

2023 KIDSAVE ANNUAL REPORT

Love
lives
here



KIDSAVE

Forever families for all kids, everywhere.

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





For almost 25 years now, Kidsave has connected older kids in foster care and orphanages around the world with forever families.

Our families are as varied as they are beautiful. From single-parent to blended to multiracial to LGBTQ+ families. And at the heart of them all is

love



KIDSAVE
Forever families
for all kids, everywhere.

2023

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DEAR SUPPORTERS,

In 2023, Kidsave staff, supporters, and volunteers worked to create better lives for kids in foster care and orphanages in many ways. While our existing programs continued their work in Los Angeles, Houston, Colombia, and Sierra Leone, our team in Ukraine carried out the mission to connect kids with mentors and families despite a war that makes the necessities of living difficult to obtain.

In the same year, we launched two very big initiatives meant to serve more kids than ever:

- **The Kidsave Miracles Center:** Our first brick-and-mortar location, a capital campaign is underway to create this much-needed training and connection center in Western Ukraine.
- **The EMBRACE Project:** A five-part initiative to improve outcomes for Black kids in the foster care system, and ultimately all kids in care in the U.S.

We are a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) charity that believes all kids, everywhere, need a family or, at the very least, a lasting connection to a caring adult. Our programs give the kids the opportunity to find connections their way. We empower them with a voice and a choice in who they get to know and who becomes their family.

We are proud of the work Kidsave has done, but so many more kids are still longing for family. We invite you to become a champion for older, forgotten kids in care.



Joni Noel



Shannon Scott-Paul

Joni Noel and Shannon Scott-Paul,
2023 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!

29,129

Since 1999, Kidsave has helped
29,129 youth through our
**Weekend Miracles &
Summer Miracles** programs here in the
U.S. and through 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,

The Kidsave community grew around the belief that every child needs a family, especially the older, forgotten ones. And families can come in many forms.

The families Kidsave helps to create are as varied as they are beautiful. From single parent families, to blended, to multiracial, to LGBTQIA+ families, all Kidsave families have the same thing at their heart – **love**.

In 2023, Kidsave supporters continuously demonstrated that no matter what family looks like, or where they are located, **love lives here**.

When the war in Ukraine reached its first anniversary, we hoped it would soon be over, yet the conflict raged on throughout 2023. Our **Angels of Hope** continued to risk their own lives, delivering food, medicine, potable water, and other supplies to villages destroyed by the violence. All the while, our Ukraine team connected older orphaned youth with corporate mentors to help them prepare for careers as adults. Our **Family Mentoring** program found loving Ukrainian homes for children orphaned and abandoned by war. And we broke ground on the **Kidsave Miracles Center**, a campus in the beautiful mountains of western Ukraine. This multi-functional space will be used to provide safe refuge, train social workers and psychologists, facilitate our programs, connect children and families, and become a place of recovery and healing, offering trauma therapy and counseling services.

Our partner in **Sierra Leone** reconnected more children with kin, moving them out of orphanages and back into their tribal communities. They also conducted training for hundreds of families and community members every month about children's rights and care, making these communities safer and more welcoming for returning kids.

In the U.S., our **Weekend Miracles** programs continued to connect older kids in foster care in Los Angeles and Houston and celebrated multiple adoption finalizations. The **Summer Miracles** kids arrived from Colombia and spent five joyous weeks with their host families—some returning in the winter—and started on their paths to adoption.

We also launched **The EMBRACE Project**. This ambitious initiative aims to address the overrepresentation of Black children in the foster care system. We began with a national Gallup survey to understand perceived barriers to adoption, fostering, and mentoring among Black adults. With our findings, we are developing solutions at local and national levels, doing what Kidsave was born to do: create change for kids.

We are grateful to our supporters and friends who make it possible to carry out this life-changing work, both in the U.S. and around the world. **Because children's need for the love, care and guidance of family is universal.**



Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randi Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Randi Thompson
Kidsave Co-Founder, CEO | Adoptive Mom



A MODEL THAT WORKS

We've refined our **Family Visit Model** over the last 24 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.

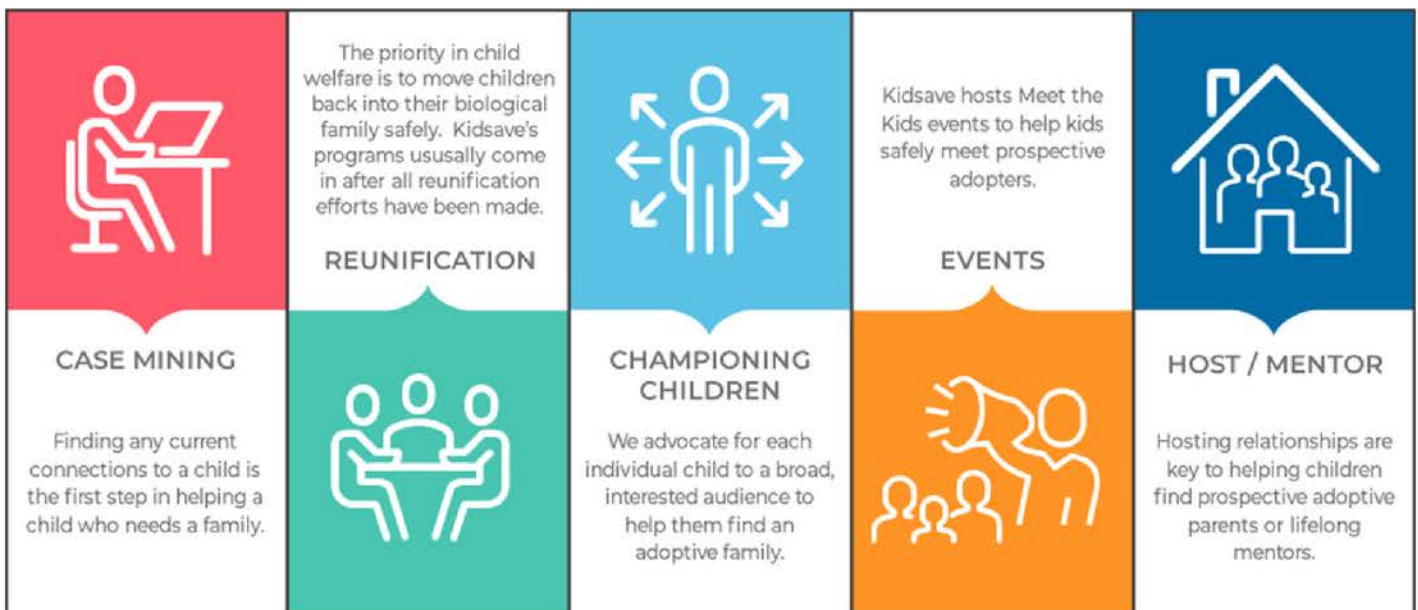
Our international model begins by ensuring that all attempts to reunify the child with the biological family have been made. When reunification fails, relationships in the child's history are reviewed to see if an extended relative or friend might be the permanent family solution for that child. If that 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 a 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;
- gives kids a voice and a choice in adults who may become their forever family.



Love lives here at **WEEKEND MIRACLES**

Since it began in 2005, **Weekend Miracles** has helped **876** children and teens.

Last year in **Los Angeles**, we helped **87 youth**, with **76** actively participating in our program, and **69** youths found legal or relational permanency.

And in **Houston**, **61 youth** were helped with **49** actively taking part in our program, and **25** finding legal or relational permanency.





WEEKEND MIRACLES

Los Angeles Weekend Miracles



At the 2022 Kidsave Miracles Gala, Dominic shared the incredible story of how he met his dads.

“Like most kids in care, I wanted to know the love and support of family,” he remarked. “But I also knew—being an older kid—my chances of finding a family weren’t great. Thankfully, Kidsave had my back and never gave up on me. By going to their Weekend Miracles events, I got to meet some amazing people and began to realize there are people out there who not only care us, but want us!”

Through the LA Weekend Miracles program, Dominic met Mike and Tom and got to know them over a series of fun events. Mike and Tom soon became his “hosts” – an arrangement in which they committed to spend two weekends each month with Dominic for one year. As their relationship grew, Dominic began to see a future with the two as his dads.

“The first time that I knew that this was going to be my forever family was during the first game of my soccer season. After scoring my first goal, I looked up to the stands, and there were Mike and Tom cheering me on. I had never had that before.”

In October 2023, after two years of hosting and building their bond, Dominic’s adoption was finalized.

Today, he is a thriving high school senior looking forward to studying theater in college.

kidsave.org/weekendmiracles

Houston Weekend Miracles



2023 was the year Larry Finley’s family went from one kid to three. A year earlier, he met and adopted his oldest son, Charles, through Weekend Miracles Houston - our first finalized adoption in Texas!

Charles and Larry continued attending Kidsave events as Ambassadors when they met 15-year-old Skyler. “It was an immediate connection,” said Skyler.

After spending time getting to know each other, the three agreed they wanted to move forward with becoming a family. As it turns out, three very quickly became four.

Once Larry adopted Skyler, he began hosting Michael (Skyler’s biological brother, who was also in foster care) and wound up adopting him, too. In just 18 months, Skyler went from living in foster care to being adopted and reunited with his biological brother “It’s a relief to finally not have the weight of being without a family,” said Skyler.

About Weekend Miracles

In **Los Angeles** and **Houston**, Kidsave uses our innovative Family Visit Model to find forever families and lasting connections for older kids in foster care between the ages of 9 and 18. 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 nationwide.

Love lives here at
**SUMMER
MIRACLES**

Since 1999 Summer Miracles
has helped **2,151** children.

In 2023, **47** youth traveled to the U.S.

Of the 41 children who were open to and
ready for adoption, **31** kids (**76%**) made
connections with families who are **moving
forward with adoption.**





SUMMER MIRACLES

Diego and Valentina Manaloto

Deborah Manaloto and her husband, Paul, first learned about Kidsave and the Summer/Winter Miracles program while working with the adoption agency Holt International. After learning about how the program helps older orphans from Colombia find adoptive families here in the U.S. by bringing them to stay with host families, they signed up, and in 2022, they learned about Diego, age 12, and Valentina, age 8.

Before the kids arrived in Chicago that December, Deborah and Paul had only seen photos and videos and introduced themselves in a letter, but they already felt a connection. “[Kidsave] sent their video to us, and we just fell in love,” said Deborah. “They looked so sweet, and when we read their bios, it seemed like it would be a good fit.”

Diego and Valentina spent three weeks with the Manalotos that winter. Deborah has fond memories of the children giggling and laughing in the back seat of the car after getting ice cream, experiencing snow for the first time, asking the smart speaker to play music so they could sing, and cooking together.

Deborah and Paul also introduced the kids to Christmas traditions like building gingerbread houses, decorating the tree together, and doing activities from the Advent calendar.

After the holidays ended, so did the hosting period, and Diego and Valentina had to return to Colombia. But Deborah and Paul worked hard to complete all the necessary paperwork, and within eight months, Diego and Valentina’s adoption was finalized, and they came back to stay.

Today, Diego and Valentina have two loving parents, three devoted dogs, and many friends; they are almost fluent in English, participate in extracurricular activities, and enjoy frequent family game nights.

But while the kids enjoy all the benefits of moving to America, nothing is more meaningful to them than finally having a family. Reflecting on all the sweet memories, Deborah says, “I couldn’t have asked for a better experience.”



The Manaloto Family

About Summer & Winter 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 and Winter Miracles are volunteer-powered programs, 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.

kidsave.org/summer-miracles

Love lives here at **EMBRACE**

Addressing the overrepresentation of Black children in foster care in the United States and ultimately improving outcomes for marginalized children in care.





EMBRACE

Kidsave EMBRACE Project

In 2023, we launched the EMBRACE Project to address the overrepresentation of Black children in foster care in the United States, and ultimately improve outcomes for marginalized children in care.

Recognizing that Black children make up 22% of the foster care population, yet only 14% of kids in America are Black, we set out to understand the reasons behind this gap. While there is much anecdotal information about this problem, there was a distinct lack of quantitative data.

So we created the EMBRACE Project which will be completed in five phases:

- 1) quantitative data collection
- 2) qualitative data collection
- 3) data analysis and reporting
- 4) amplification
- 5) policy reform

We also assembled a diverse volunteer task force composed of individuals with lived experience, policy professionals, child welfare advocates, and more. The task force provides strategic direction for implementing policies, programs, and activities related to the EMBRACE Project.

In 2023, we completed stages 1 through 3.

Much of the existing research emphasized children's experience navigating the child welfare system. For this project, we collaborated with the Gallup Center on Black Voices on a national survey from the adult perspective.

Our survey identified barriers that prevent Americans, and Black Americans in particular, from positively engaging with foster care and adoption.

We published the study on November 16, 2023, in conjunction with National Adoption Day. In 2023 alone, the project garnered widespread attention.



7

major media stories



6

presentations to child welfare agencies, and non-profits



5

meetings with legislators

Stages 4 and 5 are ongoing. We are spreading the word about our findings, looking for partner organizations, corporations, and passionate individuals, and advocating for change at the state and national levels of government.

We are also developing practical solutions, including a pilot program we hope to launch in 2025, and national recommendations to increase the number of caring adults who step up for Black kids in foster care, and ultimately, all kids in the system.

Love lives here in **UKRAINE**

Since 2018, we have served **1,010 youth** through our Corporate Mentoring program, **Pathway to Success**. In 2023 alone, we served **202 teens** in Kyiv and eight other regions.

In our **Family Mentoring Program**, our team has moved a total of **314 children** from orphanages and emergency shelters into family homes in Ukraine, **144 of them** in 2023.





KIDSAVE UKRAINE

Pathway to Success

The **Pathway to Success** program empowers teens to build healthy, productive, independent lives by connecting them to caring adult mentors who will help them succeed. Our team helps them identify their career interests, increase their confidence to enter the workforce and society, increase their motivation and readiness to work, and improve their basic understanding of money management.

While operations have been difficult during the war in Ukraine, our team remains committed to the kids and has maintained the Pathway to Success program throughout the conflict.

In October of 2023, we launched an exciting project called *“Taking Flight with Boeing.”* The goal of the project is to engage professionals from Boeing to introduce the youth to a variety of professions in the company and become corporate mentors for those who are interested in working there.

The project launched with a captivating online opening event, and in November, we invited Boeing specialists to conduct a *“History of Aviation”* webinar. They provided an in-depth introduction to Boeing and the aviation industry. The youth exhibited keen interest, actively engaging by asking many questions. They received invaluable guidance from the speakers, who emphasized the importance of responsibility and making a positive impact in our world.

At the project's end, the youth will showcase the individual projects they've crafted during the program. So far, **100 children from 8 regions** of Ukraine have already participated in the program, and more continue to join.



Angels of Hope

Kidsave has been working in Ukraine since 2016, helping to reform the nation's overburdened child welfare system, find local adoptive families for orphans, and provide support to older youth transitioning out of institutional care and into independent living.

When the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, our team also began aiding evacuation efforts and delivering humanitarian aid to those in need.

Since the war began, our team has risked their lives to **evacuate more than 30,000 people to safety – 13,685 of them children.** And in 2023, our team delivered **2,550 tons of humanitarian aid.**

Our mission is rooted in the belief that every child deserves a safe and loving home, an opportunity to learn, and the chance to build a bright future.

kidsave.org/ukraine



KIDSAVE UKRAINE

Kidsave Miracles Center



In late 2022, Kidsave was generously gifted a plot of land in western Ukraine to construct the **Kidsave Miracles Center**. Still under construction, the Kidsave Miracles Center will be a multifunctional campus that will encompass training, conference, and office spaces, modular housing for children and prospective families, a wellness center, a fishery, a commercial kitchen, and sports and recreation areas.

Our vision is for the center to be a place of connection, opportunity, and well-being for orphaned children and youth, the families who want to adopt them, and the dedicated professionals who support them.

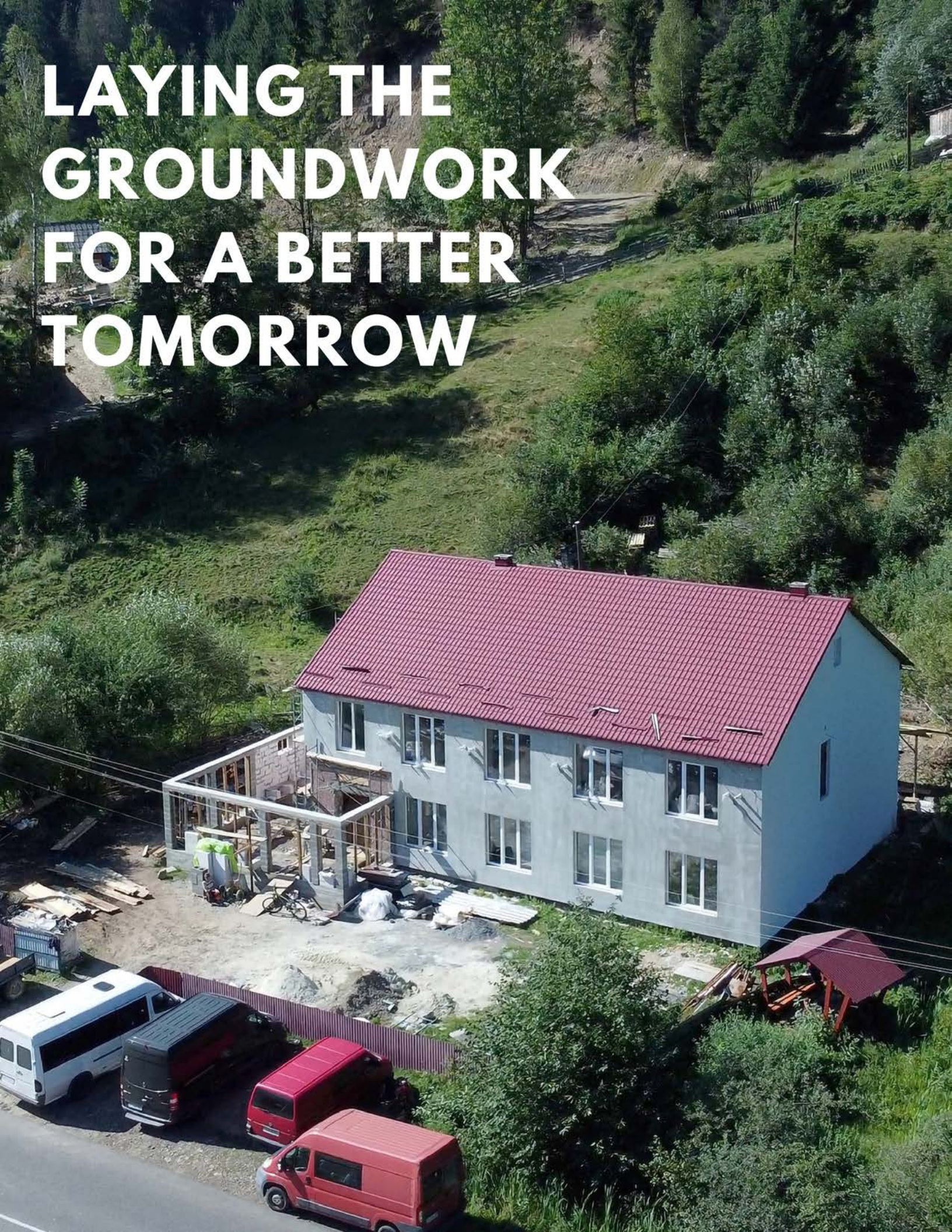
A distinctive feature of the Kidsave Miracles Center is the opportunity for our youth to work in its social entrepreneurship projects. One of these is the Colyba Cultural Café, an on-campus eatery serving authentic Ukrainian cuisine. The cafe will employ young adults who grew up in foster care, orphanages, or institutions, providing them with valuable work experience and benefiting the local community. All café revenue will support the Center's ongoing social programs.

Construction on the center is well underway, and some spaces are already operational. In late 2023, we hosted the first trauma therapy training at the center, and we look forward to officially opening its doors in summer 2024.

Further funding is required to fully realize the center's vision. Sponsorship and naming opportunities are available throughout the campus.

kidsave.org/ukraine-miracles-center

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Love lives here in
**SIERRA
LEONE**

Since we began in 2010,
our Sierra Leone program has helped 1,370 children.

In 2023,
146 children found families.

In addition, more than 3,600 people,
or about 300 per month,
were trained in children's rights and care.





SIERRA LEONE

Reunification and Renewal.

This was an exciting year for our program in Sierra Leone as we placed 146 children with families. One of the children we helped this year was a little girl named Margaret. Margaret was only three years old when her parents died of Ebola. After 9 years in an orphanage, we reunited Margaret with her older sister Sarah and her aunt.

Like her younger sister, Sarah had spent years in an orphanage after their parents' death. "Life in the orphanage was not easy," she said. "We eat, but it was not always enough. I felt good when I learnt there was someone from my family who was ready to parent me. Thank you Kidsave for bringing happiness into my life!"

An important part of our work in Sierra Leone is traveling from village to village to perform case mining and welfare checks on behalf of the children. While this travel can be long and tiresome, it is extremely effective in not only finding families for the children, but ensuring the children are safe and cared for. Of course, all of this can't be done without transportation!

That's why one of our big purchases this year was a brand-new motorcycle for the social workers to use to travel from village to village. While a motorcycle might not be the preferred way for U.S. social workers to get around, it's actually the best way to navigate Sierra Leone's rough, narrow roads.

Another exciting milestone we reached with our Sierra Leone program this year comes through the story of a young woman named Millicent Sinnah. Millicent was reunited with her father through our program years ago. In 2023, after graduating from university, she joined our partner IDI-SL as a social worker!

Millicent's goal is to contribute to the work that helped reunite her with her own father. We are so proud of our first Sierra Leone program alumna who has joined us as a staff member.

kidsave.org/reunification



Reuniting Sarah with her long-lost sister.



A full circle moment as Millicent joins our team.



POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

Love lives here



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 and event volunteers to hosts, we appreciate every person who helps make our programs possible each day!



CHANGE MAKERS

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 gives support Kidsave's general operating costs and are the backbone of our operations. Their yearly contributions are pivotal in keeping Kidsave sustainable.



KIDSAVE'S PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

In 2023, 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 Guardians or Partner for Change programs, please contact Liz Crozer, Director of Development, at liz@kidsave.org





FINANCIALS*

Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

◦ Checking/Savings	3,619,073.16
◦ Accounts Receivable	255,461.68
◦ Other Current Assets	<u>71,307.56</u>
◦ Total Current Assets	<u>3,945,842.60</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

3,945,842.60

LIABILITIES & NA

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

◦ Accounts Payable	0.00
◦ Other Current Liabilities	<u>64,767.65</u>

Total Current Liabilities

64,767.65

Total Liabilities

64,767.65

Net Assets

3,881,074.95

Total Equity

3,881,074.95

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

3,945,842.60

**Unaudited 2023 Financials*



FINANCIALS*

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Income	in Thousands	% of Income
Contributions	\$4,655.8	93.0%
Investment & Event Income & Others	\$232.1	4.6%
Summer Miracles Host Fees	\$116.3	2.3%
Total Income	\$5,004.2	100%

Contributions	in Thousands	% of Contributions
Foundations	\$2,535.3	54.5%
Individual Contributions	\$1,260.9	27.1%
Corporations	\$629.4	13.5%
In-Kind Contributions	\$182.2	3.9%
Government Grants & Contracts	\$48.0	1.0%
Total Contributions	\$4,655.8	100%

Operating Expenses	in Thousands	% of Expenses
Program Services		
Permanency	\$1,173.1	20.8%
Ukraine	\$1,125.3	20.0%
Weekend Miracles	\$920.8	16.3%
Summer Miracles	\$627.4	11.1%
EMBRACE	\$617.1	11.0%
Events	\$318.61	5.7%
International In-Country	\$101.2	1.8%
Management and General	\$337.0	6.0%
Fundraising	\$411.9	7.3%
Total Operating Expenses	\$5,632.5	100%

*Unaudited 2023 Financials



KIDSAVE

Forever families
for all kids, everywhere.

QUESTIONS

communications@kidsave.org

WEBSITE

kidsave.org

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here