

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021



Help  ne Child
MAKING CONNECTIONS. CHANGING LIVES.



Love, In A World Full of Hate

Valerie Crane
Executive Director

Last year, in an interview with KLOVE, I was asked what success is to our ministry. I paused. The last eighteen months have been full of hard stories from many of the families we serve and the churches we partner with. After a moment of reflection, I responded, that success is when a child or youth had at least one loving, healthy adult who they can turn to in the good seasons and the bad. Somewhere they know they'd be welcome on Thanksgiving.

This year in our annual report, we are highlighting two families that represent hundreds of others who have committed to loving, even when it's difficult or unexpected. They're committed to being those safe harbors for youth who lack their own stability.

In a world that feels full of hate and division, these families are choosing to welcome the hurting and surround them with love. We at Help One Child are right there along with them! We hope you are encouraged by the impact HOC is making as we continue to press on making connections that change lives.

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Message from the Founders

Don't ever believe that "family" is not important. The identity and the inner strength of each one of us comes from our birth family and God Himself. Help One Child is determined to do all we can - with your support and the help of churches, to strengthen struggling families so that painful disruptions can be avoided. Through CarePortal: social workers, teachers, and members of the community are making known critical family needs making it possible for HOC to connect them with churches who are eager to provide. Some birth families have never experienced this kind of love.

The Covid 19 pandemic has created fears and difficulties for all families, but the patience of foster families has really been stretched thin. Many children have been unable to see their biological parents. They have lost old friends with no opportunity to make new ones. They were already behind at school and now they are further behind. Many parents have had to balance working at home with the added responsibility of monitoring the children's schooling. It's just too much!

But God is good! The staff at HOC, led by Valerie Crane, is young, speedy, technically savvy, and full of energy and optimism. They have found many new ways to reach the families of our community with support and parenting education, while expanding services to new counties around the Bay Area.

Your physical help, monetary help, and your prayers are keeping hope and love alive. We thank God for Your participation.

Anne & Mark

"For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory, He may grant you to be strengthened with might through His spirit in the inner man...."

Ephesians 3:14



Beating the ODDS

80% OF YOUTH WHO ENTERED FOSTER CARE AT AGE 12 OR OLDER LEAVE THE SYSTEM THROUGH EMANCIPATION

44% OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE WILL NOT GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

40% EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS UPON AGING OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

28% RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BY AGE 21



OUR MISSION

To strengthen foster, adoptive, and at-risk families, encouraging long-term placement, stability and health.

OUR APPROACH

We address the unique needs of foster children by providing practical and emotional support to the families in which they are placed. We accomplish our mission by partnering with local churches and community agencies to provide families access to education, community, and tangible resources.

We are committed to a holistic approach, serving the full breadth of child welfare from prevention through emancipation or post-adoption. **By offering support to the entire family, we strengthen and encourage long-term placement stability and health.**

STABILITY

"We have the capacity for neuroplasticity throughout our lives, and our environments shape the way that our brains respond to our experiences.

Safe, stable, and nurturing relationships are healing for kids, and for all of us."

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris
California Surgeon General



MAKING CONNECTIONS



From the beginning of our foster and adoption journey, I have always known I could reach out to Help One Child. They never judged us as parents, or our children for their behavior or choices. They were always supportive and encouraging. They gave us nights off from the chaos and allowed us to have a dinner with just the two of us. They provided trainings that gave us new strategies and perspectives. Sometimes I needed information, sometimes just an ear to listen. They always reached out a hand to ask how they could help. They lifted our family in prayer and loved on us. **It has been a rough road but HOC has stood beside our family, as we stood beside our children.**

This spring one of our daughters returned home and told us she was expecting. We welcomed her back home and are now anxiously awaiting our grandbaby. Our daughter is in school and working to make a future for herself and her daughter, and once again HOC reached out to ask how they can help.

We are immensely grateful that we have an amazing God that pursues us with love and undeserved forgiveness as an example of what family should be and partners to walk beside us on this journey with our kids from hard places.

Adoptive Mom D



Pilot Program Launched Summer of 2021
Eight teens joined our peer group led by Dr. Marlina Selva for the pilot run of this new support group!

Our support group program is celebrating 22 years!
Over 400 Adult Beneficiaries last year
Covid kept most of our groups from meeting in person through most of this past fiscal year, but families still came together virtually.

Pilot Program Launched February 2021
Over 30 foster families participated in our newly launched Roundtable Discussions! We covered hard topics like Reunification, Terminating Placements, and Supporting kids through biological family visits.

"I need their support...to know I am not alone. We all have similar concerns. I appreciate the camaraderie, the prayers, and our GREAT facilitator. Thank you to our volunteers who help us every month. This group is a lifeline for us and so many of us in the group."

-Parent Support Group Attendee



"As always, I learned so much! I'm so grateful for resources like this. How we go through hard things together is the work of a lifetime."

I'm really grateful for you, thank you for being willing to start and enter hard conversations."

-Foster Parent B

AUGUST 2020 CAMP IN A BOX 61 Kids Served

Covid made us pivot from hosting our traditional overnight summer camp to sending out 'camp-in-a-box' kits to all campers. Families received Counselor recorded greetings, Bible curriculum, games and crafts to get the camp experience at home.

"Thank you so much for the wonderful camp-in-a-box kit. I was very impressed by the quality of the lessons and especially enjoyed Valerie's videos. Great job and many thanks to all your staff. The format was easy to do with my daughter and we were both encouraged and uplifted by participating. One of the best blessings we've experienced through this crazy pandemic!"

-Camp-In-A-Box Recipient

370 Kids Served
208 Requests Met
35 Participating Churches

Children placed with a relative (or known individual i.e., godparent) have statistically lower rates of changes in placement than children in other settings. Often, these family members aren't prepared to take additional children into their care and can greatly benefit from the provision of physical items such as bunk beds, car seats, etc.

"I have been in this field twenty years and to see strangers come together to help children in need warms my heart more than you know. The grandmother appreciated it and does not feel so alone going through this experience."

*-Emergency Response Social Worker,
Department of Family & Children Services Contra Costa County*



CHANGING LIVES

We never really thought about foster care, but somehow we always had extra kids living with us. Kayla came to us when she was 17. She had been in a group home, and all she wanted was a 'real family'.

Years later, after a failed marriage and a custody loss, Kayla's life went down hill and she started using drugs again. Once a year or so, she would call and say she was finished with that life, but then she would never call again.

Finally, last August, she called and said she was pregnant and wanted to leave the life she was leading. Around the time her baby was coming, she called more often and more frantically. After the baby was born, she realized it was drugs or the baby and she chose her daughter.

After 6 months in a rehab facility in San Jose for mothers with their children, Kayla returned home to us with her daughter. I reached out to Help One Child immediately. They had supported us all those year before when Kayla was a teenager. They once again, were joining us in prayer and providing much needed encouragement. We were, and still are, unsure of how this will all turn out. Kayla has a long way to go and so do we. Having them with us has brought new life to old bones.

Through this journey we experienced love growing in our hearts that we would never have experienced in any other way. There were many ups, downs, conflicts, problems, pain and joy but also some hilarious stories to tell.

Former Foster Parent C

OUR IMPACT

3,413
CHILD
BENEFICIARIES

518
ADULT
BENEFICIARIES

746,730
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

3,720
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

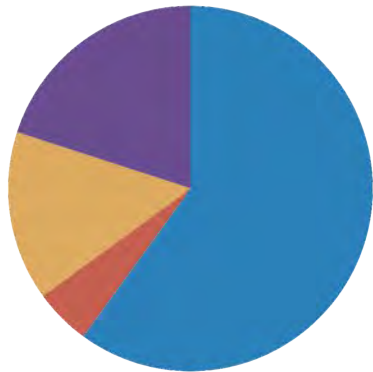


74
CHURCH
PARTNERS

EXPENSES FOR FY 2020-21

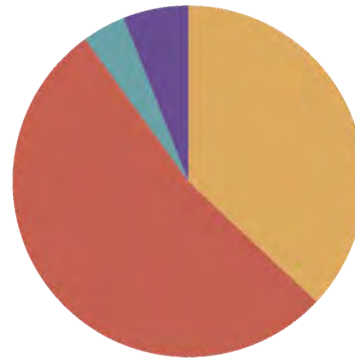
\$447,811

- 37% TRAINING & EDUCATION
- 53% PHYSICAL & RELATIONAL RESOURCES
- 4% FUNDRAISING
- 6% ADMINISTRATION



FUNDING SOURCES

- 60% INDIVIDUAL DONORS
- 5% CORPORATE GIFTS
- 15% CHURCHES
- 20% GRANTS



WHAT'S YOUR WHY?



In honor of Foster Care Awareness, this past May we asked 31 people to share why they're involved with Foster Care. The answers were inspiring. If you happened to miss this check out our social media pages to hear more. The collaboration of all these individuals was the perfect visual for everyone being able to DO SOMETHING to impact a child.

JOIN

Connect with staff in your area and learn more about how you and your community can serve vulnerable children and families.

GIVE

Become a financial partner and enable us to serve more families and children around the bay area.



HELP ONE CHILD

858 UNIVERSITY AVE. LOS ALTOS, CA 94024
WWW.HELPONECHILD.ORG