



2021 IMPACT REPORT

FAITHBRIDGE FOSTER CARE

Hope. Healing. Love.

“HE GUIDES ME ALONG THE RIGHT PATHS
FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE.”

PSALM 23:3



Bob Bruder-Mattson
President and CEO

Dear Ministry Partners,

Thank you for all you’ve done to help make 2021 another year of growth and blessing. We witnessed doors open for new ways to serve vulnerable children, we welcomed a new board member, and **we experienced God’s miraculous power through countless stories of reunification, redemption, adoption, and healing.**

Thanks to your generosity, we have seen the highest number of new donors step into God’s story for children in foster care than any prior year – and more donations than ever in our history. This in turn ignited **new programs**, created **greater impact**, and brought **more partners** to help us share the hope, healing, and love of Jesus. These are the cornerstones of 2021.

Each day, more than 300 youths are awaiting adoption in the State of Georgia. Incredibly, many of them *cannot be adopted* because they do not have the required Child Life History documents. I am thrilled to let you know that FaithBridge has expanded our ministries to serve these children by creating hundreds of these official assessments, which are critical for these children. I am equally as excited to share with you that FaithBridge is now a licensed adoption agency for the hardest

to place children - large sibling groups, teens, and children with special needs.

We have also seen substantial growth in the number of our church partners. With 10% more churches in the fifteen counties that we serve, combined with our new programs, this year FaithBridge will serve *more youths in more ways than at any time in our history!*

Thank you for all you are doing to impact these children’s lives. Always remember the difference you are making in His Kingdom, in our community, and in the hearts of these children.

May God bless you,

Bob Bruder-Mattson
President and CEO





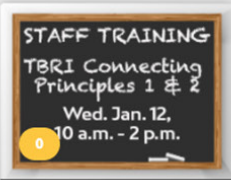
WHAT *We* DO

TOGETHER WE BRING HOPE, HEALING, AND LOVE TO GEORGIA'S FOSTER CHILDREN.

When children are brought in to foster care, they need families to help them heal from the trauma of neglect and abuse. FaithBridge Foster Care is the largest Georgia-based and Christ-centered child placing agency in the state. We recruit, train, and support foster families in local churches and license them to provide community-based, short- and long-term traditional, medically fragile and therapeutic care for foster children in Georgia. We work with the state of Georgia to provide Child Life Histories for children who are eligible for adoption, ensuring they have all of their required documents. (You can read more about our Child Life History program on page 7.)

Our vision is for every foster child to experience the hope, healing, and unconditional love of Jesus Christ and our mission is to mobilize, organize, and equip local churches to solve their community's foster care crisis.

We pioneered the Community of Care® model which is designed to surround every foster family with a network of volunteers and professionals providing the support they need to provide safe and stable homes for foster children. Each family is also paired with a FaithBridge Foster Family Consultant who will walk through the journey of foster care with them.



STAFF TRAINING
TBRI Connecting Principles 1 & 2
Wed. Jan. 12,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2022 Staff TBRI Caregiver Training: Connecting
Instructor Led Course



FAITHBRIDGE INSTITUTE
Ryan North: Challenging Behaviors
On Demand Course · 30m

★★★★★ (24)

Enroll +



Authentic Storytelling for Children and Parents Part 1
On Demand Course

★★★★★ (4)



FAITHBRIDGE INSTITUTE
Confronting the Fear of Not Having What it Takes
On Demand Course · 45m

★★★★★ (15)

Enroll +



Authentic Storytelling for Children and Parents Part 2
On Demand Course

★★★★★ (4)



FAITHBRIDGE INSTITUTE
Ryan North: Fear and Felt Safety
On Demand Course · 30m

★★★★★ (7)

Enroll +



FAITHBRIDGE INSTITUTE
Ryan North: Being Trauma Informed in Your Ministry
On Demand Course · 15m

★★★★★ (1)



FAITHBRIDGE INSTITUTE
Ryan North: Managing Transitions and Meltdowns
On Demand Course · 30m

★★★★★ (4)

Enroll +



EPIC
Therapeutic Approach Series
Curriculum

★★★★★ (0)



FAITHBRIDGE INSTITUTE
Ryan North: Practical Tools for Parents
On Demand Course · 30m

★★★★★ (8)

Enroll +

FAITHBRIDGEU

There are approximately 250,000 foster parents in the U.S. who are in desperate need of answers, guidance, and knowledge during their foster care journey.

They face challenging concerns such as grief and loss after reunification, understanding trauma, and how to handle behavioral issues. **FaithBridge envisions a world where every foster parent has 24-hour access to high-quality, scripture-based, professionally informed training.**

FaithBridgeU brings this training directly into homes through a web-based learning management system containing live and recorded training sessions. These courses are building a bridge between clinical insights, spiritual foundations, and experiential relevance. FaithBridge foster families were supported with more than 7,000 hours of training in 2021!

Additionally, it allows foster parents to:

- Keep track of their state-required CEUs (continuing education units) in real-time,
- Create personal libraries of preferred topics for easy reference, and
- Enjoy brand-new training material on a regular basis to help them continue to follow God's call on their lives as foster parents.

Our goal for 2022 is to begin a national rollout in partnership with foster care ministries that will dramatically extend our reach, bringing hope and healing to thousands of foster families in need.

Learn more [here](#).

FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



4

new church partners
launched brand new foster
care ministries



176

individuals went through
foster parent training





FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



53

13+ teens were in Christian homes



67

Child life histories were completed making adoption possible for each of those children



CHILD LIFE HISTORY

Each year, approximately 1,600 children in Georgia’s foster care system need families who will adopt them.

When a court terminates parental rights, a foster child becomes eligible for adoption and a Child Life History (a compilation of official documents such as birth certificates and medical histories, and historical information like birth family details and school records) must be created. This is crucial, because if this important information does not exist, the **child cannot be adopted and will remain in foster care.**

In 2021, the state of Georgia requested applicants to fulfill this need and we felt God’s calling to step forward and help more children find permanency. We were excited to learn that FaithBridge is one of only two organizations contracted to do this work, our focus being the north Georgia region.

Our goal is to provide thorough and accurate Child Life Histories quickly, so children do not experience even greater trauma while they wait. These Child Life Histories are presented to the adoptive families so they can be informed of accurate details pertaining to their children. It also helps these children connect to their own personal stories.

FaithBridge will complete more than 800 Child Life Histories in the program’s first twelve months. **This means 800 children will now have the chance to be placed in their forever home.**

We are grateful to be able to help pave the way to adoption and the love of forever families through this important new program.

FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



99.8%

of FaithBridge foster children were kept safe within homes



94%

of FaithBridge foster children found stability in one foster home





Hope

CHURCH PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

North Point Community Church has been a FaithBridge church partner since our earliest days. Together we have served 286 foster children in FaithBridge foster homes since 2009.

Since then, their Fostering Together ministry has developed into a robust program that continues to innovate, advocate, and serve children in foster care and their families in powerful ways.

Susan Phelps leads the ministry for the North Point Community Church campus. She has seen God work in the lives of foster families, the children in their care, their mentors, and other volunteers.

“One memorable moment in 2021 was when the Fostering Together community stepped into action in the spring when a teen in one of our homes needed a laptop for school,” Says Susan. “Her foster parents had not yet told anyone of this need when someone reached out to me to see if there was a foster child who needed a laptop. I thought of the Flowers family, and they were so grateful for the generosity!” God unmistakably orchestrated this moment to show how He provides for all of our needs. (You can read more about the Flowers family on page 13.)

As the world started to meet in person again in 2021, Fostering Together developed new resources and efforts to continue to help equip foster parents. In August, they introduced “Fuel,” a monthly in-person gathering intended to encourage, engage, and equip participants in their adoption or foster care journey. They have featured special speakers intended to provide for the needs of foster families in a “COVID world” including a child psychologist and a former DFCS County Office Director.

Their innovation, along with an extensive list of resources including meal programs, mentors, and respite, has made North Point’s Fostering Together a truly successful ministry.

FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



383

children were served



86,286

nights children have been in Christian homes





Healing

MEET THE THOMPSONS

“You have no idea the impact you are making in their lives.”

“When people say to us, ‘Wow, look at Quincy. You saved his life.’” Chris adds, “I get to say back ‘No, he saved mine.’”

Chris and Lisa Thompson decided to foster in 2010 while living in Florida and quickly welcomed Quincy into their home. When he became available for adoption, the Thompsons chose to step in obedience and adopt this boy whom they had come to love as their own.

During that process, through a required medical physical, they discovered that Chris had stage-4 cancer. While this was unexpected and shocking, they chose to be grateful that they learned of the illness. The day after they finalized Quincy’s adoption, they flew to New York where Chris had successful surgery.

“We cling to James 1:17,” says Lisa. “‘Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,’ and we know that this was all part of God’s plan for us.”

When the Thompson family relocated to Georgia, they knew that they wanted to make a local impact in the lives of children in foster care. “We knew we wanted to invest in an agency that aligned with scripture and FaithBridge is so much like the agency we fostered with in Florida, we started to donate,” says Chris. **“Our greatest hope for Quincy is that he will love Jesus. We have that same hope for the children in FaithBridge homes.”**

FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



88

children were
reunited with family



512

people were introduced to
foster care



Love

MEET THE FLOWERS FAMILY

When it comes to education, the statistics for children in foster care are startling. **Nationally, only 50% of foster children graduate from high school and only 3% earn a four-year college degree.**

Karline was 16 when she came into foster care. Because of the neglect she experienced at home, she was in great need of medical care and significant academic recovery.

Karline had been struggling to keep up in school and was behind in several subjects, putting her in peril of becoming yet another statistic.

In the Wesley home, that changed. Karline experienced love, safety, and stability for the first time since her birth mother passed years ago. This helped her find confidence to make a promise to herself: not only would she make the improvements to catch up in school, she would graduate!

“The Fostering Together community at North Point Community Church, provided in so many ways during this time,” says Gina. “Including the timely donation of a much-needed laptop so that Karline had the tools she needed to succeed.”

During 2019 and 2020, she received tutoring and attended Summer School to make up for missing credits and **despite the trauma she has experienced, a global pandemic, online school, and many other challenges, Karline graduated!**

In the fall, Karline started attending Georgia Gwinnett College, majoring in Business Management. Statistics show that many youth who have aged out of foster care are homeless, but Karline, now 19 years old, knows she always has a home with Wesley and Gina. She visits every couple of weeks and is spending the summer with them.

Karline continues to rise above the statistic with big goals to own and run her own business, and Gina and Wesley are committed to be there for her every step of the way.

“With the support of FaithBridge and other groups doing God’s work of caring for these children, Karline is moving forward into a bright future,” says Gina, “We couldn’t be prouder of her!”

FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



70

new licensed foster families



31

children were adopted by FaithBridge families





FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the FaithBridge Founders Scholarship supports FaithBridge foster families and foster youth as an investment in their future.

Each qualified candidate is required to submit an application and be willing to participate in an interview. Recipients will be awarded \$2,000 to be applied to their education.

We are pleased to announce our 2021 recipients!

Andy* – is a freshman computer science major at the University of North Georgia and wants to become a software engineer. “I am happy to say that these past months have been both surprising and gratifying. I am grateful to have this opportunity and even more grateful to have so many supporters at my back. The love I feel is tremendous and I will be forever thankful to everyone who has helped me on this path.”

Morgan – is a FaithBridge Founders Scholarship recipient for the third year. She is wrapping up her Junior year at Mercer University with a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She just recently added a minor in Law and Public Policy. “Once again, this scholarship has blessed me with being able to cover book expenses, sorority dues, as well as any leftover tuition. I am currently getting classes together for my senior year and starting to think about where I’d like to attend graduate school!”

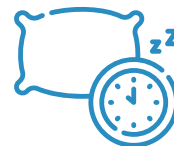
Chad* – is a freshman at University of North Georgia and he is so grateful for the support this scholarship provides. He wants to pursue a career where he can make a positive impact on the child welfare system.

FAITHBRIDGE *by the numbers*



56%

of child placements were
sibling groups



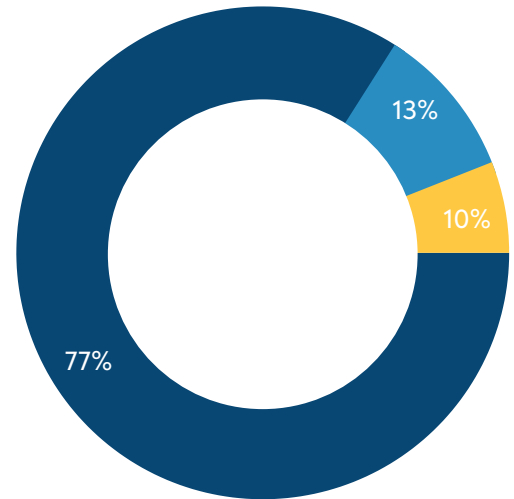
300

nights of respite care provided for
foster parents

2021 FINANCIALS

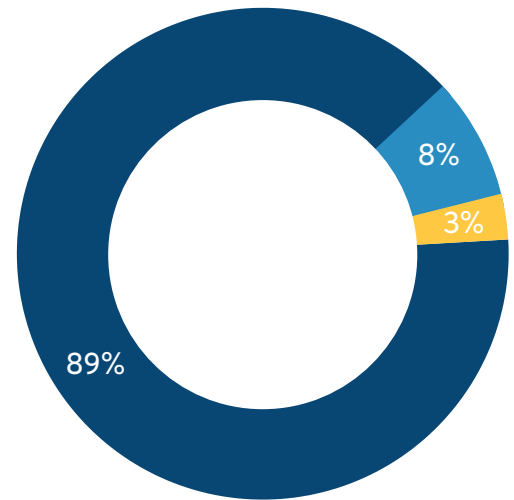
REVENUE

■ Program Services.....	77%
■ Board Giving.....	13%
■ Community Giving.....	10%



EXPENSES

■ Program Expenses.....	89%
■ Management & General.....	8%
■ Fundraising.....	3%



FAITHBRIDGE

Board of Directors and Executive Leadership

In 2021, we saw Michael Kendrick retire from our Board of Directors and we are so grateful for all of the hard work and guidance he provided while serving. We were also pleased to welcome our new board member, Leslie Kurtz who will serve as our Treasurer.

Richard L. Jackson, Board Chair

Leslie Kurtz, Treasurer

Wayne Stolz, Secretary

Laurence Powell

Charles Evans

Bob Bruder-Mattson, President and CEO



2021 Accomplishments



Attained a placement stability score of .89 which is **nearly 5x better than state and national averages.**



Achieved a 105.64% quarterly result from GA Score.



Awarded one of only two State of Georgia Child Life History contracts.



Equipped 37 youth and families with resources to support FaithBridge foster youth toward thriving independency.



Achieved recognition as a **certified Best Christian Workplace** by Best Christian Workplaces Institute for the third year in a row.



Met with Aysha E. Schomburg, President Biden's new head of the Children's Bureau at the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

continued on the next page



Developed and launched the “See the Need in Georgia” web application which is used in Encounter and shows the geographic areas where foster parents are needed.



Published the article, “A Place at the Table”, with Focus on the Family.
[Read here](#)



Developed policy recommendations for national child welfare and **cosigned an article published through American Enterprise Institute, “What Lessons Can the Child Welfare System Take from the COVID-19 Pandemic?”**



Conducted the workshop “Integrating Christian Spirituality in Social Work Practice” at the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) 2021 Summit.



Collaborated with other child advocacy professionals to create and cosign a publication, “What Child Protection Is For”, published by the American Enterprise Institute.



Developed and co-presented “Ensuring Children Heal in Our Care and in Our Homes” at the 17th Annual TCOM (Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management) Conference.

A Look Ahead

Hope Runs Deep – We continue to strive to fulfill our God-given vision of serving more than 2,000 children. We have raised nearly \$2 million toward our \$4 million goal and with your help we can reach it. Go to FaithBridgeFosterCare.org/2022 to learn more.

FaithBridge Adoption Services – We are thrilled to announce that the state of Georgia has awarded us an Adoption Contract. As we launch these services in 2022, you will learn more about this important program which will serve teens, sibling groups of three or more, and children with special needs. We are grateful to God for providing a way to introduce even more children and youth to the hope, healing, and unconditional love of Jesus.



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