



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 40 Royal Years





CREATING LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

For The Children mobilizes the local Church to host Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring programs for children who have experienced relational trauma.

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“The Royal Family KIDS Camp & Mentoring programs have changed my life over the past 14 years. I found Jesus at camp and then found a new family who accepts me, wants me, and grows with me and my faith. I am forever grateful.”

- Samantha Holm, Iowa



Dear Friends,

As we close out 2025, a year that marks For The Children's 40th anniversary, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. Four decades ago, Pastor Wayne and Diane Tesch answered God's call by launching the very first Royal Family KIDS Camp. What began as one camp for children in foster care has grown—by God's grace—into a global movement of church-based camps and mentoring clubs that have welcomed nearly 180,000 children into the "Royal Family."

This year, we have celebrated the legacy of those 40 Royal Years, remembering how faithfully God has shown Himself to be "a father to the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5-6). We've rejoiced in the commitment of thousands of volunteers, churches, and donors who have made life-changing moments possible at campfires, in cabins, and through mentoring relationships. Together, you have embodied the heart of Christ by creating safe, joyful places where children of trauma discover hope and belonging.

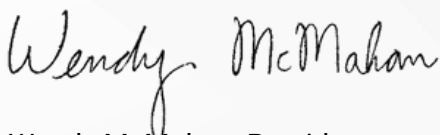
And while we celebrate all God has done, I believe He is only getting started. The heartbreaking reality is that there are still countless children who have never experienced the healing love we witness each summer and throughout the year. That is why For The Children is stepping into the next decade with bold faith and renewed vision.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to expand our reach by partnering with more churches in cities, states, and countries still waiting for their first chapter. We will equip our network with state-of-the-art resources in trauma-informed care, ensuring that every child who comes to camp or mentoring experiences the best care possible. And we are setting our sights on a God-sized goal: serving 100,000 more children by 2035 through Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring.

In the pages ahead, you'll read more about "The Vision" that will guide us in this next decade—recruiting new church partners, strengthening our service to chapters, and ensuring long-term sustainability. As we celebrate 40 years of God's faithfulness, I invite you to dream with us about what He will do in the next 40.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for believing with us. Most of all, thank you for showing children in foster care that they are seen, loved, and never forgotten.

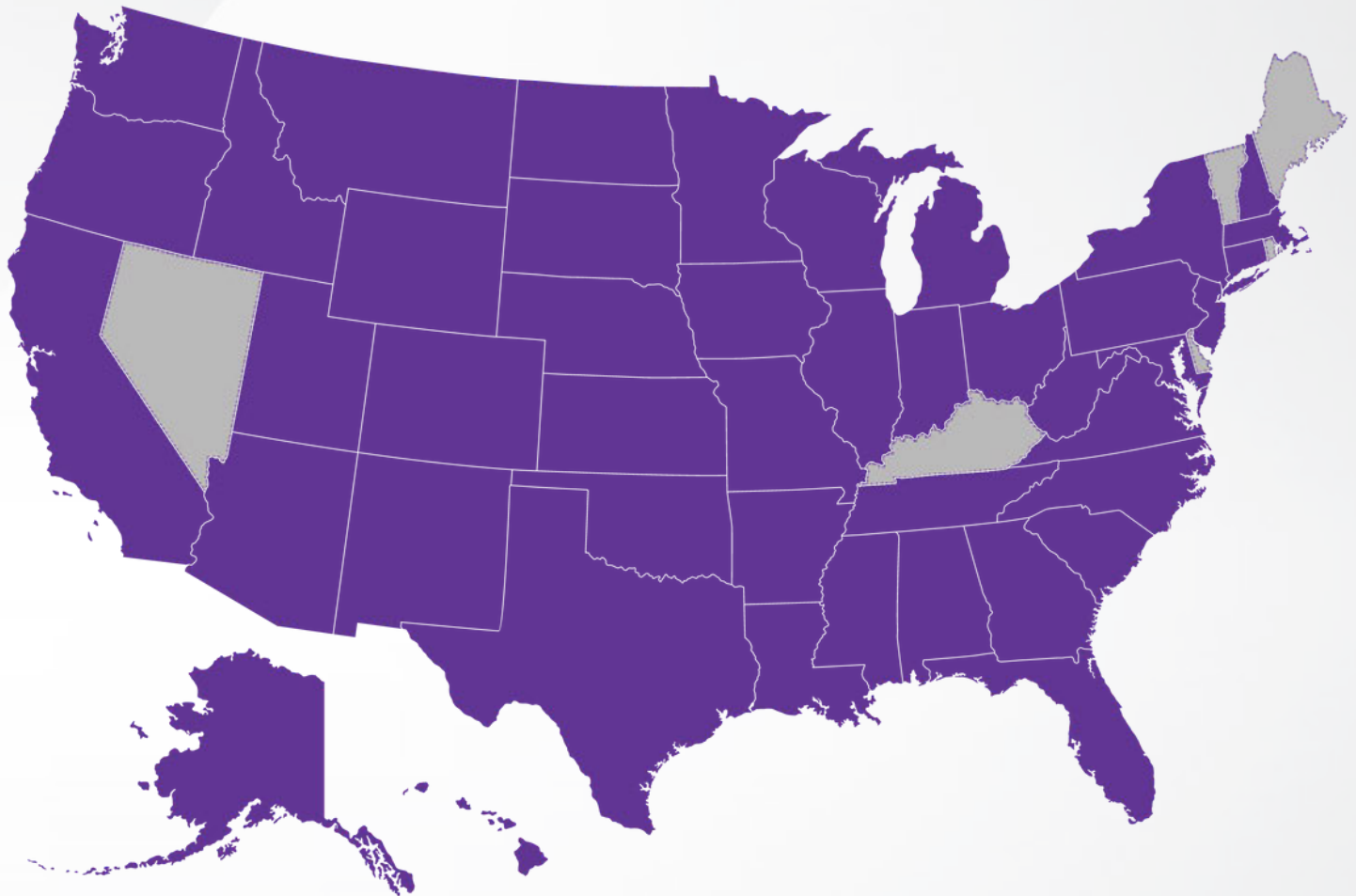
For the children,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy McMahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wendy" and last name "McMahan" clearly distinguishable.

Wendy McMahan, President

THIS YEAR'S

We continue to train and equip churches to serve the children in their communities by increasing the number of Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring programs.



- States with chapters
- States without chapters

IMPACT

7,332
Children served
in 2025 *

44
U.S. States served
in 2025

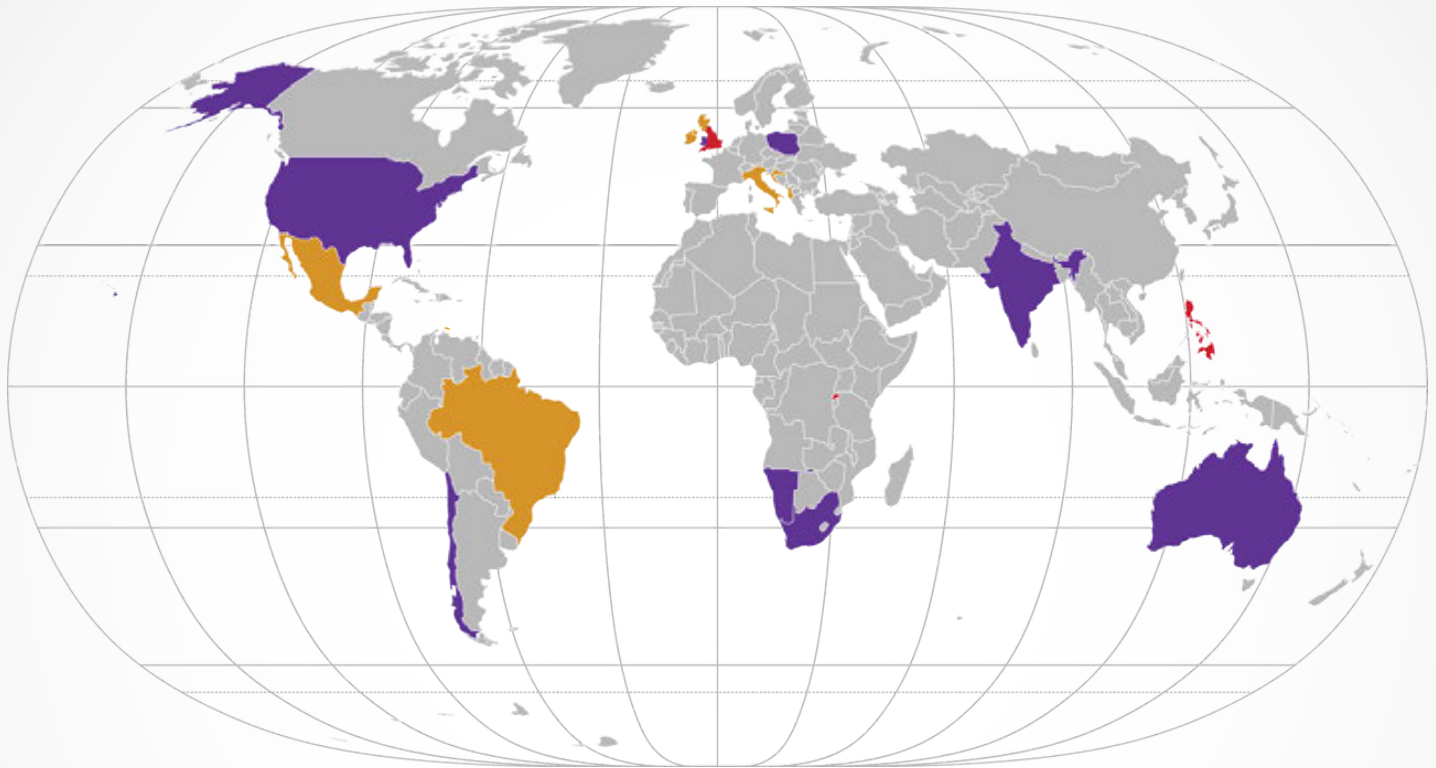
9
International
Partner Countries

179,233
Children served
since 1985 *

** These numbers represent the combined total of programs within the United States and internationally.*



THE WORK BEING DONE INTERNATIONALLY



CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Argentina, Chile, Namibia, South Africa, Wales, Poland, India, Australia

STARTING NEXT YEAR

England, Rwanda, Philippines

HOPEFUL FUTURE PARTNERS

Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Brazil, Mexico, Italy, Croatia, Albania, Curacao



578

**Children served
in 2025**



970
Volunteers



36
**International
Programs**

STORY FROM NAMIBIA



Deborah, who grew up in a children's home, joined our camp in 2012 at the age of 8. At the home, her voice was rarely heard, but at camp she was a celebrity! She was a feisty girl who liked to test boundaries and make sure she was noticed, despite being one of the smallest in stature. Her honest, straightforward personality won the hearts of every staff member at camp. Deborah continued to come to camp every year and liked to make sure her counselor gave her undivided attention.

She eventually aged out but would still return to join us for camp picnics, where she made sure to remind me of her birthday every year. During Covid I visited Deborah's Children's Home to take gift packs and she was the one who would rally all the kids together. Eventually Deborah was sent to a hostel out of town for technical studies, despite which, we were able to stay in touch by phone.

For her final year at school, Royal Family KIDS Camp Namibia was able to sponsor her outfit for an event similar to senior prom. She looked absolutely beautiful!

Written by: Charlene Hill-Uakuramenua,
Royal Family KIDS Camp Namibia Director

Photo from Royal Family KIDS Camp Namibia



Our five-day Royal Family KIDS Camp program creates a space where children entering or already in the child welfare system can learn to develop healthy relationships, build trust and begin healing.



“

Camp gives us an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those he commanded us to care for. The feeling I get when showing kindness and love to the kids and allowing them to make choices and just be kids is such a fulfilling feeling that is hard to describe.

- Celeste, Florida Volunteer



2025 U.S. IMPACT



188 Camp Programs



11,353 Volunteers



6,662 Campers Served



415 Former Campers Who Volunteered

“

I was able to see some of the kids (on my caseload) at camp. They are completely different from when they first entered agency custody. They were so happy and carefree. The counselors really allow the children to do what they want safely. This is truly what these children need; the ability to make their own decisions and be kids.

- Ashley, Ohio Social Worker



Where Royal Family KIDS Camp goes deep and breaks barriers - our Royal Family KIDS Mentoring program goes wide. Dependable, monthly contact with the same, safe adults is critical in building on the healing and trust that comes from forming lasting relationships.



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“Royal Family KIDS Mentoring is an opportunity to invest in the children’s lives. To continue the work that was started at camp. I believe the combination of Royal Family KIDS Camp plus Royal Family KIDS Mentoring is a process that the Holy Spirit of God has ordained to transform the lives of children from hard places.”

– Jeremy, California Pastor & Volunteer



"I feel so much closer to God after becoming a mentor."

- Nicole, Volunteer

“

“The Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring programs have had a tremendously positive impact on my daughter’s development. The consistency, care, and encouragement she receives through the programs have helped her build confidence, strengthen social skills, and feel supported. She genuinely looks forward to the monthly gatherings of the mentoring program and deeply values the connections she’s made with her mentors and peers.”

- Angel, Georgia Foster Parent



2025 U.S. IMPACT

25

States with mentoring programs

1,433

Children served

1,786

Volunteers

80%

Mentor-Mentee completion rate*

*Percentage of mentor-mentee pairings that completed the entire mentoring season.



CELEBRATING 40 ROYAL YEARS

Thank you for celebrating **40 ROYAL YEARS** with us. What an incredible four decades it has been! It was an honor to host the “Family Reunion” back in March where a joyful gathering of friends, alumni, and partners took place. It was an opportunity to treat people royally, reconnect with old friends, and celebrate the countless lives touched by Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring.

A special highlight of the weekend was the opportunity to honor our founders, Wayne and Diane Tesch. Forty years ago, they answered God’s call to launch the very first Royal Family KIDS Camp, laying the foundation for a movement that has since touched nearly 180,000 children’s lives. Their vision, courage, and faithfulness

continue to inspire us, and it was a privilege to thank them for the legacy they have entrusted to us.

Together, we celebrated four decades of God’s faithfulness and the impact of this movement on children who have experienced trauma. But even more, we looked ahead with anticipation for the new things He is doing as we step into the next 40 years of ministry. We are so grateful for every one of you who joined us — whether in person or in spirit — for your presence, your prayers, and your partnership. Your support makes it possible for For The Children to continue creating life-changing moments for children in foster care. Thank you for being part of this unforgettable milestone!





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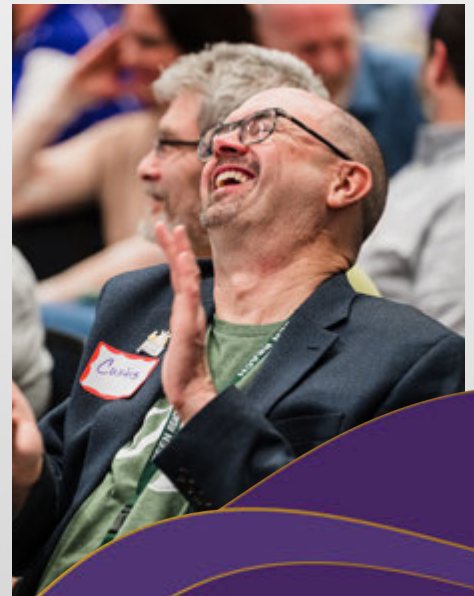
“Royal Family KIDS Camp was an answer to our prayers. These camps became a milestone in the development of the ministry among orphans and abandoned children in Poland. Wayne and Diane, thank you for your ministry, which is an encouragement and inspiration for us on the other side of the world!”

-Tomasz Walica, Poland

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“The impact we have been able to make in the lives of kiddos in Northern Colorado is immeasurable. Thank you for bringing the fire to Timberline Church over 10 years ago!”

- Darell Hailey, Colorado





This year, we are proud to announce our newest initiative - Bridge to Belonging.

Bridge to Belonging equips church volunteers with clear tools to handle children's challenging behaviors confidently, so they feel supported, effective, and less likely to burn out or quit.

THE PROBLEM

Vulnerable children struggle to participate in church because their trauma has caused complex behaviors.

Children in your community may have experienced:

- Foster care
- Adoption
- Physical and/or intellectual disabilities
- Loss and/or trauma
- Mental health issues

These children and their caregivers are at risk and desperately need a church family that is equipped to meet their needs.



THE PLAN

Bridge to Belonging is a video series & toolkit that builds a desperately needed, lifesaving bridge of connection.

You will discover:

- How your church can be a space of even greater refuge, support and care for vulnerable children and their families
- How to provide life-changing, trauma-informed training for church volunteers and staff
- A ministry toolbox full of resources that can be used in Children's, Youth, Family, and Worship ministry settings
- Supplemental lesson plans, tools and event ideas

THE RESULT



Your church will be equipped to reach more children and families. Staff and volunteers will be empowered to address challenging behaviors of children confidently.

Some results:

- You will see children thrive and families strengthened in your community
- Your church will become a trusted haven for children in crisis
- You will feel empowered and confident in your church's outreach and ministry efforts
- Your worship services will be transformed

YOUR CHURCH

Bridge to Belonging materials are designed for staff and volunteers at your church. Through a video series, self-assessment, and detailed guide, you will discover simple ways to help children and their caregivers.

Resources are available for:

- Pastors
- Teachers
- Worship Leaders
- Ushers / Greeters
- Children's Ministry & Youth Ministry Volunteers



Follow the link or scan the code to learn more!
Link: forthechildren.org/bridge-to-belonging





This year, **430**
former campers returned
to volunteer at Royal
Family KIDS programs!

For more than a decade, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lewiston, Idaho, has faithfully hosted a Royal Family KIDS Camp, creating safe and joy-filled spaces for children in foster care. Since 2012, the church and its dedicated volunteers have poured out love and care on countless campers, offering them the gift of unforgettable moments, trusted relationships, and the hope that they are seen and valued by God.

This summer, Camp Directors Cicily and Matt Zornes shared a milestone that captured the heart of what Royal Family KIDS is all about: four former campers returned to serve as volunteers.



Cicily & Matt Zornes with
the four former campers*
*Photo shared with permission
by the individuals and
respective guardians.

“

“We had the privilege and honor of having four of our alumni return as volunteers this year at camp! Some attended camp from the age of 6 to the age of 12, and some attended camp for just a year or two. Despite how many years they attended as campers, it left a lasting impact. So much so, they wanted to come back and be a part of that impact for many campers to come.

As volunteers, at the end of camp, we often don't know if we'll ever see these kids again. It's one of the biggest challenges of camp. There are no words to express the joy we have seeing the kids again; even more so when they choose to come back as volunteers themselves.

Praise God for what he is doing through Royal Family Kids Camp! This is what camp is all about. We are so incredibly proud of these guys!”

– Cicily & Matt Zornes

SPOTLIGHTS



Royal Family KIDS Mentoring at Rockharbor Church in Costa Mesa, CA, shows the life-changing power of consistent, caring relationships. For Josh, mentoring began after years of attending camp. At just eight years old, he was paired with Randy, the Dean of Men at camp – an authority figure Josh deeply admired. What started as monthly outings soon grew into a mentoring relationship that shaped Josh's life. Through pumpkin patches, holidays, and countless adventures, Randy became more than just a mentor; he became a father figure, a role model of Christ, and eventually an honorary member of Josh's family. Today, Josh describes their bond as one that carried him through challenges and gave him a steady presence he could always count on.

For Randy, mentoring Josh was equally transformative. He quickly discovered that mentoring was more than "having fun once a month." It was about showing up, listening, and being there through every milestone. Over the years, Randy encouraged Josh's dream of working in healthcare, even helping him find opportunities at

Hoag Hospital. Today, Josh is licensed as an EMT, attending Vanguard University of Southern California, and continuing to give back as a camp volunteer. Their journey is proof that the mentoring program doesn't just end when a child ages out – it often becomes a lifelong relationship of belonging and growth.

Through Royal Family KIDS Mentoring, children are reminded that they are not alone, and mentors are given the chance to walk alongside them in life-changing ways. Josh and Randy's story is just one example of how God uses the simple commitment of one caring adult to change the trajectory of a child's future.



Randy & Josh at Royal Family KIDS Camp



Randy and Josh sharing their story at a For The Children event

2025 FINANCIALS

For The Children is supported by a network of generous organizations, churches, individuals, and foundations. *Thank you* for your commitment to making moments matter for children in foster care.

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“It’s love that tells a child born into unimaginable and unacceptable poverty that they are not alone; they’re not invisible. It is love that tells a child that an endlessly merciful and all-powerful God knows their name and has a beautiful plan for their life.”

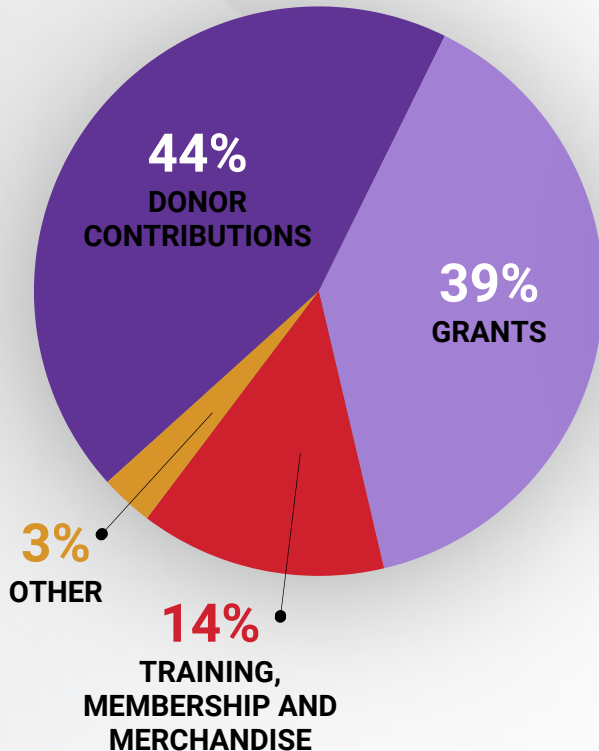
Charles Spurgeon



REVENUE

The Sources Behind the Impact

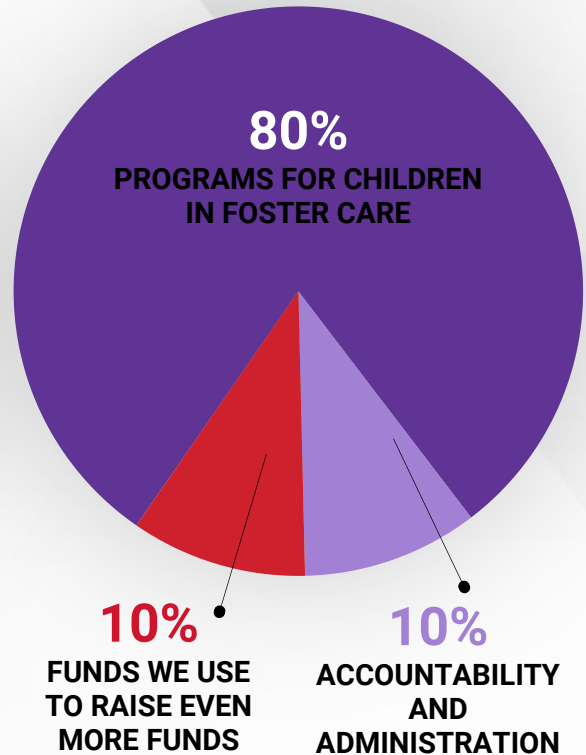
Total Funds Raised: \$3,222,503



EXPENSES

Where Your Donations Go

Numbers updated per finalized audit



For The Children is a member of the **Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)**, a community of leading churches and ministries committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, and **Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)**, which unites over 300 respected organizations and a global network of churches in shared initiatives for the world's most vulnerable children. We are proud to have earned a Platinum Rating of Transparency from **Candid (Guidestar)** and a Four-Star Rating from **Charity Navigator**, the highest rankings of accountability from both organizations.



For full financial reports, please visit <https://www.forthethechildren.org/about-us/financials>
2024 audited financial reports provided by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

OUR LEADERSHIP

Samantha's Story

Many of you may remember Samantha Orr's inspiring journey from Royal Family KIDS Camper to middle school teacher and now assistant principal. Her story of resilience and hope is a powerful reminder of what God can do through five life-changing days at camp and the love of caring volunteers.

This year, we are thrilled to share that Samantha, Ed.D., has joined For The Children's Board of Directors. Once a camper herself, she now brings her unique perspective, experience, and testimony to help shape the future of our mission. We are grateful for her voice and honored to celebrate this full-circle moment in our 40th anniversary year!



John Beering, Shireen Eddleblute, Brad Wayman, Samantha Orr, Rebecca Captain, Doug Nordman, Wendy McMahan, Wayne Tesch, Brenton Fessler
(Not pictured Sandy Cook-Fong and Tia Cummings-Hopkins)



STAFF

Wendy McMahan, M.S. – <i>President</i>	Gertrude Hipolito – <i>Accounting Administrator</i>
Kerry Rhodes, M.Ed. – <i>Senior V.P.</i>	Lauren Kim – <i>Executive Assistant</i>
Jim Farmer, M.A. – <i>V.P. of Training</i>	Rana Ocker – <i>Controller</i>
Cristina M. Robeck, M.B.A. – <i>V.P. of Development</i>	John Schwider – <i>Chapter Growth Rep (East)</i>
Anna Beaty – <i>Chapter Success Rep (East)</i>	Heather Shulgin – <i>Director of Programs</i>
Lauren Behmlander, M.Ed. – <i>Training Engagement Manager</i>	Jordan Sierra – <i>Chapter Success Rep (West)</i>
Misty Elliott – <i>International Ministry Leader</i>	Larry Stealey – <i>Chapter Growth Rep (West)</i>
Emily Ferrell – <i>Director of Marketing & Communications</i>	Tina Stealey – <i>Chapter Success Administrator</i>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Beering – <i>Board Chair</i> <i>CEO, RedDOT Corporation</i>	Shireen Eddleblute <i>Founder, Sprouting Sparks</i>
Brad Wayman – <i>Vice-Chair</i> <i>COO, U.S. Personal Banking, Citi</i>	Brenton Fessler <i>Lead Pastor, RefugeOC</i>
Rebecca Captain <i>Directing Attorney of Law, Offices of Harold LaFlamme III</i>	Doug Nordman <i>GM, Invasive Cardiology GE Healthcare</i>
Sandy Cook-Fong, Ph.D., LCSW <i>Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska</i>	Samantha Orr, Ed.D. <i>Middle School Assistant Principal &</i>
Tia Cummings-Hopkins <i>Co-Founder and CEO, 925 Consulting</i>	<i>Royal Family KIDS Program Alumna</i>

CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD

Sandy Cook-Fong, Ph.D., LCSW – <i>Board Chair</i>	Chelsie Vukovich, LCSW
Heidi Berk, MSW	Glenn Howard, Ph.D., CPA, Attorney
Richard Berumen, M.A.	Becca Johnson, Ph.D.
David Cross, Ph.D.	Ally Christianson, LCSW
Darren Daugherty, Ph.D., LPC, RPT, CFLE	



A VISION OF HOPE: Unlocking a Brighter Future for Children

As we mark 40 years of ministry, we celebrate all that God has done. But our story is far from over — in fact, a new and extraordinary chapter is beginning.

THE NEXT DECADE: EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF HOPE

We are stepping boldly into a new season of growth. Over the next ten years, For The Children will expand and strengthen our network of church partners, laying the groundwork to serve 50% more children each year.

Between today and 2035, our vision is clear and full of hope:

To serve 100,000 children through Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring.

This is more than a number — it's 100,000 lives touched by God's love.
100,000 moments where children begin to trust again, to laugh again,
to believe again. 100,000 children who will know that they are seen,
loved, and chosen.



HOW WE'LL GET THERE

With your partnership, we will:



RECRUIT 200 NEW CHURCH PARTNERS

Empowering local congregations to open new doors of hope for children in foster care.



EQUIP AND STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORK

Enhance training, curriculum, and trauma-informed resources so our church partners can serve with even greater excellence and compassion.



BUILD FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Strengthening our work so this ministry continues to thrive for generations to come.





A LEGACY OF LOVE AND A CALL TO GROW

Across the nation and around the world, entire regions and communities are still waiting for their first Royal Family KIDS program. Churches are reaching out, eager to bring love, hope and safety to more children in their communities. The need is great — but the opportunity is greater still.

Through God's grace, we have already raised \$2.25 million toward our \$5 million Vision Campaign — and we are just getting started! This campaign will fuel the next decade of growth and transformation, ensuring that the love of Christ continues to reach children who have endured far too much pain and loneliness.

Together, we will expand our reach, strengthen our network, and build lasting sustainability so that every child in foster care can experience the unconditional love, joy, and safety found at Royal Family KIDS Camp and Mentoring.

JOIN THE VISION

This is a *holy moment* — a time for the Church to rise and bring hope to children who are waiting to be seen, loved, and believed in. The vision is bold, the calling is clear, and the impact will echo for generations.

Together, through God's grace, we can serve 100,000 more children.

Let's write the next chapter of this incredible story — a story of faith, healing, and hope that changes the world one child at a time.

To join the vision, please contact Cristina Robeck at cristinar@forthechildren.org.





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