



2017 Impact Report



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## From Joe's desk

Dear GO Family,

I want to begin with a personal note of gratitude to all of you, and especially to the local churches and children we are privileged to serve. 2017 is a marker year for me, as it marks the completion of my 10th year as CEO of The Global Orphan Project. One Saturday morning 10 years ago, I left my law office for the last time, scared to leave behind an identity rooted in my own work, yet excited to play one small part in a drama written by the Holy Spirit through the lives of the most unlikely heroes.

Over 10 years, I've watched God raise up leaders in the United States and around the world who won't sit idly by while families break down and children suffer. Instead, these leaders use all means at their disposal to change lives for the better in their own communities. Church leaders, like Pastor Yamout in Lebanon and Pastor Sudakhar in India, launch ministries to care for the orphan and strengthen families. Business leaders, like Jeff Blatt in Haiti, launch enterprises like LIFE, creating living wage jobs so parents can provide through the dignity of their own work. Leaders in agriculture and education, like Lucson Dervilus and Alison Barfoot, help run farms and schools, bringing food independence, literacy and job skills into reach. Social workers, like Rose Kanyunyuzi in Uganda, immerse themselves into the pain of children to bring healing in deep places. Their efforts are local and effective. They are legacy changers.

Ten years ago, we commonly heard from "experts" that the local church in the U.S. will become increasingly irrelevant in our culture, ultimately to the point of near nonexistence. Today, thousands of local churches (and more every day) are selflessly rallying and uniting through CarePortal to care for children in crisis in their own neighborhoods.

Over 10 years, our team has gotten to know so many of you, the support community that drives this ministry forward. You inspire us. You are serious in your love, radical in your generosity and infectious with your joy. It's more than an honor to do life with you. It's fun!

Our mission at The Global Orphan Project remains the same as it was the first day Mike and Beth Fox invited me into this endeavor: to break the orphan cycle through the power of community, commerce and the love of Jesus Christ. What a joy it's been to partner with you in the journey.

To you and to all of the warriors in the field and at the point of care: well done.

With love,





Tyre, Lebanon — Refugee children and families in Tyre, and an increasing number of communities in the Middle East, now receive education, medical attention and basic life care from our local church partners.

# Because every child deserves a chance

All around the world, children find themselves vulnerable, orphaned or abandoned because of family breakdown. The circumstances and events leading up to those crises are overwhelmingly diverse.

Whether a child finds herself alone because of rampant HIV/AIDS in Hyderabad, India, a country-wide deficit of education and employment in Haiti, civil war and displacement as a refugee in Tyre, Lebanon, or an absent father in Kansas City, Missouri — she needs someone to stand for her. He needs someone to say he is worth it. And their families need someone to step in and support them before breakdown occurs.

## 140 Million+

The United Nations estimate more than 143 million children live as orphans today.<sup>1</sup> Among those children, more than 15 million children lack both biological parents.

But there are children missing from these numbers.

Many children living on the streets or in residential orphan care are known as economic or social orphans. Although their parents may be alive, poverty, mental illness, armed conflict or other factors prevent social orphans from experiencing life in a family.<sup>2</sup> These children are among the most vulnerable and most in need of family and opportunity — most in need of a chance to learn, grow and thrive.



**140 MILLION+** children live as orphans today



**Over two thirds of adults in Haiti lack formal jobs.<sup>3</sup>**



**400,000+** children are currently in U.S. foster care.<sup>4</sup>



**1.5 MILLION+** Syrian refugees live in Lebanon, a country with a population of only 6 million.<sup>5</sup>



**80 MILLION** children in India do not complete elementary level education,<sup>6</sup> leaving many vulnerable to abuse and isolation.

"He needs someone to say he is worth it."

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF

<sup>2</sup> Christian Alliance for Orphans

<sup>3</sup> Central Intelligence Agency

<sup>4</sup> Administration for Children and Families

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Watch

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Watch



# Breaking the cycle

## Our mission

We exist to break the orphan cycle through the power of community, commerce and the love of Jesus.

## What makes us different

This is a community. Setting traditional institutional orphan care models aside, we're connecting a global family united by a shared vision to care for vulnerable children and prevent child abandonment. Focusing on one child at a time, we provide sustainable, local, family-style care that is deeply rooted in compassion, hope and the belief that every child deserves a chance.

## COMMUNITY | Connecting you to the child in need

Whether a vulnerable child lives in Los Angeles, California, or Kabale, Uganda, we believe God has called the local church to care. We're constantly learning and looking for innovative ways to expand the capacity of churches to care for vulnerable children and families in their own communities.

Internationally, this global family helps local churches care for children through church-centered orphan care, transition, education and family-strengthening programs. In the U.S., we connect at-risk children served by the child welfare system to churches and individuals who want to help.

## COMMERCE | Unleashing the power of your purchase

We believe there's potential to bring lasting change through a decision as simple as buying a t-shirt. Wherever you travel in the world, there are families who could stay together if parents were simply given the opportunity to work and earn a living wage. That's why our apparel manufacturing marketplace initiative, GOEX, focuses on orphan prevention through job creation.

Employees of our Haiti and Kansas City-based apparel company earn a fair wage that strengthens families and reinstates dignity and hope. And the best part? GOEX profit goes directly back to care for kids around the world.

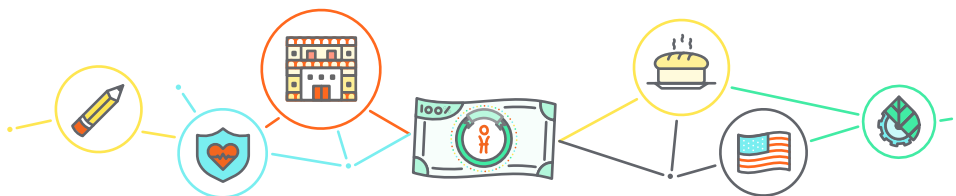
## THE LOVE OF JESUS

We exist and operate as an expression of Jesus Christ's radical love in a fallen world.



Your money.  
Doing exactly what you want it to do.

We're committed to ensuring your donations go further to help the children and families you care about.

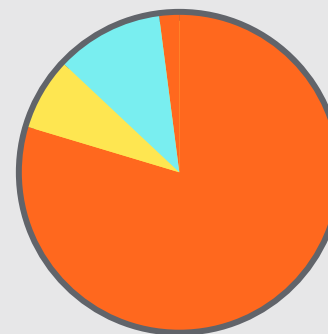


## Our 100% Commitment

100% of what's given to care for kids goes to care for kids.

We do not use any of your generous gifts for our administrative overhead or fundraising expenses. This is possible because a generous group of dedicated donors, our Founders' Circle, cover our overhead so you don't have to.

## 2017 Financials

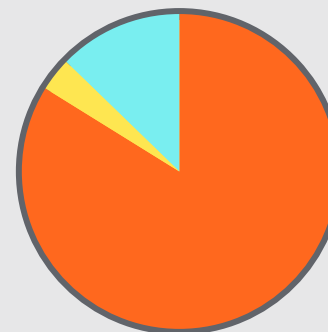


### REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Where the funds come from.

Total: \$7,636,822

- **Ministry Donations:** 82%
- **Trips:** 11%
- **Marketplace Donations, Sales, and Subsidiary Earnings:** 7%



### EXPENSES

Where the funding goes.

Total: \$7,368,689

- **Program Services:** 84%
- **Management and General:** 13%
- **Fundraising:** 3%

See audited financials.



# Helping her grow & shine

## International orphan care

At The Global Orphan Project, we believe God has called the local church to care for the orphaned and vulnerable child. What began with one couple saying “yes” to supporting a small group of children in Southeast Asia, has grown into an organization helping local churches care for kids on three continents. As we actively pursue creative solutions to persistent problems, our “why” will always be firmly centered on the face of a single child who needs family.

### Providing the basics every child deserves

Our local church partners care for vulnerable children in a way that’s sustainable and attentive to the heart and potential of each individual child. The Global Orphan Project community covers gaps in 24-hour foster or family-style residential care, to help these children grow up happy and healthy.

**24-HOUR, LOVING CARE**

**NUTRITIOUS FOOD**

**CLEAN WATER**

**SAFE PLACE TO LIVE**

**MEDICAL CARE**

**EDUCATION**

### Church-centered foster care

One of our most significant developments in 2017, involved a shift toward church-centered foster care. In many countries where we serve, government-run foster care does not exist. Our local church partners have always filled that gap and continue to do so. But the way they go about caring is changing, in some cases because of government mandates limiting residential orphan care.

As our church partners began identifying children in need and placing them with loving families, we asked ourselves, “How can we wrap around our church partners to support these efforts?”

We now have teams of local social workers in Lebanon, Haiti, Uganda and India who step into the process after the local church connects children with families. This team provides training and support for families, monitors placements, counsels the kids and actively pursues other ways to provide support.

### Orphan transition

The GO Transition Academy is our two-year discipleship, life skills and vocational-technical program. The academy equips teenagers who have aged out of orphan care in Haiti for a successful transition to adulthood.

**1,477**

children received  
24-hour care in 2017

**37**

graduates in GO Transition  
Academy class of 2017



# HUMBLE HEROES

**1.3** MILLION+  
meals prepared in 2017

## Faithful caregivers

Our local church partners provide family-style, culturally relevant care for at-risk children in their communities. Faithful house mamas and caregivers become family to these kids, doing the hardest and most important work every day of the year.



## Pothawira, Malawi: Meet Peter

At 8 a.m., Peter Maeseko stands in front of scores of people at Pothawira's clinic waiting room. Most have walked miles for their seat in line. He welcomes them in song and prayer, provides instruction about basic health principles impacting the community, and shares about the workings of the clinic so that they can get where they need to go. He covers as much common ground as possible to give more time with each individual, which is precious when your small medical team is treating 150-200 patients a day.

Over the last few years, they have cared for tens of thousands, each person understanding that the clinic at Pothawira exists for the glory of God and for their good. So it is for the 120, previously-orphaned children living at Pothawira, the churches Peter pastors, the 385 students attending Pothawira's nursery and primary school, and the 18 teenagers Pothawira sponsors in secondary school. Quite simply, lives are being changed here.

CarePortal

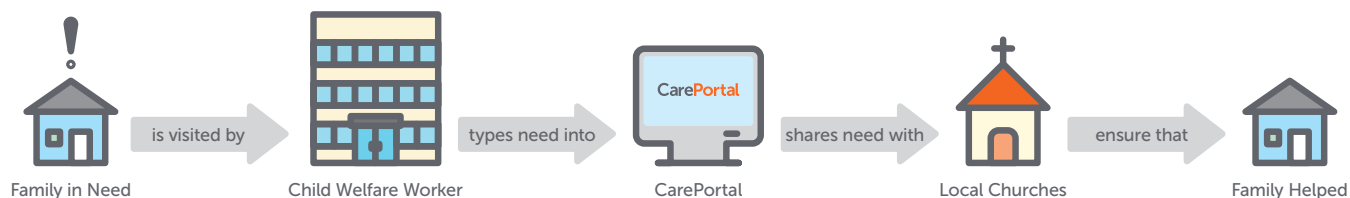
# MAKING A CONNECTION

In 2010, God called The Global Orphan Project to “grow home”, to care for children the United States. In 2017, GO Project helped local churches care for more than 12,000 children in 13 states, through our technology platform, CarePortal. The impact the Body of Christ has as it reaches out to love our neighbor in the name of Jesus goes beyond the numbers.

As communities increase their awareness of local challenges, people are rethinking topics like generosity and family. Goods are being shared. Homes are being opened. Relationships are being developed. Lives are being changed, and this is just the beginning.

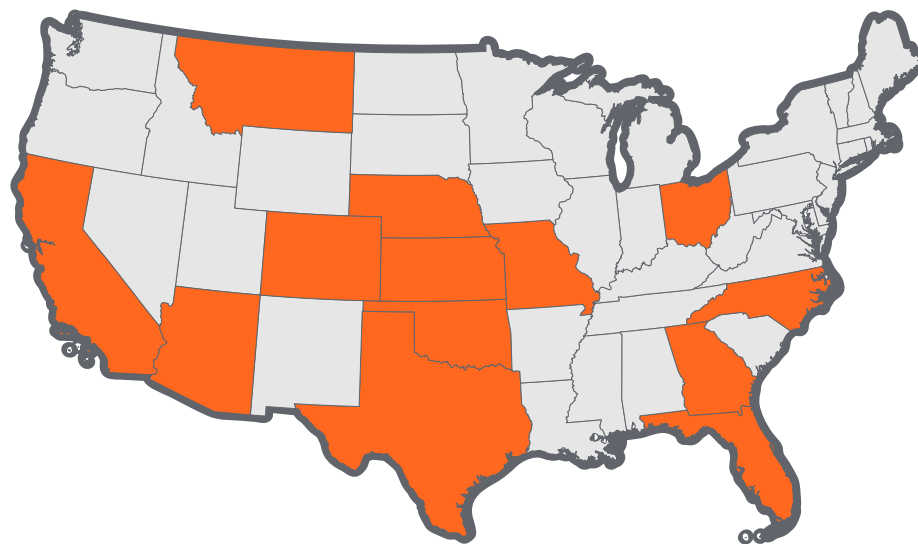
## How it works

CarePortal connects children and families affected by the child welfare system to churches, businesses and individuals who want to help.



18,790

children served from  
March 2015 to December 2017



	2017	2016	2015
CarePortal Requests	8,350	2,319	512
Children Served	12,107	5,510	1,173
Economic Impact	\$3,817,382	\$2,411,885	\$708,131
Enrolled Churches	1,759	1,380	545

# CarePortal activates internationally

From the day CarePortal's first pilot program launched in Texas in 2015, we knew the technology God gave us carried incredible potential for exponential impact. And we've seen that potential unleashed to help children and families across the United States.

In 2017, we asked ourselves a big question:

What if we used CarePortal technology to empower churches not only to help the foster child down the street, but also to meet basic needs of a refugee child on the other side of the world? The orphaned child in Kabale, Uganda, who needs emergency surgery? The single mom struggling to provide for her kids in Hyderabad, India?

We launched the CarePortal International pilot in Tyre, Lebanon, in the fall of 2017. Churches, businesses and individuals have signed up to receive real-time requests to meet real needs of children and families served by our local partner, Tyre Church. With early success, we plan to continue developing the international model and expanding to other locations in 2018.

"How can we take this amazingly simple tool that God gave us and spread it across the world?"

**ADRIEN LEWIS**

Executive Director of Global Ministry

## Tyre, Lebanon: Meet Maya\*

As a young child in Iraq, Maya was orphaned after her parents passed away in an accident and eventually placed in the care of her aunt. Maya became a wife and mother to two children, but her husband was kidnapped and never found. After approaching the United Nations for refugee status, she and her children were moved to Syria. The family arrived to a hostile environment and, once again, found themselves in danger. After much effort, Maya and her family were relocated to Lebanon.

Upon arrival, Maya heard about Tyre Church and reached out for help. Tyre Church took Maya in and shared her story through CarePortal, asking for support to help enroll her children in school. Through CarePortal and our local church partner, Maya was given a stable place for them to live and school scholarships for her children. Maya is a fighter, and her family is now moving forward with a safe home and support system.

\*Name has been changed to protect the identity of this family.



# \$200

is the average cost to meet a significant need for a Syrian refugee



## Keeping families together

### Orphan prevention initiatives

As we began helping local churches care for orphans around the world in 2004, we encountered many children who were alone, abused or abandoned. They needed someone to provide food, shelter, education and their deepest need for love and family. But it quickly became apparent that other children living in residential care did not lack family. Rather, their parents lacked opportunity.

This realization sparked a dream that grew into a significant initiative of The Global Orphan Project. We now reach upstream, working passionately and strategically to prevent family breakdown through education, community support and job creation.



### Education

Our most significant education initiative is found in Haiti, a nation where less than 60% of the population is formally employed and public education is largely inaccessible. In Haiti, something as small as a government-mandated school uniform could prevent a family from being able to send their children to school. When a single mother living in poverty is given the choice between keeping her child or giving them an education, she will often make the desperate, love-motivated decision to give her children up.

We believe parents should never have to make that choice. In 2017, 4,555 children received education through partners of The Global Orphan Project around the world. Many of those children still live with their families.

### Community support

While they continue to care for orphaned and vulnerable children in their communities, our local church partners have become fierce advocates for families.

Our initiatives in India, Uganda and Haiti have doubled-down on family-strengthening programs within their communities. In the United States, Lebanon and a soon-to-be growing list of countries, CarePortal requests allow churches to see and meet real-time needs, often to support a family in the height of a crisis. We hear stories every single day of families being held together through the timely and loving response of local churches.

### Job creation

We believe that every willing parent should be able to care for their own children through the dignity of their own work. (Continue to page 13 for more information.)

# 4,555

children received education  
through partners of  
The Global Orphan Project.

# 6,188

children benefited directly from  
orphan prevention programs each  
month in 2017.



# MARKETPLACE

## Living wage employment + sustainable orphan care

The GO Exchange — GOEX — is the marketplace arm of The Global Orphan Project. Our mission is to break the orphan cycle through the dignity of work. An ethical apparel company, GOEX creates living wage jobs to strengthen families and directs all profits to help orphaned and vulnerable children learn, grow and thrive.

In 2017, we provided a super soft, ethically-made and beautifully screenprinted shirt to our customers. Our customers did even more. Through the power of their purchase, our customers provided living wage jobs that reinstate dignity and hope, helped keep families together, created employment opportunities for young adults who aged out of orphan care, and met foundational needs for kids and families around the world.

GOEX has created  
**202**  
living wage jobs  
in Haiti and the United States.



American-made fabric



Sewn near Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Screen-printed in Kansas City, Missouri



### Who made your t-shirt?

Meet Rody. Rody grew up with the support of our local church partners in Cassamajor, Haiti. In 2017, Rody graduated from the GO Transition Academy, where he received job and discipleship training. Today, he is employed at our partner manufacturing facility, LIFE, making GOEX t-shirts for a living wage.



**FAIR TRADE FEDERATION**  
Trade Built on Trust



**BETTER WORK**  
Haiti



**FAIR LABOR**  
ASSOCIATION



HYDERABAD, India — Deepika is a young girl in the care of our local church partner in Hyderabad. After losing both parents to HIV/AIDS, she now receives HIV treatment at the ministry's clinic, food, shelter, education and family, in the form of her new sisters and caregivers.



# JOIN THE COMMUNITY

At The Global Orphan Project, we are privileged to witness individuals, churches and businesses around the world, commit their skills, gifts and hearts to creatively and generously advocate for kids who need family. There are so many ways to be part of this global community, and we are grateful for every person who steps into a child's story.

## Give

100% of your donations to care for kids go directly to care for kids.

[goproject.org/give](https://goproject.org/give)

## Go

Experience the ministry of our local church partners caring for children around the world.

[goproject.org/go](https://goproject.org/go)

## Shop

A t-shirt never felt so good.

[goproject.org/shop](https://goproject.org/shop)

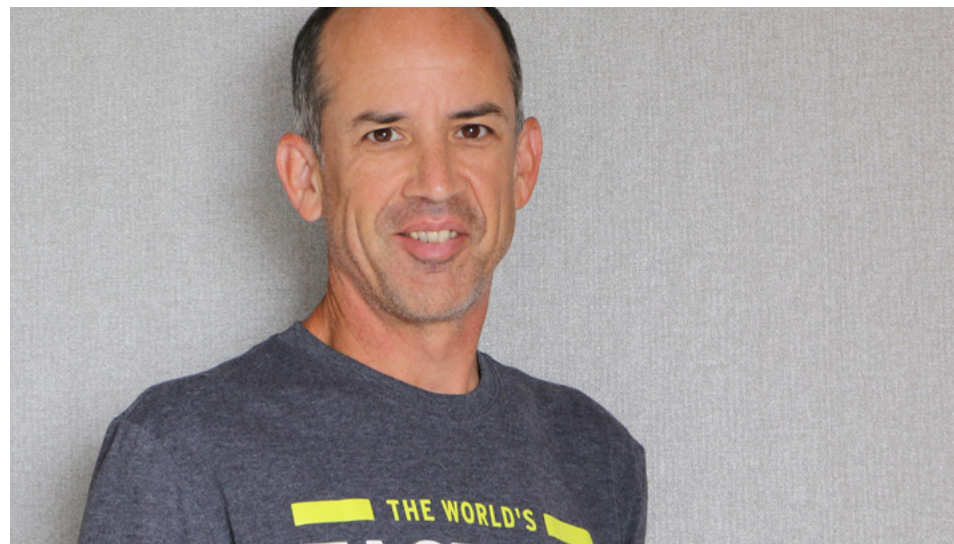
## Learn

Get to know the stories, the places and the people of The Global Orphan Project.

[goproject.org/learn](https://goproject.org/learn)

## Share

Be the first to hear news and spread the word to help more kids around the world.



### 2017 Advocate of the Year: Rich Stigall

The thousands of children helped through CarePortal in 2017 experienced the love of Christ through people who read their story in an email and stepped up to meet a tangible need for them. Many of those children met the givers in person. But the kids will never know about a humble man serving them from behind a computer screen in Kansas City, Mo. Rich, a gifted web developer, donated thousands of hours to CarePortal's development and maintenance, ensuring each child's story was received and responded to in real-time. Thank you, Rich!



3161 Wyandotte Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

816.536.8333

[goproject.org](http://goproject.org)