



Credit: Reese Thomas Photography

2020 Annual Report

*Rebecca and Renae, Snowflakes 753 & 754*



# nightlight<sup>®</sup>

Christian Adoptions

# 2020: Staying true to the Course



Despite many challenges this year, Nightlight has stayed the course of our battle cry to “get more kids adopted.” We completed our application to start a new international adoption program in the Dominican

Republic, and have dozens of families completing their adoptions from Colombia this fall. Our Snowflakes® program had its best year ever. Last year we set a “Big, Holy, Audacious God-sized goal” of 150 new adoptive families, and we will reach that goal, while also seeing 69 new babies.

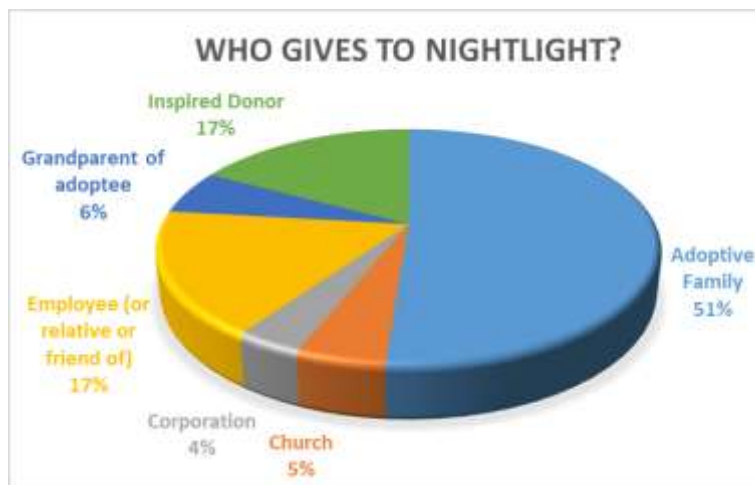
Our Georgia office opened a new foster care program this summer, and we already have six certified families with children in placement. A top priority for our domestic program was to make the birthmother’s experience the best portion of our website, and we invested in that project. Finally, after nearly two years of work, we completed our merger with MLJ Adoptions, which is now our Indianapolis office.

You’re reading this annual report from Nightlight because you share in our mission, and perhaps you are considering supporting us financially.

Recently a friend of mine asked, “Why would people donate money to an adoption agency?” The answer to that question depends on who you are. You might be surprised to learn that corporations make up our smallest number of contributors, at only 4%. Corporations donate because they want to make a difference in the community where they are located. We are fortunate to have a handful of churches that give monthly to Nightlight. Churches constitute 5% of our donors, and they make annual commitments to Nightlight because we are partners in pro-life ministry.

That means 91% of our donations come from individuals. Half (51%) of our donors are people who adopted through our agency and want to help future families have a similar blessing. Grandparents make up 6% of our donors. In the words of one regular donor, “I owe Nightlight a debt I could never repay: you have given me my grandchildren.”

To my joy, 17% of our donors are the members of our staff, or their family and friends. This demonstrates an incredible level of support for our mission, which happens to be our workplace! Only 17% of our donations come from people who are not directly linked to Nightlight by an adoption in their family. I call them “inspired donors.” These are people who saw some of our host children on summer tour, or learned about our grant program, or heard about our innovative Homes for Hope program. They saw what we do and wanted to be a part of it.



If you would like to make a year-end donation to Nightlight, simply go to <https://nightlight.org/donate> or use this QR code

Thanks, and Merry Christmas!

Daniel Nehrbass, President



*The Uber Family*



# Faith During the Wait



*Megan, Matthew, and Enoch*

Our favorite part about working at Nightlight is the privilege to meet amazing people. One such amazing couple is Matthew and Megan, who adopted Enoch from Ghana.

In July of 2017, they went to Africa on what was supposed to be a short trip to attend court and bring Enoch home. But at the same time, Ghana signed the Hague convention and implemented new laws that delayed their case. However, Matthew and Megan already went to court and legally adopted Enoch. At that point, many couples would understandably return to the US and leave their child in the care of the orphanage until they have a date for a visa appointment. But this couple decided to stay the course in Ghana, which turned out to be three years! Matthew travelled back and forth to Ghana throughout that time, while also working in the US. They had great support from their church, and faith that all would eventually work out for the best. The decision to stay with one's child in Ghana is understandable, but what is exceptional in Megan and Matthew's case is how they summarized the experience:

"Ghana was hard, but will now always be such a big part of our lives. Enoch is very Ghanaian and also so American. We have all grown so much these past three years in ways we never could have foreseen. We can't wait to finally start our family together in our home country."

In 2012 I (Beverly) went on a mission trip to Haiti to bring the joy of Christmas to 15,000 Haitian children. I had no idea my life would be forever changed. On December 12, 2012 God answered my prayer to be a mother when he put a precious three-year old Haitian girl named Adassa in my arms. Adassa's parents died in the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010. Orphaned at seven months old, she was left to live in poverty before being placed at the Christian girls home where we met. This is where our seven yearlong adoption journey began.

In June 2018, our adoption case was in the wrong hands and not heading in the right direction. The dream of giving Adassa her forever home was fading. I found myself praying for the right agency to help me bring Adassa home. I would not give in to the enemy because God indeed finishes what he starts. God's answer was Nightlight Christian Adoptions. He connected me with Chelsea Tippins and Renae Kennedy. After hearing my story, they went to work on my case and came alongside me with prayer and action. We watched God move with supernatural favor. The agency representative in Haiti, Ms. Lahomy was a Godsend.

In March I lost two sisters to COVID. Two guardian angels went on assignment. On June 12, 2020, Adassa and I started our next chapter of blessings at home together in Marietta, Georgia! Only God knows the timing of his miracles. Seven is completion.



*Beverly and Adassa*

# Welcome Home!

Nov 2019 to Oct 2020

## Foster Placements

Aaron  
Destiny  
Mamie  
Randall

Raymond  
Robert  
Santiago  
Starletta  
Trey  
Tyrone  
Xenya  
Zach

Jamesky  
Jigyasa  
Jennifer  
Johnsley  
Jhojan  
Jonathan  
Joseph  
Joshua  
Jose

## Domestic Adoptions

Wezi  
Zahira  
Abigail  
Aiden  
Alice M  
Alice L  
Asha  
Berkley  
Blake  
Bradley  
Briella  
Camden  
Cooper  
Delia  
Dorothy  
Dov  
Eden  
Eli  
Emmalynn  
Errol  
Evelyn  
Gabriel  
Jack  
James  
John  
Joseph  
Joshua  
Joy  
Julia  
Leo  
Madelynn  
Matthew  
Moriah  
Perryn  
Reagan  
Reese  
Sadie  
Sarah  
Shamar  
Theodore  
Westley  
William  
Winona  
Zella

## Snowflakes® Babies

Ada  
Adam  
Addison  
Andrew R  
Andrew G  
Andrew L  
April  
Calvin  
Claire  
Daniel  
Eliana  
Elias  
Ethan  
Eugenia  
Evelyn  
Everett  
Finn  
Finnley  
Gianna  
Gilbert  
Heidi  
Hudson  
Jack  
Jackson  
James  
Jeramie  
Joanna

John  
Kayley  
Kelton  
Knox  
Leah  
Luca  
Luke  
Lyla  
Maggie  
Mason  
Milo  
Miriam  
Molly  
Oliver  
Pria  
Rachel  
Raegan A  
Raphael  
Raylei  
Reagan K  
Rebecca  
Reed  
Renee  
Samuel  
Silas A  
Silas H  
Thomas  
Wyatt

## Foster Adoptions

Alexis  
Amberlynn  
Anastasia  
Angel H  
Angel W  
Armani  
Ayra  
Azarius  
Boni  
Candida  
Declan  
Devin  
Devanzo  
Diana  
Dominick  
Eden  
Elijah  
Elytianna  
Emma  
Geovoni  
Hayden  
Isaac  
Journie  
Joshua  
Kaiden  
Katherine  
Legacy  
Lluvia  
Logan  
Lonnie  
Malakai  
Marcos  
Na'leigha  
Nyracle  
Nahrarie  
Nazzir  
Noah  
Norah  
Prince  
Ramon

## International Adoptions

Abdurahman  
Adassa  
Adrianna  
Aisley  
Andrea  
Andres E  
Andres H  
Andres R  
Angel  
Angela  
Anita  
Annabelle  
Artin  
Babydson  
Brandina  
Bryan  
Brenda  
Callum  
Catalin  
Celine  
Cecilia  
Christopher  
Damian  
Daniel J  
Daniel R  
Dayana  
Elizabeth  
Emiliano  
Emiliya  
Emma  
Emmy  
Enoch  
Evelyn  
Gabrielle  
Iris  
Jairo

Juan David  
Krishna  
Laura B  
Laura R  
Lok Thomas  
Luke  
Mahiela  
Maira  
Mandy  
Maryi  
Maya  
Melany  
Nathaniel  
Nazanin  
Nema  
Nickolas  
Nikolinka  
Noah  
Oliver  
Paula  
Pedro  
Radostin  
Rose  
Roshni  
Ryan  
Santiago  
Sanskriti  
Seyed  
Seema  
Talia  
Theo  
Tsimafei  
Vanessa  
Vanya  
Violet  
Vishal  
Viyaleta  
Wesley



*The Kingcaid Family*



# Sierra's Story

After delivering a precious baby boy on Thursday, March 19, 2020, Sierra was very much struggling with her decision to place versus to parent. She felt so sure of herself during her pregnancy; however, once he arrived she felt completely overwhelmed. By the time Jimmy and Sarah met her at the hospital on Friday, March 20, 2020, she was completely torn; however, she still wanted to meet Jimmy and Sarah if they were open to meeting her. Jimmy and Sarah showed great support for Sierra and the difficult decision she had ahead. She ultimately wanted more time with the baby before making a decision, which Jimmy and Sarah respected and understood. The time and conversation that ensued between this family and birth mother were completely amazing. Jimmy is a passionate man about everything, and their conversation covered some of the deepest and most personal topics in a person's life. They discussed God and the Bible, and Sierra shared that she has always struggled with her beliefs because she never had the backing of a family who was open-minded or understood. Jimmy and Sarah prayed with her and over her, and it was absolutely beautiful. They laughed and cried together. Jimmy and Sarah told the birth mom that even if they spent the last 48 hours driving to South Carolina just so they could help her find

God and peace with parenting, then that is all they were meant to do. They are incredible, amazing people.

The following day, Sierra shared some of the following, "My heart is screaming to try to do it myself. I don't want to be selfish and ask Jimmy and Sarah to keep open on the chance that I cannot do it on my own and that I need them, but I am hoping they will. For the first time since my grandma died, I have laughed and smiled and felt at peace, and it was with Jimmy and Sarah. That made me feel like I might have a chance to do this. But if I can't, it would be them. I can't explain what happened today, but all I know is I need more of that, and I feel so selfish for asking or saying that." Jimmy and Sarah learned of the birth mother's decision to move forward with parenting and responded by asking if they could give her all of the baby things they had purchased because they didn't want her to worry about the trivial things. They shared that if they couldn't share their fruits with her, then they weren't true believers in the Lord, and it was important for them to be able to do all they could for her.

Jimmy and Sarah's grace and love in this situation were incredibly needed, especially given the current circumstances we are in this year.

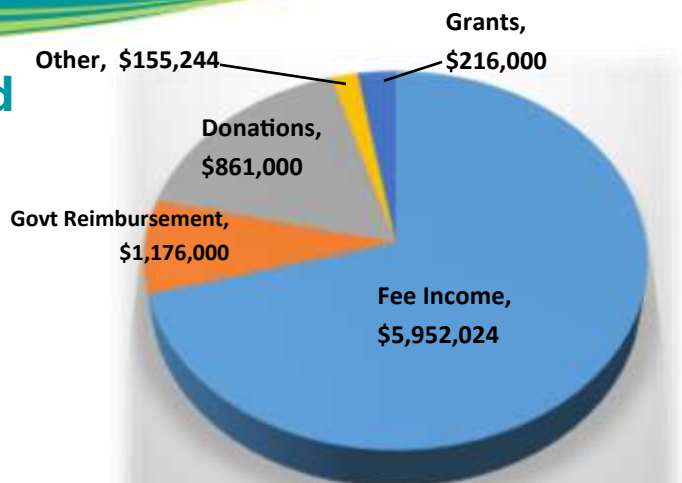
Two days later, Sierra realized that she couldn't parent, and she wanted Jimmy and Sarah to be this sweet baby's parents. Jimmy and Sarah had left town the day before to begin their three-day drive back to CO. They had made it eight hours when they learned of her decision, and then they pulled over to pray for the birth mom and wait for confirmation. She signed the paperwork and then asked if she could call Jimmy and Sarah. Jimmy and Sarah turned around and made their way back to SC to meet their son and bring him home from the hospital. God was in control of this wonderful relationship that will undoubtedly grow stronger and stronger as the days, months, and years pass. Adoption is filled with grief, but in the end, it is the faith, joy, and love found in adoption that will carry us through.



# Financial Information

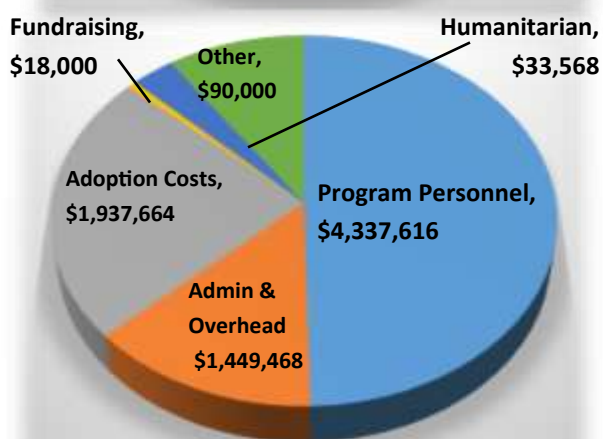
## How we fund our mission

(2021 Budget)



## The cost of our mission

(2021 Budget)

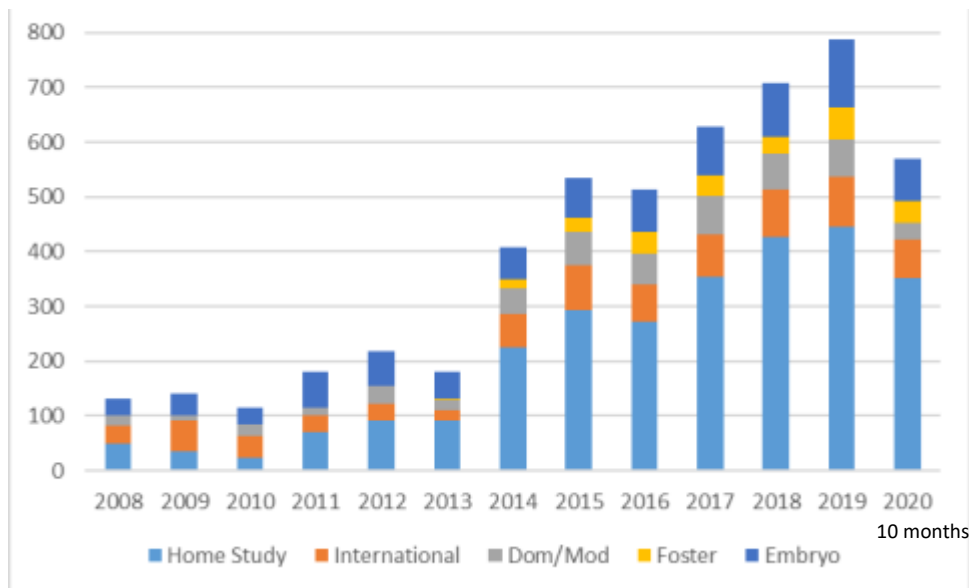


## How do we spend donations?

Your donations enable us to

- Provide support to orphanages
- Fund adoption grants
- Offset the cost of adoption (families currently pay only 70% of the cost of their adoption)
- Start new programs that have no revenue stream (new countries, new foster care locations)

## Number of Adoptions and Families Served



Baby Jeremie, Snowflakes® #744



# A Flurry of Snowflakes

I (Emily) first heard about embryo adoption after my mother heard about it on a radio broadcast. It was 1997-1998 and the first embryo adoption program in the world, Snowflakes®, was in its infancy. Mom told me about what she had heard, and we hadn't been married very long. I hadn't even finished my degree. We hadn't even determined to begin building our family – yet. Nevertheless, the idea of embryo adoption immediately captured my heart. I thought, "It's incredible there are all these embryos in frozen storage, waiting, needing someone to give them a chance to be born."



*The Shew Family*

Being a mother, being a parent with Jeremy, was always part of our married future. In fact, I was 8 months pregnant with our biological son, Micah, when I crossed the stage to accept my doctorate in veterinary medicine. I loved being pregnant! I loved being a mom and was eager to have another baby shortly after Micah's birth. Our daughter, Faith, had many health issues her first three years of life, some of them likely genetic, so when we started thinking about growing our family further, we turned our minds to adoption.

My parents had adopted three of my siblings domestically and my brother adopted two children internationally. But as much as I wanted to adopt, I loved being pregnant. Embryo adoption allowed me to adopt and be pregnant at the same time. It also fit our strong pro-life ideals that life begins at conception and

deserves respect and protection from the moment of fertilization. Jeremy took some time to research and understand this truly unique adoption choice called embryo adoption, but once he said "yes," he was fully committed.

We officially applied to the program in May 2007. We requested to be matched with a placing family who might have remaining embryos that would potentially be more difficult to place. A family with nine remaining embryos determined to place their embryos with us! These were multi-ethnic embryos – Hispanic/Japanese/Caucasian – and we were overjoyed because we already lived in an extended family with ethnic diversity through adoption. Our adoption contracts were completed in February, 2008.

In April, those nine lives were shipped from California to our clinic in Pennsylvania. We scheduled our first frozen embryo transfer. The first transfer of two precious embryos was June 26, 2008. The result was bittersweet: one of the embryos, Peace, went to be with the Lord, while the other embryo continued to thrive. We met our adopted daughter, Grace, in March, 2009.

When we originally considered adoption, we were thinking one or two more kids in our family would be perfect. But, after the birth of our daughter Grace, we knew our hearts belonged to all seven of the remaining embryos we adopted and we wanted to keep all of the siblings together. We determined to schedule a frozen embryo transfer of two embryos every 2.5 years until all the embryos were given the opportunity to become all that God created them to be.

Our second transfer, in March, 2011, resulted in the birth of our twin boys, Isaac and Isaiah. In December 2013, we had our third transfer and in August, 2014 we had our second set of twin boys, Jeremiah and Josiah - who are doppelgängers of the first set of twins! In August, 2016, our hearts were broken when we lost our two babies, Charity and Trinity, during our fourth transfer. Our one remaining embryo had been waiting for 13 years to have his birthday. In May, 2017, we welcomed Ezekiel into our family. His name means 'God strengthens' because God gave him the strength to be here after the many years of waiting.

Our family is abundantly blessed. Although not in our original plan to be such a large family, we are delighted and filled with joy as we parent each of our children. We appreciate each unique person who is a part of our clan and how we work together to accomplish life as a family. The fact that we have two sets of twins often starts conversation about embryo adoption wherever we go and my six Snowflakes are evidence that each embryo is a unique, genetic individual worthy of dignity and every chance at a real life.

## 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

Alice & Don Shoemaker  
Betsy Tanner  
Beth Spraggins  
Brad, Laura, Makenna and Alex  
Brent & Kim Neuhaus  
Brian Cline  
Brian & Sarah Grandstaff  
Caroline Koch  
Chad & Catherine Conner  
Chad & Cris Yarbrough  
Charles & Lorie Toplikar  
Chris and Joyce Brammer  
Clark Custer  
Daniel & Kristina Nehrbass  
Dave and Lindy Powell  
David & Maria Bundrick  
David Thomas  
Demetrios & Megan Chulkas  
Devon and Sarah Sowell  
Don Walsh  
Don and Peggy Strube  
Eli & John Moore  
Frank & Irene Barbagallo  
Fred & Wendi Murkle  
George Brink  
Gerry & Tricia Esser  
Jack & Patricia McAnear  
Jaime & Rachel Ramirez  
James & Susan Colombo  
Jay & Chris Jeffrey  
Jay Hembree

Jim & Carol Light  
Johnnie & Anneke De Jong  
John & Laura Storm  
John Dawson  
John Fitzgibbon  
John McGaffey  
John-Carl & Alisa Guthrie  
Joseph & Kathryn O'Connor  
Joseph & Teri Beattie  
Karen Anspach  
Kari Cox  
Kenton & Violet Vix  
Kevin O'Neill  
Kris Creeden  
Kyle Butterfras  
Kyle Hollman  
Lisa and Frank Polhill  
Lisa Schultz  
Marilynn & Richard Nehrbass  
Michael & Lynn Cenkner  
Michael and Renee Hansen  
Michele Jackson &  
Wayne DeVeydt  
Mike Beard  
Rob & Nancy Chapin  
Pete & Rachel Younger  
Philip Kerbs  
Rachel & Ernie Plett  
Randy Morgan  
Raychel Bailon  
Raymond Wells  
Robert & Amanda Mattingly

Ronald Stoddart  
Rudy & Annie Garza  
Ruth Griffioen  
Samuel & Jennifer West  
Scott Kuethen  
Song and Darren Brandner  
Stephen & Glenda Debenport  
Stephen & Melinda Scheperle  
Stephen Taper  
Steven and Katie England  
Steve & Sue Capperton  
Tamela Post  
Ted & Kari Rigoni  
Thomas Wagner  
Tom & Nancy Harrison

Tommy Sandlin  
Torrey & Susan Harmon  
Trent Weaver  
Trey & Simone Kirkpatrick  
Troy & Tracy Duhon

**Corporations and Churches**  
Abel Weatherwax Foundation  
Antioch Community Church  
First Assembly of God,  
Jefferson MO  
Jaymarc Electric  
Highland Baptist Church  
St. Anthony's Catholic Church  
TFNB, Your Bank for Life



*The Partin Family*

## Board of Directors

Jim Light, Chairman  
Jere Vandewalle, Treasurer  
and Secretary  
Kevin O'Neill  
Michael Powers  
Torrey Harmon  
Ron Stoddart

Sarah Sowell  
Frank Block  
David Littlewood  
Jim Colombo  
Michele Jackson  
Dan Gomez  
David Wilkinson

### Key Dates for 2021

Annual Gala (SoCal), March 20  
Summer Reunion (All offices), June 13  
Hope Gala (Waco, TX), Oct 28