

# REFRAMING

FAMILY | FOSTER KIDS & ORPHANS | THE FUTURE

## 2022 KIDSAVE ANNUAL REPORT



**KIDSAVE**

Forever families for all kids, everywhere.

[KIDSAVE.ORG](https://www.kidsave.org)

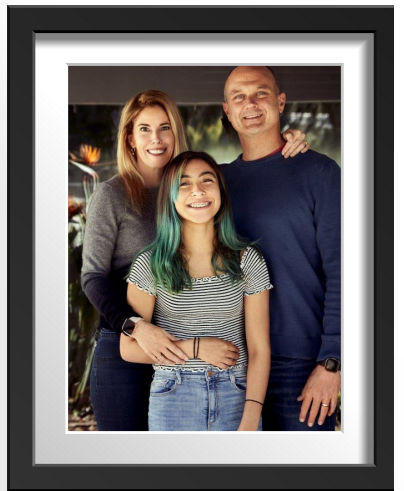
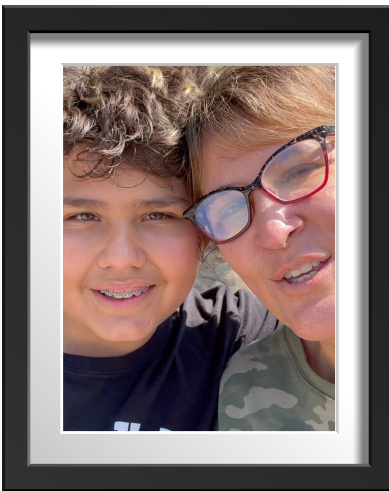




Reframing  
 how we think about  
 kids in foster care  
 and orphanages,  
 what it means  
 to be family,  
 & what the future  
 can hold for these  
 amazing kids.



**KIDSAVE**  
 Forever families for all kids, everywhere.







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Forever families  
for all kids, everywhere.

**2022**

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# **DEAR SUPPORTERS,**

In 2022 we focused on **REFRAMING**.... reframing how we think about kids in foster care and orphanages, what it means to be family, and what the future holds when these amazing kids get the chance to thrive with the love and support of family behind them. We witnessed our tried-and-true model work time and time again to make it happen.

We heard countless stories from kids enjoying safety, security, and thriving in their families. Teens like [Aura](#) from Colombia and [Danny](#) in Los Angeles shared in their own words how their lives have been transformed through the support and love of their parents, who are steadfastly in their corner, rooting for their successes.

Their stories are proof of the power of our mission at Kidsave. We are a nonprofit 501 (C) (3) charity that believes all kids, everywhere, deserve a family or, at the very least, a lifelong caring connection. Our innovative programs in the U.S. and around the world continue to help older kids (ages 9 -18) in foster care and orphanages find these lasting connections and forever families.

We invite you to become a champion for older, forgotten kids in care. Through no fault of their own, these kids are in a system that - as best as it tries - often falls short. These children need, want, and deserve a chance at finding happiness and family.

We hope you are inspired by this report and will help us continue Kidsave's life-changing work.



*Elizabeth Dresing*



*Joni Noel*

Elizabeth Dresing and Joni Noel,  
2022 Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees

**[MAKE A DONATION AT KIDSAVE.ORG/DONATE](https://kidsave.org/donate)**

Or send a check to Kidsave, PO Box 39293, Los Angeles, CA 90039-0293

*100% of public donations support our programs thanks to the generosity of our Guardian donors!*



Since 1999,  
Kidsave has directly helped  
**19,259** youth through our  
**Weekend Miracles &  
Summer Miracles** programs  
here in the U.S. and our  
international programs in  
**Ukraine and Sierra Leone.**

**4 out of 5 kids** in our  
programs find the **love &  
support** of a mentor, guardian,  
or adoptive family.





Dear Friends,

We started 2022 strong, ready to help older children find the families they need, want, and deserve. We thought we were finally getting back to normal. Our **Weekend Miracles** Meet the Kids events returned to in-person activities, with our kids and adults forming connections over mini golf, on hikes, and bowling. Our **Summer Miracles** program was heading back in full swing, with 42 kids set to travel, hoping to find their forever families. In **Sierra Leone** we broke new ground every day by closing orphanages and reuniting children with extended family or finding new homes in their tribal communities.

In **Ukraine**, we were celebrating success after our two-year pilot stunningly demonstrated that Ukrainian families are ready to step up and take in older kids from orphanages – a game-changer for the more than 70,000 kids in Ukrainian orphanages. It was time to expand. And then, in an instant, everything changed. The unthinkable happened. On February 24, Russia invaded Ukraine. We knew we had to act right then and there, no matter the costs. We had 117 kids that we had put into families – we had to protect them. Little did we know that those actions in the first critical hours to save 117 children and families would grow into a rescue effort that has saved over 30,000.

I am deeply grateful to our supporters for making this incredible effort possible and to our dedicated team and volunteers who spent countless hours serving children and families who needed us. Because of you, we were not only able to expand our mission in Ukraine, but also to continue our important work of finding families for youth in foster care in the US and orphans in Colombia and Sierra Leone.

**We are humbled by the work we accomplished in 2022 to help more children find the love and support of family and lifelong connections.** We are deeply grateful that Summer and Weekend Miracles programs continue to build lasting connections for kids and families.

Across the world, in Sierra Leone, we're thankful that 117 orphans have moved from orphanages and back into their villages. And right now, almost a year into the war, we are sobered by the plight of our team in Ukraine, who have not only rescued tens of thousands and delivered over **1000 tons** of aid but kept our family-finding and mentoring work going, providing mentoring to over 200 teens and finding families for 24 orphans. Our work there will continue to serve orphans and children, bringing them warmth and hope, and keeping them alive as the fight for freedom continues.

**Supporters and friends, thank you for helping us make our life-saving and life-changing work possible.** And to our dedicated families, hosts, adopters, and volunteers who step up for the kids in our programs, thank you for seeing our kids for the unique, deserving individuals they truly are.

To all the kids around the world who faced another year without the love and security of family, we remember you, and we work for you, every day. You drive our work and our resolve. **We will continue working tirelessly to ensure that we connect these kids to the forever families, the stable support, they so desperately wish for.**

**Thank you for joining us on this mission,**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randi Thompson".

Randi Thompson  
Kidsave Co-Founder, CEO | Adoptive Mom





# A MODEL THAT WORKS

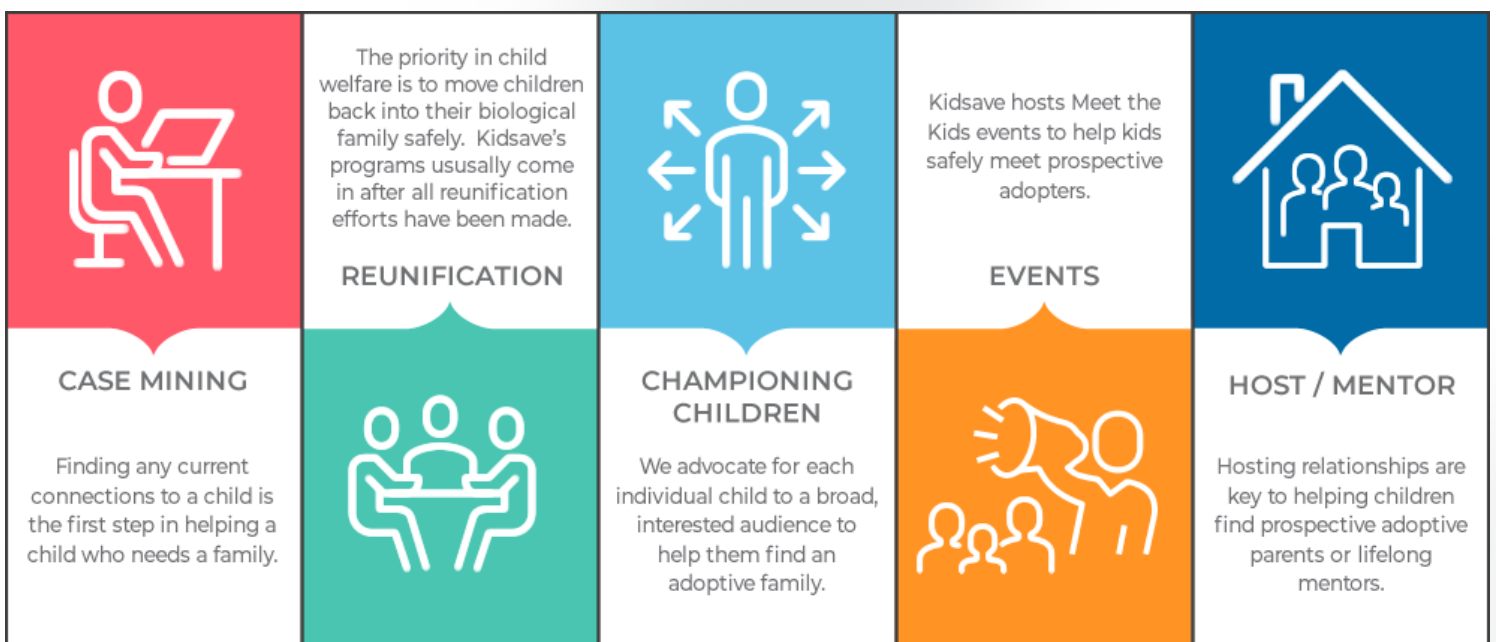
We've refined our **Family Visit Model** over the last 23 years, and child welfare professionals consider us the gold standard. Our model specifically serves the hardest-to-place youth, often between the ages of 9-18. Our international model begins by ensuring that all attempts to reunify the child with the biological family have been made. When reunification fails, relationships in the child's history are reviewed to see if an extended relative or friend might be the permanent family solution for that child. If that fails, then children are introduced to host families who become that child's partner in finding a permanent connection.

In the U.S., our model starts with child-specific advocacy and continues through hosting and adoption matches. Through our programs, we want to ensure teens don't have to exit the child welfare system without the safety net of a permanent family or a mentoring relationship. Without the support of caring adults, the odds are stacked against these teens, often preventing them from completing high school or college, finding a good job, or having the example of successful family life from which to build their own.

Our programs open the door wider for kids and families to connect. Weekend events and child-specific advocacy help expand our reach to find the child a forever family in the U.S. and internationally.

Our model is effective and unique in child welfare because it:

- welcomes people without home studies to meet kids;
- enables people to host children without committing to adopt them;
- embraces kids who may be ambivalent about adoption, but need a permanent family connection;
- introduces children to others who might be open to adoption;
- provides interactive events that give children and adults a safe space to connect; and
- gives kids a voice and a choice in adults who may become their forever family.







# WEEKEND MIRACLES L.A.

## Jesus & Grant

As a child in foster care, the odds were against Jesus. Less than 50% of kids raised in foster care graduate high school, and only 10% go on to obtain a college degree. But research shows that having just one supportive person in their life can change these odds dramatically.

For Jesus, that person was Grant.

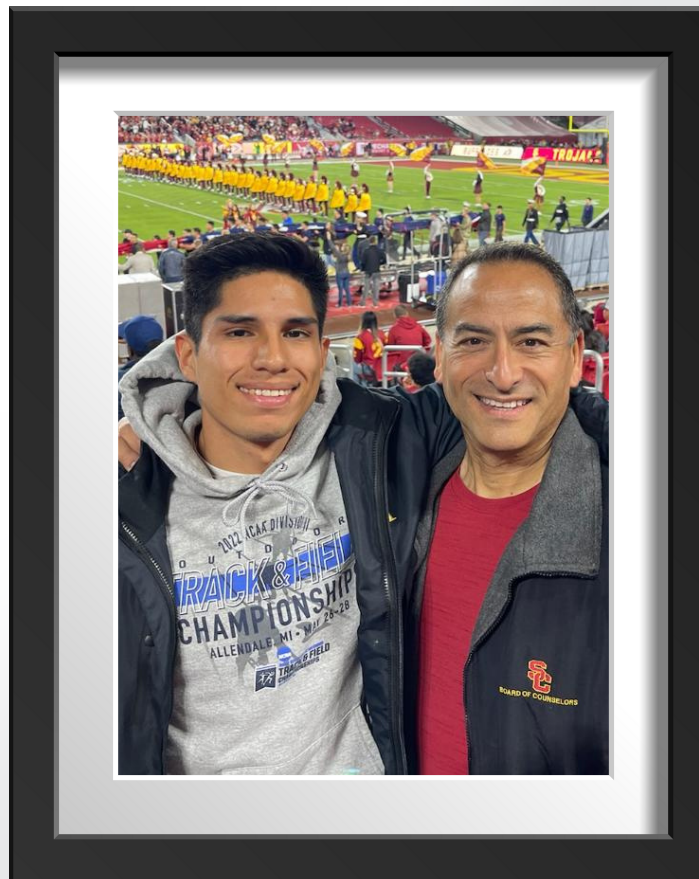
Four years ago, Grant and Jesus met at a Kidsave Weekend Miracles event and hit it off right away. They continued to get to know one another through Kidsave events and hosting, and in 2016, they became a family.

With Grant's support, Jesus worked hard to get caught up on his high school credits and joined his school's track, cross country and football teams. "He'd been moved around so much, been to so many schools, that he was behind in the classes needed to get into college," says Grant. "But he was dedicated."

Jesus took summer school classes, and joining the sports teams helped him maintain the discipline necessary to succeed. "He got plenty of help from his high school coaches and teammates," says Grant. By the time Jesus was ready to graduate, he had new dreams for himself: to graduate college and to train to qualify for the Olympics.

Today, Jesus is close to finishing his senior year at Cal State LA. And, after qualifying and competing at the Div II NCAA National Track Championships last spring, Jesus and his teammates ended up placing 9th in the entire nation in the 4x400 relay.

Like Grant, we are so proud of all Jesus has already accomplished, and we can't wait to see what his future holds.



## About Weekend Miracles

In **Los Angeles**, Kidsave uses our innovative Family Visit Model to find forever families and lasting connections for older kids, like Jesus, in foster care between the ages of 9 and 17.

Through our "Meet the Kids" and "Connection Events," kids get a voice and a choice in who they want to spend more time with, get to know, and who might ultimately become their forever family.

This unique model creates more meaningful and lasting connections and has been adopted by organizations in Washington D.C., Colorado, and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Since it began in 2005,  
**Weekend Miracles** has helped  
**760** children and teens.

Last year alone in **Houston**  
**56 youth** were helped and  
**38** actively took part in our  
Weekend Miracles program,  
with **18** finding legal or  
relational permanency.

In Los Angeles, we helped  
**104 youth**, with **78** actively  
participating in our program  
and **36 youth** found legal or  
relational permanency.







# WEEKEND MIRACLES HOUSTON

## Charles & Larry

Charles was 16 and nearing aging out of the foster care system when he met Larry. For kids in government care, aging out can be a nightmare. It means being thrown into the world without a solid support system and with limited resources. An overwhelming number of kids who age out find themselves homeless. This was a big fear for Charles before he met Larry.

Charles and Larry met at a Kidsave event in Houston in July 2021 and instantly bonded over a shared love of nature. Larry has a background in law enforcement and the military—two career paths that fascinated Charles.

Between July and September of 2021, the two continued to get to know one another through in-person visits every weekend. They were able to go fishing, hunting, and hiking, along with mid-week Zoom calls where they enjoyed multiplayer online games. Soon, the two were ready to move on to hosting.

After moving in with Larry, Charles' life immediately changed for the better. He began laughing more, performed better in school, and began to pursue his dream of joining the Army by starting ROTC training to become an officer. By January 2022, they were ready to move forward with the adoption process.

The adoption was finalized on April 1st, 2022—which just happened to be Charles' birthday! "I can finally put the past behind me and start all over again," says Charles. He gets a bit emotional when thinking of other kids in foster care. "Just never give up," he says, "it may take time and seem hopeless, but there's a family waiting for you."

At 17 years old, Charles is finally home.

[kidsave.org/weekendmiracles](https://kidsave.org/weekendmiracles)



## About Weekend Miracles

In **Houston**, Kidsave uses our innovative Family Visit Model to find forever families and lasting connections for older kids, like Charles, in foster care between the ages of 9 and 17.

Through our "Meet the Kids" and "Connection Events," kids get a voice and a choice in who they want to spend more time with, get to know, and who might ultimately become their forever family.

This unique model creates more meaningful and lasting connections and has been adopted by organizations in Washington D.C., and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Since 1999 Summer Miracles  
has helped **2,108 children.**

In 2022 **63 youth**  
traveled to the U.S.

**54** of the 63 were open to  
and ready for adoption.

**48 (89%)** of those kids  
made connections with  
families who are moving  
forward with adoption.







# SUMMER MIRACLES

## Samuel & Dilan find their forever family

Greg and Aaron reached a point in their lives where they were ready to start a family. As an LGBT couple looking to adopt, they wanted to go through organizations that were open-minded and would help them enjoy such an exciting time. Fortunately for us, they found Kidsave, and it was our honor to help them fulfill their wish for a forever family.

"I first heard about Kidsave through a friend of mine and shared the idea with my husband, Aaron," says Greg. He and Aaron were impressed by Kidsave's unique family visit model, which allows older kids to meet and spend time with potential adoptive families.

Greg and Aaron began their Kidsave journey by attending one of our "Meet the Kids" events, where families and kids in our programs meet and have fun in a relaxed environment.

Greg says, "an interesting part of the journey was watching them try to figure out what it means to have parents."

It was a blissful three weeks, but soon it was time for the kids to return to Colombia. "It was a very tearful goodbye, we were all crying," says Aaron. But Greg and Aaron didn't waste much time on tears; they immediately began the adoption process.

"There was no doubt in our minds that these were our sons," says Aaron. And towards the end of summer 2022, four dreams came true as Greg and Aaron traveled to Colombia to bring Samuel and Dilan home.

They have much to look forward to, but for now, they're trying to revel in day-to-day life. Greg and Aaron are eager to take on life's joys and challenges as a family. "We just want to savor all the time we have together."

[kidsave.org/summer-miracles](https://kidsave.org/summer-miracles)



## About Summer Miracles

Summer Miracles is Kidsave's original Family Visit Program, designed for children outside the U.S. who need forever families.

A last resort for many kids, the program provides the opportunity for children growing up in foster care and orphanages in their home country to meet an adoptive family in the United States.

Summer Miracles is a volunteer-powered program, and volunteer coordinators from communities around the country work with Kidsave to make it all happen. Guided by Kidsave staff, groups in the New York Tri-State area, Southern California, Chicago, and Washington DC, along with individual families around the country, welcome children to the U.S.

## **ANGELS OF HOPE**

**30,000 children, orphans,  
and families rescued  
and evacuated to safety.**

**1,000 ton of  
humanitarian aid delivered.**



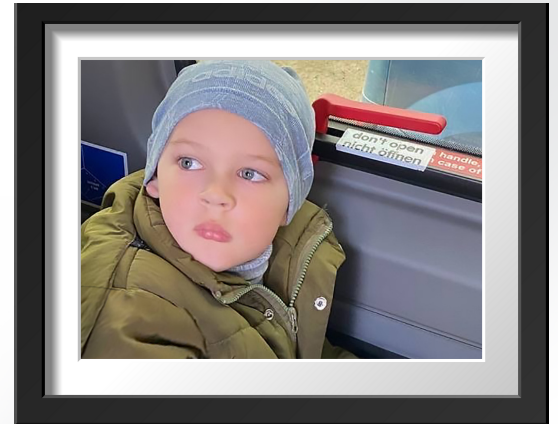




# KIDSAVE UKRAINE

## Angels of Hope

Kidsave began working in Ukraine in 2016 as part of a movement to reform Ukraine's child welfare system. Creating two programs in Ukraine, we began helping these children find forever families or gain successful, independent living through our Mentoring and Training programs. From 2016-2021, our programs were highly successful, helping over 800 children connect with supportive mentors and 117 kids to find forever families. And plans were underway to expand our programs to six more regions when the invasion began.



On February 24, 2022, our world changed. When Russia invaded Ukraine, we knew we had to act to get orphans and other children to safety. Under the leadership of Pavlo Shulha, our team began evacuating orphanages and families from Mykolaiv and Kherson to safety in western Ukraine.

With a dedicated team of 3 Kidsave leaders and over 300 volunteers, we have **rescued 30,000 people and provided 1000 tons of much-needed humanitarian aid**. Our team has come to be known as the **Angels of Hope** as they are one of the few groups still traveling into active combat zones to rescue people and provide aid.

In response to the dire food shortage in Ukraine, our Angels of Hope have developed a food distribution system that feeds over 3,000 people regularly. And as winter approached, Kidsave's Angels of Hope partnered with *We Stand With Ukraine* to implement Project Warmth: an initiative to provide generators and winter essentials to 500 people in Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, and the newly liberated Kherson region. Our life-saving work continues thanks to generous donations from the general public and our passionate Kidsave community.

During this time, **our team has worked diligently to ensure our core programs continue** in Ukraine. Our Corporate Mentoring program, *Pathways to Success*, continues to provide mentorship and career-readiness training to teens exiting or soon-to-exit institutional care. During this challenging time, our team is also providing the youth in our program with trauma therapy and resources to help them cope with the effects of this devastating war. We plan to expand these efforts with the development of our **Kidsave Miracles Center**.

The **Kidsave Miracles Center** will be a safe place where Ukrainian youth and families can come together to access resources and create connections. For now, during this time of conflict, these buildings will serve as safe houses for those who need refuge. In the future, the center will train child welfare professionals on trauma therapy and Kidsave program models, host connection events where youth can meet potential adoptive families and serve as a space for the teens in our *Pathways to Success* program to receive job training and develop professional skills.

**Kidsave remains committed to the people of Ukraine.** We will continue to meet the needs of today while planting the seeds for a better tomorrow. Visit [kidsave.org/standwithukraine/](https://kidsave.org/standwithukraine/) to learn more.

[kidsave.org/ukraine](https://kidsave.org/ukraine)

## **Mentoring in Ukraine**

**805 youth served since 2018.**

**207 teens served in 2022  
through our Pathways to  
Success program.**

**24 orphaned children were  
placed in families in 2022  
through our Family  
Mentoring Program.**







# MENTORING UKRAINE

## Pathways to Success

Kidsave first began working in Ukraine in 2016 as part of a larger effort to reform Ukraine's child welfare system. In the early 2010s, there were more than 100,000 children labeled as "orphans" or "children deprived of parental care" living in institutions, orphanages, and boarding schools across Ukraine. The children spent years growing up in crowded institutions, and then, when they turned 18, they were sent out into the world with little education, limited social skills, and no support system. To help address these issues and create positive change, Kidsave started two programs in Ukraine: Family Mentoring and the Corporate Mentoring program Pathways to Success.

Despite the immense challenges the war in Ukraine has brought, our team has continued to operate our Family Mentoring and the Corporate Mentoring programs to the best of our ability. **Our Pathways to Success program continues to provide mentoring and support to over 50 teenagers in the Kyiv region.**

These young people are able to connect with caring adults and mentors in their community by participating in fun events, service days, and volunteering. Their mentors provide the youth with support and guidance as they get to know one another in a safe, neutral environment. These young people have spent much of their lives as one of many children living in an orphanage or institution, so it can take time for them to become accustomed to receiving one-on-one attention. These interactions and the relationships built from them help boost the youth's confidence and help them develop a sense of self and social skills.



This year, our kids and mentors participated in World Kindness Day, where they worked together to prepare and distribute food kits to the elderly and those in need. During this day of service, the group had conversations about what it means to share love with others and about what love means to them. The event was a huge hit with both the kids and their mentors!

One participant, a 15-year-old boy named Dima, said, "Today was wonderful! I really enjoyed helping out and spending the day in such a great way. I'm grateful to everyone who made today possible."

Since we began in 2010,  
our **Sierra Leone** program has  
helped **1,224 children**.

In 2022,  
**117 children found families.**

In 2022, **1,380 people**  
received foster care  
& child protection training.





# SIERRA LEONE

## Creating Connections, Creating Hope

Since 2010, Kidsave has worked in Sierra Leone, getting more than **1,200 kids out of orphanages and into vetted families — nearly always with kin.**

In 2022, with our partner, the Foundation for Integrated Development (FID) led by Ibrahim Kawa, we helped 117 kids move in with families.

Kidsave and FID faced a big challenge when the Love One Another Orphanage in Bo, Sierra Leone, announced on March 11 that it would have to close in one month, and the fate of 170 children was suddenly up in the air.

Ibrahim and his team learned that arrangements were being made for the younger children, but 62 children were older, making them harder to place. They had no prospects and, because many were close to turning eighteen, they had little hope of finding a home.

Fortunately, Kidsave specializes in helping older, harder-to-place children find safe, loving families.

Kidsave flew into action, and Ibrahim and his small team searched for living relatives for 28 of the children who had originally come from the Bo and Pujehun Districts. Conversations with the children had led Ibrahim to believe many of them had kin there, and thankfully, this was true. All 28 children were reunified with relatives and kin, and over 268 people from the districts attended the family and community training offered by Kidsave! The remaining 34 were introduced to new families who, with time, got to know them and ultimately became their adoptive families.

In addition to the kids from Love One Another orphanage, Kidsave conducted family tracing and case-mining for 50 additional older orphans who believed they had living relatives who could raise them. As a result, 117 children were placed with kin or host families in 2022.

Over 1,380 caregivers, social workers, and stakeholders were trained on the rights of children, their proper care, and how to monitor and protect them.



FID and Kidsave have also developed twenty acres of inland valley swamps for rice and vegetable production in four communities in the Pujehun district. This development is an expansion of an economic strengthening program Kidsave started in 2019 for 40 households in the Pujehun district.

This program aims to support the livelihoods and increase the household income of adoptive families to ensure they can provide educational support to the additional children they have taken into their families. Similar agriculture support has been provided to another forty families in six communities in the Bo district.

[Read more](#) about how Kidsave helps sustain reunifications and trains villages on children's rights.

[kidsave.org/sierra-leone-update](https://kidsave.org/sierra-leone-update)





# POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

At Kidsave, we rely on the strength and commitment of our volunteer base. Our small but mighty full-time staff is only able to execute our programs with the help and hard work of our incredible volunteers. Our volunteers host children, recruit families, lead events, serve on committees, find auction items, invite friends, attend events, get the word out, support fundraising, support programs, and help with logistics. From community volunteer teams, event volunteers, to hosts, we appreciate every person who helps make our programs possible each day!



## KIDSAVE GUARDIANS

Financial transparency, authenticity and responsibility are at the forefront of Kidsave operations. To make sure 100 percent of our public donations directly support our life-changing programs, Kidsave has enlisted a vital group of contributors. These Guardian givers support Kidsave's general operating costs and are the backbone of our operations. Their yearly contributions are pivotal in keeping Kidsave sustainable.

You can learn more about becoming a Guardian by contacting Randi Thompson at 1-888-KIDSAVE or [randi@kidsave.org](mailto:randi@kidsave.org).





# PARTNERS FOR CHANGE



## KIDSAVE'S PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

In 2022, Kidsave enjoyed mutually beneficial partnerships with some wonderful, committed, socially responsible brands. Our *Partners for Change* in 2022 were [WonderTent Parties](#), [CBIZ](#), [My Day Screen](#), [Barely Canadian](#), and [RGP](#). These companies commit to raising funds throughout the year through employee fundraisers, sponsorships, point-of-purchase sales, or donating a portion of their proceeds. Their employees are proud of their affiliation with Kidsave.

To learn about Kidsave's *Partner for Change* program, please get in touch with Director of Development, Bonnie Williams at 1-888-KIDSAVE or [BonnieW@Kidsave.org](mailto:BonnieW@Kidsave.org)





# \*FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended December 31, 2022

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

◦ Checking/Savings	4,192,819.26
◦ Accounts Receivable	280,765.00
◦ Other Current Assets	<u>99,454.87</u>
◦ Total Current Assets	<b><u>4,573,039.13</u></b>

#### TOTAL ASSETS

**4,573,039.13**

### LIABILITIES & NA

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

◦ Accounts Payable	29,552.90
◦ Other Current Liabilities	<u>37,114.20</u>
◦ Total Current Liabilities	<b><u>66,667.10</u></b>

##### Total Liabilities

**66,667.10**

##### Net Assets

**4,506,372.03**

##### Total Equity

**4,506,372.03**

**4,573,039.13**

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**4,573,039.13**

*\*Unaudited 2022 Financials*





# \*FINANCIALS

## Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2022

Income	in Thousands	% of Income
Contributions	\$7,536.2	95.6%
Investment & Event Income & Other	\$228.1	2.9%
Summer Miracles Host Fees	\$122.5	1.6%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,886.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Contributions	in Thousands	% of Contributions
Foundations	\$4,123.5	54.7%
Individual Contributions	\$2,275.3	30.2%
Corporations	\$925.5	12.3%
In Kind Contributions	\$177.7	2.4%
Government Grants & Contracts	\$34.2	0.5%
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$7,536.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Operating Expenses	in Thousands	% of Expenses
<b>Program Services</b>		
Ukraine	\$2,771.5	45.1%
Permenancy	\$1,106.5	18.0%
Weekend Miracles	\$890.6	14.5%
Summer Miracles	\$709.0	11.5%
International In-Country	\$66.6	1.1%
<b>Events</b>	\$264.6	4.3%
<b>Management and General</b>	\$228.8	3.7%
<b>Fundraising</b>	\$111.7	1.8%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,149.3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Unaudited 2022 Financials



**KIDSAVE**

Forever families  
for all kids, everywhere.

**QUESTIONS**

[communications@kidsave.org](mailto:communications@kidsave.org)

**WEBSITE**

[kidsave.org](http://kidsave.org)

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