

2 0 2 1

impact



promise686

A photograph of three young children wearing colorful party hats (blue with yellow polka dots and green with orange polka dots). They are smiling and looking towards the right. The child in the foreground is wearing a yellow sweater, the middle child is wearing a grey sweater, and the child on the right is wearing a plaid dress. The background shows a kitchen counter with apples and a glass. The text "LET'S" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, and "celebrate" is overlaid in a large, white, cursive script font.

LET'S

celebrate

A photograph of three children at a birthday party. A girl in the center wears a green polka-dot party hat and a green dress, laughing with her mouth open. To her right, a boy wears an orange polka-dot party hat and a denim jacket, looking down. To the left, another girl is partially visible, also laughing. In the foreground, a white birthday cake with candles and colorful decorations sits on a table. Gold streamers hang in the background.

rate

YOUR 2021 IMPACT

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

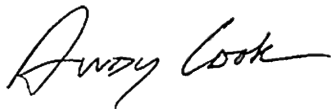
Our vision is a verse. We partner with churches and organizations across the country to join in God's promise to "set the lonely in families" (Psalm 68:6). With your support, we work to make this promise a reality for a new generation of children.

As you reflect with us on 2021, know how grateful I am for you. Your support fuels our organization each day. Presently, we are blessed to serve over 1,000 churches across The Promise Network.

While the child welfare system remains insufficient and children face the unfortunate reality of disruption, trauma, and instability, we approach 2022 with excitement and hope for the growth ahead. We know this work isn't finished and I invite you to join us as we pursue the goal.

Together we are working to make foster care, *as we know it*, extinct. For me, these words remain top of mind: "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).

Let's go.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andy Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andy" and last name "Cook" clearly distinguishable.

Andy Cook, CEO

2022

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WHY CELEBRATE 2021?

THE REALITY:

Vulnerable children need our help ... and your generosity makes a difference.

Let's talk global pandemic.

COVID-19 has significantly increased the harsh reality for vulnerable children. In fact, one out of every four deaths due to COVID-19 leaves a child without a parent or grandparent to provide for that child's needs.

On top of the global orphan crisis, today's pandemic tremendously impacts the U.S. foster care system. During the COVID-19 outbreak, we saw more children entering foster care and fewer foster families available to provide a home.

Let's talk child welfare.

The 400,000 children walking the U.S. child welfare path face trauma, instability, and a lack of permanency. In fact, children in foster care experience two times the rates of PTSD as combat veterans. This is in large part due to the fact that the average child bounces between four different homes within their first year of foster care.

Caregivers are burned out. Children are negatively impacted.

THE GOOD NEWS WORTH CELEBRATING?

In 2021, you helped us work toward a better reality for vulnerable children. More specifically, your generosity allowed us to continue implementing a proven, nationwide model that mobilizes local churches to provide what children need most: **strong families.**

A warm, low-angle photograph of children playing outdoors. In the foreground, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue denim shirt, is smiling broadly and reaching his hands up towards the camera. To his left, a girl with curly hair, wearing a plaid shirt, is also smiling and reaching her arms up. Several other hands are visible in the upper right corner, reaching towards the center. Bubbles are floating in the air around the children. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and a bright sky.

"God sets the lonely in
families."

- Psalm 68:6



MISSION + VISION

God promises to “set the lonely in families” (Psalm 68:6), and we’re dedicated to joining this effort.

Promise686's mission is to mobilize church communities to care for vulnerable children. With over 672,000 children passing through the child welfare system each year, we know there’s work to be done—and we can't do it alone. That's why we partner with churches to create and lead successful Family Advocacy Ministries (FAMs), with the goal of seeing every child in a safe and loving family, *forever*.

FOUNDING STORY

In 2008, a family’s experience led to this journey toward caring for vulnerable children. After waiting seven years to bring their daughter home from Kyrgyzstan, their passion to see every child in a safe, loving family was undeniable. Promise686 began and since then, through our FAM initiative in churches, we’ve assisted 400 children coming home through adoption, inspired hundreds of families to foster, and prevented children from entering the child welfare system.



OUR

strategy

WE APPROACH THE CHILD WELFARE CRISIS WITH A 3-STEP STRATEGY:

1) PREVENTION

When possible, we work to *prevent* children from entering foster care.

In many cases, a house payment or grocery bill could mean the difference between a child staying with family or entering the child welfare system. When aware and educated, churches have the opportunity to help preserve biological families in crisis.

2) INTERVENTION

When neglect or abuse is involved, the state will step in. This means, it's time for the Church to *intervene*.

We help 1) raise awareness around the needs of vulnerable children, 2) recruit and equip foster families, and 3) support those caring for children in foster care.

Promise686 and our church partners are not equipped to determine whether a family is a good fit for fostering or adoption. That's up to the state. What we *can* and *should* do, however, is advocate for children who are at-risk and serve the families caring for them.

3) CONNECTION

We help *connect* children to families, forever.

Connection can happen through reunification or adoption. When a biological family is reunified, churches have the opportunity to provide wrap-around support, helping to strengthen that family. When reunification isn't possible, we provide grants and resources for families considering adoption.

FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRIES (FAMS)

Oftentimes, people and churches have a desire to get involved in the child welfare crisis but aren't quite sure where to begin. To alleviate the stress and confusion that can come with launching any new ministry effort, we've created a step-by-step ministry model, allowing churches to care for the vulnerable children in their local communities.

This proven model is called **Family Advocacy Ministry (FAM)** and is now implemented in more than **1,000 churches** across the nation.

The FAM model helps bring about a positive impact in the lives of vulnerable children through:

- Praying diligently and consistently
- Raising awareness around the needs of vulnerable children
- Recruiting & equipping families to care for children who are at-risk
- Serving families in crisis through Care Communities
- Meeting physical and financial needs
- Providing grants & resources to the families working toward adoption
- Ministering to families to help meet emotional and spiritual needs

ULTIMATELY, FAMs HELP PROVIDE WHAT CHILDREN NEED MOST:

strong families.

A FAM STORY

Every FAM looks different and no involvement is too small. From providing weekly meals or supplying beds to raising awareness or hosting prayer meetings, FAMs make a difference every day in the lives of vulnerable children.

One Family Advocacy Ministry in Georgia is impacting kids in their local community by engaging in prevention, intervention, *and* connection! See the different ways God uses this FAM to help “set the lonely in families” (Psalm 68:6).

FOSTER CARE + REUNIFICATION

After recruiting and equipping two foster families to care for a sibling set of three boys, the FAM provided wrap-around support in the form of a Care Community. The lead Advocate fostered two of the three boys for two years while another family, supported by this same FAM, fostered the youngest brother.

The boys have recently reunified with their biological parents! The FAM is excited to continue serving in hopes of strengthening and preserving this family.

FOSTERING + ADOPTION

This same FAM supports a different family who began fostering at the start of the pandemic and is in the process of adopting a sibling set of three. Fostering is hard work and COVID-19 brings new challenges to families caring for vulnerable children. When FAMs step in to provide Care Communities, they help families to foster longer, providing fewer disruptions for children in foster care. In addition, two Advocates are nearing completion of the paperwork and home study to complete an international adoption. Praise God!

FOSTERING + SERVING

Lastly, the FAM supports a foster mom who is beginning her role as a Care Community Leader within the FAM, providing support for children and families in the local community. Care Community Leaders are critical volunteer roles within any Family Advocacy Ministry. They build relationships with the children and families served by the FAM and help push the mission of the FAM forward.

We love the amazing work God is doing through this FAM, as well as the 1,000+ FAMs across the nation!



FAMS BY THE

numbers

CLINICS + ADVOCATES

We couldn't work toward this mission of caring for vulnerable children without the **1,346 Advocates** leading Family Advocacy Ministries across the nation.

Through the generosity of our donors, Promise provides the training, resources, and guidance needed to empower church leaders, ministry leaders, and volunteers to set up and maintain successful FAMs.

In 2021, along with our nonprofit partners, we hosted **16 Clinics**, training **437 Advocates** to implement and lead new FAMs.

We're incredibly grateful for the impact Advocates have on their church volunteers, the families they're serving, and the local community.

"WE HAVE BEEN VERY BLESSED BY PROMISE686 ...

not just through the tangible resources that you provide to our ministry, but also for the regular support and encouragement."

- Advocate in Georgia

CAREPORTAL

Promise686 implements CarePortal in Georgia, a tool to help churches care for vulnerable children by meeting the needs of families in crisis.

CarePortal is a technological platform that has served **115,634** children.

Via a simple email request, CarePortal provides entry-level opportunities to connect a network of caring people in churches to the physical needs of families in their community. This network can provide *preventative* support for struggling families before foster care is a necessity. When the intervention of foster care *does* become a necessity, CarePortal also supports the foster families who are welcoming these children.

Currently, **113** churches in Georgia are using the CarePortal tool, through their FAMs, to serve local children.

By meeting tangible needs ...

FAMS IN GEORGIA HAVE CREATED AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OVER

\$1.3 million

WITH OVER \$270,000 IN 2021 ALONE.

CARE COMMUNITIES

When churches recruit a new foster or adoptive family, or become aware of a local family in crisis, the next step is to provide that family with a strong support system.

Traditionally, over 50% of foster parents drop out of the system within their first year of fostering. When foster families are surrounded by strong Care Communities, however, **90% will continue fostering** after one year.

Care Communities create the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving families who are caring for vulnerable children with meals, babysitting, prayer, and much more. FAMs increase the number of Care Communities for families across the United States, and ultimately, help raise kids who are at-risk in safe, loving homes.





ADOPTION grants

Since we began in 2007, Promise686 has awarded over *\$3.5 million*, helping over **400** children & families connect for a lifetime. We've awarded over **\$200,860** in adoption grants this year.

because



CHILDREN



NEED



FAMILIES



"Abel has been with us for just two months (counting the time he was also with us in India). He has adjusted so much better than we anticipated. There are still some cultural differences that he is growing accustomed to, but he is picking up on English very quickly and has a pretty laid back temperament for the most part. He loves having older siblings and I think they have been a huge reason that he has adjusted so well. We are so thankful he is home and I can't believe he will be 4 in a month!" - The Williams Family

PROMISE SERVES

In order to support children and families most effectively, FAMs utilize Promise Serves, a software platform we built in-house to serve our Affiliate and church partners. This tool is designed to meet the custom needs of a Family Advocacy Ministry. Promise Serves minimizes the burden that many times comes along with serving by decreasing the amount of admin work for our Advocates and increasing the longevity of church volunteers.

Since we've launched Promise Serves, over **1,100 churches** have used this tool to serve vulnerable children across the country.

NEW FEATURES IN 2021

Since its creation, Promise Serves has been known for its core features like "best matching" volunteers with nearby families, administrative tools, and multi-campus church capabilities.

In 2021, we added additional features to further serve our Affiliates and Advocates, like:

- Global search functionality
- A revamped, user-friendly resources section
- Advocate Forum discussion board
- FAM activity support
- Mapping support
- Contact log and notes capabilities
- And more!

To learn more about Promise Serves, visit: promise686.org/about-promise-serves

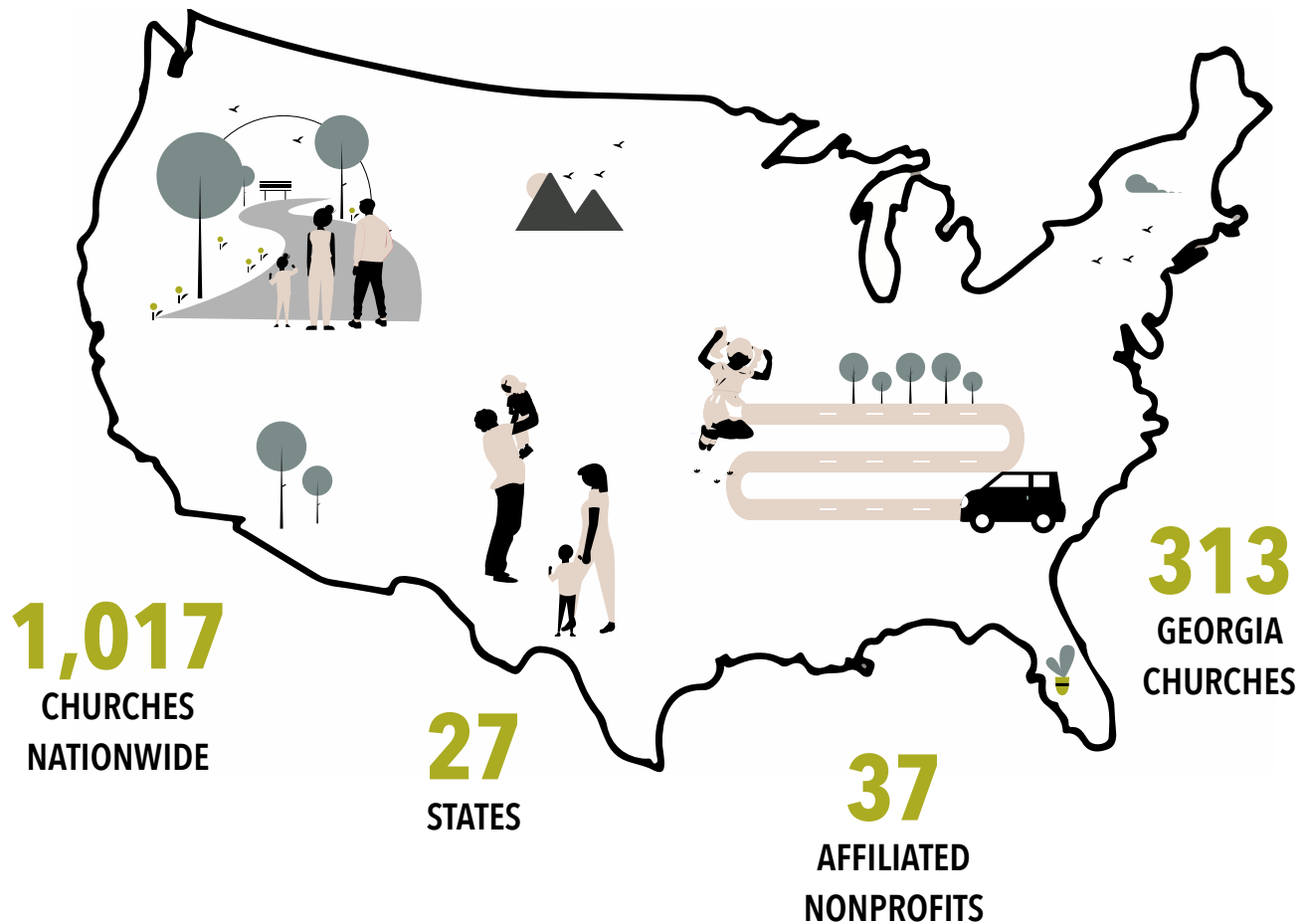


EVERY FAM LOOKS DIFFERENT, BUT ONE THING REMAINS THE SAME:

needs are met and lives are changed.

THE PROMISE NETWORK

+ nationwide growth



THE PROMISE NETWORK

The 400,000 children in U.S. foster care are immensely underserved. To care for these children, we recognize the need for collaboration and work diligently to build partnerships with others working toward our same vision. We know that together, we can make a greater impact.

This partnership is called The Promise Network: a group of churches and organizations nationwide that are committed to living the promise God makes in Psalm 68:6 “to set the lonely in families.” As part of The Promise Network, our partners receive training, resources, and ongoing staff support from Promise686.

Because of our generous donors, we were able to continue mobilizing churches in 2021, growing The Promise Network to **1,017 CHURCHES NATIONWIDE**.

While we currently serve **313 CHURCHES IN GEORGIA**, we work with **37 AFFILIATES** across **27 STATES** to care for a larger number of vulnerable children across the country.

MORE THAN ENOUGH

Did you know we partner with Christian Alliance for Orphans to work toward the “More than Enough” goal? “More than Enough” is defined as **10% of churches in every county having an active Family Advocacy Ministry**.

Learn more at morethanenoughtogether.org.



2021 EVENTS + *impact*

promise



race

IN 2021, WE HOSTED THE SECOND-ANNUAL PROMISE RACE

Foster care is notorious for its unrelenting, unending cycle. Kids face family breakdown, placement in an unfamiliar home, disruption, and too often, disruption again. Sadly, many children age-out of foster care without a permanent or lasting sense of family.

Most people are unaware of this vicious reality. That's why we created a race that tells the story. By taking on The Promise Race, participants helped create awareness for vulnerable children, while also raising money to supply what they need most: **strong families.**

468 PARTICIPANTS

joined together to engage

719 DONORS,

raising a total of

\$287,000

to support FAMs!

join the 2022 spring race!



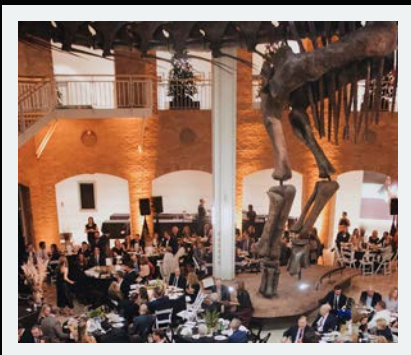


THIS YEAR'S FALL BENEFIT WAS ONE FOR THE BOOKS!

Over 400 of you joined us at Fernbank Museum in Atlanta, GA for something BIG. The room was full of some of the most passionate, caring, generous people we know and we sure had a dino-mite time.

Together, we raised \$460,000.

Our goal for the Fall Benefit was \$350,000 and because of the generosity of our table hosts, event attendees, corporate sponsors, silent & LIVE auction participants, and donors, we surpassed this amount! With these resources, Promise686 will invest in hundreds of Family Advocacy Ministries (FAMs), adoption grants, and systems that will leverage communities to support or embrace nearly 4,000 kids.





FAM LEADERSHIP ADVANCE

The 2021 FAM Leadership Advance was a hit! This virtual conference is created specifically to inspire, equip, and encourage church Advocates. The theme was “Persevere” and the content emphasized the importance of continuing this crucial work of caring for vulnerable children.

We had over **250** registered attendees, representing over **150** different churches across **19** states.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

In 2021, we said hello to new team members!



PAM ANDERSON

Promise Serves Training Coordinator



ALANA BUFFINGTON

Director of Development



JOHN FLORES

VP of Strategic Growth



CONNOR MCCAULEY

Director of Implementation



AARON SCOFIELD

Montana Director



JESSI WILLIAMS, LMSW

Director of Support Services

We also had the honor of welcoming new partner organizations to The Promise Network.

Chestnut Mountain Ranch (WV), Garden 58 (NC), Hope Multiplies (FL), Isaiah's Place (OH), Isaiah 1:17 Project (IN), Lead NYC (NY), Pennsylvania Orphan Care Alliance (PA), Place of Hope (GA), Reaching Higher (CA), Send Relief (US)

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2021, we welcomed two new board members!



LÉONCE CRUMP

Léonce Crump Jr. is an author, international speaker, and the founder and senior pastor of Renovation Church in Atlanta. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Tennessee and Resurgence Theological Training Center. Léonce is currently a Master of Divinity student at Reformed Theological Seminary and a member of the Acts 29 church planting network. Prior to his nine years in ordained ministry, Léonce was an All-American wrestler and defensive end for the Sooner football team at the University of Oklahoma, and went on to play professional football for the New Orleans Saints. He and his wife, Breanna, reside in the Eastside of Atlanta with their three daughters and son.



JODY MCNATT

Jody and her husband, Rick, have been involved with Promise686 since its beginning when they started the adoption of their 5th child in 2009. Though new to the board, Jody has volunteered at Promise since 2014 chairing several of the fall fundraising events. Passionate about adoption, she enjoys both writing & speaking on this topic near to her heart. Jody also volunteers weekly at Beacon of Hope in Atlanta as a patient care advocate for women in crisis pregnancies. After graduating from Grove City College with her B.A. in Communications, English Literature and Secondary Ed, Jody taught high school English for many years. Jody and Rick have five children, their youngest daughter adopted from China in 2010.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of all our Board Members:

TIM RIDER: Chairman & Founder, Promise686; Executive Chairman, SeaTec Consulting

ANDY COOK: President & CEO, Promise686

KEITH STYLE: Vice-Chair, Promise686; Principal, The Presidio Group

PATRICK MOODY: Secretary, Promise686; Commercial Banking Leader, Wells Fargo

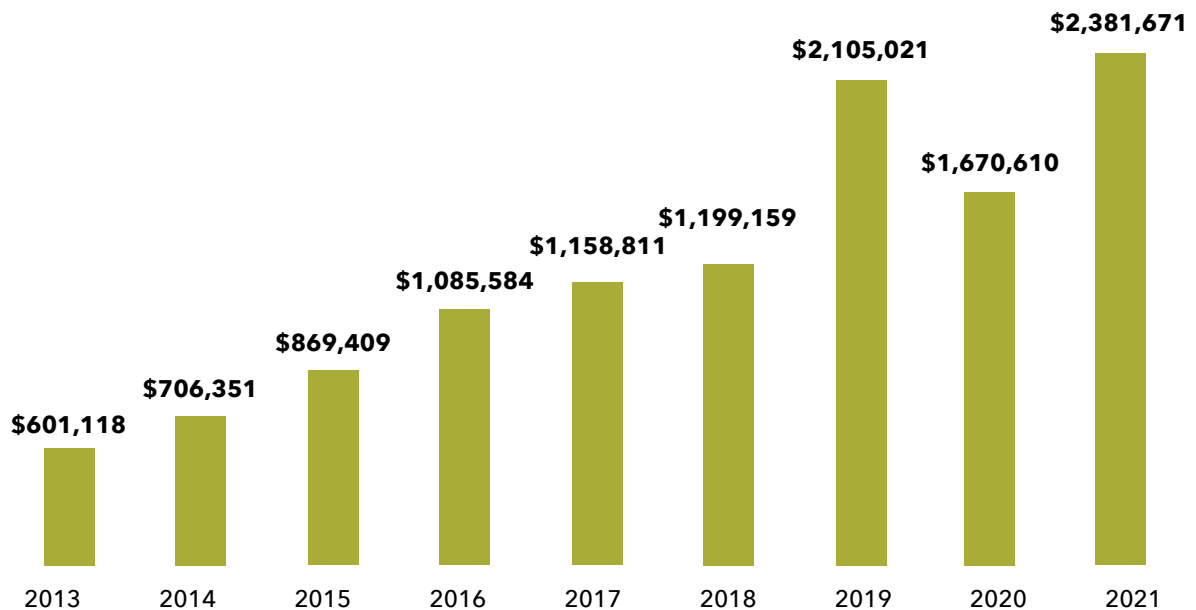
JIM ALLEN: Senior VP of Corporate and Premium Partnerships, Atlanta Braves

JOYCE DALRYMPLE: Attorney, Minister, Speaker

BRETT LANE: Owner, Encore Advisors



REVENUE GROWTH



THANK YOU

The impact made in 2021 wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our donors. If you supported Promise686 this past year, we want to sincerely thank you for your gift. You've helped make an impact in the lives of vulnerable children across the country!

WE'D LOVE TO SEE MORE OF YOU IN 2022

At Promise686, we want to mobilize church communities to care for vulnerable children, and we're inviting you to join us. Stay in touch with our team or get involved with our mission.

Visit promise686.org/fams for more information about FAMs or attend a Clinic and learn how to build and lead a successful FAM.

Follow us on social media to stay updated on our progress in 2022: **@promise686**

WAYS TO GIVE

To support our mission, visit promise686.org/donate or give by check:

Promise686
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Norcross, GA 30071

JOIN OUR MISSION. BECAUSE CHILDREN NEED FAMILIES.

promise686.org



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NORCROSS, GA 30071

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