

A close-up portrait of a young child with curly brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. The child is wearing a bright blue t-shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage.

# Unfailing Faithfulness

# 2021

ANNUAL REPORT



A FAMILY FOR  
EVERY ORPHAN

A FAMILY FOR  
EVERY ORPHAN

# A Letter from the Executive Director

*Dear Friend,*

Do you have a song, scripture, or quote that has been a mainstay for you this past year, to remind you of God's unfailing faithfulness during the storms of life?

The *Goodness of God* has been a song my neighborhood church in Chicago has led worship with for many Sundays. During the first year of the pandemic, amidst the uncertainty, quarantines, and challenges of it all, the spoken truth through these specific lyrics was a source of encouragement and welcomed perspective.

*All my life you have been faithful,*

*All my life you have been so so good,*

*With every breath that I am able,*

*Oh I will sing of the goodness of God.*

Over this past year, as I have stepped into this role, I have had the privilege of learning the names and stories of many orphans and vulnerable children. They are in the forefront of my mind and on my heart each day. This song that was once a prayer of thanksgiving has become a prayer of petition for every one of them. May every child know of His love and one day sing these words with praise.



## TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE FAITHFULNESS OF:

- **God**, for all provisions and growing hearts for vulnerable children and families, turning heartbreak into hope for so many this year.
- **Our national partners**, who - amidst a rapidly changing landscape - have faithfully and tirelessly ministered to children, families, caregivers, and churches, while assisting government efforts and improving policies for children.
- **You**, our faithful supporters, who provided during uncertain times to those in their greatest time of need.

Thank you for answering His call to care for the orphaned and vulnerable. Without your sustained provision, none of this would be possible. **Because of you, 176,565 children and families experienced the “goodness of God” last year.**

May you trust in a totally faithful God during the storms of life. May the stories you are about to read fill you with joy and remind you of His steadfast love and faithfulness.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Dyer". The script is elegant and cursive.

Heather Dyer  
Executive Director



I bow down toward  
your {holy temple}  
and give thanks  
to your name for your  
Steadfast love  
and  
Your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted  
above all things your  
name and your word.

Psalms 138:2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1

MISSION AND VISION 3

2021 AT A GLANCE 4

YOUR IMPACT 5

FAITHFUL PARTNERS 12

LETTER FROM  
THE BOARD CHAIR 13

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 14

FAITHFUL SUPPORTER  
SPOTLIGHT 15

LOOKING AHEAD 17



*Your faithfulness  
is changing lives*

AFFEO is a Christian organization committed to advancing family-based care for orphans and vulnerable children. We achieve this by mobilizing churches, communities, and governments around family strengthening, foster care, and adoption.

### MISSION

To create paths for orphans to find care in loving and stable families in their home country.

### VISION

A world without orphans.

*Because children belong in families.*

— 2021 —  
*At A Glance*



176,565

**Children and  
families helped**



8,253

**Churches engaged to support  
orphans and vulnerable children**



COUNTRIES SERVED

**Ukraine, Romania, Kyrgyzstan,  
Russia, India, Bangladesh, Ghana,  
Uganda, Paraguay**



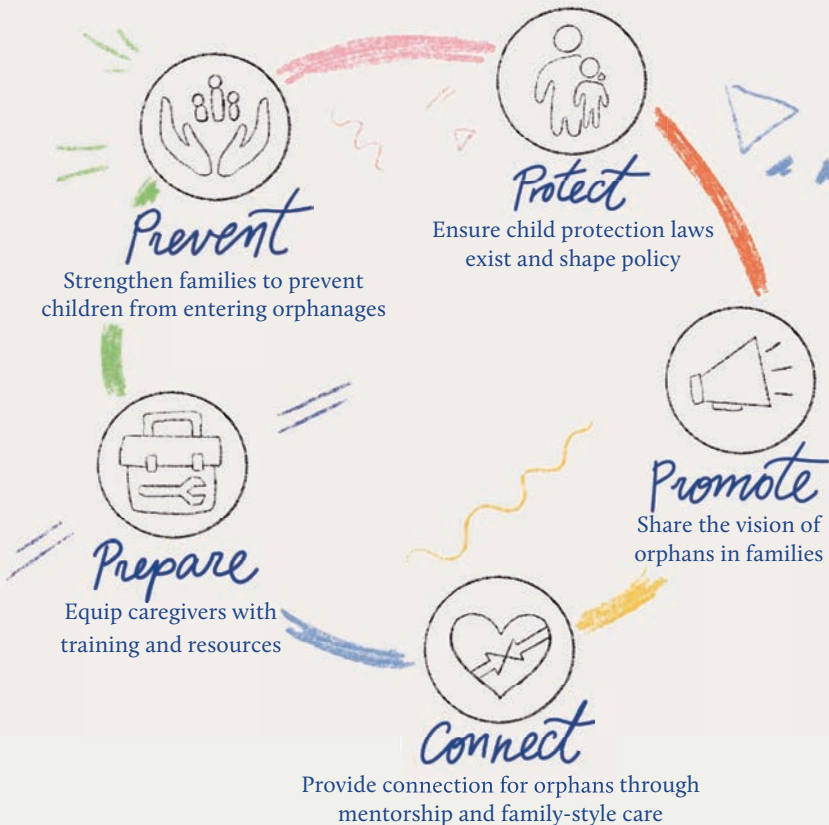
291,637

**People encouraged,  
trained, informed**

# How It's Done

YOU ARE HELPING ORPHANS KNOW THE  
INCREDIBLE LOVE OF A FAMILY.

With your support we  
champion efforts to see  
children in families  
through work to:





# Connect

*Provide stability and connection for orphans through mentorship and family-style care, while efforts are made to help them remain in, reunite with, or regain a family through foster care or adoption*

## Juliet has been reunited with her loving family because of you!

When Juliet's mother suddenly passed away and her father was unable to care for his precious daughter, she was placed in a family-style foster home in Bangladesh that you support. In her time of greatest need, Juliet was surrounded by loving foster parents who provided for her and shared the love of Christ with her.

While Juliet was being safely cared for, her father remarried and found a stable source of income.

Thanks to you, Juliet has been reunited with her father and stepmother. She is studying hard in her new school and says she is very happy to be with her family again. **The family is thankful for everything God has done in their lives and thankful for your faithful giving that cared for Juliet when they could not.**

Thanks to your generous support, foster care is growing in Bangladesh—bringing children out of overcrowded orphanages or off the streets where they are often abused and forced to rummage through landfills for food. Juliet is just one of the many children who found connection in a safe and loving foster home and reunited with a loving family in 2021. **Thank you!**



1,670

**Children placed  
into families**



3,548

**Children connected  
with mentors**



# Prevent

*Strengthen families to prevent children from entering institutional care*

**Bohdan is a 6-year-old boy in Ukraine who was at risk of being separated from his young but loving mom.** Bohdan had various developmental delays, could not read or count, and was not given needed medication as prescribed. Due to these developmental delays, rather than entering first grade, he would be sent to an orphanage with a school for similar children and live separated from his family for the rest of his school years.

Nina, Bohdan's mother, was heartbroken! **She searched for options that would allow her to keep her precious son and found Sure Start, a program in Ukraine that you support.** Sure Start provides holistic community services to young, at-risk mothers preventing the need for them to send their children to orphanages.

Bohdan was provided with speech therapy and taught how to read and count. His mom received parenting guidance and support, and learned the importance of giving Bohdan his medication as prescribed. Through these services provided by Sure Start, Bohdan improved enough to attend first grade in September! As a result, Bohdan was able to remain with his loving mother.



157,616

**Families strengthened to  
reunite or remain together**

## PREVENTION IN ACTION

While in lockdown, parents in Uganda were taught through the Family for Every Orphan radio show how to parent with positivity, care for their children amidst COVID, and how to discipline their children in the way of the Lord. Your support of this radio show is strengthening families while promoting orphan care to over 2 million people!





# Promote

*Share the vision of orphans in families and the need for family-based care*

After Katya's mother died when she was 9 years old, Katya was placed in a boarding school. Unbeknownst to anyone, she suffered violence and abuse from her stepfather, whose family maintained rights as her legal guardian.

Irina and her husband Sergei attend a church that participates in a program you support called "One Church, One Child" in Ukraine, where one church commits to praying for one child until they are adopted. They met Katya through the program's mentorship component. Irina and Katya found an instant connection and over time Katya began opening up, sharing about her difficult life and heartbreaking situation.

Irina and Sergei immediately began advocating for Katya. With the help of social services and partner organizations, Katya was removed from her abusive stepfather's grasp. After a two-year process and significant support from their church, Irina and Sergei welcomed Katya into their family as their daughter!



136,034

People attended motivational  
and educational events



7,890

Family-based care  
resources distributed

**Katya is one example of the thousands of children's lives that have been changed through your support of "One Church, One Child."** In addition to committing to prayer, participating churches share God's message of caring for orphans and promote the need for family-based care for orphans in their community.

Over 1,000 churches participate in "One Church, One Child" today thanks to your support!



# Protect

*Ensure child protection laws exist and shape policy to create paths for orphans to be in loving and stable families*

## **Luis is alive and thriving in a family, thanks to you!**

Luis was born prematurely, at just 24 weeks, and spent his first two months of life in a hospital. His birth mom suffered many physical and personal challenges and was unable to care for Luis. While at the hospital, a volunteer family stepped in to provide Luis with special care.

When he was finally strong enough to leave the hospital, **Luis was placed in a family under a faith-based foster care program that you support in Paraguay.**

Because your faithful support has significantly improved the adoption process in Paraguay, the court quickly declared Luis legally eligible for adoption.

Although his foster family deeply wanted to adopt Luis, they were unable to. Thankfully, he remained in the same family and was instead adopted by extended family members who had known him from the very beginning!

## **Luis' adoption was made possible by your faithful support that creates paths to protect children by placing them in safe and loving families!**

Luis is now four years old and enjoys playing with his siblings and being a kid. **He is a living miracle, thanks to a family being there for him at every step of his precious life.** He is now thriving in his forever family, surrounded by dependable and loving parents.

Your faithful gifts are developing and implementing foster care systems and improving child welfare policies in several nations, making all the difference for countless vulnerable children!





3,671

Social workers and government  
employees trained



155

Social investigations conducted to  
determine adoptable status

## PROTECTION IN ACTION

**AFFEO partners in Romania have been hard at work with their legislature improving child welfare laws!**

**“We wanted to thank you because now we have the legal basis to place children in families. The steps you have taken during the last years are bringing today joy to many families and protecting the best interests of children. Thank you!!!”**

- Child Protection System Case Manager



# Prepare

*Ensure adoptive and foster families have training, support services, and resources along their journey*

Alex was so happy to finally be in a loving family, but he struggled with emotional outbursts that prevented him from having a healthy relationship with his new family. He did not know how to process his emotions and was often buried in feelings of frustration, shame, and regret. Cristina, his loving adoptive mother, knew Alex's behavior was a result of his history of trauma. But she was at a loss for what to do.

It was then that she learned about **trauma-informed trainings and therapeutic programs that you support** in her country of Romania.

Alex attended one of the therapeutic intervention programs, where he learned how to process his emotions and how to better control them. Cristina also attended a parent's training and support group, where she learned the importance of maintaining connection and how to support Alex in moments of dysregulation. **"I must say that after every meeting I left better equipped, encouraged and with a more positive attitude,"** said Cristina.



This precious family was transformed by these trainings and programs!

Cristina and Alex are now enjoying a trust-filled, connected relationship and Alex is better at regulating his emotions. **Alex is now confident that he has the tools he needs to have successful relationships with family and peers and feels more at peace.** You made this possible!

Thank you for preparing families and caregivers to best care for orphans and vulnerable children, while helping them heal.



153,625

**Foster and adoptive families  
received support or counseling**

# Faithful Partners

*Meet two of the many national partners AFFEO works with!*

## KINGSLEY-GHANA

**“I have been saved from abortion to offer hope to other vulnerable mothers and children.** I have known that my purpose in life is to serve, lead and inspire totally.

Therefore, I am not a mere pro-life activist, I am a preacher of life for all people and a servant of God to provide hope and support to orphans and vulnerable children in my nation and beyond.”

Kingsley is truly a servant leader, helping shape child welfare policies to ensure orphans have a chance of reuniting or regaining a new family, partnering with local businesses to develop programs for aged out teens, and encouraging and equipping churches to care for orphans and at-risk families.

Kingsley is passionate to see children in families and the church raised up to support at-risk families to prevent separation. He believes “the relevance of every church is through meeting the needs of the local community.”



## ALEX-INDIA

**Having experienced the struggles and challenges of being an orphan himself,** Alex is uniquely motivated to reach and rescue children who are abandoned and in need of care and protection. Through the many people who intervened for Alex throughout his life, he knew of God's love. Alex says, “I was never alone and never will be, my God is my strength!”

Alex works closely with local government authorities throughout India advocating for orphans. He and his wife, who was also an orphan, run a children's home and work tirelessly to place children with safe and loving families through reunification or adoption.

Alex also runs a daycare and afterschool program for at-risk families and a skills training program for women. These programs are critical to prevent child abandonment, as they provide parents a way to work to gain financial stability to care for their children.

Alex passionately believes that all children deserve a loving family.



# A Letter from the Board Chair

Friends –

Thank you all for your partnership with A Family for Every Orphan this past year. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a challenge to our partners around the world, your investment has made a difference for children. Your giving directly impacted families, churches, and children.



The theme for the annual report is “Unfailing Faithfulness.” This theme is grounded in Psalm 138:2 – “I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.”

We, as an organization, have seen God’s unfailing faithfulness in several ways throughout this past year. God faithfully continues to grow hearts for orphans and vulnerable children; turning heartbreak into hope for so many young lives.

God demonstrated His faithfulness throughout the last year by shining the light on the life-giving work our national partners are able to accomplish. Despite local and national obstacles, God has faithfully enabled our partners to help restore families, place the orphaned into families, and strengthen families to prevent separation.

**During uncertain financial times, you, our friends and investors, have continued to generously support those in deep need.** Without God’s faithfulness through your generous provision nothing would be possible.

God’s faithfulness shone through the pandemic by providing new and creative opportunities to support government efforts providing COVID relief to so many. Camps, conferences, and counseling were held to meet needs in a rapidly changing environment. The care given to orphans and vulnerable children has pressed on in the face of great uncertainty.

As you review this report and read the wonderful stories, I hope you recognize the unfailing faithfulness of the Lord to orphaned and vulnerable children. We look forward with anticipation to watch God’s faithfulness unfold in the years ahead. **We know God’s vision is that children belong in families...** We’re excited to see God’s faithfulness in transforming these young lives around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Melilli".

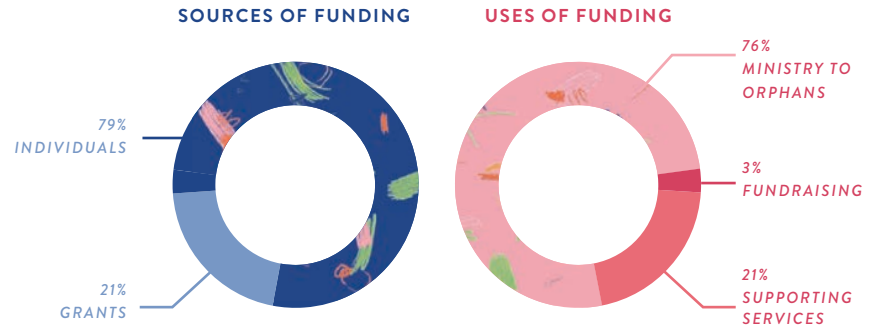
David Melilli  
Board Chair





# Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Overview

REVENUE	\$ 762,868
EXPENSES	\$ 613,593



NOTE: All financial figures for FY21 are unaudited as of press time. Audited numbers will be available after May 1, 2022, and can be viewed online at [afamilyforeveryorphan.org/financial-accountability](https://afamilyforeveryorphan.org/financial-accountability).

## Board

**DAVID MELILLI, J.D., LL.M.,** CHAIR

**MELINDA MANDELL,** VICE-CHAIR

**PAUL ZHDAN,** TREASURER

**ANITA DEYNEKA,** VOTING MEMBER

**ORIAH LONGANECKER,** VOTING MEMBER

**ANTHONY RITCHIE,** VOTING MEMBER

**DR. RICHARD SCHEUERMAN,** VOTING MEMBER

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**KARMEN FRIESEN**

**RICHARD T. MOORE, ESQ.**

**ALLISON PINKHAM**

**KARL SCHEUERMAN**

**ELENA G. SHIPINA**

**CHELSEA WINFIELD**

# Faithful Supporter Spotlight

## ALLISON

"I have always had a passion for helping vulnerable children, especially orphans. It absolutely breaks my heart to think of children growing up without a loved one to wipe their tears and hug them when they are hurt, to protect them from harm, to tuck them in at night, to celebrate their birthday. We are the lucky ones who grew up in a loving family home, and **we simply can not turn a blind eye to children in need** who are not as fortunate.



*Allison is a Chief Human Resources Officer living in Europe with her two children and husband.*

Though our callings may look different as some are called to adopt, some called to foster, and some called to give sacrificially to organizations supporting orphans, we are all clearly called to help orphans.

*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."*

I found A Family for Every Orphan when I was looking for ways to help support orphans while in Germany. I was instantly in awe by this amazing organization comprised of the most giving, selfless people I have ever met. **I saw first hand how every dollar they receive is conscientiously used to support families in adopting orphans in their home countries and giving them the support they need.**

It is my honor and privilege to give faithfully to AFFEO and support helping orphans to get to where they should have been all along, in loving families."

## CATHY

"I first heard about A Family for Every Orphan from my niece who passionately endorsed the mission. I was moved by the stories and the basic idea behind the ministry.



*Cathy is a mom and soon-to-be grandmother.*

Often in today's world, you can feel so helpless seeing so many children who need loving families to care for them. I was encouraged to find a place where I could send funds that would relieve the suffering of some children.

I am grateful to those who give so much of their time and energy to filling these little lives with loving families."

## Monthly Giving Matters!

Join our community of monthly donors and create lasting change in the lives of orphans! Any monthly amount makes a difference in a child's life. It ensures their needs are consistently met while allowing investment into long-term solutions for children. To start giving monthly visit [afamilyforeveryorphan.org/give](https://afamilyforeveryorphan.org/give).

## New Ways to Give!

**PayPal:** AFamily4EveryOrphan

**Zelle:** [info@afamilyforeveryorphan.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeveryorphan.org)

**Stocks, Mutual Funds, Securities and ACH:**

Contact [info@afamilyforeveryorphan.org](mailto:info@afamilyforeveryorphan.org) for more information.



# Looking Ahead in Faith

As we look ahead, we see needs that are greater than ever before. With over 5 million children orphaned as a result of COVID, an untold number of children orphaned and displaced from the war in Ukraine, and global inflation and job losses increasing poverty and instances of child abuse, neglect, and abandonment, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and disheartened.

But the Lord hears our prayers for provision and perseverance, and in His faithfulness reminds us that the gospel itself promises that while it will be hard, it will be worth it. We are in the business of “hard,” but praise God, He is with us.



## IN 2022 YOUR GIVING WILL HELP CHILDREN REMAIN, REUNITE, OR REGAIN A FAMILY AS WE -

- Strengthen families to *prevent* child separation
- Provide **trauma care training** to *prepare* caregivers and others
- Improve child welfare systems and policies to *protect* children
- Mobilize the church to *promote* family-based care
- Provide **mentorship and life skills training** for youth and aged-out teens, and **family-style care** for orphans and vulnerable children to *connect* them to safe, caring, and consistent adults



# THANK YOU!

The Lord's loving kindnesses never cease,  
For His compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23



## SOCIAL MEDIA:



Twitter:

@afam4everyorphan



Instagram:

@afamilyforeveryorphan



Facebook:

A Family For Every Orphan

"Because Children  
Belong in Families"

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All gifts are tax-deductible to  
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Names and photos have been  
replaced for children's privacy.

