
embraced

I am:
Loved



Russia Even before they knew her, they wanted her. Irina and Maxim had felt God calling them to adopt after participating in the Day of Prayer for Orphans in their home country of Russia. Irina said:

“We felt specifically that we would ‘need faith’ in our life for the child that God had for us. We started to fill out adoption paperwork, praying for our future child. Around the same time, a little girl named Sveta was abandoned at the hospital.

We were thrilled when we were matched with Sveta! However, the adoption caseworkers discovered that Sveta had been diagnosed as deaf and having special needs. When they found out they discouraged us from continuing with the adoption. They said it would be difficult to raise her with a disability, and they understood if we wanted a different child.

Our answer was ‘Absolutely we still want her!’ We continued to pray fervently while our Sveta was kept in the hospital for one month for additional monitoring and diagnosis. Praise God, when we came to get her, the doctor said she could hear! Furthermore, as she has lived in our family, her other health issues and needs have gotten better. **Our daughter needed a family to love and care for her, and to pray over her.** She is now healthy and happy.”



Ukraine Sometimes, a child's story and photo on the official registry of Ukraine is what determines whether they will be adopted or not. Because access to children living in institutions is limited, parents interested in adoption are often only presented with a simple photo and medical certificate. To address this issue, our partners create bright and compelling 90 second videos so prospective parents can really meet children who are waiting. They hear the child's voice, see them interact, find out their interests and hobbies.

These videos are used on multiple platforms—including the official government database—ensuring the widest possible net is cast for these children to be noticed. This year, five children were adopted!



I am:
seen



I am:
heard



Uganda Thousands of Ugandans are hearing about family-based care through a national radio program. The radio hosts discuss topics about engaging the local church to care for orphans, protecting Uganda's vulnerable children, and praying for orphans among other vital issues. Mrs. Sarah from the Mbale district of Uganda called the show stating that she pledged to build an orphan care ministry at her church after listening to the radio program. The program has grown so much in popularity that it has moved providers to accommodate a larger audience! **Thanks to your support, this radio show helps shift mindsets about how Ugandans care for orphans, giving children a chance to be adopted by loving families!**

India India has the largest orphan population in the world. Legal systems are in place to help orphaned children find forever families, but the trickle-down to the grassroots level, especially in rural parts of India, isn't happening. Orphanage directors don't have the technology or training to investigate if a child is truly an orphan and should be placed for adoption.

But there is change on the horizon! Your gifts are supporting social investigations on children in orphanages, helping kids like Baashir get adopted! Baashir's parents passed away and his uncle surrendered him to an orphanage. At eight years old, he was living in an orphanage without the love of a family. **Thanks to your giving, an investigation found that Baashir was eligible to be placed on the national adoption registry and now he is adopted!** Chosen and valued, Baashir now has a forever family. Thank you!





Romania National orphan care events are not only laying a foundation and activating change for orphans but also equipping caregivers in best practices for children with trauma.

For example, *The Long Road to Home*, a recent three-day conference, brought over 1,000 adoptive parents, foster parents, social workers, NGO representatives, government officials, and lawmakers together.

The event included motivational sessions, inspirational testimonials, and even friendly debates about the collaboration between state and non-governmental organizations. There were over 50 workshops to help inspire, encourage, and train individuals working with orphans and vulnerable children. Your support made it possible!

I am:
cherished





I am:
home



Bangladesh Before she was placed in a loving foster family, eight-year-old Aporna lived a hard life that no little girl should ever experience.

Aporna's mother's untreated mental illness resulted in physical abuse of her and her little sister. Her father was unable to care for the girls by himself. Aporna and her sister often went without meals. The situation grew worse when their father tried to give the girls away to strangers. Our team in Bangladesh heard about Aporna and her sister and quickly worked to place them into a loving foster family.

Your generosity is equipping Christian foster families to care for children that have been through trauma like Aporna and her sister. Aporna is now safe and will begin school soon!



Ukraine Creating permanency and stability through adoption is the last stop—and the heartbeat—of the orphan's journey. **Thanks to your faithful giving, Denis and Darina are now wrapped in the loving arms of a family.** As they transition from a life of darkness into a new life of love and gentleness, we see God's beautiful plan unfold.

After witnessing the death of their mother and sitting in an apartment alone with her for days, Denis and Darina's trauma was utterly devastating. *Reserved, fearful, and mistrusting* were the words used to describe the twins.

Today, they are thriving. In the beginning, Denis went through a rough patch. He cried, yelled, and kicked, but with art therapy, Denis now expresses his emotions through painting and drawing. Sweet and shy Darina is extremely creative and is the true definition of a daddy's girl. The twins love to spend time with their parents, play games, watch movies, and have even enjoyed some time at the ocean! Thank you for helping make Denis and Darina's adoption a reality!

I am:
adopted



A Letter from the Board Chair



Dear Friends,

You have seen our messaging theme this year centers on communicating these powerful stories of hope, love and family using the 'I am' introduction. Now it is my turn.

I am: **grateful** for all of you - our friends, partners, and supporters!

I am: **inspired** by your dedication, perseverance, and generosity!

I am: **moved** by the lives and families we've been able to help!

I am: **thankful** to God for all He continues to do as we work in a growing number of countries, with an increasing number of amazing partners, and a passionate group of friends and supporters!

As you reviewed the many wonderful stories describing the journey from orphanhood to loving family, I hope that your spirit was lifted. Even more, I hope you were encouraged to think about what the future could hold for the millions of children we have yet to reach and millions of families we have yet to help. It could be an overwhelming endeavor but with so many dedicated supporters and talented champions ready to be a part of the solution, I am confident that the future is bright.

Please let us know how you are willing and able to grow in your relationship with AFFEO and the many lives that TOGETHER we can transform.

"The Lord of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan....' Zechariah 7:9-10

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, prayers, and friendship!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Oriah'.

Oriah Longanecker

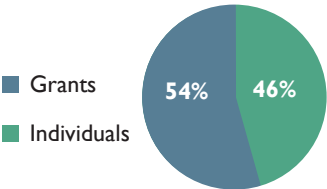
FY18 Financial Statement

Revenue	\$841,785
Expense	\$656,101
Change in Net Assets	\$185,684
Net Assets, End of Year	\$291,278

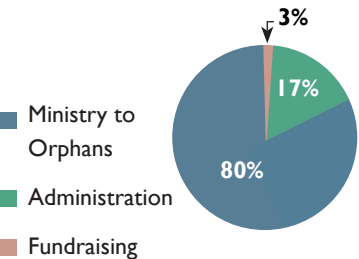
NOTE: All financials figures for FY18 are unaudited as of press time.

Audited numbers will be available after February 15, 2019, and can be viewed at afamilyforeveryorphan.org/financial-accountability

Sources of Funding



Uses of Funding



Why I Give: “My wife, Lois, and I have supported A Family for Every Orphan since its inception. **For its capable leaders and staff, the ministry’s name is not just a slogan, but an achievable mission they strive day in and out to make reality.** We have been so impressed with the determination the AFFEO team applies to their work in a growing number of countries worldwide. Sometimes the big numbers, 10 million adoptable children in today’s world, desensitize readers given the scope of needs. But AFFEO staff and partners are showing time and again how practical models can be formulated to enable caring families to adopt children in their home countries in culturally supportive ways and with significantly less expense than sending them abroad. As countless children now in caring homes can attest, the AFFEO team are life-changers.”



Dr. Richard Scheuerman



I am:

the future

Not long ago, little Juhi would have been destined to live in an Indian orphanage until she “aged out.” Sometimes children as young as 14 are forced to leave the orphanage, often with very few real life skills. It’s very likely Juhi would have wound up homeless or addicted to drugs. She may have been trafficked or become a prostitute, as 60% of teen girls do after aging out. But that is not Juhi’s future. A team in India is seeking to place Juhi in a loving family, giving her the chance to thrive!

The fact that Juhi has local advocates to find her a family represents a HUGE societal shift towards family-based care for orphans. And you have played an important part! **By supporting A Family for Every Orphan, your gifts are working at each point in the orphan’s journey to a family!**

For example:

After participating in an **event**, a local orphanage director experienced a transformation of the heart. She **changed her focus** from running an orphanage to instead mentor an entire slum community of 200 families, providing **resources and training** so that the families were strengthened and equipped. Through a variety of programs, the children in that community have been **protected** from being orphaned, sold into prostitution, and/or institutionalized due to poverty. They are also finding **adoptive families** for children who have no parents.



Will you continue to partner with us to create permanency and stability for every orphan? **There is still much to be done, but together we will see a world without orphans someday!**



Thank you!

Because Children Belong in Families

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

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Photography by Amith Dutta,
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