



# Love in Action

FaithBridge Foster Care • Impact Report 2017

Letter from the President + CEO

Dear FaithBridge Ministry Partner,

When I was a young boy, my father volunteered to drive the church bus several Sundays a month. He did this for years and I would ride along with him on those mornings as he picked up church members who did not have their own transportation.

Mrs. Gautreau’s home was a regular stop. She was a small woman, about five feet tall, and beyond her child bearing years yet she always got on the bus with several teenagers. These young men, who towered over her, were “her boys.”

I didn’t know what foster care was at the time, but I did know that Mrs. Gautreau was a mother figure to each of these boys. They were part of our church community and it was perfectly normal that this tiny woman would have a group of large teen-aged boys with her each Sunday. Some would come and go, and others would remain with her over the years. One even remained a member of my church community through adulthood.

All of those boys experienced the love of Jesus while they were in Mrs. Gautreau’s care. They all experienced being part of my church community and because of that, it has become part of my own story. **I was witnessing love in action.**

In 11 years, FaithBridge Foster Care has placed 1,184 children in loving Christian homes.

These children, just like the boys who lived with Mrs. Gautreau, have been introduced to the love of Jesus. It doesn’t end there. Their stories have touched 73 church congregations, 670 foster families, 217 adoptive families, their biological families, and countless others. I don’t know how many young men Mrs. Gautreau cared for, but her legacy lives in each of them and their families as well as in me. God did a mighty work through Mrs. Gautreau all those years ago and He is doing mighty work through you and FaithBridge today.

**I believe He is just getting started.**

In this report you’ll see a glimpse of how your support is making a difference in the foster care crisis in Georgia. One community, one church, one child at a time.

As we look ahead to 2019 we have some exciting things on the horizon. We are in a unique position to make a bigger impact on more lives and I hope you’ll join us as we continue to share the hope, healing and unconditional love of Jesus Christ with children in foster care.



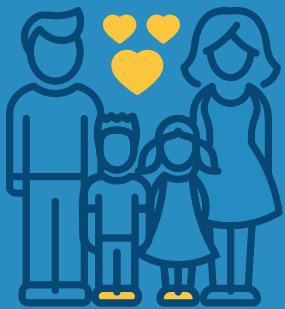
*Bob J. Bruder-Mattson*

Bob Bruder-Mattson  
President & CEO

**P.S.** Thank you for your partnership with FaithBridge! Because of your support, so many foster children are experiencing the love of Jesus.

Our 2017 Results

104  
reunified with family



350  
children served

753  
individuals introduced  
to foster care



119  
new licensed  
foster families

58,656  
days children have been  
in Christian homes

\*19% increase from 2016



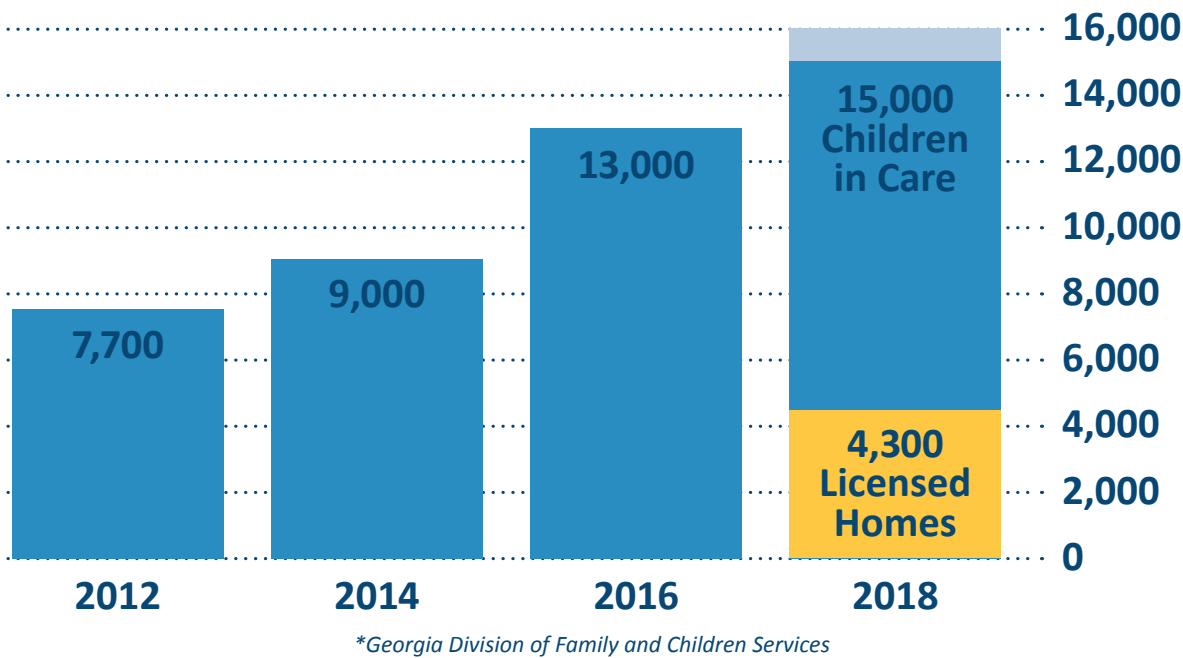
38  
adoptions

8  
new partner churches



841  
total volunteers

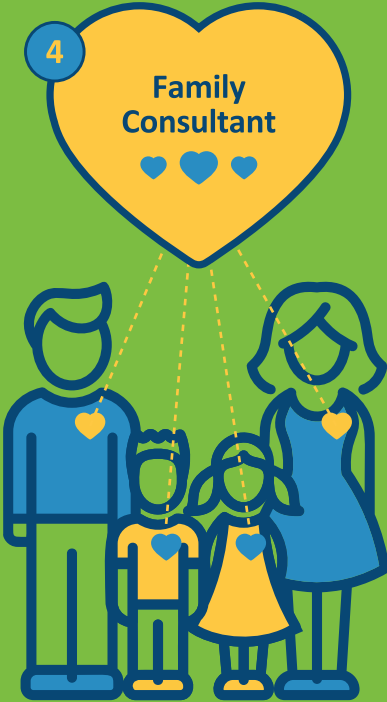
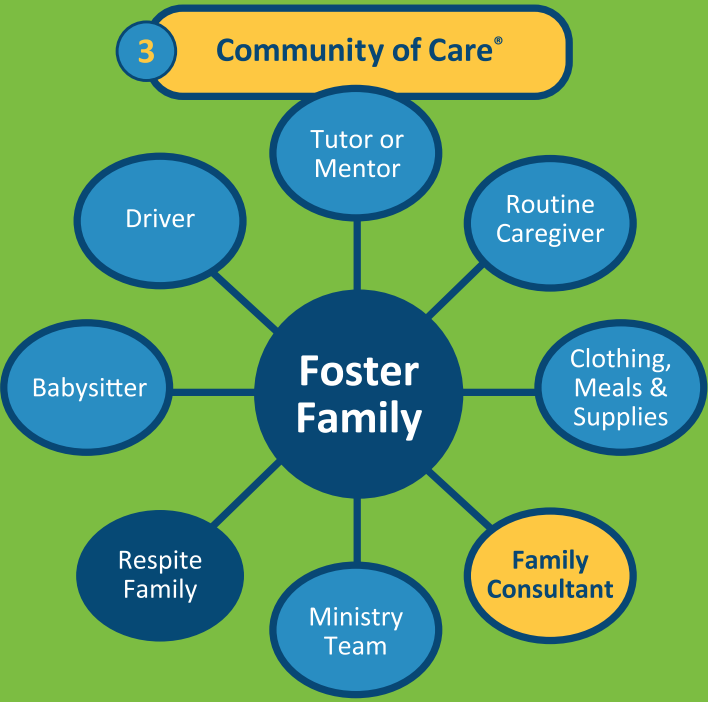
We reported last year that the number of children in foster care has doubled in five years. It continues to grow at an alarming rate. While we see a decrease in the number of children living in poverty (Annie E. Casey), we continue to see the opioid crisis causing more and more children to be separated from their parents while they get the help they need.



As Georgia’s largest Christ-centered Licensed Child Placing Agency, FaithBridge Foster Care’s model of partnering with churches creates growing and sustainable foster care ministries. **We partner with local churches offering both traditional and therapeutic programs** and we help recruit, train, license, and support foster families within each ministry. We do this by placing children in loving Christian homes, providing Biblically based training, guiding our churches to develop a Community of Care for each family and providing a FaithBridge Family Consultant (a FaithBridge employee who partners with each family for their fostering journey) to each of our families so that they **never foster alone**.

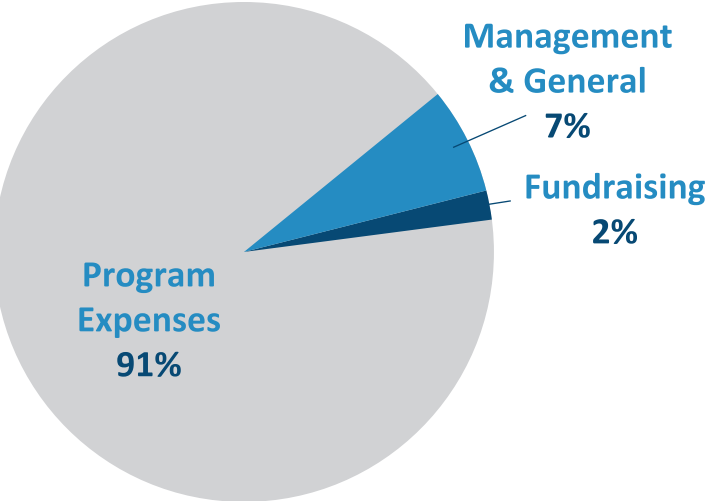
The Church is God’s **Plan A**. There is no **Plan B**.

# The FaithBridge Difference

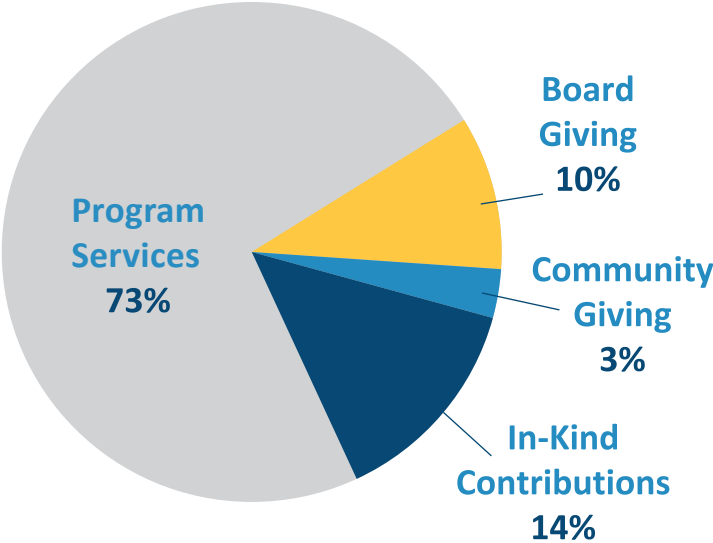




Expenses



Revenue



Source: 2017 Audited Financial Statements

Our Board of Directors gives 10% to cover all management, general, and fundraising expenses.

100% of every dollar donated goes directly to help foster children!

Board of Directors + Executive Leadership

Richard L. Jackson - Chairman  
Michael Kendrick - Treasurer  
Wayne Stolz - Secretary

Laurence Powell  
Charles R. Evans  
Ronald Blue

Bob Bruder-Mattson - President & CEO

**Meet the Schoomakers.** When the Schoomakers heard that little Carson\* was going home, they started the process of transitioning as they had done several times before. Carson was going to be placed with a relative who lived a short distance from the Schoomakers’ church, Four Points Church in Acworth, Georgia. Julie and James Schoomaker have two biological children, Isabel (14 years old) and Brad (12 years old). James explained that it is a challenging experience for the entire family when they are receiving a placement and when a placement leaves because there is so much preparation that the entire family undergoes.

“But it’s all worth it,” James explained as he reflected on the challenging experience, “There is nothing easy about this work but we must think about the big picture.”

Carson’s “big picture” was that he had biological relatives who loved him dearly and were able to open their home to care for him. The Schoomakers were happy to experience a snapshot of this precious baby’s life and although it was difficult when it was time to go, they were excited to see a family reunified and lives transformed.

The Schoomakers experienced God’s amazing ability to transform situations not only in the lives of the families they support through foster care, but also in their personal lives.

“My husband was transformed by Christ three years ago and the transformation I saw in him and our family has amplified my existing faith immensely. When my husband felt called to foster care, I wasn’t hesitant to follow,” Julie says.

James didn’t grow up a Christian but now, he celebrates three years of sobriety and three years as a Christ Follower. This is his truth. This is his big picture.

“What a huge testimony to be able to show people in your life that they can be transformed and that God can change anyone,” James says, “But when our friends started fostering, we honestly thought they were crazy! This was an investment beyond just children but a whole family ministry.” The Schoomakers feel their biggest calling is to birth family restoration. James ministers to a number of birth parents who struggle with addictions hoping to see more lives transformed.

So when the Schoomakers met Carson’s relatives, they immediately invited them to church. They planned to meet at service on Sunday. Little did the Schoomakers know, although they had planned baby Carson’s departure out of their home, they would not have to plan his departure out of their lives. Carson’s relatives loved the service and community so much that they made Four Points their permanent church home. Now, the amazing community of Four Points Church will play a part in framing baby Carson’s big picture for years to come.



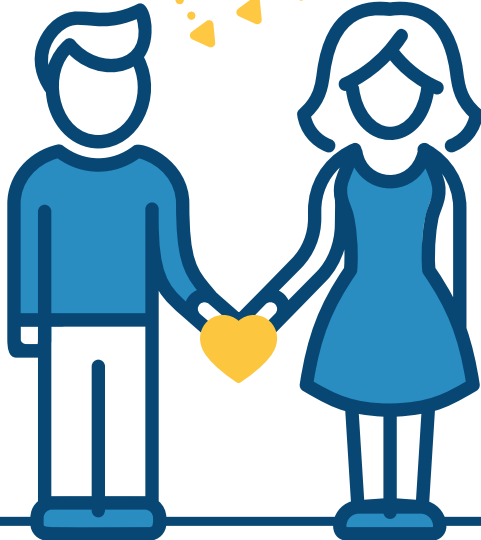


**\$4,000**  
Cost to Acquire a  
New Church Partner\*



**Result**  
Foster Children in  
Loving Christian Homes

\*Based on 2017 actual costs



**\$5,000**  
Cost to Recruit and  
License One Foster Family\*

Last year FaithBridge Foster Care celebrated 10 years in ministry. The very first church to partner with FaithBridge was Mt. Bethel United Methodist, located in Marietta.

Since 2007, Mt. Bethel has cared for 92 children with the help of 32 foster families, 15 respite families, and 55 volunteers.

“One of the co-founders and current board members of FaithBridge is Wayne Stolz who was instrumental in establishing the partnership between FaithBridge and Mt. Bethel UMC,” said Stephanie Watts, a foster parent and Mt. Bethel’s foster care ministry advocate. “FaithBridge helped us re-launch our ministry four years ago as *Called to Care*, and FaithBridge’s leadership helped to identify new leadership and support through Mt. Bethel.”

For Stephanie, as well as Mt. Bethel’s leadership, their foster care ministry allows them to live out James 1:27. “God commands us to care for orphans, and we are fulfilling our specific calling to care for children in need of a family,” she said.

FaithBridge’s Community of Care is vital to Mt. Bethel ministry.



“I could not imagine fostering without it,” Stephanie said. “To know you are not doing this alone and that you will have breaks and support when you need it is huge. It makes the foster calling less daunting and also demonstrates how the body of Christ works together to care for these precious children of God.”

Throughout the last 10 years, Mt. Bethel has engaged their church in a variety of ways to help spread awareness about *Called to Care*. Pastors have spoken about foster care and the need from the pulpit, they’ve recognized foster parents during worship services, shown videos in service and online, made and worn *Called to Care* t-shirts, hosted Encounters and training sessions and more.

“Having support from church leadership is very important and the more support we have received from the church when it comes to awareness, the more productive our launches have been,” Stephanie said. “We also have found it effective to specifically focus on whatever area is the greatest need for our ministry at that time whether it is volunteers, respite or foster families. Any personal contact you can have with people – whether that is speaking to a Sunday school class/life group or one-on-one conversations – has been more effective for us than written communication.”

We celebrate our longest-standing church partner and we look forward to serving even more children and families in the years ahead.





Our Donors and Church Partners

Donors

Patricia J. Albert-Wigbels  
Patricia G. Alston  
Amazon Smile Donations  
Anonymous  
Rebecca Arbery  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Banker  
Noelle Banks  
Aaron Barton  
Tracy & Patrick Bates Family Foundation  
Martha Battle  
Emmit & Martha Beall  
Robert Beebe  
Lewis Benedict  
Bennie L. Bolden  
Harry & Nancy Bergwall  
Mary C. Blacker  
Jennifer Blaine  
Thomas Blaine  
Ronald & Judy Blue  
Hammond Breland  
Sean Britt  
Brookhaven Presbyterian Church  
Christy Brown  
Stephanie Brubaker  
Bob & Sue Bruder-Mattson  
Daniel Bullock  
Carson Burroughs  
Scott Casey  
Laura Castillo  
Christ Community Church  
Charles Cobb  
Doretta W. Cohran  
Sylvia Comer  
Ferrell & Libby Coppedge  
Susan & Travis Cowie  
CTR Partners, Inc.  
Dave  
Pamela A. Davis  
Lindsey Doggett  
Sarah Donegan  
Jonathan Duggan  
Charlie & Janice Edwards  
Melanie L. Ehler  
Jeanne Esterling  
Evangel Temple

Charles Evans  
Duane C. & Marci A. Fickel  
John Floyd & Carmen Michelle  
Hamilton  
L.J. & Barbara Gallman  
Robert Henry Gilbert, Jr.  
Meredith S. Gresham  
Jacob Hamilton  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hargreaves  
Kim Harper  
Jason Harris  
Matthew & Karolyn Hawley  
Sally Hawn  
Kristi W. Henderson  
Pamela D. Hobson  
Susan Hoff  
Jared Holt  
Emily Huse  
Rick & Melody Jackson  
Jackson Healthcare  
Tamara Jarrett  
Betty Jensen  
Joan Johnson  
John K.  
Robert E. & Teresa L. Kamm  
John & Teresa Kannawarf  
Michael & Michelle Kendrick  
Larry & Margaret Kiefer  
Jack C. Kilgore  
Carl W. King II  
Jennifer Knighton  
Jacinda H Kolosna  
John Kray  
Lance & Suzanne Krpata  
Gene & Nancy Lambert  
Elizabeth Lane  
Rochelle Y. Lepor  
Nathan Luebke  
WL and Anne H. Lummus  
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation  
Paul A. & Joyce E. Mattson  
Janis McCloy  
Margaret Middleton  
Randall Mink  
Mount Bethel United Methodist Church  
Erech Myers

Vicki Najor  
National Christian Foundation  
Janet Nay  
AJ Newman  
Eric & Susan Ouellette  
Omer & Linda Ozguc  
Carol Paradise  
Shawna Patterson  
Gregg & Josie Pawlowski  
Alfred P. Perreca  
William Phillips  
George & Merrily Piepho  
Paige Pinson  
Rocky Pizza  
Brent Potvin  
Larry & Betsy Powell  
Samuel Prothro  
Rhema Community Church, Inc.  
Jeffery C. Richardson  
Angela Rivera  
Angela Rodda  
Jonathan Rogers  
Rotary Club of Golden Isles Glynn County  
Saint Simons United Methodist Church  
J. Charles & Mei Ling M. Shackelton  
Duane Shippy  
Richard Shuster  
Amy Stadler  
Jeff Stadler  
Patricia Steinwedell  
Deanna Still  
Abigal D. Stockman  
Dennis J. Stockwell  
Wayne & Evie Stolz  
Thomas Stoughton  
Karl Straub  
The Chapel, A United  
Methodist Congregation  
The Revolution.TV, Inc.  
Ruth & Jason Thyen  
Brad Troha & Jennifer Babcock  
Eddie & Patti Turner  
Paul Anthony Vetter  
Richard & Cindy M. Vidic Jr.  
William Wallace  
Sharon Louise Walsh Asbury

Stephen & Stephanie Watts  
Jerry Weber  
Tricia Wegman  
Carrie White  
Leslie M. White  
Dennis Wigbels  
David & Joanna Wilkins, Jr.  
Williams Benator & Libby LLP  
Ellen Woodruff

Church Partners

Cartersville First Baptist  
Cedarcrest Church  
Celebration Church  
Cumberland Community Church  
Dunwoody Baptist Church  
First Baptist Church Alpharetta  
Four Points Church  
GraceLife  
Highview Church  
His Hands Church  
Karis Community Fellowship  
Liberty Church  
Life Church International  
Mars Hill Community Church  
Momentum Christian Church  
Mount Bethel United Methodist Church  
Mount Zion Baptist Church  
New Salem Baptist Church  
North Point Community Church  
Northside Church  
NorthStar Church  
Perimeter Church  
Rehoboth Baptist Church  
Relevant Church  
Revolution Church  
Stonecreek Church  
The Square  
Tri-Cities Church  
Vertical Life Church  
Vintage 242  
Wildwood Baptist Church  
White Stone Fellowship  
Woodstock First Baptist Church

James 1:27

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world...”



Thank you for your support of Georgia’s children in distress!





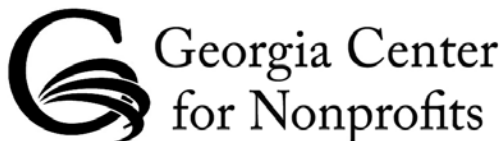
## Our Vision

Every foster child will experience the hope, healing,  
and unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

## Our Mission

To mobilize, organize, and equip local churches to help  
solve their community's foster care crisis.

This results in inspired and growing church ministries, foster care ministry families who are using their gifts and growing deeper in their relationships with Christ and foster children who are placed in loving Christian homes to create cycles of family stability.



4400 North Point Pkwy, Suite #210  
Alpharetta, GA 30022 • 678.690.7100  
[FaithBridgeFosterCare.org](http://FaithBridgeFosterCare.org)