

2023



# ANNUAL REPORT





# A WORD FROM HERBIE NEWELL

President & Executive Director



In 2023, the Lord's unwavering faithfulness overflowed in abundance through Lifeline's ministry, allowing us to extend unprecedented support to vulnerable women, children, and families. We joyfully acknowledge the lives forever changed by the transformative power of the gospel, and with expectant hearts, we embark on 2024, trusting in the Lord's promise for even greater things.

As a ministry, we remain anchored in His word and dedicated to fervent prayer, committing to seek God's will and glorify Him through both our words and actions. The ripple effect of hope continues to touch entire families, churches, and communities.

Throughout the past year, Lifeline expanded its reach, aiding more mothers facing unexpected pregnancies through the growth of our National Pregnancy Counseling Program and the official launch of our Worthy Mentorship Curriculum. Our resolve to adapt to the evolving needs of vulnerable women remains resolute.

In 2023, we proudly introduced International Adoption Programs in the Philippines and North Macedonia. Looking ahead to 2024, we are poised to extend our impact to even more countries, broadening our commitment to both International Adoption and Global Orphan Care initiatives.

Our work is far from over, and we humbly request your partnership through prayer and giving. With anticipation and gratitude, we look forward to witnessing the Lord's abundant blessings as we strive to do even more through our ministry in 2024.

## 2023 IMPACT



### ADOPTION

- **International:** 131 children home
- **Domestic:** 85 children home



### PREGNANCY MINISTRY

- 688 women inquired about our services
- Served expectant moms in more than 30 states
- Partnered with over 150 pregnancy centers to provide life-affirming options to women



### FAMILY RESTORATION

- **Foster Care:** 201 foster and adoptive families trained through continuing education
- 56 new foster parents trained and licensed
- **Harbor Families:** 12 new host families trained
- 53 children hosted through Harbor Families
- **Family Restoration:** 461 Families Count graduates



### GLOBAL ORPHAN CARE

- 17,637 children impacted though Global Orphan Care
- 30 countries represented in the Global Orphan Care network
- 102 ministries in the Global Orphan Care network

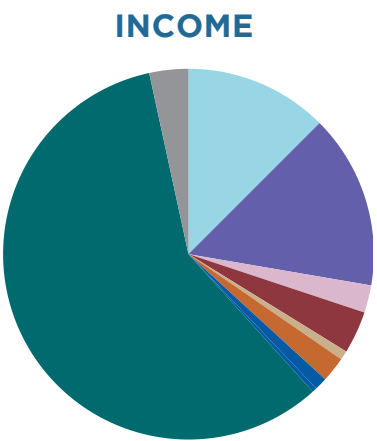


### EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

- 2,993 counseling sessions provided
- 705 parent coaching sessions with 108 families
- 167 families attended Rooted in Love
- 80 Bridge screenings
- 1,198 hours of tutoring sessions
- 90 campers attended Camp Empower
- 37 trauma informed, cognitive focused trainings and conferences

## INCOME

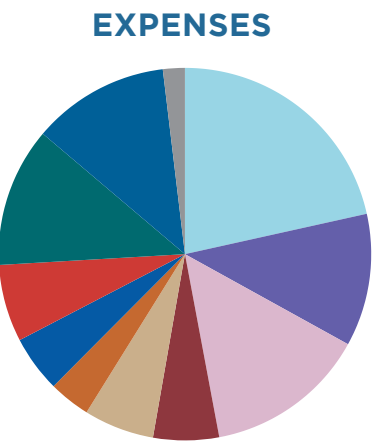
## EXPENSES



	2023 Income	
International Adoption	\$2,161,683	12.5%
Domestic Adoption	\$2,633,856	15.2%
Pregnancy Counseling	\$406,324	2.4%
Global Orphan Care	\$636,186	3.7%
Foster Care	\$138,333	0.8%
Counseling	\$376,485	2.2%
Education	\$191,978	1.1%
Church Based Programs	\$76,325	0.4%
Development	\$10,079,659	58.3%
Miscellaneous	\$586,574	3.4%

	2023 Expenses	
International Adoption	\$3,668,467	21.5%
Domestic Adoption	\$1,970,947	11.5%
Pregnancy Counseling	\$2,397,434	14.0%
Global Orphan Care	\$974,605	5.7%
Foster Care	\$1,047,657	6.1%
Counseling	\$618,117	3.6%
Education	\$829,184	4.9%
Church Based Programs	\$1,139,853	6.7%
Development	\$2,062,611	12.1%
Administrative	\$2,033,870	11.9%
Miscellaneous	\$326,490	1.9%

Total	\$17,069,234	
Fund Balance	\$218,168	



	2024 Budget	
International Adoption	\$2,881,938	14.5%
Domestic Adoption	\$2,868,645	14.5%
Pregnancy Counseling	\$156,000	0.8%
Global Orphan Care	\$800,883	4.0%
Foster Care	\$233,600	1.2%
Counseling	\$881,820	4.4%
Education	\$213,737	1.1%
Church Based Programs	\$397,365	2.0%
Development	\$11,138,900	56.2%
Miscellaneous	\$246,448	1.2%

	2024 Budget	
International Adoption	\$3,578,916	18.5%
Domestic Adoption	\$2,377,247	12.3%
Pregnancy Counseling	\$2,265,718	11.7%
Global Orphan Care	\$1,262,634	6.5%
Foster Care	\$1,236,425	6.4%
Counseling	\$1,287,256	6.7%
Education	\$1,123,387	5.8%
Church Based Programs	\$1,496,565	7.7%
Development	\$2,200,225	11.4%
Administrative	\$2,131,012	11.0%
Miscellaneous	\$388,305	2.0%

Total	\$19,347,692	
Fund Balance	\$471,644	

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### ADOPTION

Increase advocacy with missional Christian families to adopt children most in need of international and domestic adoption: children with special needs, children with complex social histories, older children, and large sibling groups.

### GLOBAL ORPHAN CARE

Engage with more global churches caring for orphans in their own communities, helping them to partner with U.S. churches, and supporting them with training and strategic resources.

### EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

Provide additional opportunities for children and families to receive services through an expanded catalog of public resources made available through Lifeline's online education portal (LEP) and through short-term therapeutic camps offered at various locations around the country.

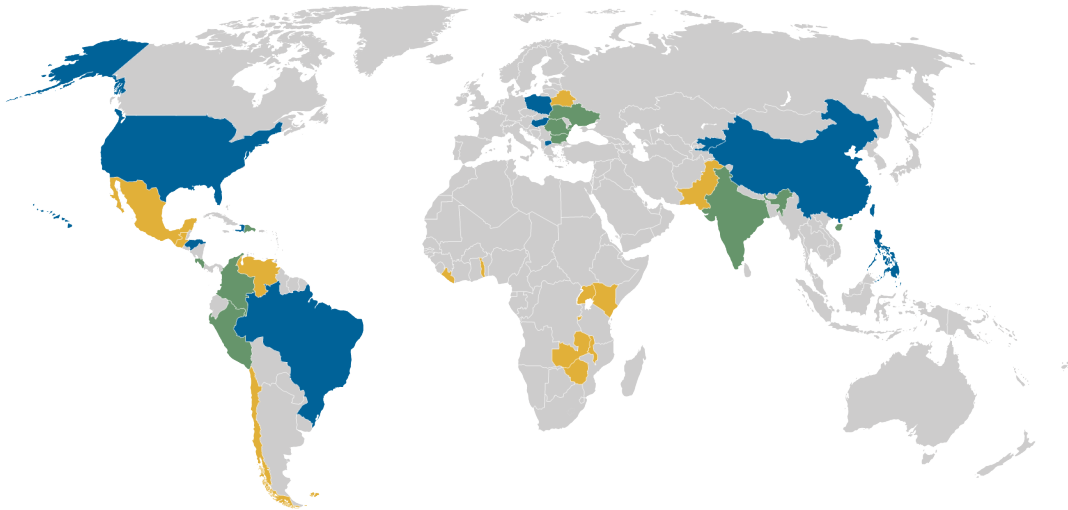
### PREGNANCY COUNSELING

Grow pregnancy counseling ministry through hospital systems and national pregnancy counseling networks.

## MEDIA COVERAGE



# WHERE WE SERVE



## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

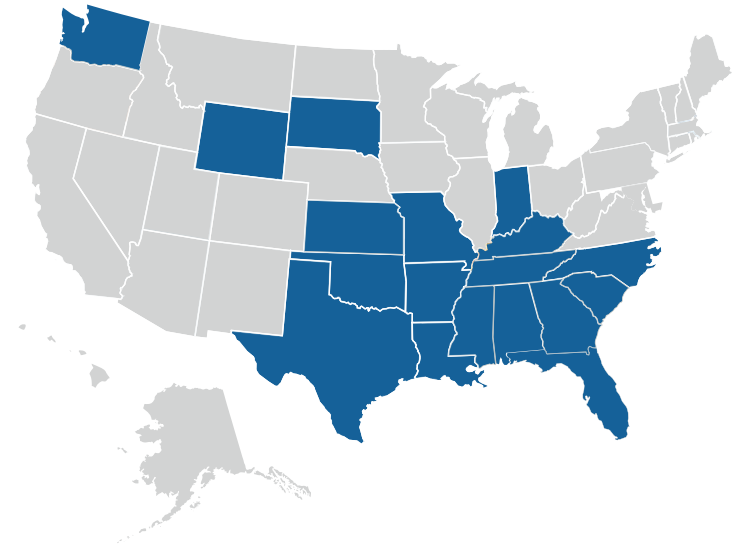
Brazil	Honduras	Kyrgyzstan	Poland
China	Hong Kong	North Macedonia	Taiwan
Haiti	Hungary	Philippines	

## GLOBAL ORPHAN CARE

Belarus	Guatemala	Malawi	Togo	Zambia
Burundi	Kenya	Mexico	Uganda	Zimbabwe
Chile	Liberia	Pakistan	Venezuela	

## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION & GLOBAL ORPHAN CARE

Bulgaria	Costa Rica	India	Romania
Colombia	Dominican Republic	Peru	Ukraine



## LICENSED STATES

Alabama	Missouri
Arkansas	North Carolina
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	South Carolina
Indiana	South Dakota
Kansas	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Washington
Mississippi	Wyoming





# ARKANSAS 2023

## 2024 STATE GOALS

### *ADOPTION*

- Assist 4 Christian families in beginning their domestic adoption journey.
- Assist 6 Christian families in pursuing international adoption.
- Facilitate 4 adoption placements.

### *PREGNANCY MINISTRY*

- Counsel and serve 20 women in unexpected pregnancies.
- Conduct trainings at 10 Pregnancy Resource Centers.
- Conduct trainings at 5 medical facilities.

### *FAMILY RESTORATION*

- Train and equip 3 new churches in our Families Count ministry.

### *CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS*

- Engage 10 new churches in partnerships.
- Be present in 3 churches for Orphan Sunday or Sanctity of Human Life Sunday celebrations.







“Adoption is not the call to have the perfect, rosy family. It is the call to give love, mercy, and patience.”

- Amber Nichols, Oklahoma Advisory Board Member

*PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR MINISTRY:*

## LORA MALONE

Lora Malone grew up in Oklahoma City and joined Lifeline in August of 2023. She is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma and Central State University with a Master of Education and a baccalaureate in Oral Communications. She has over 30 years of nonprofit experience in the state of Oklahoma. Her current role at Lifeline is to serve as the State Director of Oklahoma and Arkansas & Regional Development Officer. Lora, along with her husband Gallen, daughter Reagan, and French Bulldog Dani, live in Edmond, Oklahoma.



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# FLORIDA 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

11

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

42

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

69

FAMILIES  
COMPLETED  
FAMILIES COUNT  
PROGRAM

99

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- Serve 60 women facing unexpected pregnancy
- Serve 10 families in the adoption process
- Partner with 10 new churches across the state
- Raise \$266,260 to support state ministry efforts





## GREEN FAMILY, Florida Alumni



“ We are the Green Family (left to right: Rachel, Jameson, Ellis, and Chad). We were introduced to Lifeline Children’s Services through our son’s birthmother. Our daughter’s adoption story is unique, and the Lifeline team stepped in to help us navigate through it. We found out about our daughter in October 2022, and we were told her due date would be in February 2023. We would need to start the adoption process from the very beginning with a very quick turnaround time, four months to be exact, which even in the adoption world is fast. From required paperwork to our home study, we are so thankful for our Lifeline team for helping us through the process in lightning speed to get everything done on time. We were down to the wire with our daughter’s birth coming quickly to get our home study finalized and the Lifeline team worked through the holidays to make it happen. Our daughter was born mid-February 2023 (our sweet little Valentine), and we were able to take her home from the hospital without any delay. We could not have made it through without our Lifeline team. We were blessed to have them working to make our family complete. We finalized our daughter’s adoption in the summer 2023. God has blessed us more than we deserved and answered our son’s prayer of wanting a baby sister.”

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR MINISTRY:**

### JAMIE O’DELL

Jamie joined Lifeline in September 2023 as an Advancement Officer. He is originally from Excelsior Springs, MO and has spent the last 20 years serving in local churches in Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, and Alabama. He earned a BA in History from William Jewell College and a MACE from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to Nikki (LCSW), and they have two amazing children, Lainey and Cooper.



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# GEORGIA 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

58

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

70

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

35

FAMILIES  
COMPLETED  
FAMILIES COUNT  
PROGRAM

199

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- \$458,520 Funding for GA
- Serve 80 expectant mothers
- Launch Heritage Builders at 5 churches
- Expand Families Count in metro Atlanta and other strategic areas throughout GA
- Expand counseling services to other areas throughout our state





## CRENSHAW FAMILY, Georgia Alumni



“ In July of 2023 we had the wonderful privilege of adopting 10-month-old Josiah into our family from Hungary. Looking back post-adoption it is amazing to see how God has worked behind the scenes to bring us all together. Years ago, God brought us into a church community that was full of adoptive families and used those relationships to open our hearts to international adoption. Our adoption journey started in the Hong Kong program in 2021, but after some surprising twists and turns God led us to Josiah and Hungary. When we saw Josiah’s pictures and read his file for the first time in January of 2023, we knew that God had prepared our family in just the right way for him. Then, in just a few short months, we were in Hungary and holding him for the first time! We are still blown away at how quickly the Lord brought us together despite needing to change programs, and all of the details involved. Josiah is the happiest, sweetest baby and so very easy to love. His three older siblings all absolutely adore him, and love helping take care of their baby brother. We cannot express how blessed we are to be Josiah’s forever family. He has taken the laughter and love we were so excited to share with him and has exponentially increased it.”

## HEIDI HUNTER

Heidi Hunter joined Lifeline in April 2021. Heidi is a master level graduate from Liberty University in Administration. Her family lives in Cumming, Georgia where she serves as the Georgia State Director. Heidi and her husband, Scott, recently celebrated their 25th anniversary! They have four children between 17 and 24; Katelyn, Lauren, Ethan, and Caleb. The Hunter family has called Georgia home for 20 years throughout their marriage. Heidi is passionate about loving children and making a positive impact on their lives. This is her fourth nonprofit serving in a leadership role that involves helping children. She has served in children’s ministries as an elementary teacher, principal, VBS volunteer, special needs, and Sunday school teacher for over 15 years. Heidi’s three simple joys are watching her boys play ball games, hiking, and growing plants and flowers. Heidi’s sweet sister, Holly, was born with Down Syndrome and had many health issues. Holly made a lasting impression on everyone she met and taught Heidi and her family to be compassionate and find great joy in serving others.



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# KANSAS 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

25

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

115

EXPECTANT  
WOMEN  
SERVED

20

CHILDREN  
HOME

74

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- Launch families church in 4 churches
- Equip 3 churches in foster/adoption wrap-around care
- Establish quarterly, church leader gatherings for encouragement and equipping
- \$631,524 Fundraising goal





## ANDERSON FAMILY, Kansas Alumni

“ On July 20, 2023 our family received the best call of our lives. After 3.5 years of waiting to bring home our daughter from China, we were finally given the green light to pack our bags and go get her. Waiting patiently, across the world from each other, we were completely invested into this child's life: sending gifts, virtual calls with her, writing letters, calling her our daughter, hanging photo updates around our home. Our lives became 100% complete when we were given the gift of completing this adoption; now we can watch the excitement in her eyes as she opens her birthday gifts. We can hold each other tightly while we talk about her school day, new friends, and fun adventures. We cried tears of joy when we heard her say “my family” as she watched us hang our first real family photo (with her included now) above the fireplace mantle. We are forever changed. We are forever blessed. We are forever grateful!

Now that our daughter is home, we are just soaking in all she has taken on, accomplished, how much she has grown and how much she has attached to our family. We have been able to meet massive medical needs and she has already put on seven pounds! Within weeks she was swimming in a pool. Last month, she started riding a bike on her own (without training wheels). She still dislikes the smell of BBQ, yet she can't seem to eat enough of it. Almost 12 weeks ago, she started the 3rd grade and is now reading in English! She continues to call her Mei Mei/Sister her best friend, and watching these girls go through life together is amazing. They play games together, push each other in sports, share stories at night when we put them to bed (and they are supposed to be going to sleep). Their bond is unlike anything I have ever seen. What a beautiful bond. She has only been in our care now for over five months and has grown so much, in so many ways. We can't wait to see what the next five months, year, forever holds!

We are so thankful for Lifeline Children's Services and the resources they provide to educate and support pre- and post - adoption. Adoption isn't always easy. Navigating all that comes with adopting a child requires a village of people to help, support, love, and care for your family. We recently started Parent Coaching classes through Lifeline, which has been life changing. We are so thankful to use this resource to be able to talk through our daughter's struggles and learn how to better meet her needs. We are finding ways to utilize her strengths to overcome some of her obstacles. Lifeline is family to us, and on this journey EVERY step of the way.

Having the opportunity to parent this beautiful child and bring her home after such a long wait has forever changed and blessed our lives. Our family has committed every single night to praying for the remaining families waiting to bring home their babies. We pray for these orphans who so desperately need proper medical care, love, and a caring family. We pray for all the agencies continuing to navigate unknown waters and struggling families. We pray for government officials and all the advocacy efforts taking place. All it takes is for one voice to be heard. We continue to pray God will part seas, move mountains, and bring more children HOME.”



### NATE BRUNS

Nate Bruns serves as the Kansas and Missouri State Director of Lifeline Children's Services. Nate desires to grow Lifeline's partnership with the local church to serve families with the love of Christ, so that they can experience gospel transformation. Nate and his wife have served as foster parents in the past and have added to their family through adoption, and they are parents to seven children.



**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE  
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# MISSISSIPPI 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

35

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

46

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

7

CHILDREN  
HOME

149

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- 6 new placements
- 10 Applications
- 5 New Churches serving through Families Count
- Recruit Churches Statewide to participate in our CarePortal partnership with the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services





## SCOTT FAMILY, Mississippi Alumni

“After having two biological children, we decided to grow our family through adoption. We started exploring adoption options in 2018 while we were stationed in Delaware. As a military family that moves every few years, we knew we needed to start the adoption process as soon as we relocated since the process can take a few years. While we began the planning in our hearts, God was slowing our steps. Adoption did not happen while we were stationed in Delaware. The military moved us to Mississippi in 2021 and immediately we began connecting with adoption agencies. God led us to Lifeline through a “mistake” and we sensed that God’s hand was orchestrating things we could not see.

The administrative process was more challenging than we anticipated, and it required patience, organization, and diligence. At different points in our journey, we wanted to walk away from it all. The setbacks, however, created an opening for us to go on nightly walks and pray about whatever God wanted for our future. During the waiting time, Julie had the opportunity to share her testimony as an adult adoptee at Lifeline’s Rooted in Love Conferences. These sessions helped our family find purpose and meaning in the waiting period. It was a wonderful outlet for the love God was growing in our hearts.

In the Summer of 2023, we still had not been matched for adoption and we began the initial steps for preparing to move in Summer 2024. We are grateful to our church family who prayed for us during this long season of unknowns and what ifs. It is hard to put into words the reality of what it means to fully surrender and live with no clear direction. We had to consider the possibility of an adoption not happening while stationed in Mississippi. Then at the end of August 2023, our family was matched for adoption. Baby Eden was born in September 2023 and connected her two families to one another forever. We know God has a plan for Eden’s big family and we are overjoyed to be part of it. We are reminded that God is able to, and does, provide abundantly more than we ask or imagine. He leads, we follow.”



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### JOHN NOBLIN

John joined Lifeline in June 2019. He has lived in Jackson, Mississippi, all his life, except for seven years in Oxford for undergrad and law school. John serves as the Mississippi State Director. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Juris Doctorate, both from Ole Miss. John is married to Jill, who is originally from Nashville, and they have two daughters – Keavy and Clayton. He loves anything to do with bicycles – racing, riding, and working on them, along with trail running and driving his 1965 Austin Healey (his first car he has had for 40 years.) John’s three simple joys are faith, family, and friends. Everything else in life just decorates those three. “My favorite thing about working at Lifeline is being part of an organization that is gospel-focused.

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# MISSOURI 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

01

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

01

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

34

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- Launch Families Count in 4 churches
- Equip 3 churches in Foster/Adoption Wrap-around care
- Establish quarterly, church leader gatherings for encouragement and equipping
- \$51,620 Fundraising Goal





## ANDERSON FAMILY, Missouri Alumni

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A photograph of three young children, two girls and one boy, hugging each other outdoors. The girl on the left has curly hair and is wearing a light blue dress. The boy in the middle is wearing a white shirt and dark pants. The girl on the right has straight hair and is wearing a blue and white striped dress. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

# NORTH CAROLINA 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

10

CHURCHES EQUIPPED WITH  
NEW MINISTRY PROGRAMS

07

COUNTIES BEING SERVED  
THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH  
USING LIFELINE'S RESOURCES

68

WOMEN COUNSELED IN  
UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES

161

FAMILIES SERVED

17

CHILDREN HOME

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- 80 women in unplanned pregnancies receiving options counseling
- 23 families pursuing adoption
- 23 churches equipped with ministry programs of Worthy, Families Count, and Heritage Builders
- \$530,500 Funding for NC
- 15 counties being served through the local church using Lifeline's resources





## LENNON FAMILY, North Carolina Alumni



“2023 has been such an exciting year for us as we recently welcomed a baby girl into our home! We were anxious to begin the adoption process in 2022 after struggling with infertility for over a year. After applying with Lifeline, and completing the required training, we became a waiting family in May of this year. In July, we received a call that we had been matched with a baby girl in North Carolina, not too far from where we live. This baby girl had a number of medical needs that were being cared for in the hospital. We were told to pack a bag for at least two nights, just in case we would stay longer than anticipated. We ended up staying in the hospital for 10 days. During that time, our daughter was undergoing speech therapy sessions to help strengthen the muscles in her neck because formula was going into her lungs when she swallowed. After a week of therapy, our sweet girl had a repeat swallow study and passed with flying colors. The feeding tube that had been in place for over a week was removed! Praise God! The doctors watched her closely for another night to make sure she was able to take in enough formula by mouth. Thankfully, she did great and we were able to take her home the next day! She had the most amazing care team in the hospital! Her doctors, nurses, and therapists were all cheering her on. Friends and family members were praying for a quick recovery! God was so faithful!

We are so grateful for our Lifeline team! Our social worker, Mikaela, was absolutely amazing! She walked with us throughout the entire adoption process and answered so many questions. When our sweet girl was in the hospital waiting to be matched with a family, Mikaela was there advocating for her. This is something we will cherish forever! We began post-adoption counseling through Lifeline shortly after bringing our daughter home. This has also been wonderful and we thoroughly enjoy meeting with our counselor, Greyson, weekly.

The advice I would give to a family considering adoption is to trust that God is sovereign, He knows what is ahead, and He cares about every detail! If you choose to pursue adoption, God knows exactly which child He is going to bring into your family.”

## ERICA SPIVEY

Erica joined the Lifeline team in July of 2021 and serves as the State Director for North Carolina. She brings a variety of experiences to our team in marketing, business development, communications, teaching, and mentoring. She enjoys helping others connect their heart's passion with meaningful work and stewardship. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Erica now calls North Carolina home. She is married to Darrin, and they have four children, a daughter-in-law, and a son-in-law. Erica is also a personal trainer and studying to become a certified nutrition coach. In her free time, you may catch Erica reading business-related books, spending time with family, or running and lifting weights with friends. Erica loves that Lifeline cares holistically for vulnerable children and families and provides women in unplanned pregnancies with options for counseling and support. She says she's, “grateful for the many opportunities that Lifeline provides to actively participate in the call of James 1:27, since our family has not been called to foster or adopt.”



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# OKLAHOMA 2023

## 2024 STATE GOALS

### *ADOPTION*

- Assist 4 Christian families in beginning their domestic adoption journey.
- Assist 6 Christian families in pursuing international adoption.
- Facilitate 4 adoption placements.

### *PREGNANCY MINISTRY*

- Counsel and serve 20 women in unexpected pregnancies.
- Conduct trainings at 10 Pregnancy Resource Centers.
- Conduct trainings at 5 medical facilities.

### *FAMILY RESTORATION*

- Train and equip 3 new churches in our Families Count ministry.

### *CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS*

- Engage 10 new churches in partnerships.
- Be present in 3 churches for Orphan Sunday or Sanctity of Human Life Sunday celebrations.







“Adoption is not the call to have the perfect, rosy family. It is the call to give love, mercy, and patience.”

- Amber Nichols, Oklahoma Advisory Board Member

*PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE  
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SERVICES AND WAYS TO GET  
INVOLVED IN OUR MINISTRY:*

## LORA MALONE

Lora Malone grew up in Oklahoma City and joined Lifeline in August of 2023. She is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma and Central State University with a Master of Education and a baccalaureate in Oral Communications. She has over 30 years of nonprofit experience in the state of Oklahoma. Her current role at Lifeline is to serve as the Oklahoma State Director & Regional Development Officer. Lora, along with her husband Gallen, daughter Reagan, and French Bulldog Dani, live in Edmond, Oklahoma.



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# SOUTH CAROLINA 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

73

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

51

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

22

CHILDREN  
HOME

83

FAMILIES  
COUNT  
GRADUATES

219

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- 41 families to begin the foster care or adoptive process
- 85 women in unexpected pregnancies served with life-affirming options counseling
- 15 churches hosting Families Count classes
- 5 churches hosting Heritage Builders
- 10 churches facilitating Worthy discipleship
- \$660,984 financial support raised





## KANAGY FAMILY, South Carolina Alumni



“ Our story began in the early years of our marriage when we dealt with infertility. We wanted to minister to children in some way and fostering seemed like a good fit for us. After years of fostering and two biological children, I (Susanna), began feeling like God was calling us to adoption. Ken wasn't at the same place, so I made it a matter of prayer. It took several years but God brought us both to the place where we were ready to step forward. It wasn't until we were presented with several situations of children with special needs needing a forever home that we began wondering if that was the path God had for us. In May of 2022 we received the call about a birth mother due in a few months with a baby girl diagnosed with Down syndrome. It felt like God had just placed in our hearts the most beautiful gift straight from heaven and in June we were able to bring Adelyn home after a short hospital stay. She needed surgery at six months to repair her heart but since then has been a healthy little ray of sunshine. We never imagined that parenting a child with special needs was in our future, but God knew, and His timing and plan for our family is perfect.”

## CATHY LEEKE

Cathy Leeke is our South Carolina State Director! She grew up in a military family, so she has moved around a good bit, most recently from Atlanta to Charleston. She received a bachelor's degree in music performance and economics from Vanderbilt, and an MBA from Georgia State. Cathy has been married to her high school sweetheart for 20 years. They have three children, and usually a few more through foster care. She is a triathlete, loves running races with friends at Disney, and backpacking with scouts all over the state. As the South Carolina State Director, Cathy has the opportunity to serve churches, families, and community partners throughout the state supporting ministries to vulnerable children and families. Her very favorite part about working at Lifeline is when a family hears the calls and nudges of the Holy Spirit and in obedience says, “yes!”. For her, seeing a family walk in obedience to the Lord is amazing!



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# SOUTH DAKOTA 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

54

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH  
HARBOR FAMILIES

1,477

DAYS THAT CHILDREN  
WERE HOSTED THROUGH  
HARBOR FAMILIES

11

EXPECTANT  
MOTHERS  
COUNSELED

22

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

7

CHILDREN PLACED IN  
ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

## 2024 STATE GOALS

### *HARBOR FAMILIES EXPANSION*

- Launch Harbor Families in Black Hills region with 5 new partner churches. Recruit and train 20 new host families in the Black Hills region.
- Expand Harbor Families in Sioux Falls with 4 new partner churches. Recruit and train 30 new host families from Sioux Falls churches.

### *PREGNANCY MINISTRY*

- Serve 30 women in unexpected pregnancies.
- Conduct training at 4 pregnancy resource centers and 3 medical facilities.

### *ADOPTION*

- Assist 5 families in beginning their domestic, international, and foster care adoption journeys.

### *FUNDRAISING GOAL*

- Partner with like-minded families, churches, and businesses to reach our \$443,434 fundraising goal.





## HARBOR FAMILIES IMPACT: Mona's Story



“Mona reached out to Lifeline seeking pregnancy counseling. Facing a lengthy incarceration, she was unsure what to do. She wanted her unborn son but was frightened of losing him to foster care because none of her family members were able to care for him.

Through Lifeline's Harbor Families ministry, Mona partnered with a host family once her son was born. A Harbor Families host family cared for her son in their own home for ten weeks while Mona completed her prison sentence. During the hosting, the host family coordinated video calls with Mona through the prison, created a scrapbook of her baby's first few months, and gathered supplies to help Mona successfully parent once she was released.

While in prison, Mona attended a bible study where she gave her life to Christ. She began praying for her son and their future life together. Since her release, Mona and her son have moved into a transitional housing program where she receives support to reintegrate into society. After caring for and loving Mona's son, the host family was able to meet Mona in person and be a part of the gospel redemption of her story in a way that is only possible through Jesus Christ.”

Mona (left), her new son, and Tessa (Harbor Families host) are pictured above.

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR MINISTRY:**

### CHUCK JESPERSEN

Chuck joined Lifeline in August of 2021 and serves as the State Director for South Dakota. He and his wife, Ellen, have four children and live in Sioux Falls. A graduate of the University of South Dakota, Chuck served in church ministry for 15 years. He also worked in fundraising and development for rural health care and senior care. He is committed to helping the helpers by inviting people to utilize their time, talents, and treasure to make a difference for the gospel in the lives of others.



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# TENNESSEE 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

12

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

45

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

12

CHILDREN  
HOME

104

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

### *PREGNANCY MINISTRY*

- Serve 60 women facing unexpected pregnancy
- Serve 13 families in the adoption process
- Partner with 10 new churches across the state
- Raise \$450,644 to support state ministry efforts





## MERCHANT FAMILY, Tennessee Alumni



“ This past year Lifeline has played a major role in our life. They have given us the tools to not only take care of our new addition, but to cope with setbacks, discuss the challenges and joys of adoption, and walked us through each step of the process from multiple profiles, a failed placement and answered every question we had. We never felt alone in the process and the Lifeline Family became our family during our journey.”

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### JAMIE O'DELL

Jamie joined Lifeline in September 2023 as an Advancement Officer. He is originally from Excelsior Springs, MO and has spent the last 20 years serving in local churches in Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, and Alabama. He earned a BA in History from William Jewell College and a MACE from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to Nikki (LCSW), and they have two amazing children, Lainey and Cooper.



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# TEXAS 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

42

CHURCHES  
ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED

151

EXPECTANT  
MOTHER  
REFERRALS

17

CHILDREN  
HOME

170

FAMILIES  
SERVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS

- Serve 160 facing unexpected pregnancy
- Serve 24 in the adoption process
- Partner with 10 new churches across the state
- Raise \$526,926 to support state ministry efforts





## *SANDERS FAMILY, Texas Alumni*

“We knew early on in our marriage that we wanted kids and were believing God for twins. After a while, it seemed that with everything we tried, it was another closed door.

We heard our church had partnered with Lifeline, so we attended the Orphan Sunday Service with a faithful heart. Within 48-hours afterwards, we ended up meeting the boys who would be our future twins!

It took a lot of believing and faith! I've always held in my heart that my God is going to come through for us. I wasn't sure how He was going to do it, but He always shows up. And God did!”

## SHAUNA MOORE

Shauna is a native Texan and grew up in the Dallas/ Fort Worth Area. She currently resides in Mansfield, Texas, a growing suburb that is located south of the DFW metroplex. Shauna is honored to serve on the Texas team as the Director of Engagement. She attended the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, and received her BA in Religion and Psychology, and later received her Master's in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Texas Arlington. Shauna's family loves to spend time together, going to movies, the lake, and to the beach. For fun, she loves to spend time crafting, gardening, and hanging out with her family and friends. A few fun facts about Shauna: she loves her morning coffee, a good mystery, and shopping or bargain hunting. “I absolutely love Lifeline's mission to spread the gospel to vulnerable children. It is a joy to serve with this incredible team and to be able to be a part of an organization that is advancing God's Kingdom through active service, discipleship, and sharing God's hope with others.”



***PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE  
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# WASHINGTON 2023

## 2023 MINISTRY-WIDE IMPACT

34

FOSTER CARE  
PLACEMENTS

28

FOSTER  
FAMILIES  
SERVED

14

ADOPTION  
PLACEMENTS

50

ADOPTION &  
FOSTER CARE  
APPLICATIONS  
RECIEVED

## 2024 STATE GOALS:

- 20 Foster Care Placements
- 10 new licensed foster families
- Finalize 10 international adoptions
- 15 new adoption and foster care applications
- \$101,496 Funding for Washington





## LACK FAMILY, Washington Alumni



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“ I can't say how grateful I have been for the foster care and adoption process. It has been hard, and not the way I ever imagined my story working out, but on the other side of God's faithfulness realized, so worth it! I get to spend the rest of my life being a mom to these two sweet faces, and who knows what else God has planned!”