

A young girl with long dark hair is captured mid-jump, her arms raised high in a gesture of pure joy. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved dress with a subtle pattern and white sneakers. The air around her is filled with a cascade of colorful confetti, which is also scattered on the floor and a white sofa in the background. The scene is set indoors, with a bright, airy atmosphere. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey layer containing text.

promise686

# SUMMER 2024

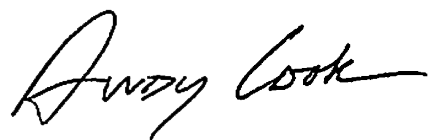
## *Executive Summary*

**T**en church leaders gathered in the basement of Victory Church in 2013. I remember our speaker pointing to the words of Nelson Mandela: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." That day, each leader said yes to the Promise686 invitation to launch a ministry in their church. Now, eleven years later, we celebrate 2,000 churches who have said yes.

In early 2013, I was a Promise board member, highly committed to a career in independent school education. I had no idea that God had an invitation for me in that moment. Mandela's words bothered me, not exclusively because our society has failed children, but because churches as leading institutions had in large part shrugged their responsibility. The Promise board and small staff wanted to make it unbelievably simple for churches to step in to serve kids. They needed a plan and a leader. For my part, I said yes.

You are receiving this Executive Summary because you have said yes. I am eternally grateful because I believe that together, in God's timing, we are changing the soul of society. Is that too bold? I don't think so.

Let's go,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

President & CEO, Promise686





# Let's Celebrate!

*The Promise Network is celebrating a huge milestone this summer!*

We've exceeded  
**2,000**  
Family Advocacy Ministries...

Expanding across  
**41**  
states...

With over  
**20,000**  
volunteers...

That amounts to over  
**18,000**  
children being impacted!

*And the numbers continue to grow!*

"Reaching the milestone of 2,000 FAMs represents a network of organizations working together to make this happen. God is most glorified when we live together in unity... great things happen! I love how the Promise Network believes in the spirit of collaboration to bring about this amazing stat! To God be the glory as, together, we continue to grow and equip churches across the country!"

**- TY BRYANT, VP OF ENGAGEMENT**

## FAM

/ɛf • ei • ɛm/ • Noun

1. Abbreviation for **Family Advocacy Ministry**
2. A **church-led ministry** serving vulnerable children and families
3. A group of **passionate volunteers** working together to create immeasurable support for families and better outcomes for vulnerable children
4. A **collective movement** within the Church to answer God's calling to "set the lonely in families"

## ADVOCATE

/'ædvə • keɪt/ • Noun

1. A **champion** for the cause of vulnerable children
2. A **trained volunteer** who connects the church and families together through ongoing support and resources
3. A leader of a **Family Advocacy Ministry** who wants a front row seat to what God is doing

# What do hamburgers and fishing have to do with caring for vulnerable children?

A likable, hamburger-loving, fishing enthusiast, Christian\* has lived in 8 different homes in the past 8 years. He has been in 18 schools while in foster care. Understandably, school is challenging for him.

Christian and Mark became a family last December. As a single man with no children, Mark's heart for adoption comes from his own childhood experience of having been adopted from foster care. Mark quickly realized that he could use some help.

## ***This is when a Care Community stepped in.***

Upon learning about Mark and Christian, a care community from a local church sprang into action. At first they met practical needs like helping provide for Christian's insatiable appetite for hamburgers. Soon they were organizing fishing trips where they witnessed Christian's smile grow with every fish he caught. One volunteer, a retired teacher, was happy to jump in and begin tutoring Christian. Through hard work and the support of his Care Community, he went from being in danger of not passing 10th grade to passing every single class.

As this team embraced Christian, Mark soon realized he was being embraced, too. This group of volunteers showed up with the simple willingness to meet tangible, emotional, and spiritual needs, lifting the yoke and making life a little lighter through community.



**Mark surrounded by his Care Community.**

\*Names changed to protect the privacy of the family.



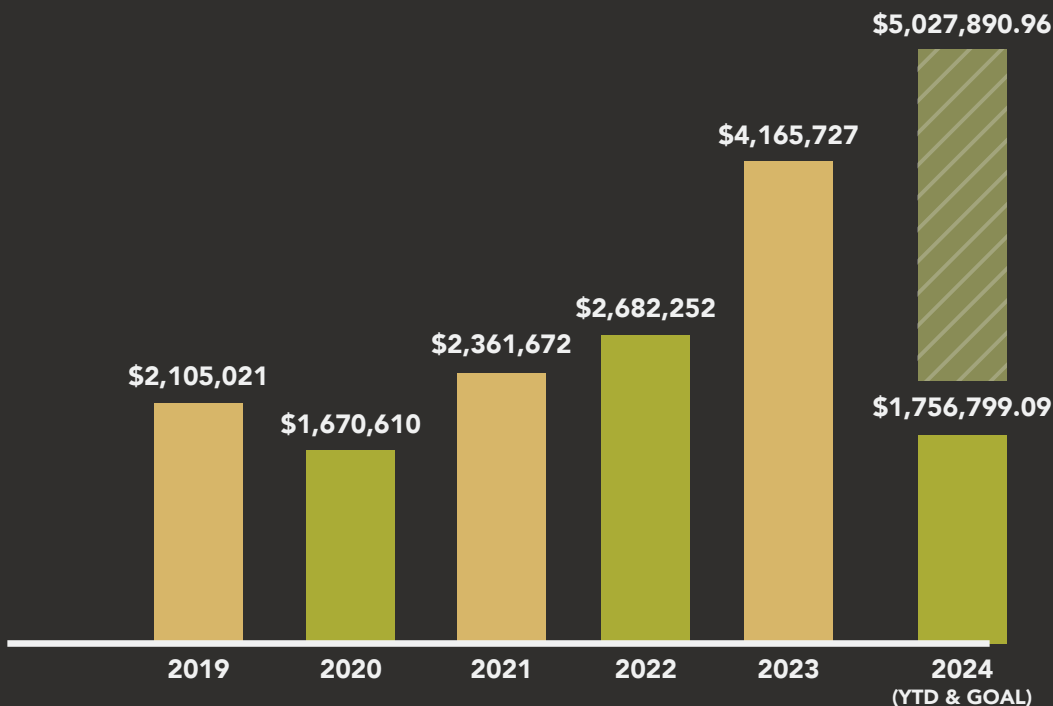
# Meet the FAM!



Family Advocacy Ministry has been our model for years, and now FAM is our software platform too! We are in the process of rolling out a new look, feel, and features for the platform. The initial application, Promise Serves, has 60,000 individual registered users and has been in desperate need of an overhaul to reflect how families are being served today. Accompanying the new platform is a sleek app which is built specifically with volunteers in mind. On the whole, our FAM Platform will serve children better by ensuring quality, accelerating our ability to reach churches across the nation, and unifying a movement of churches. Keep an eye out for an announcement of how you can get the FAM app in the coming months.

## By the Numbers

### REVENUE GROWTH



Promise686 has helped families raise over **\$148,000** the first half of 2024 to reduce financial barriers to adoption.

Together, through a variety of small events and gatherings, you helped raise over **\$100,000** during the Promise RAISE!

# Next Steps

## GET INVOLVED

### Give



Visit [promise686.org/donate](https://promise686.org/donate) to make a donation or give by check:

**Promise686**

**5300 Triangle Parkway NW  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092**



### Engage Your Church

Visit [promise686.org/fams](https://promise686.org/fams) to learn how to bring a FAM to your church or learn how to care for vulnerable children.



### Promise Experience

Meet our team and learn about our work through an interactive tour at our corporate office.

To schedule a tour, send an email to [info@promise686.org](mailto:info@promise686.org).

## Stay in Touch

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