



The Gillingham girls, Snowflakes® #39, #40, #100, #101

2019 Annual Report



nightlight®

Christian Adoptions

2019: A Year of Seeing God at Work



When you donate to Nightlight Christian Adoptions, where does your money go? We budget for birthmother support, adoption scholarships, humanitarian relief, and development of new programs. You can make a visible difference when you donate toward one of these programs. Donors are often left wondering how PERMANENT and how CERTAIN is the effect of your donation.

Unlike any other philanthropic work, when you donate toward a child's adoption, you get confidence that your money makes a CERTAIN and PERMANENT impact. A child is certainly and permanently removed from poverty. A child is certainly and permanently placed in a family. Children are certainly and permanently presented with the Gospel. The intersection between our day-to-day work of adoption and the impact of God in people's lives is a recurring theme this year and throughout this annual report. Let me share a few of our best stories (and read on to see others).

In January this year, we were looking for a new international program director. As you can imagine, there are very few people with this particular work experience. We prayed God would lead the right person to us. That very day, we spoke with staff from Children's Hope International (CHI), about their future plans. CHI helped over 8000 families adopt from China, India, and several other countries. CHI partnered with Nightlight as we hired their staff (Angie as post adoption coordinator, and Nicky became our international program director) and transferred their clients to our programs. It was a blessing truly orchestrated by God. We welcome all our new families from CHI!

Our Colorado office moved to the House of Neighborly Service, a building in Loveland that's home to over a dozen non-profits. This move allowed us to double our office space (for almost the same price), making room for the rapid growth of our staff. Thanks to your generous donations, the space was renovated and looks beautiful.

Mike and Ramona Evans, an empty-nest couple in Colorado who decided to foster and adopt a teenager, were chosen and recognized by the Governor along with four other Colorado families for their dedication in foster care and providing safe and stable homes for children. They were featured on [Yahoo News](#).

Our Homes for Hope in Colorado officially opened and received placement of nine children. Last year we began looking for experienced families to live in a home where they would take emergency foster placements. We prayed God would bring the right people to us, and through a nationwide search, we found two spectacular families! These nine children and all future children will be able to remain with their siblings, in their schools, and in their community until long-term options can be explored. In other states, our foster program has also taken root.

In other states, our foster program has also taken root. We have our first certified families in South Carolina and California, and are about to start certifying families in Oklahoma, Georgia, and Texas.

This year, three of Nightlight's staff members, Beth Button, Leesa Del Rio, and Deb Uber, adopted children. They are not alone, however. In fact, we took a survey and determined that 25 of our 100 staff members are either adopted, have adopted, or placed for adoption!

The Snowflakes® program will celebrate the birth of our 700th baby in July, 2020. Our program was featured this year in the New York Times, ABC News, World Magazine, and many other media outlets.

You'll see on page six that for several years in a row, we have continued to see growth in our influence and the number of adoptions. This will be another record-setting year!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas! Please consider making a year-end gift to Nightlight with the envelope provided, or online at www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities.

Key Dates for 2020

- Annual Gala (SoCal), April 25
- Summer Reunion (All offices), June 13
- Generations Hope Gala (Waco, TX), Oct 10
- Vivian's Hope (SoCal), October 25
- Monte Carlo Night (SoCal), Nov 14



The McIntosh Family

“Prayer and Hope in a Foster Adoption” —the Uber Family



The Uber Family

When God put it on my heart to foster, I felt that so long as it was safe, I would like to have some type of contact with the children’s birth family. I wanted an open foster adoption. Then we got the referral for Jeremiah and Brianna (or the Skywalker twins as we had nicknamed them very early on). Their case worker told me that their mother had been uninvolved for their entire case, but their grandparents were safe and would be very happy to have contact with me. “Answered prayer,” so I thought. Yet as we moved forward

into the twins living in our home, I still felt strongly that I needed to pursue their mother. This admittedly defies logic for someone who was hoping to adopt from the foster system. They were not legally free at the time, and to pursue their mother beyond what the case workers were doing would be to risk her popping back up for visitation, and then potentially taking them back home with her.

Through the twin’s court guardian, I let their birthmother know that if she wanted to have coffee with me, or to email or text, I was available for it and would love to meet her or talk with her. At first she said no, but eventually she reached out and said, “maybe.” Finally, termination came and I knew, come hell or high water I would be at that hearing. I prayed the night before and wrote her a card filled with things I can’t even remember, but I know God laid them on my heart to say. I offered to connect with her through an app, so she wouldn’t have to worry about losing her phone. She just needed my account number, I would answer.

I told my family and friends not to bother praying about the results of the hearing, but to pray for the twin’s mom: pray for her heart. She did come, and she was so brave. Through many tears she publically thanked all of her social workers for all the support they had given her over the years, that she knew how hard they worked, and that they did their very best. She told the judge that she knew she could get better, but not as quickly as what the twins needed and she knew now they were with a loving family now (after meeting me briefly). She literally said the words “I love them, but my taking care of them is not in their best interest.” The judge offered to let her leave so she wouldn’t have to sit through the ruling but she said, “No, I need to hear it.” She did not contest the termination and did not appeal. There was not a single dry eye in that whole courtroom, and even the judge stepped down to give her a hug. To see someone who has been through so much, love her kids so fiercely in that moment, it was both heart breaking and hope filled.

To be honest, I was scared. I know a lot of her story, and knew that termination would be her rock bottom. Either it would change her life, or I would likely get a call in a few months that she had passed away. I was proud to have a story to tell the twins someday about their birth-mother’s love, but worried it might be my only story. I didn’t know if she would ever message me through that app.

A little over a month later, she did. During that time, she had been trying to find God and hear Him again. She kept hearing “Go back when you were 14 years old, when all of this started, when you began to use drugs” and God very clearly telling her to “Stop fighting”. We met for coffee sometime after that and talked for 4 hours straight. Since then we have communicated often. She got into therapy and a rehab home she trusted. She was determined. She got a job and started to go to college (something she was never able to do before). She saved up for her own apartment and car and sent me a picture when she got her 6-month recovery token with AA. She often sends pictures of the twins when they were little while I send her current ones. She helped me figure out which hospitals she visited with the twins from infancy onward so I could get a better medical background. She’s been a blessing and has honored and respected the boundaries I’ve set in place. Currently she is working with the twin’s therapist to write a letter to them explaining their story in a therapeutic and child friendly way. Even though it is hard for her emotionally she never hesitated when I asked if she would be willing. We hope to start them writing letters back and forth over the years, and if they are ready, for them to see each other again.

When God put openness on my heart for this foster journey I had no idea what might be in store. I am so thankful I followed Holy Spirit and not logic. I am so thankful I didn’t keep my head down and focus only on my desire to adopt. I’m so thankful that God used such a difficult time for a miracle that the twins birth family, and their birth-mom’s church community had been praying for. They had been praying for her for 30 years! People who know our story celebrate the adoption and that the children are thriving. But we also get to celebrate the answered prayers for a 14-year-old girl over 30 years ago when she first began struggling with addiction. Thirty years might seem like a long time to pray, but wasn’t it so worth it?

Welcome Home!

Foster Placements

Aiiden
Alessandra
Armani
Azariah
Brayzen
Cailyn
Charles
David
Demetri
DeShawn
Elijah
Future
Gabriel
Guitarra
Haydin
Jarron
Jayde
King
Kitana
Kymani
Kyson
Laura
Malakai
Manuel
Na'leigha
Omega
Paisley
Reyna
Rylee
Tacolby
Troy
Tyrone
Whitney

Foster Adoptions

Abiel
Ayden
Benjamin
Corey
Damien
Derek
Echo
Eckhardt
Eli
Elizabeth
Israel
Jensen
Jayden
Jose
Karma
Max
Michael
Maylynn
Sauveva
Scott

Tawny
Tayler
Tyhaunnie

International Adoptions

Abhiram
Aleesa
Amani
Alana
Ana
Arkyn
Armstrong
Astrid
Banesa
Bedelson
Blessed
Brianna
Bryan
Callee
Carlos
Carol
Charlie
Claire
Corrie
Cyrus
Danielle
Darlens
D'Angel
Elizabeth
Elvis
Emmanuela
Emma
Emma Joy
Emryn
Eneless
Evelyn
Ezekiel
Gitika
Henry
Holly
Huang Tsz Shun
Khushi
Leon
Ife
Ivan
Jacqueline
James
Jonas
Josue
Juan
Kai
Kelce
Klutvert
Knox
Lawrence

Levi
Levi
Levi
Luis
Mabel
Mandy
Mariana
Maryam
Mark
Mateo
Mercy
Micah
Michael
Millie
Mona
Moses
Moru
Nikan
Obadiah
Raye
Reece
Reuben
Rihanna
Riley
Rosalie
Rose
Ruth
Samuel
Scarlet
Shaoyu
Shelove
Simon
Story
Suri
Tadasha
Tai
Tayah
Tian
Tyreek
Tyler
Valentina
Valeria
Vanessa
William
Zhu

Domestic Adoptions

Abigayle
Adelaide
Aiden
Alexander
Alexander
Alina
Amaya
Amelia
Anders

Andrew
Anthony
Ariana
Asher
Benjamin
Bennett
Bryson
Daniel
Dominik
Dylan
Emberlynn
Emersyn
Emmett
Evangeline
Evelyn
Everett
Gentry
Grace
Hannah
Harper
Hayden
Henry
Hope
Isabel
Isabella
Isla
Jacob
Jacob
Jesse
Jesus
Joshua
Julian
Julianna
Jurnee
Kanan
Kate
Kayla
Kioni
Lane
Levi
Maria
Miles
Morgan
Moriah
Naomi
Nathaniel
Natalie
Parker
Peter
Rhema
Robert
Ryker
Sophia
Sawyer
Sterrette
Talmadge

Theodore
Weston
William
William
Zoe
Zoelle
Zoey

Snowflakes® Babies

Adella
Alex
Antonella
Angelica
Andrew
Andre
Arden
Asa
Asher
Austin
Ayla
Benjamin
Bennett
Blake
Clara
Curtis
Daniel
Elianah
Emma
Erika
Ethan
Hadassah
Hannah
Hannah
Hannah
Hannah
Hazel
Helena
Jackson

James
Josh
Josephine
Joy
Judah
Judah
Joanna
Jonathan
Lauren
Lauren
Leo
Leon
Levi
Lillian
Lily
Macey
Marshall
Marilyn
Masen
Matthew
Maxon
McKenna
Norah
Owen
Piper
Riley
Ryan
Serina
Shiloh
Talon
Teigan
Thomas
Trevin
Wesley
Winifred
Zechariah
Zoey

Blessed Parker



Reaching Beyond Adoption

No one knew about Cassie's pregnancy except the nurses at the hospital. Lara Kelso and I (Kandace) were contacted the afternoon after the baby was born. When we got to the hospital, Cassie gave us a list of families from AdoptionBridge, and we were able to match her with her first choice. Jay and Brittany are now the proud parents of the beautiful baby boy Benjamin. They are in pretty constant contact and it's helping Cassie, who still hasn't shared her pregnancy with anyone.

Cassie just relocated to Florida to live with her mom and stepdad for a season, and I talk to her on a regular basis to see how she's doing. She wants to wait until the adoption is finalized before telling any family or friends. Before Cassie moved to Florida I got to spend some time with her, she mentioned in the hospital if anyone would invite her to church she would probably go. That's exactly what I did. Cassie went to every Sunday service with me until she left, but that last one is one that changed both of our lives.

It was water baptism Sunday and people were encouraged to get baptized even if they didn't sign up. I had asked her the previous week if that was something she was interested in doing and she said she would rather wait a little longer. During the salvation message I noticed she raised her hand, and then when they dismissed for baptisms I asked if it was something she wanted to do, she replied no again. I went to record some of my teens getting baptized and contemplated doing it myself. I went and sat down next to her, and she asked me if I wanted to get baptized. I asked her if she wanted to, and I said we can do it together. She grabbed my hand and we went and changed into our clothes and before you

know it one right after the other we were baptized by Pastor Benjamin. Since the day I met Cassie, God has been affirming her in every angle of her life. She is the most level-headed, brave, strong, graceful, calming person I have ever met. Cassie's presence is just one people desire to be around, and I'm so blessed that I get to be part of her story.



The Amberg Family

I got all choked up as I watched the little pin-pricks of light on the monitor in the doctor's office. The way they appeared was a miraculous sight I will never forget. Not for Emily, though. All she could focus on was how much she needed to go to the bathroom! But that is what this journey through embryo adoption has been like every step of the way. Sometimes miraculous, sometimes hilariously human.

Our infertility story begins just like any other, racking up doctor's office visits like you are filling up a punch card at Starbucks. Each time they wanted to try something progressively more invasive. Our work requires us to live overseas, which complicated the situation further. Expats like us squeeze as much medical care as we can into each trip home, but it was becoming increasingly clear that natural conception just wasn't in the cards for us. We looked into traditional adoption, but the small African country where we live doesn't have a domestic program for non-citizens, forcing us to look to international adoption in a neighboring country. This meant a long wait and a slim chance of adopting a baby. In the end, we decided we were open to adopting an older child who needed a forever family, while we mourned the loss of never getting to care for our children as infants.

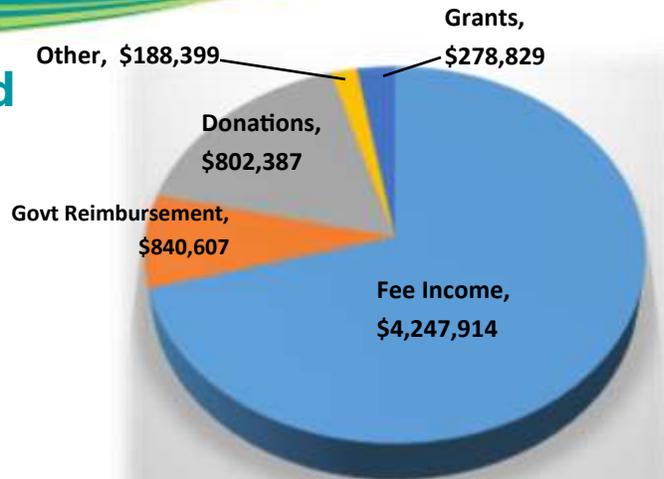
That is when we heard about embryo adoption from a colleague and it answered all our prayers. It was a child in need of a family, it was the opportunity to know our child as a roly-poly baby, and it was a gift for my wife to experience all the messy beauty of carrying and giving birth. We raised money, we prayed a lot, we bought plane tickets, we got discouraged and crash-landed a few times into pints of cookies-and-cream and old reruns of the West Wing, but eventually we made it.

We adopted five wonderful embryos from the Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program and transferred two of them. Later that day, we sat in a little taco joint where I forbade Emily from moving an inch and brought her all manner of salsa options. She teased me, as if her walking to the drink-dispenser would cause irreparable damage. It was obvious this whole experience hadn't just been about our son, but it brought us together as well. It made us the kind of parents our little Noah needs and he made us the family we had dreamed of being all along.

Financial Information

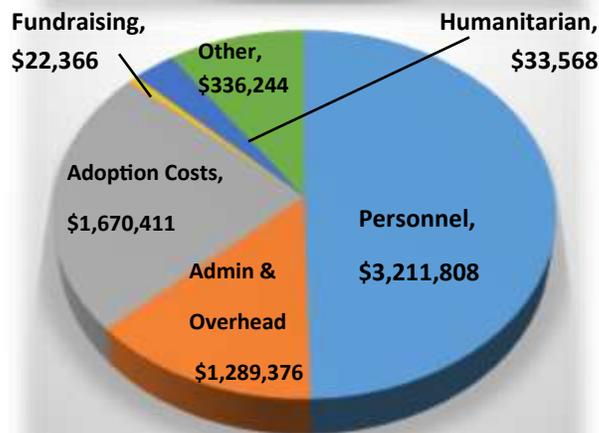
How we fund our mission

(2020 Budget)



The cost of our mission

(2020 Budget)



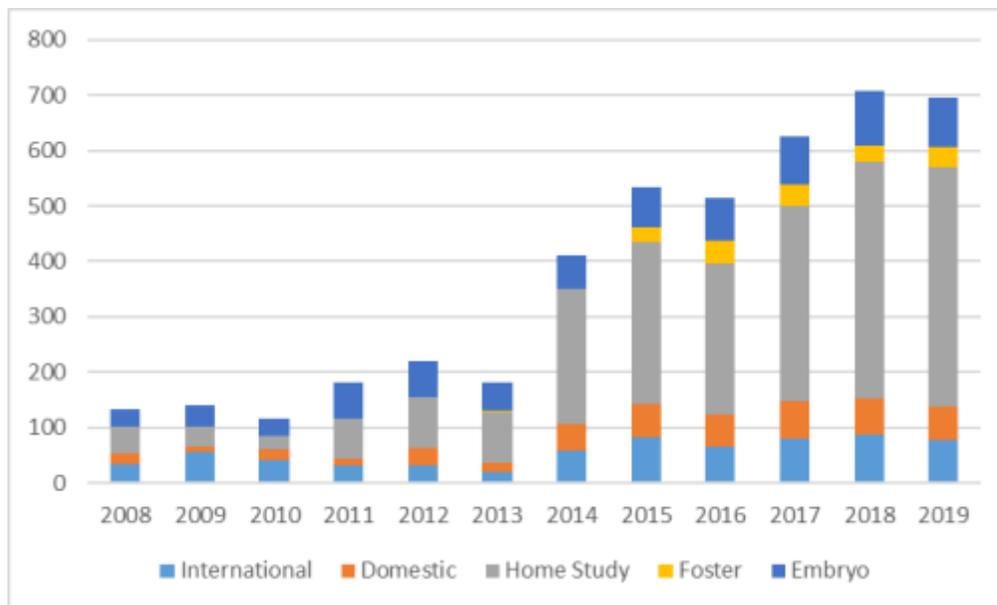
Taxes to Charity

"I help people divert tax dollars into non-profit donations."

That's how the director of the National Christian Foundation (NCF), explained how he is helping Nightlight donors and families leave a permanent legacy of giving. This year several donors have consulted with NCF to make estate plans or find other strategies to pay less in taxes, and give the difference to Nightlight.

Email Daniel@nightlight.org if you are interested in hearing more about how you can do this too. Go to www.NCFGiving.com to learn more.

Number of Adoptions and Families Served



We All Have a Role (Hosting, Advocacy, Adoption)

The Martin Family



For Christmas 2017, I (Lisa Prather) was asked by our Colombia team to become qualified as a backup host family for our Colombia Christmas Hosting tour. I am not a parent and I've never hosted a child, so I was a bit intimidated. I decided to go through the process because "it's only back up", "I probably won't really be hosting". It's very low risk, right? I had a host home study visit and completed the background checks needed. Two weeks before the children were to arrive, I received a call from our Colombia team. "One of our host families backed out, are you able to host a 13-year-old girl this Christmas?"

Needless to say, I was a bit overwhelmed but also excited. There was a storm of activity at my home for those two weeks. I didn't even have a room ready. I had an empty room with no beds, so I ordered twin beds on line, ordered sheets, blankets, Spanish/English flash cards with pictures to hang around the house, booked flights to meet her in Atlanta, purchased gifts for Brianna so we could celebrate Christmas with her for the 12 days leading up to Christmas as it's done in Colombia, and so much more that I am sure I have forgotten. I flew to Atlanta and met this shy, beautiful little girl, who only spoke Spanish, and we flew to Tulsa together. When I think back, I am amazed at her bravery. How scary it must have been to fly to another country and go home with this woman you have only met a few times on skype. My Spanish is minimal and so was her English, so we communicated mostly through an app on my phone. My entire family fell in love

with Brianna. The language of love crosses all cultures and can be transmitted without even speaking the same earthly language. During her stay, we had a lot of adventures together. My favorite one being when Brianna saw snow for the first time! Brianna was always laughing, willing to try new things, and never complained. I forgot to mention that we were moving our Nightlight Oklahoma office location the day after she arrived so she came to work with me for two days while we moved. I'm sure she was very bored, but she never complained. When it was time for her to leave, my extended family came to the airport to see her off, and we all cried. Needless to say, my heart was stirred to consider adoption. I had signed up as a host family so that I could advocate to find Brianna a home. I knew that often host only families become adoptive families, but I didn't think that would happen to me.

I began advocating on social media to find an adoptive family for Brianna even before she arrived at my home. I shared our adventures every day on social media, and I had so many friends and family reach out to me about her. I even had a couple from my former church in SC, travel to Tulsa to meet her. Just seeing her beautiful face, drew people to her. I prayed to the Lord for direction about whether or not I was to adopt this little girl. The host children know that their other friends have found families through this process, and Brianna made sure to tell me before she left that she would love to live with me forever. My heart was pierced. But, in my prayer time, I kept sensing that Brianna needed a daddy. I know how important a dad is to a little girl, I was one once. Being single, that was something I could not offer her. So, I told the Lord that I wanted her to have a family with a mom and dad, and if that could not be found, then I would adopt her. Many of my friends and family, shared my posts about Brianna.

On December 27, the day that Brianna was to fly back to Colombia, I received a message on FB from a total stranger. Brian Martin reached out to me because he saw my post about Brianna that a mutual friend had shared. Brian and Beth talked with their daughters and, after much prayer, made the commitment to bring Brianna into their family. It was a long process, but Brianna arrived home in April of this year. Her bond with her father is a beautiful thing, and every time I see her with her new family, my heart swells. She is exactly where she is meant to be, and I could not be happier for her. I am thankful to God every day for answering my prayers and for assuring me that His plan is always the best one. If we listen to Him and obey, He will take care of the rest. Brianna lives here in Oklahoma so I still get to see her from time-to-time, and that is just what this hosting heart needs.

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!

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