



The Weseloh Family, Hong Kong

2014 Annual Report





## How Nightlight Created More Families in 2014

The news of Ebola in West Africa has made the headlines for months recently, but at the same time children worldwide face life and death crises that go unnoticed. For those children who are orphaned, adoption presents an effective and permanent solution to such crises. Sometimes, however, help comes too late. This was painfully clear in October when five children at our partner crèche in Haiti contracted Typhoid. They were hospitalized, as well as the orphanage director, and even our CO Executive Director Kate Feedback contracted the disease when visiting. Tragically, a precious two year old girl named Mirlanda, who was matched with a Nightlight family, passed away. Incidents like this provoke sadness, some indignation toward government policies that don't allow adoptions to move faster, and urgency to see that every orphaned child finds a loving family. The devastating loss of this little girl was not the only illustration of how adoption can be a "roller coaster" for families. My wife Kristina and I began the adoption process from Latvia this year but were disappointed to find that the girls were not able to be adopted. However, Nightlight also experienced many breakthroughs and successes this year.

**New international programs** in Kyrgyzstan, Haiti, and Latvia. The Rau family and the Schlef family are our first families to adopt from Kyrgyzstan since the country reopened this year. Our first family to complete their adoption in Haiti was the Bordenes, and the Lundquists are expected to come home with their child soon. Also our first family to travel to Latvia will be Del and Elaine Larsh. They expect to travel by the end of this year to adopt Samantha. John and Stephanie Morel were our first Hong Kong family to arrive home in May 2014.

**Foster Care.** Kate and Bruce from Colorado were our first foster family. In the last year, a dozen other families have since had foster children placed in their home through Nightlight. Our California office just recently completed the process to begin training foster families in that state as well. Over 400,000 children are in the US foster care system, and Nightlight expects to help give every child a loving family by getting these kids into wonderful, trained, and supported homes.

**Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption.** Nightlight is uniquely known as the pioneer and leader in embryo adoption. This year, we saw our number of Snowflakes donation and adoption applications double as a result of increased awareness, marketing and excellent client service from our gifted Snowflakes team. The strong leadership of Nightlight in this field has enabled us to be the only recipient of a federal grant for raising awareness regarding this important adoption option AND a second grant award for providing embryo donation and adoption services!

**Summer Tours.** Because Nightlight is known as the original pioneer of orphan summer host/tour programs, we have been given the unprecedented invitation from China to start a host program from that country. In addition, we expect to open a new host program from Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan this summer. Hosting has often proved to be a successful way to get more kids adopted, so we are hopeful about these new programs.

Thank you for your continued interest, support, and love for Nightlight and our mission of getting more kids adopted by loving families.

If you would like to make a year-end gift you can give online at [www.nightlight.org/support-nca](http://www.nightlight.org/support-nca), or send a check in the envelope provided.

Daniel Nehrbass, Ph.D. | President

## Key Dates for 2015

### California

**Gala Dinner and Auction:** April 18

**Reunion Picnic:** July 18

**Vivian's Hope Fundraiser:** October 3

**Monte Carlo Night,:** October 24

### Colorado

**Reunion Picnic:** July 18

### Kentucky

**Reunion Picnic:** June 27

### South Carolina

**5K Run/Walk/Adopt:**

May 16







## Orphan Galaxy: Nightlight's orphan care sponsorship program.

You know that Nightlight is connecting waiting children with loving families. But what about the children left behind? Nightlight is committed to orphan care ministry for all children without parents. You can make a \$25 per month commitment to Orphan Galaxy, and your money will be for our five orphan care projects:

**S**cholarships for Adoption

**T**rain Orphans vocationally

**A**id Orphanages

**R**escue from Trafficking

**S**ponsor Orphan Host Tours

Be one of the STARS in our Galaxy. Sign up at [www.OrphanGalaxy.com](http://www.OrphanGalaxy.com)

## The Missing Piece in our Family...Found

As Pat and I were waiting for our referral from China, we came across a photo of a baby boy in a foster home in China with a caption which read: "Inoperable heart - in need of a heart transplant. Cheng needs to be adopted quickly." Pat and I looked at each other and looked at his picture and re-read the caption over and over...Thoughts just came ripping into my heart such as, "How could anyone let this baby boy die in China without a fighting

chance? What about him, Little Cheng? Shouldn't he have a chance at life?" Well, Pat just looked at me and said, "Find out if he has a file." So I emailed Dana Woods at Nightlight. We just said to each other, no matter what happens, no matter how long he is with us, we want him to be our son. We asked God to close or open doors because He is the one who determines families and which children become ours. Well, as the doors continued to open wide, the medical expedite moved swiftly. Before long we were matched with Cheng and before I knew it, I was on a plane bound for China! The first moment I saw him and held him in my arms, there was an understanding; I was his mommy, and he was my son. Gerhardt Cheng is a curious baby boy who loves to explore, and he loves life. We have been home for almost one week, and it is clear that he was the missing piece to our family. No other child could fill this spot as it was meant for Gerhardt. In one week's time, he has had many heart tests and we now know, medically, what we are facing. He has a most rare and complex heart defect and will require surgery. After learning



## Adoptees: Join Adopted 4 Good

Adopted for Good is the coalition of adopted children. AFG is an online community of adoptees who gather for mutual support, encouragement, resources, and positive advocacy for adoption policy.

this, you may ask..."Are you still thinking he's the one?" Absolutely!! He is currently on medications to keep him from heart failure. He may be facing the rarest of all heart surgeries and down the road, may eventually need a heart transplant, but you know what? We would do this again in a heart beat! We have no guarantees that he will live a long life, but we have today, this precious gift, these precious moments. Shouldn't it be said of our children too, "In sickness and in health?" If we have the opportunity to adopt one more...we will adopt another baby boy with a complex heart condition. Our four children, all adopted from China, love Gerhardt. Already, they say, "I can't imagine life without him." That sums it up! Pat and I can't imagine life without Gerhardt Cheng. We love him deeply and we fight for him daily.

—Elizabeth Sutton, Adoptive Mom

# Welcome Home!

## Domestic Adoptions

Preston  
Olivia  
Hudson  
Logan  
Miles  
Molly  
Reagan  
Clay  
Jaylee  
Kai  
Noah  
Clare  
Justin  
Jaden  
Dallan  
Elias  
Sarah  
Faith  
Noah  
Caroline  
Isabel  
Liam  
Caleb  
Zechariah  
Zoe  
Kelly  
Bennett  
Toby  
Samuel  
William  
Alaina  
Elijah  
Gracelynn  
Miles  
Emmett

## Snowflake Babies

Owen  
Abel  
John  
Gwen  
Kathryn  
Gina  
Ezekiel  
Malachi

Evangeline  
Antonia  
Charlotte  
Nevie  
Timothy  
Peyton  
Logan  
Luigi  
Aubrey  
Hannah  
Eli  
June  
Samuel  
Kiara  
Kellen  
Sophie  
Caleb  
Jeremiah  
Josiah  
Shiloh  
Yedid  
Tobias  
Joseph  
Victoria  
Coralee  
Cadence  
Eleanor  
Coen  
Shiloh

## Expecting Snowflake Parents

Kristen  
Matt and Ann  
Rebekah  
Shayne and Tina  
Kevin and Andrea  
Ted and Lisa  
Todd and Merritt  
Steve and Kim  
Mike and Michelle  
Robert and Karine  
Robert and Melanie  
Tim and Dana  
Jack and Karen  
Vance and Kristine  
Simon and Tiffany

Tim and Kara  
Michael and ginger  
Dean and Carla  
Brad and Gina  
Bryan and Andrea  
John and Carla  
Ryan and April  
Robert and Morgan  
Shaun and Larae

## International Adoptions

Anna Hope  
Korben  
Hailey  
Miranda  
Jude  
Elizabeth  
Elena  
Iona  
Grace  
McKenna  
Samuel  
Jenessa  
Josiah  
Emma  
Ava  
Samuel  
Candice  
Gerhardt  
Madelyn  
Carter  
Alley  
Natalie  
Alexa  
Johnathan  
David  
Eva  
Elias  
Jennifer  
Savannah  
Mia  
Lily  
Kevin  
Kai  
Mathias  
Isaich  
Samuel

Quinten  
Ian  
Fabienne  
Caleb  
Leo  
Simon  
Maribella  
Moises  
Mark  
Luke  
Anna  
Fabienne  
Nora  
Quentin  
Thomas  
Maksim  
Erlande  
Erly  
Victor  
Alyona  
Matilda  
Mataya  
Arman

## Foster/Adoption

Leanna  
Angel  
Zechariah

*The Kelly Family*



## Curve in the Road

We like to think of the happy story of adoption, a child placed with a family who then lives happily ever after. Sometimes, our dream of the 'happily ever after' takes a different path. There is a curve in the road that is unexpected. But, it teaches us more about who we are as individuals, as a family, and most importantly, the place faith takes in our lives. Several families were excited by the prospect of hosting children from the Latvian foster care program this past summer. They went into the experience eager to give these children the opportunity to have a host experience here in California, but also open to adoption if there was a 'connection.' These families shared an amazing 5 weeks together over the summer. At the end of their time together, the families made the commitment to provide a forever family to each of these very precious children. They completed home studies, turned in their documents and waited to hear the good news, hoping to complete the adoption of the child with whom they'd spent the summer, sharing joy and even a few tears.

However, when faced with the loss of the foster child, many of the Latvian Foster parents decided to step forward,



2014 Latvia Host Children

proceeding with the adoption of those children. In other words, some of our host families discovered they would not be able to complete the adoptions they had hoped, because the host children are placed in permanent foster homes in Latvia. As I spoke with each of the families here, their love for the children came through clearly. They spoke of their connection. They also spoke of faith: faith that the Lord had a hand in each of these children's lives. Perhaps having the children spend time in another country helped those Latvian foster parents decide to take that permanent step of adoption, as they realized they really were meant to be 'forever' parents.

It has been emotional, but I see each of our local families rely on their faith, knowing they brought joy into those children's lives. They sought to bring permanency and a forever family to those children. They succeeded in their mission. It was not quite what they expected, but each of those families expressed joy for the children who would now have a permanent family.

There are hundreds of thousands of children who need and want a permanent family. We touch just a very small portion as we bring tour groups out from orphanages around the world. It is our hope to see children matched with permanent families. Sometimes we just don't know where those families will come from. We have to have faith that the Lord will bring the children who are meant to be our children, to our family. But, as the story goes, we have to do our part. We need to keep the door open, and make sure we are open to the opportunity.

We have been bringing out

tours from orphanages in Asia and Eastern Europe since 1995. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for the children to share their culture and to learn a bit about living in a US family, as they enjoy learning about our families. Many adoptions have resulted from these tour programs. Finding the right family for a child is always very exciting. I'm so impressed with our brave host families who saw so clearly, that the Lord gave them a role: to remind those Foster parents to step up and adopt those children. So each of those children will be adopted, but in their country of origin. We are so happy for them and know there are many other children in the world, waiting for families. We hope to see these families open their hearts again, hopefully soon finding their 'forever children.'

—Rhonda Jarema, MA

'I will not cause pain without allowing something new to be born, says the Lord.' Isaiah 66:9

## Nightlight Opens New Offices

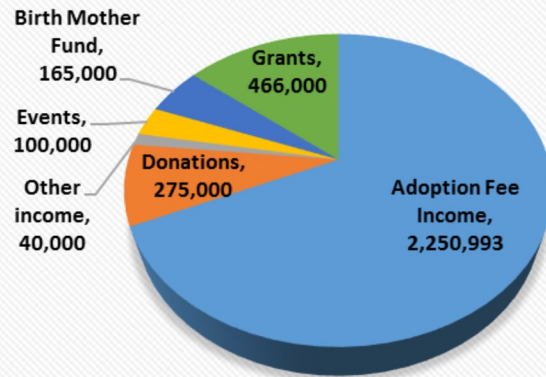
In June, Nightlight officially completed our merger with the wonderful staff in Kentucky at A Helping Hand Adoption Agency. Our Kentucky office has a long history of adoptions in China and Uganda, and many other countries as well. Nightlight also began a merger with the talented team at Heritage Family Services in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In addition, we submitted applications for licensing in Georgia and Florida. When complete, Nightlight will be serving families nationwide from seven offices.



# Financial Information

There are enough hurdles to adoption...Nightlight believes that money should never be what keeps a child from being adopted or a family from adopting. You can see from the graph below that only 68% of our revenue comes from adoption fees. The rest is from grants, or donations from people like you! You can give at [www.nightlight.org/support-nca](http://www.nightlight.org/support-nca) to ensure that Nightlight continues to help unite waiting children with loving families. Let's help those who might not otherwise adopt...adopt children who might not otherwise be adopted.

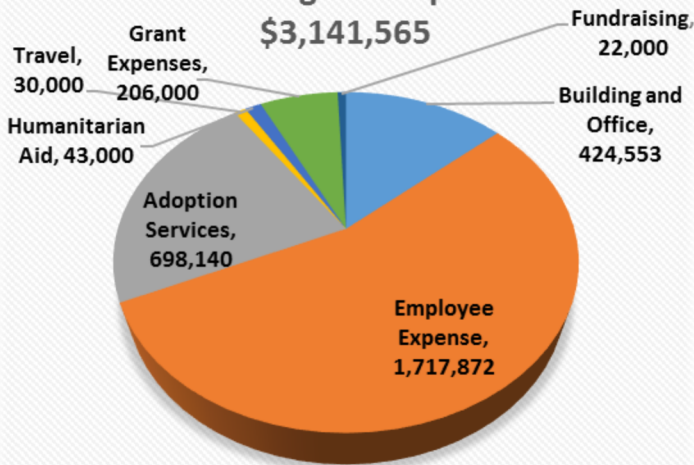
## 2015 Budgeted Revenue \$3,296,993



Nightlight has specific projects if you would like to designate where your giving goes. See more at [www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities](http://www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities). For example, you can designate toward:

1. Tender Hearts Baby Home in Uganda
2. Orphan Galaxy, our monthly orphan care program
3. Nightlight Foundation, for adoption scholarships
4. 1 to 1 Partnership orphanage in China
5. Orphan host/summer tour program

## 2015 Budgeted Expenses \$3,141,565

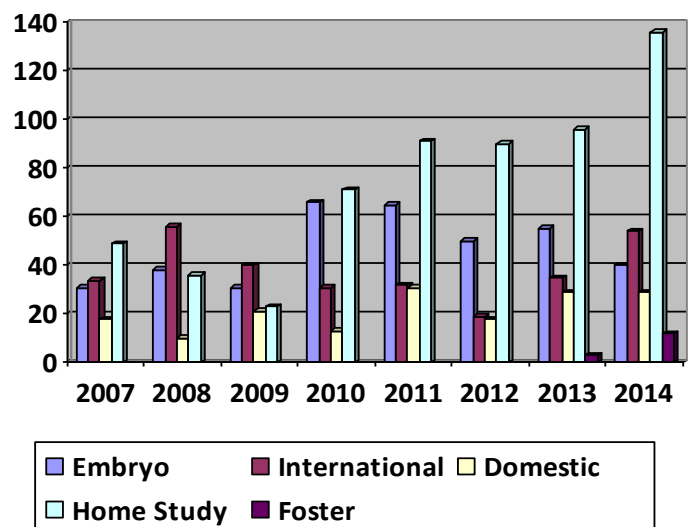


Nightlight's expense on fund raising is an astonishingly low 0.6% of our total budget. That's because we are privileged to have donors who give without being asked, and with no strings attached! Thank you for being a part of our faithful core of supporters that we can depend on!

Our largest expense is our greatest asset—the salaries of our 34 talented and passionate staff who complete adoption cases, educate parents, and support post adoptive families.

By the way, you can donate every time you shop on Amazon Smile, Ebay Charities, GoodSearch, Hotels for Good, and many other charitable shopping sites.

## Families United



## Why We Chose Embryo Adoption

Anthony and Adéye Salem began working with the Snowflakes program in 2014. Recently the Salem family agreed to share their embryo adoption journey. Here is a transcript of the video:

**Anthony:** Hi I'm Anthony Salem and along with my beautiful wife Adéye, we have nine children. That may sound like a lot of children to you. Our first three children are biological boys; but then God took us on a different journey, the journey of adoption. My wife and I have quite a heart not only for orphans, but also for the 'least of these,' the ones that nobody else wants. So we have adopted 6 children at different times, and not all of them have special needs, but several of them do have special needs. Our adopted children are from three different countries, each a beautiful child of God. Now we believe there is another plan for our lives, another destiny; and that involves the destiny of very teeny tiny embryos.

**Adéye:** Many people would look at our family and say, "Well, you have 9 children, isn't that enough? Is your family not big enough?" and probably our answer is yes, our lives are very busy and very full. However, we have an incredible heart for the orphan. Several years ago, God put inside of me a desire to have one more baby in my womb. We did not know at that time how that would unfold because we felt like we were done with biological children, plus we had this desire for the orphan. The desire to have a baby was a seed that was buried in my heart. Around that time, in 2010 we brought home two little girls from Ukraine who both had Down-syndrome. All at once we had 7 children and life got a lot more busy and hectic; but at that time I was following the journey of a friend who adopted embryos. It was the most amazing journey to watch unfold, how she had a desire, and was matched with a genetic family, and ultimately how she went on to give birth to her most precious little girl. God used her journey to plant in me a seed to grow and grow to where we are today. We have committed to adopting some embryos! It is a journey that is new in this country, not many people know about it. It's not heard about very often, but it is so very necessary. Many people look at us and say "Why? Why embryos when you have a heart for adoption, and there are so many



children in third world countries who also need families?" Yes there are, there definitely are and we agree with that. Our hearts are for ALL children no matter how big or small they are. So to answer the question "Why are we adopting embryos?" It is very simple, it is because no matter how old, big young or small we believe that a human is a human at conception.

**Anthony:** If you look at the tiniest human possible it is a human embryo. A human embryo who has no less right to have a life than anyone else, an embryo with a destiny from God and a purpose. That is where we want to inspire as many people as possible as we share our journey to also understand the importance of saving these very precious lives. Orphans from different countries, those children are important; the issue is not either, for us it is both and. It is ALL children.

**Adéye:** So we began our journey a few months ago, and we told the Lord when He put this on our hearts that we wanted the embryos that would be a little bit harder to place in families. We have been matched with four precious babies. We are so excited to share this journey with you, this is just the beginning. We are so thankful that so many have reached out to us in love and support even though this is something so new; and are cheering us on and praying for these four lives. They are lives; waiting to be given a chance!

—Adéye and Anthony Salem

# Major Donors

Many thanks to our major donors whose names have not been included on this list either because they have not consented to being listed or would like to remain anonymous. Please contact Daniel if you consent to having your name listed and we would be happy to add you!

## Individual Donors over \$1000

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## Corporations and Churches

National Christian Foundation of Kentucky  
 Oppenheimer Funds  
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 Bethel Baptist Church  
 Providence Church of Denver, NC  
 Grace Life Fellowship Church, Hastings, NE  
 CD Imaging, Denver, NC  
 Kerygma Church, Concord, NC  
 Calvary Chapel Surprise, AZ  
 Convoy of Hope

The Hardin Family



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Frozen Embryos: A Little-Known Adoption Option



## Nightlight in the Media

Nightlight was featured this year as a story in the following Media outlets. See [www.nightlight.org/Nightlight-news](http://www.nightlight.org/Nightlight-news) to see the story.

Dr. Phil Show  
 Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk  
 CBS News National  
 ABC News National  
 Fox News National  
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 CBN Christian Broadcasting Network  
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