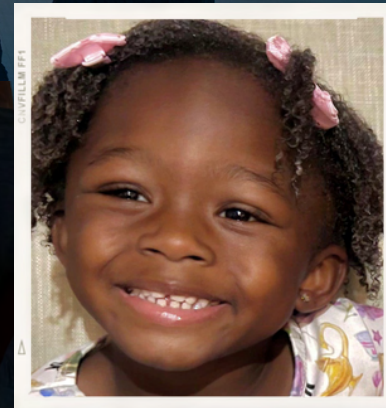
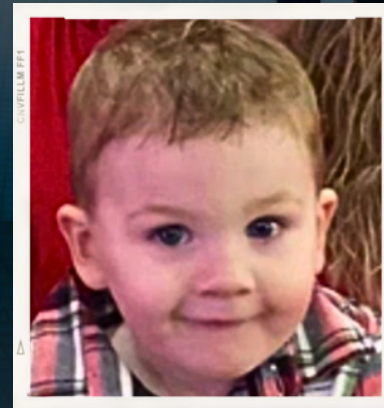
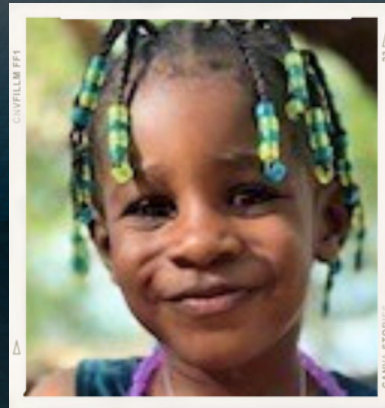


# A DOOR OF HOPE FOSTER CARE

A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD



ANNUAL REPORT  
ISSUED 2023



# A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD

## THE NEED

Currently, more than 9 children in crisis are removed from their homes everyday in the six counties we serve in Florida.

## THE PROBLEM

With not enough foster homes, many children end up bouncing from house to house, sleeping in offices, or in group homes.

## THE SOLUTION

The problem would be solved if one family from each church in our region opened their home to one foster child.





## OUR MISSION

To provide a Christian home for every child.

## OUR VISION

To provide hope for children in crisis.



## OUR CORE SERVICES

### RECRUIT

We constantly seek out and screen potential new Christian foster families.



### TRAIN

Starting with info sessions to parenting classes we prepare each family to foster.



### LICENSE

From home visits to extensive paperwork we license each foster home.



### SUPPORT

This is our heartbeat. We personally care for and pray with each family.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### GODLY DANIEL



A Door of Hope is a **Christ-Centered foster care agency** that recruits, trains, licenses and supports Christian families that are **called by God** to open their home and their hearts to serve foster children in the name of Jesus.

You see, the reason we need to license homes is because we have a crisis right in our own backyard. **Nine children every day are removed from their homes** because some type of abuse, neglect or abandonment has taken place in their lives.

**That's 3,285 children removed from their homes every year.** Can you imagine what that moment feels like for that child? When their whole world is turned upside down.

The only answer I have to fix this problem is the church. I believe God has chosen you, the church, to change that child's life. We are believing that Christ in His church is the

power that will break down every wall, light up every dark place, and bring HOPE to those that are without hope. There is no broken system or even the very gates of hell that will be able to stop what God is going to do through you, His church.

I hope you understand what I am saying, **we want to place all these kids entering the foster care system into a Christian home.**

We are preparing and planning, building infrastructure, training staff to sustain such growth. Most importantly putting in the supports our families need to say yes when they first get licensed, and to **keep saying yes** loving kids as God heals their hearts.

Will you join us and say yes? Will you allow God to use you and your family to help one child in the system? **Will you be the hands and feet of Jesus to them today?**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHUCK AMMONS  
*Teaching Pastor  
Overflow Church*

RON COONEY  
*Executive Pastor  
Calvary Church*

GODLY DANIEL  
*Executive Director  
A Door of Hope*

TESSA DAULT  
*Foster Parent*

JASON M. ELLISON  
*Chairman, A Door of Hope  
Partner, Ellison | Lazenby*

MARISA JOHNS  
*Stay at Home Mom*

MICHAEL ROBIN  
*Healthcare IT Leaders*

KATE SAWA  
*President  
St. Joseph's Hospitals Foundation*

# OVERALL IMPACT

## SUMMARY OF MINISTRY IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION IN 2011

<b>TOTAL ADOPTIONS</b>				<b>248</b>
<b>TOTAL REUNIFICATIONS</b>				<b>316</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED FOSTER HOMES</b>				<b>469</b>
	189 C6 (Pasco/Pinellas)	10 C12 (DeSoto/Manatee/Sarasota)	271 C13 (Hillsborough)	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN ADOH HOMES</b>				<b>2,361</b>
	895 C6 (Pasco/Pinellas)	24 C12 (DeSoto/Manatee/Sarasota)	1,442 C13 (Hillsborough)	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN EXITING HOMES</b>				<b>2,120</b>

	Total	C-6	C-12	C-13
Adoptions	248	108	4	136
Reunifications	316	120	3	193
Relative/Non-Relative Placements	289	97	0	192
Disruptions	141	45	3	93
Temporary/Emergency Placements	899	330	0	569
Other	227	121	0	106
<b>TOTAL EXITS BY CIRCUIT</b>		<b>821</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,289</b>

## OUR BIG HOLY AUDACIOUS GOAL

FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

**# OF LICENSED HOMES 1,000 + 531 FOSTER HOMES**  
**# OF CHILDREN PLACED 7,000 + 4,639 FOSTER KIDS**



“  
Religion that God our Father  
accepts as pure and faultless is  
this: to look after orphans and  
widows in their distress...

James 1:27

”

# WHERE WE WORK

CURRENTLY AND HOPEFULLY - ALWAYS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AREA CHURCHES

## START

In 2011 we started in the tri-county Tampa Bay area in partnership with local churches.

## NOW

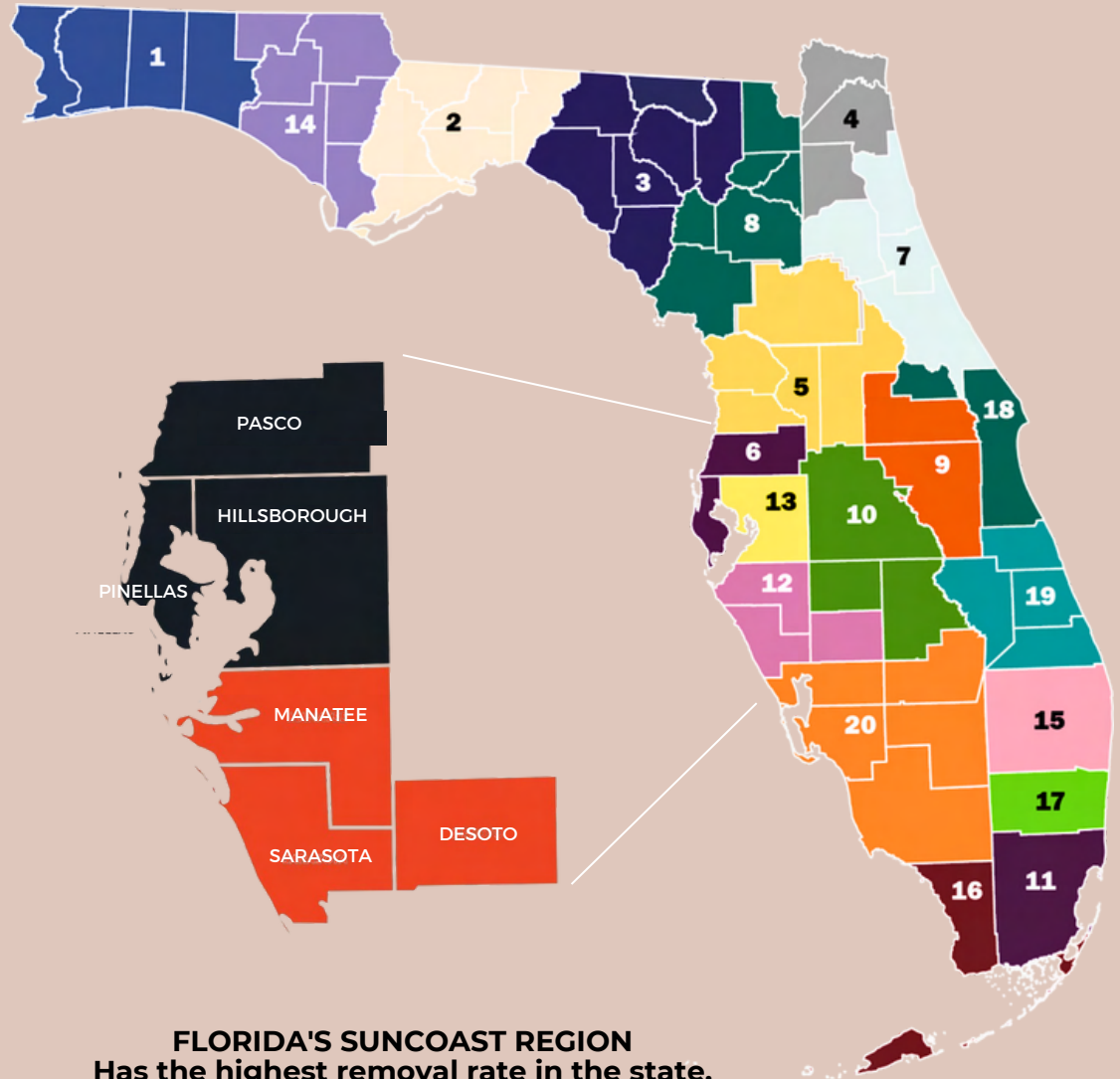
We currently serve the six counties around Tampa Bay. Most recently expanding south.

## FUTURE

Our hope is to expand northward. Several churches are praying and offering help for us to license homes in this area.

## HOW WE WORK

We partner with local churches to host info sessions and to bring awareness of the foster care crisis in their community.





# THE BEST

## Lamberts Hear of the Need at Church

"We went to Overflow Church in May of 2019 and the lead pastor (and ADOH board member Chuck Ammons) started sharing his testimony because he and his wife are foster parents," proclaims Courtney. After hearing Chuck and Jillian's experience she remarked, "Honestly we were not aware of the need in Hillsborough County."

"Being a couple in love and on fire for the Lord we lived in a townhouse with three bedrooms and two of them were empty," recalls Courtney, "We didn't see any other reason to not foster at that point. So we started foster classes in August of 2019. We were licensed in December 2019. Our first son walked in a few days after that."

## Overwhelmed by Love

Josh has fond memories of when they saw their foster son for the first time, "Our oldest who we adopted just last year. I vividly remember this because he gave Courtney the biggest hug. At that time we didn't know how you can fill your heart with so much love in one shot. I mean they don't prepare us for that."

"That's one thing you never get prepared for, especially in foster care," Josh proclaims,

*"is how much you will fall in love the second you see these kids."*

"They've gone through so much. I think every single time we've had a kid it's that first embrace. You just know that they're safe. They feel safe. I can't think of a better feeling of a complete stranger coming into our home and feeling safe and loved."





# YES EVER

## Licensing Costs are All Covered

Josh remembers, “We did all the prep work like everyone always does. You go through the process. You get your home study. You do all the things.”

Then Courtney adds, “We didn’t have to pay for a single thing to become foster parents. It was because of donors that they covered our license, our classes, and anything like that. We bought a fire extinguisher and a lock box for our cleaning supplies. So the expense to become a foster parent is minimal and that’s thankfully due to the donors.

## Hard-Pressed but Not Broken

“I saw a stat that there are almost three thousand kids in foster care in Hillsborough County right now,” recounts Josh. “Multiple kids coming into care every single day. Everyone can be an agent of change and support. That’s really all it is. It’s a tough decision but if you say ‘yes’ in your heart you’re going to go through tough times but the support is always there.”

“It is a leap of faith,” Josh continues. “But it’s the best leap that we’ve ever taken. We wouldn’t have our two boys if we didn’t say yes. We wouldn’t have the five we have now if we didn’t say yes. We wouldn’t have the friends and the support and community we have now if we didn’t say yes.”

*“It was the best yes we ever had  
and we’ll continue to say yes  
until we make a dent.”*

“It’s going to be hard to make a dent with so many kids coming into care in Hillsborough County but we’re here for it. We’re not going to shy down from that fight We’ll keep saying yes until the Lord tells us ‘You’ve done enough.’”



# GOD IS THEIR ROCK

## The Browns Called to Foster Before Marriage

On their very first date, Todd said to Kelly, “If you’re not okay with fostering and adoption then it’s not going to work.” Then he laid out the roadmap for what he knew he wanted. Six months later Todd says, “I asked her to marry me. A year later we were married.”

Todd remembers at four years old being taken from his mom and dad and placed into foster care. His early years were very rough. At six Todd was saved, recalling, “When I heard Christ loved me for me I ran to him.”

“I know what I want in a father because I never had it, ever.” Todd declares. “When I was eleven I thought, ‘I want to be a foster dad ‘cause I don’t want what is happening to me to happen to another child.’ It was the worst period of my life but it pushed me to my mission.”

Kelly and Todd have now been together for twenty years. They have nine children at the moment. Five forever, two bios, three adopted, and four foster. They’ve had more than fifteen foster children in their home since they started fostering in early 2019.



## Breaking the Generational Cycle of Foster Care

“My mother came from foster care,” states Todd. “Her mother came from foster care, her father came from foster care, and so on. I’m going to be the one who breaks the generational cycle.”

“The only reason why is because of God. Because he is the center of where I am. As long as we continue to think that we are the ones who are going to fix it it’s not going to happen. God has got to be the center of it. That’s why A Door of Hope is so important. It is so grounded in Christianity. God is their rock. If you’re looking to support something this is where you need to be,” exclaims Todd.

*“That’s why A Door of Hope is so important. It is so grounded in Christianity. God is their rock.”*

Todd Brown

## Kelly Tells How She’s A Door of Hope

“It’s important to love these kids,” confesses Kelly. “Because you can see the brokenness and the need. Sometimes it takes months for them to realize they can actually trust you and that you do love them. The more that you show them love and you’re consistent you can see the changes in them when they realize they’re loved.”

*“You’re essentially a door of hope... opening your door to heal children... so they can have hope.”*

Kelly Brown

Kelly confesses, “I think hope shows children that they are worth being loved. Some of them don’t see their worth until you give them hope. So you’re essentially a door of hope. You’re opening your door to heal children. It’s really important to have that hope for them so that they can have hope too.”

# NOW I HAVE A MOM AND A BED

## A Calling from God

Cynthia Farrell has an indelible memory of meeting a foster boy more than ten years ago at Calvary Chapel in St. Petersburg, “We talked about different places he had lived and he mentioned he had lived in Texas. so I said, ‘You lived in Texas!’ He replied, ‘Yeah, but I live here and **now I have a mom and a bed.**’ It just struck me that what was really meaningful to him, in his six years of life, he finally had a mom and a bed.”

A few years later Godly Daniel asked Cynthia to serve on the board of directors of A Door of Hope. She admits, “I just developed a real heart for children in foster care.” In fact, she distinctly remembers hearing at a board meeting that the staff would get calls daily asking, “Do you have any beds? **Do you have any beds?** I’d never heard that expression before. And they would say, **‘No, we don’t have any beds.’**”

Through that experience, as Cynthia entered retirement, “God laid it on my heart to become a foster parent,” she recalls. “I lost my husband and I was living alone. One day I was walking down the hallway and I looked in the guest room. I don’t have a lot of guests.” Then she sensed God saying to her, **“What are you doing? You have a bed.** You know the need and you need to be a foster parent.”

***“As the famous Billy Babbino says, ‘If you think it’s a good thing to do to be a foster parent don’t do it. But if you believe God is calling you to be a foster parent that’s what you need to do.’”***

“The day before I received my first foster child,” recalls Cynthia, “A Door of Hope was told it was a conflict of interest for me to serve on the board and be a foster parent. I said to the staff, ‘What does Godly say?’ They said, ‘We’ve already talked with Godly and he said go ahead and resign from the board and become a foster parent.’”

## We Have a Bed

“This little boy I got was taken from his home very suddenly and **he needed a bed that night. And the A Door of Hope family was able to say, ‘We have a bed!’** I don’t know what’s important to people. Everybody has a life. Everybody has resources, a certain amount of time. But I wonder what’s more important when there is a child who needs a bed? And they have to go back and say, ‘We don’t have beds.’”



## Wasn’t Prepared for the Blessing

“The eye-opening thing in having this little boy in my home and in my life is **I never knew what God needed to do in me,**” Cynthia admits. “You can become a little self-absorbed when you’re living alone.” Yet she realized while fostering, “He woke up happy every day. He went to bed happy every night. I just wasn’t prepared for how good that connection was for me every day. He said to me one day, ‘I could just hug you all day.’ He’d say from across the house, **‘Cynthia, I love you. Let me just give you a hug.’** You are thinking more about what you are going to offer to a foster child and you have no idea what they are going to do, what God’s going to do to you through them.”

“I can’t say enough about A Door of Hope and the way they support you,” Cynthia states after becoming a foster mom. “When people say the system is broken. It’s really broken. But you can always depend on A Door of Hope. They are always there. They never drop the ball. They really do offer support. They don’t just get you licensed and say, ‘Go with God.’ They are there for you.”



# ORDAINED

## The Gibney's Heart for the Need

From Matt's perspective, "Foster care and adoption is something that has always been on our hearts. Even before we got married. It's always something we've talked about. The crisis in Pinellas County area is always on full display for us."

Laney adds, "It came to a point in our marriage that we realized this call was not going to go away. This feeling knowing we had to get involved. So God was really persistent on our hearts that we needed to get licensed we needed to become a foster family and do something about the need that we had already seen and been aware of."

"We realized we were living in a three bedroom house with just one bedroom being taken. At that point it became real to us." Matt saw they had to answer the question, "What can we do with what we've been given?"

*"We realized this call was not going to go away...we needed to become a foster family and do something about the need."*

## God's Hand in Meeting the Need

Laney was so amazed, "We were not even licensed yet and the licensing specialist with A Door of Hope that was working with us came to our house for our final visit. She said, 'I know you're not licensed yet, but we actually have two girls that need placement very soon.' I thought we're not even licensed yet and they're already asking and preparing us."



# BY GOD TO LOVE

## There's No Way We Could Say No

"I remember being a little taken back," says Matt. "Because when you go through the foster care licensing process you can specify what you're looking for. We were open to having one, but we got a chance to FaceTime with them before they moved into our house. I remember it was so reaffirming when we hung up that these two girls are beautiful, they're wonderful and amazing. There's no way that we could say no."

Laney confirms, "We knew in that moment as soon as we met them our lives had forever changed. We were pretty set on working towards reunification with their biological parents from the beginning. That is typically the goal of fostering is to redeem these families and reunite them."

## A Mutual Desire to Stay Together

After living with the Gibneys for a while Aylah recalls,

*"Every night I was praying, 'Please I don't want to move anymore. I want to stay here.'"*

Ammara echoed, "I remember trying not to think about that. I was just nervous to move again. Like where would I end up?"

At the same time, Laney recalls that she and Matt, "Came to a place where we realized that God was not moving these children anywhere. That they were ours and they were our family and we'd become a family. And we asked ourselves at one point. "Who is going to raise my children better than me?" And so Laney said, 'I could not possibly allow anybody else to have these children.'"

"I think there was a point where we looked at each other one night," Matt remembers.

*"If it comes to it they are not going anywhere else. These are our kids. This is our family."*



## Forever Changed by Love and Hope

Ammara recounts a lifechanging moment, "We came home from our aunt's house and they said, 'Oh we have a surprise for you.'" After opening a present for each, Laney said, "Did you see the card?" Ammara opened it and it said, "Will you be our forever, foster crossed out, daughters?" Both girls started crying because they knew they were going to be there forever.

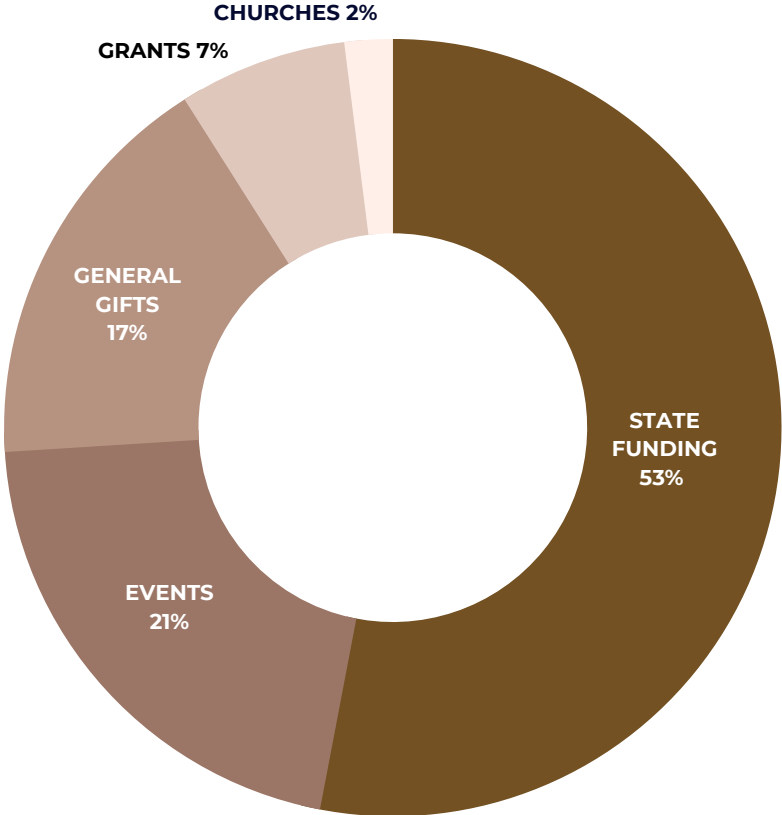
"I remember I was at camp," Ammara retells. "I wanted to give my life to Jesus so me and my best friend we both did it on the same day." After that Aylah decided at church one day to follow Christ. Both were baptized at one of Calvary Church's beach baptisms with a lot of their family members and Ammara's best friend.

Laney rejoices, "Our adoption day when a judge solidified on paper what we had known for so long in our hearts to be true. We are family. And we are ordained by God from the beginning of time to be together and to raise these girls. To be family with them. It was a really cool moment when you see a human system affirm and agree with what you know God has been willing and planning for so long."

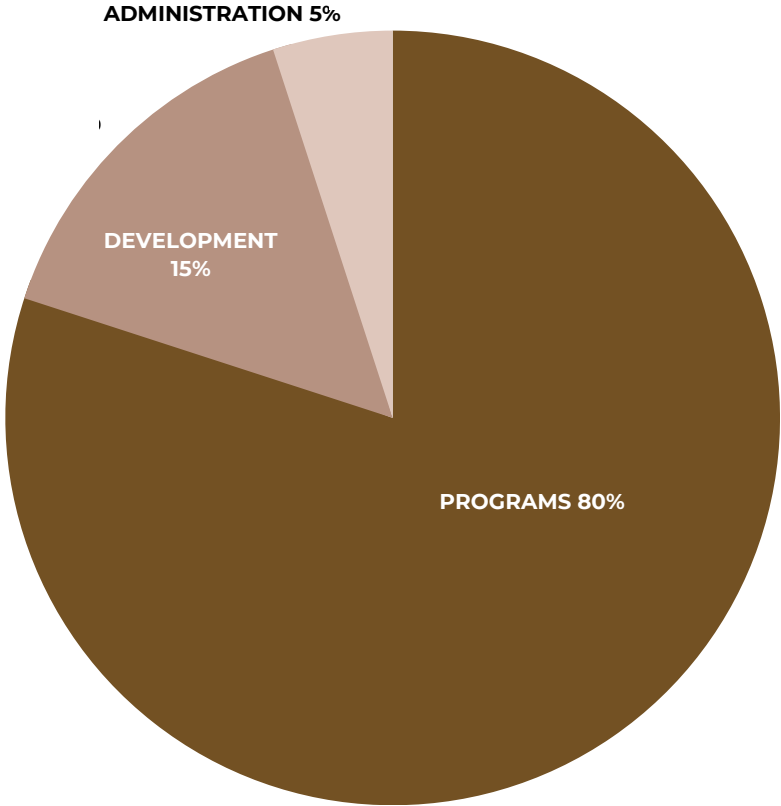
# OUR FINANCIALS

2022 - 2023 AT A GLANCE

## FUNDING SOURCES



## OPERATING EXPENSES



53%

## TOTAL REVENUE

**\$2,530,688**

+\$685,164 (37%)

*Our mission is accomplished by our dedicated staff who help kids in crisis.*

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

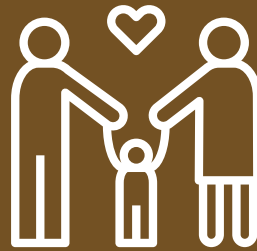
Join us in providing hope for kids in crisis

## GIVE



- Become a Monthly Protector
- Attend or sponsor an event
- Become an advocate
- Volunteer

## FOSTER



- Become a foster parent
- "Adopt" a foster family
- Recommend A Door of Hope

## PARTNER



Become a...

- Church partner
- Business partner
- Prayer partner

## GET IN TOUCH

### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

8900 U.S. Highway 19 N  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 3164  
Pinellas Park, FL 33780

CALL: (727) 322-7640

VISIT: [ADoorOfHope.com](http://ADoorOfHope.com)

TEXT: [ADoorOfHope](tel:ADoorOfHope) to 55498



[ADoorOfHope](https://www.facebook.com/ADoorOfHope)

Candid.  
GuideStar



MEMBER OF  
**CAFO**  
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS

Thank you for being a part of providing hope for kids in crisis.



**A DOOR OF HOPE** BIBLICAL  
FOSTER CARE

"And I will make the Valley of Trouble a door of hope." Hosea 2:15