



Photo: Partin Family

2016 Annual Report



nightlight®

christian adoptions

2016: Planting seeds for Permanency



God said in Isaiah 43:6, “I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” For fifty-

seven years, Nightlight has been honored to be used by God in gathering His sons and daughters from afar and near. Children created for God’s glory. Children he formed and made, and knew, even before they were born. We sincerely appreciate your continued interest and support of Nightlight’s mission to “Get more kids adopted!”

Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption. As we near the birth of Snowflake #500, Nightlight is planning a reunion picnic and #500 celebration on Saturday, June 24. Picnics will be held in all nine Nightlight locations, with the Snowflakes® celebration in Loveland, Colorado. The Snowflakes program was privileged to be featured on Family Talk with Dr. James Dobson, the Chicago Tribune, the San Diego Union Tribune, and several local Fox, NBC, and ABC news stations.

International Adoption. Our China director, Dana Poynter, has taken nine trips to China. As a result she has been able to forge partnerships with five Chinese orphanages, helping us help kids find their forever families. In November 2015, NCA brought team to one orphanage to train their directors and staff in caring specifically for children with Down’s Syndrome. In 2016 these directors traveled to the U.S. to receive more training to help kids.

This year, Nightlight gained accreditation and official recognition in Albania, Colombia, and India. We also began laying the groundwork for future adoptions from Nigeria, and began a pilot program in Ghana. The most stable and successful adoption programs this year have been China, Kyrgyzstan, and Haiti.

Host Programs. In the summer, three host children from China stayed with families, and all three found an adoptive family! We also had a resurgence of our Ukraine adoption program, as we brought 17 children from that country for a summer host program, resulting in several adoptions. In the summer of 2017, Nightlight expects to pioneer a new host program from Bulgaria, opening the door for advocacy of older children in that country.

New Crowdfunding, Dear Birthmother, and Waiting Children website. We launched www.AdoptionBridge.org about a year ago, and in that time dozens of birthmothers have matched with adoptive parents, scores of waiting children have been matched, and nearly \$100,000 has been crowdfunded for adoptive families. More than 3,000 people have registered to view waiting children on the site. What started out as a project to help families raise adoption funds has become, in addition, our most effective tool of advocating for waiting children.

Domestic Adoption. By year’s end, Nightlight will have offices in nine states! This year we merged with Generations Adoptions in Texas and opened an office in Florida. With this national footprint, we have an

increased ability to help serve expectant parents and match with our domestic adoptive parents.

Foster Adoption. The number of children entering foster care continues to rise, and as a result, each of Nightlight’s offices are developing ways to help foster kids find forever families. Though our foster program is only a few years old, we reached a new peak number of certified families, with 26 children in placement this year.

Renewed Hope and Counseling. Seeing the need that many families have after adoption for additional support, we began promoting our post-adoption counseling services. In addition, Nightlight is now one of a few agencies nationwide where families struggling with dissolution can expect to get solid help.

Building Purchase. In October, our California office moved into our new, permanent home in Santa Ana. We were able to afford the down payment due to an estate gift and now have a beautiful headquarters, with room to grow.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Please consider making a year-end gift to Nightlight with the envelope provided, or online at www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities.



Welcome Home!

International Adoptions

Malika
Melina
Mikhail
Ella
Milana
Sergei
Alexander
Natalia
Ronaldine
Rivalda
Shaina
Ralenston
Kimberly
Marlie
Claire
James
Richardson
Donald
Quervins
Monika
Silvia
Bektur
Altnayn
Bowen
Shilohliu
Noah
Faith
Michael
Claire
Robert
Abrielle
Remi
Levi
Lily
Nicholas
Micah
Ryan
Cameron
Ava
Jimmy
Saul
Errol
Matthew
Olive
Claire
Joseph
Luke
Jimmy
Kaya

Maynor
Noeline
Israel
Samuel
Donna
Yashal
Amer
Ali
Steven
Lily

Kyrie
Caitlyn
Layne
Kinli
Viviana
Georgia
Jacob
Noah
Morgan
Avery
Roman
Raya

Elle
Sam
Annie Kate
Mia
Jayden

Parents of Expected Snowflakes Babies

Jared & Jessica
Brad & Jessica
Michael & Erin
Patrick & Veronica
Ken & Trish
Marcus & Catrina
Mike & Michelle

Snowflakes

Babies
Quin
Kellan
Everly
Hannah
Zion
Charlotte
Nora
Makenna
Klay
Caleb
Isaac
John
Kaleb
Dakota
Marley
Evelyn
Samuel
Alexis
Kylie
Asher
Christian
Elena
Jonathan
Clara
Sam
Lea
Chaviva
Zachary
Clark
Seth
Owen
Jayda
Vance
Kaelen

The Glennon Family



Fostering Love to Adoption Program

Kimsie
Manny
Addy
Addison

Domestic Adoptions

Wyatt
Zealand
Wesley
Nixon
Kadyn
Miles
Kylie
Gavin
Benjamin
Turner
Ezra

Dwayne
Jayla
Stella
Jacob
Nicholas
Isaac
William
Caleb
Nora
Ellyanna
Clara
Wes
Tucker
Jordan
Jadenlynn
Delana
Charlie
Emmand
Aubrey
Nariman
Elijah



Orphan Galaxy:

Nightlight's orphan care sponsorship program.

You know that Nightlight is connecting waiting children with loving families. But what about the children left behind? Nightlight is committed to orphan care ministry for all children without parents. You can make a \$25 per month commitment to Orphan Galaxy, and your money will be for our five orphan care projects:

Scholarships for Adoption

Train Orphans Vocationally

Aid Orphanages

Rescue from Trafficking

Sponsor Orphan Host Tours

Be one of the STARS in our Galaxy. Sign up at www.OrphanGalaxy.org

The Hildenbrand Family



From a Romanian Gypsy adoption, to a Chinese Son

The Martin Family

Nothing can turn your heart like meeting some gypsy Romanian children in rags and broken hearts. I was in high school and a new Christian when I participated in a summer camp outreach for orphans. I was born and raised Romanian, but orphans were kept so marginalized that few people knew of their existence. It was after that summer camp, in my youthful enthusiasm, and the witnessing of their heartache and extreme living conditions that I vowed that I will one day save them all! It was then and there that I dreamed of making a difference in their lives even as I was facing realities of extreme prejudices against orphans and abhorrent racism against gypsies. A seed was planted in my heart.

After high school I moved to America for college. I tucked away somewhere in my heart, the grand plan of adopting. I kept pictures, notes, and books signed by orphan hands as a memory of what true pain and suffering looks like. I gave little thought to their cause as sleepless college nights and papers, midterms and presentations slowly engulfed my living. Soon, distant memories of once meeting the orphans peeked in every now and then, but my college life kept them afar still.

It was 8 years after I married my husband and had 3 beautiful daughters that the seed once planted in a post-communist Romanian summer camp began to awaken from its dormant stage. It probably helped as well that our church was hard at work at tilling the ground. The church we belong to created an adoption culture that highlighted the needs of orphans. We understood from early on that though not everyone is called to adopt, we are all called to help the cause in various ways.

Through prayer and mutual agreement, my husband and I embarked on an adoption journey that took us through valleys and mountain tops and yet we felt like we were always coasting on God's wings. Even before we began our journey, we often heard it said that "Adoption is not for the faint of heart." That adoption's trials are only a match for strong and enduring folks. That weak and humble people can't possibly face the ups and downs, the lengths and depths of the adoption process. But, it turns out that it truly takes a faint and humble heart to place itself under the strength and wisdom of a sovereign God who knows the numbers of days for this adoption, the

deadlines, the approvals, all the detours, and where all the money will come from. We learned that early in our adoption process as doors were closed and plans were diverted. We learned early on in our adoption process that a malleable heart is a heart that adjusts to God's plans and guidance even as the road seems uncertain. There were days and nights throughout our adoption in which we cried our hearts out to our Lord asking for strength, wisdom, faith, and provision. Our faith was tested and the end result was never to prove us strong but rather to show how great our God truly is when we walk depending on Him. Had we not followed God's detours, delays, and stops, we would have never met our son, Levi Andrew, who celebrated his 2nd birthday soon after we brought him home.



It turns out that the faint of heart allow themselves to cry with their adopted child, feel with them, laugh with them, walk with them through ups and downs. No form, video, or book prepares the adopted parents for the day they meet their child. We are more compassionate, loving, and gentle when our weak hearts had received Jesus' compassion, love, and gentleness. It takes a humble heart to

recognize the courage a little scared heart tries to muster as they leave behind every ounce of familiarity that makes who they are. And we comfort them well because we, too, tried to muster the same courage as our own hearts faced many challenges along the way, and a gentle and kind Savior comforted us as well.

Levi has been with us for 6 months now. He is not a Romanian gypsy like I once dreamed of, but a beautiful Asian boy with kissable cheeks and blackberry eyes. We only could adopt one—instead of all—but he surely belongs with us. He is sweet and caring and happy. He loves to dance, clap his hands, and eat goldfish crackers. He loves to be held and wrap his tinny, silky hands around my neck as tight as he can. He adores bananas and can't stand mango. He throws himself on the floor at the sight of his daddy walking through the door. He loves the sky and everything moving in it, and he is quickly learning how to live in America. His sisters adore him and kiss him to the point of annoying him really. Hundreds of people prayed for him and helped us get him home. He is not alone anymore. He is an orphan no more and we are family!

God's Healing Power Demonstrated Through Embryo Adoption

By Jennifer

In 2008, my spirit was broken when my marriage ended after almost 12 years. Literally overnight I became the single mother of a 2.5 year old daughter, uncertain and scared about the future. It took nearly six months to finalize our divorce and now faced the reality of what to do with our four remaining frozen embryos. I was awarded custody of the embryos, but the only option available to me was to place them with a family through adoption.

I did an online search and learned about Snowflakes® adoption. I met with a counselor from my church and also met regularly with a Stephens Minister. Over the course of those months, and the year in between my divorce and the finalization of the placement, I came to realize I was called to be a good steward. You see, the Lord knew I was going to get divorced. He knew it when he met me in the IVF process blessing with my daughter. He doesn't make mistakes, so those 4 frozen embryos were not a mistake. Once I really grasped this, and that children are on loan to us by God, it became clear I could do this – place my embryos into an adopting family.

The third family profile I reviewed was the right family from my perspective! They had 2 biological daughters and had opened their home to helping children in the US foster program. They were raised in the same faith background I was. They learned about Snowflakes through their church. The Nightlight team really helped me walk through what was best for the children born from the embryos and what type of communication plan I would be comfortable maintaining with the adoptive parents.

I struggle with control. The control freak in me continued to try and figure out God's plan for these embryos. The adopting family first transferred two of the four embryos. My feelings ran amok. What if they had a girl? I prayed they would have a boy because I wasn't familiar with raising boys. A boy would be different. Easier, for me.

The adopting family's son Josh was born when my daughter was

6 years old. She was too young to understand all of the particulars, but I definitely began the process of telling her the story. I did not want either of us feeling shame for this choice. I introduced her to the family and to Josh through photos as close family friends that are like family. She saw photos and received updates about his milestones and was good with that.

I struggled. Josh was nearly identical to my daughter's baby pictures. The Lord comforted me through His words in Jeremiah 1:5.

In 2013, second son, Matt was born. The doctors gave him only a 20% chance of being born! But he was absolutely perfect and healthy in every way. My daughter, Shelby, was now 8. One night as we snuggled up in bed she talked about 'the boys' as they would affectionately be known forevermore and God facilitated a loving honest dialogue between us about her brothers. Tears come to the surface as I think of that sweet painful conversation.

At Christmas we flew to meet the family in person. It was scary and magical, awkward and perfect all at the same time. Josh was 3 and Matt was an infant. We savored our time with them and marveled at their beautiful resemblance to my daughter. I was reminded how the Lord works all things for good according to Romans 8:28.

This past May I realized and accepted my role to help my daughter integrate this part of her family story into her life narrative. To help her do what is best for her in connecting with these brothers. I am Shelby's mother and my job is to be true to that and support her.

I wanted to share my story because you don't often hear about people who placed their embryos as a result of a divorce. When I made this decision I did not feel like my womb was closed. I wanted more children. I wanted my husband. The choice to destroy the embryos was never a consideration for me. We have biological brothers who were adopted, and we are loud and proud about it. While I have moments of sadness, those are overshadowed when I see the beautiful eyes, smiling faces, and hear those beautiful voices say Miss Jennifer. The sweetest sound in the world!

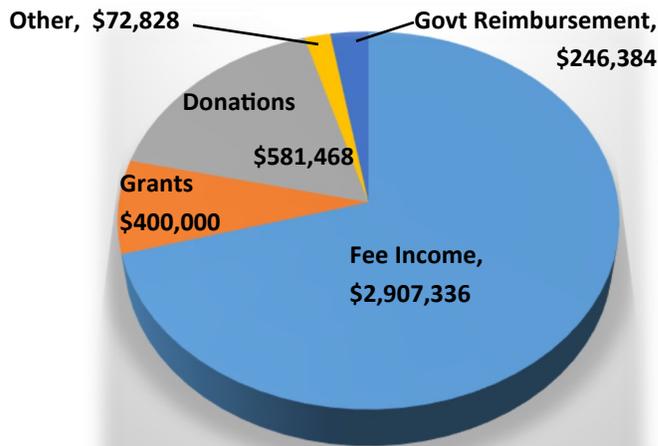
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5



Financial Information

How we fund our mission

(2016 Budget)

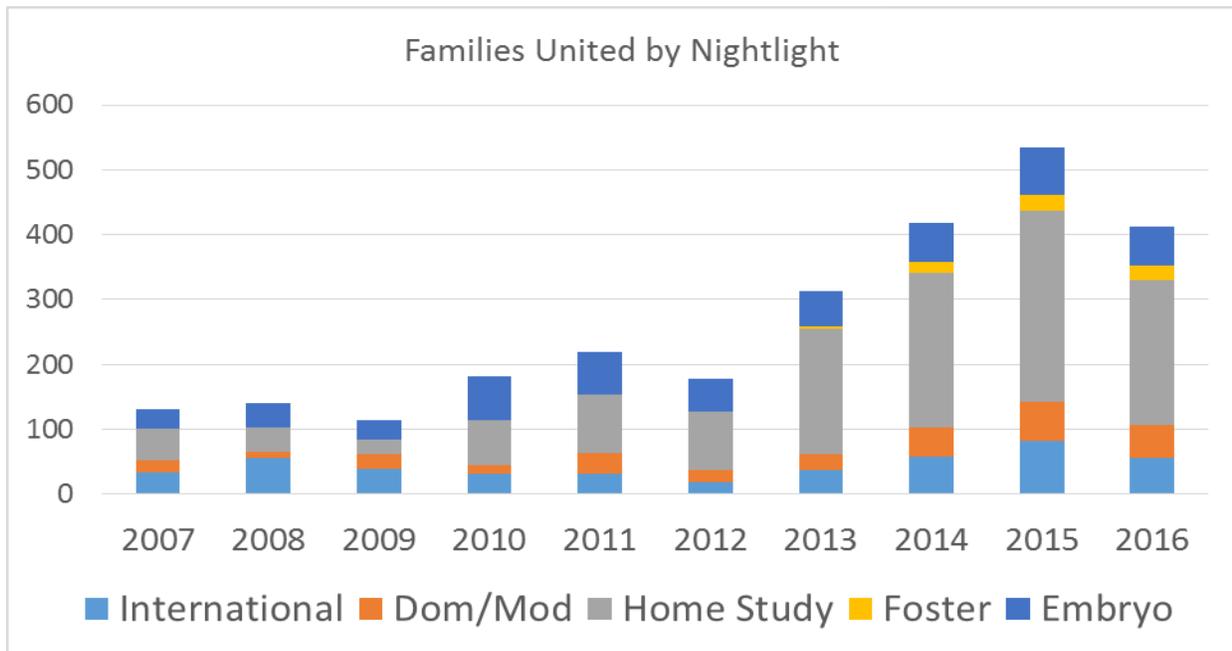
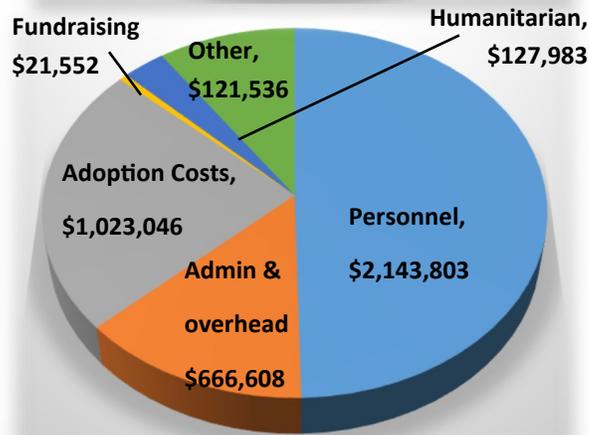


Please consider making a year-end gift to Nightlight with the envelope provided, or online at www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities. Your gift will help with several urgent needs:

- Humanitarian aid to orphanages in China, Colombia, Haiti and Uganda
- Adoption scholarships with the Nightlight foundation
- Help us eliminate the mortgage on our new building!
- Birthmother outreach and advertising
- Our 2017 orphan host program from Bulgaria, Colombia, and China
- Snowflakes® embryo storage scholarships

The cost of our mission

(2016 Budget)



Worth the Wait

Domestic Adoption Stories



James and Tara waited and prayed for a child year after year for many long years. When they finally decided to pursue adoption, they felt a new surge of hope and an abiding peace. Though apprehensive, they felt confident in God's leading to grow their family through adoption.

Meanwhile, 14-year-old Lexus waited eight long months, knowing that the mind-numbing news she must share with her parents would be the most

difficult moment of her young life. She decided to tell her family while they were visiting her grandmother's house. After revealing the startling revelation of her unanticipated pregnancy, Lexus absent-mindedly picked up a fortune cookie from her grandmother's counter. She didn't know it had been sitting there untouched for two weeks. She cracked open the cookie and pulled out the slip of paper. It read: "You will bring sunshine to someone's life!"

Following the adoption preparation process and another year of waiting for that life-altering news, the call finally came to Tara's phone. They had been chosen by a teen birthmother! Quickly, the match meeting was arranged. During the visit, Lexus shared the story of the fortune cookie. Tara and James looked at each other and smiled. "We nicknamed our nursery The Sunshine Room," Tara shared. On baby Will's nursery wall is a plaque that says, "You are my sunshine!" These are the sweet confirmations that affirm a birthmother's choice of a forever family for her child and enable an adoptive family to say, "He was worth the wait!"

We are Dan & Jackie K and our journey began in March 2015 when we officially answered God's call to adopt. We heard about Love Basket, now the Missouri office of Nightlight Christian Adoptions, through Dan's cousin and wife who adopted two children through the agency. We really felt that this adoption agency was much more a ministry than a business. So we are truly happy to have worked with them.

At the time we completed our home study and our profile became active, a decline in expectant mothers was occurring. We were trying to wait patiently and hope for a "routine" situation. We learned that birth mother "M" would be choosing a profile in January. I cannot explain why, other than to say that

the Holy Spirit whispered it to my heart, but I had a peaceful feeling that Dan and I would be chosen. Sure enough, in early January, I received a call at work to let us know that "M" had chosen our profile! I quickly called Dan and then ran down the hall to share the news with my two co-workers, who were overjoyed for us.

Our scheduled January match meeting had to be cancelled due to an ice storm, but we rescheduled for a few weeks later. Dan and I were so nervous going into the meeting, but our caseworker met with us prior to the luncheon and helped calm our nerves. Our birthmother was only 15, and so her mother came to the meeting as well. M's mother was very honest about the fact that she wanted her daughter to parent the baby, but M seemed pretty confident in her decision.

We received a call on March 16th, that due to a potential for preeclampsia, M was being induced that evening. Dan and I left work quickly, grabbed our bags and started the 4.5-hour car trip to the hospital. After a long night of waiting, Jacob Alexander was born. Our courageous young birthmother decided to go to the delivery room alone. When we did get to join her shortly after Jacob's birth, M wanted me to be the first person to hold our son. It was the most beautiful moment. Dan was the next to hold him. It was love at first sight, to say the least. We enjoyed a wonderful visit with all our birthmother's extended family.

On March 19th, we drove home with our baby boy. We returned for another visit with M and her family over Mother's Day weekend. We've remained in regular contact with M and her family through email and Facebook. When we returned for the finalization, we met with M's family again. The openness of the adoption has been such a gift to us, and I'm sure to Jacob's birth family as well.

I feel like our situation was a "textbook" case, and we are so very grateful. As with any adoption, there are periods of intense anxiety and waiting, yet we feel so blessed at how smoothly our adoption process went. We know that the Holy Spirit brought us all together, and we are so thankful to Love Basket/Nightlight and everyone who helped and supported us on our journey.



The Gassmans and the Hendersons



Major Donors

Many thanks to our major donors whose names have not been included on this list either because they have not consented to being listed or would like to remain anonymous. Please contact Daniel if you consent to having your name listed and we would be happy to add you!

Individual Donors over \$1000

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Corporations and Churches

- Grace life Fellowship, NE
- Red Hill Lutheran Church
- Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Abel/Weatherwax Foundation
- Providence Church, NC
- Southland Christian Church
- Calvary Chapel, Surprise AZ
- Truth Bible Church
- Bethel Baptist Church

ADOPTION BRIDGE

Waiting Children | Crowd Funding | Dear Birthmother

At AdoptionBridge, you can view Waiting Children profiles and pictures, view Waiting Family profiles, and contribute to their adoption fundraising. Whether you have completed your home study and are seeking a child waiting for their forever family, are wanting to fundraise your adoption costs through the crowdfunding feature, or want to support those in the adoption process, there is something for everyone on AdoptionBridge.

The site is password protected, but gaining access is free and easy. To learn more about this wonderful site and how you can get involved visit www.adoptionbridge.org.

Adoption Bridge is bridging the relationship between all members of the adoption community.

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