



The Keath Family



2013 Annual Report



a helping hand

adoption agency

An affiliate of Nightlight® Christian Adoptions



From the Executive Director

Lisa Prather, Executive Director

As I reflect on the year behind us, the scripture that keeps coming to mind is Isaiah 61:1-3

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— **to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.**”*

Many of you know that A Helping Hand Adoption Agency went through various trials in 2011 and that God brought us through it all last year. This year we are beginning to see the beauty from the ashes that God promised in Isaiah 61. I am reminded daily when facing adversity that it is through our struggles and our weaknesses that God is glorified. There is one story that comes to mind that speaks this truth more loudly than any other.

In 2010, the Tender Hearts Baby Home welcomed an abandoned little girl named Vivian. Vivian had been abandoned by her mother in a latrine. She was very malnourished and ill. Vivian made some improvements and was matched with a waiting family in our Uganda program. However, on April 8, 2011, the Lord decided to take Vivian home to heaven. Vivian is now resting in the arms of Jesus. At the time of her death, everyone who knew her wondered why this happened. Even though we trust God and know that he has a plan that is better, we don’t always get to see the beauty that he restores for ashes right away. In Vivian’s case, he has allowed us to glimpse a piece of His glory. Two ladies from our first mission team to Uganda were able to meet Vivian while on that trip. They were touched by her life and her death. These two ladies (Kelly and Courtney) decided to begin raising funds for the medical needs

at the baby home and named their efforts “Vivian’s Hope”. This year I was honored to attend the Vivian’s Hope fundraiser for the first time (3rd annual fundraiser). I was in awe of how Kelly and Courtney have spread their passion to their family. Everyone (mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children) were participating in the planning and set up of the event. Their friends, family, and church members attended the fundraiser held this year on October 5, 2013. Ken Nganda, director of the Tender Hearts Baby Home, was also able to attend and share his part of Vivian’s story. This year, this event raised approximately \$15,000! Andy and Mandy, Vivian’s adoptive parents, were never able to hold Vivian in their arms. They fell in love with her through photos and videos. When she passed, they trusted the Lord and leaned on Him for comfort. They were later able to complete an adoption of another little girl from Uganda. Andy and Mandy spread their passion to their church and family as well. Their church alone (Sunday attendance on average is 100) raised over \$100,000 toward the building of the new baby home! In addition, they raised \$10,000 toward the well project of 2012. Andy and Mandy’s parents recently traveled with a team from their church to Uganda to serve. Looking back now, I am amazed and overwhelmed by God’s goodness. Praise be to God for always fulfilling His promises.

Over the past year, we have seen God move in some amazing ways. We have had families step forward to adopt children with significant special needs. We have seen God move mountains in court in Uganda. We have seen God provide abundant finances in every aspect of our ministry. In this end of year letter, you will be able to read some of our “beauty from ashes” stories. The thread that runs through every single family’s story is that they ended their adoption journey much differently than they had planned. Families have been stretched to adopt older children, children with special needs, and sibling groups. Often these decisions came through a struggle and were not easily made. I am so thankful that these families have been willing to take steps of faith and trust God fully. It is through our weakness that He is strong. In order to continue our orphan care ministries and continue putting children with families, we need first your prayers. We also need your financial support. Please prayerfully consider making your end of the year donation to A Helping Hand Adoption Agency. You are God’s answer for the orphan.

In His Image

Suubi

Our adoption journey began in October 2010, when we went to an informational meeting about adoption. We submitted our application in January 2011 to adopt from Uganda and arrived home with Suubi Anne Chapman on August 2, 2013. While our process took much longer than we imagined, the Lord used it to stretch and grow us and widen the boundaries of our hearts.



We were open to adopting a child with special needs but did not truly anticipate what the Lord had in mind. We strongly felt that we would name our little girl Hope. We prayed for her and throughout the twists and turns of our journey clung to the verse Romans 15:13, which says, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” We had a possible referral fall through and also were matched domestically with a birth parent who decided to parent. Our hearts were healing when we were asked to look at and consider Suubi’s file. We honestly were initially not sure if we felt capable of parenting her with so many uncertainties regarding her possible special needs.

However, when we opened her file and found out that her name was Suubi, the Lugandan word for Hope, that was the confirmation we needed. We have learned that the Lord’s plans for us are so much greater than our own. Suubi is such a joy and blessing! She has changed our lives by opening our hearts to a whole new world. Her smile is contagious and her amazing strength of spirit is inspiring to everyone that hears her story and meets her.

Suubi’s special needs include cerebral palsy and sight impairment, along with global delays. Our three biological boys, ages 12, 9 and 7, have welcomed their little sister with open arms and it has been beautiful to see them quickly develop compassion, sensitivity and gentleness as they learn and grow with Suubi. She has made incredible leaps and bounds already as she soaks up attention, new opportunities, proper nutrition, medical care, therapies and lots of love! We are so thankful that the Lord has entrusted us with our precious Suubi girl!

__Erika Chapman (Adoptive Mom)

had been living in China. Their letter spoke of a tiny baby boy they called JB that they had been fostering for over a year. He had many needs, but in their care he was growing and thriving. Their letter spoke of how they had been advocating for him to be adopted and were looking for a family to love this child as their own forever. Andy and I both had that moment of wondering if we were meant to be this boy’s parents. I heard that whisper from God, and I confess that my first response was to shake it off and pretend it was not a plan for me. Adoption seemed to be something other people did, it seemed too scary, and there were too many unknowns. After a quick search of Chinese adoptions, we learned that prospective parents needed to be married for two years and each be thirty years old. At the time we had been married just over a year and were “only” 27 and 28 years old. In our minds we thought surely another family would come forward before we ever met the requirements to adopt. We thought this door was closed.

Time went by and we continued to receive updates about JB and God continued to whisper his plan to us. We still did not meet the age requirements, so all that we could do was wait, pray, and trust that if it was God’s plan for us to adopt JB, that he would surely carry it out to completion. In that time our love for JB grew, as did our desire to adopt him. We prayed that if we were to be JB’s parents that God would break down any obstacles and allow that to happen. We also prayed that if we were not to be his parents that God would provide JB with his forever family immediately.

Exactly 8 months before Andy’s 30th birthday, we knew that God was calling us to pursue the adoption of JB. We began working with A Helping Hand Adoption Agency in May, 2012. The process was long, tedious, and invasive at times. It was also exciting as we made it through each step along the way. Throughout those months I often had many questions for God: Is this really your plan for us? How will we pay for the adoption expenses? Are we really able to handle caring for a child with special needs? And every time – and I mean EVERY. SINGLE. TIME. -- God graciously met me where I was and calmed my fears. Whether it was a Bible passage, an opportunity to work full time, a blog post from a family with adopted kids with needs like JB’s, or a few new pictures of JB in my in-box, God was there showing us that he was clearly in the driver’s seat and that he was with us. God was moving in big ways and was inviting us



Joshua

Our adoption journey started in the fall of 2010. My husband, Andy, and I received an email update from some friends of ours who

to join him on a ride that only he could navigate. It took us almost exactly a year from when we started the paperwork to when we traveled to JB's home country. On May 27th, 2013 I held my new, sleeping son in my arms as we filled out adoption papers that would forever change his life and ours. We named him Joshua, which means "saved by God." I would never have dreamed that this is where my life would be or that this is how we would begin our family. I am beyond thankful each day for the little boy God has given us. Joshua is truly a gift.

__Coral Karsky (Adoptive Mom)

Someone once told me (Kayla) that "Adoption is not for the faint of heart." Little did I know how true that statement would be!

My husband, Steve, and I began our adoption journey in November 2008 when we attended our first adoption seminar in Columbus, OH. This seminar opened up our eyes to see the need to adopt whether it was an international or domestic. After lots of prayer and research into the various avenues of adoption programs we decided on international adoption from The Peoples Republic of China. We chose A Helping Hand Adoption Agency because it is close to us in hopes that this would help with any questions/issues that would arise in the future.

We began the "paperwork pregnancy" in February of 2009. After a long and arduous spring and summer, our paperwork was finally submitted to The Peoples Republic of China in September of 2009. China logged in our dossier on September 18th. Now the wait began. While doing all the paperwork for the dossier, we learned that the wait for China adoptions was growing and could be up to 4 years and possibly longer.

Some say silence is golden, however, when waiting for an adoption, nothing is further from the truth. As the months and years passed, the timeframe for healthy adoptions in China grew longer. A Helping Hand also works with special needs adoption, but my husband & I were hesitant about this type of adoption since this is was our first child. In November of 2011, we started praying about adopting a special needs child. In January of 2012, we met with the staff at A Helping Hand and submitted the paperwork to receive approval to

adopt a special needs child. We let them know that we would accept specific minimal issues such as a heart defect or skin defect. We also decided at this time that the gender of the child was not an issue for us, that we would take the child

that the Lord has for us.

On June 26, 2012 we received the phone call that every adoptive parent waits for!! They had found a child that they thought would be "a fit for us." This child was a boy who was 13 months old. He had a minor issue with his left hand, but other than that he was healthy.

So, how did A Helping Hand staff know that this would be a "fit for us?" Only the Lord knows the answer to that question!! They sent us the medical information they had received as well as a few pictures they had of the little boy. Once I saw those pictures the tears started to flow and I felt in my heart that this was the child for us!!!

On Tuesday, November 19 we met our little boy for the first time at the Civil Affairs Office. What a special day that was! On Wednesday, November 28, we returned to the United States. This year on Thursday, November 28, not only will we celebrate Thanksgiving, but we will also celebrate a one year anniversary of bringing Callan home. It will certainly be a day of celebration for all that the Lord has done for us.

__Kayla Broughton (Adoptive Mom)



Callan

Domestic Blessings

After much prayer and research, we decided that A Helping Hand Adoption Agency would be our agency and we scheduled an orientation.

Waiting was harder than we had imagined and our hearts leaped a little each time the phone rang, hoping to hear from Candice. Finally, on Nov. 20, we got the call that we had been praying for. We had been chosen by a birthmother who was expecting a little girl in January. We named the baby together and on January 18 at 1:26 am, Reagan Nicole was born. We spent the next two days at the hospital bonding with Reagan and texting pictures to family and friends. On January, 24, we learned that Reagan's birthmother had decided to parent. We knew this was an option, but we were heartbroken to say the least. We knew that God had a plan, but we couldn't understand it at the time. Calls and prayers from family, friends, and our friends at AHH helped us through.

At the end of February, we gave the okay to put our profile book back with the active books. When the phone rang just a couple of weeks later, on March 15 and Candice's name appeared, my heart skipped a beat. We had been chosen again and this time it was a baby boy who was due in just three weeks! We were so excited, yet cautious after our first match; especially knowing that they had backed out of an adoption placement with their first child. Over the next few weeks, we got to know the birthparents well by going out to eat several times, phone calls, texting, and going to a doctor visit and ultrasound with her. They requested that we be in the delivery room with them and at 11:22 am, our healthy, 8 pounds 10 ounce baby boy was born. There are no words to describe the way I felt when Jaxon's birthfather handed him to me for the first time. Two days after birth, we were dismissed from the hospital with lots of hugs and promises of updates and meeting again soon. It was an emotional experience as Jaxon's biological

father put him in his car seat, everyone gave more hugs, and we carried him down the hall. I couldn't control my emotions anymore as we went through the maternity ward doors and pushed the down arrow on the elevator. Once again, Lisa W. offered hugs and support – only this time, it was for a much happier reason! We knew that there was still 20 plus days that Jaxon's birthparents could change their minds, but we felt at peace and weren't worried about it.

On November 1, we went to court and finalized Jaxon's adoption. Although it took longer than we expected, we couldn't think of a better day than the first day of National Adoption Month to finalize our adoption. Our prayers have changed again and we continue to keep in touch with Jaxon's birthparents, family, and friends. We don't regret being matched and going through a disrupted adoption. We know that God did it to make us stronger and more humble. We are blessed to have had such a wonderful agency to help us through our journey and such a wonderful God to match us with the perfect baby boy to complete our family through domestic adoption, proving to us that it was His plan, not ours all along .

_Ryan & Amanda Meek (Adoptive Parents)



The Meek Family

Welcome Home!

Tyler



Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Domestic Adoptions

George Jennings
Casey Anne
Simeon
Piper Kelly
Jonathan
Caleb
Lila Marie
Sylvia Ann
Savannah Grace
Zurielle Emma (in heaven)
Charlotte Grace
Henry Paul
Zoe - Birth Mom from AHH
Zander - Birth Mom from AHH
Rowan Isaac
Austyn Harper
Zechariah Michael
Baby Girl Johnson
Baby Girl Edmonds

Snowflake Babies

Cally Rose
Charlie Ann Jr.
Brynton Elyse
Henry Nathan
Charles Benjamin
Riley Trees
Bryce Stanley
Cole Michael
Blake Edmund
Zane Bradford
Keegan Ryan
Violet Kathleen
Mikayla Suzanne
Micah Walther
Hannah Naomi
Zane Micah
Quinn Alexander
Grace Anne
Quentin James
Dashel Jacob
Emi Anneli
Luke Alexander
Hudson Daniel
Sara
Sara Rose
Carolyn Joy
Jeremiah Sumner
Everlee Maria Lynn
Ian Samuel
Alex Brooks

International Adoptions

Joseph Lee
Philip Kelly
Eliza Katarina
Julia Elizabeth
Emma Catherine
Jenny Li



The Eden Family

A Helping Hand

International

Raymond & Sherri (Shelby)
Gene & Lisa (Aubrey)
Bryan & Kristine (Katherine)
Lana (Layla)
Reginald & Kelly (Tula)
Paul & Sharon (Ashley)
Adam & Melanie (Aaron & Enoch)
Chris & Melissa (Addlee)
Bruce & Heather (Meghan)
Eric & Stephanie (Maya)
Andy & Coral (Joshua)
Andrew & Jamie (Noah)
Bob & Barbara (Jessica)
Mark & Erika (Suubi)
Kenton & Hillary (Zephaniah & Zebulun)
Chet & Jolynn (Kaydee)
Kevin & Dara (Molly-Grace)
Brian and Christine (Lucie)
Michael & Oona (Eileen)
Justin & Andrea (Jack)
Julia (Lucas)
Steve & Alicia (Hope)
Kelly & Jason (Kaden)
Shannon & Lynn (Kevin)
Craig & Aimee (Mia)
Robert & Briana-Lynne (Korben)

Domestic Adoptions

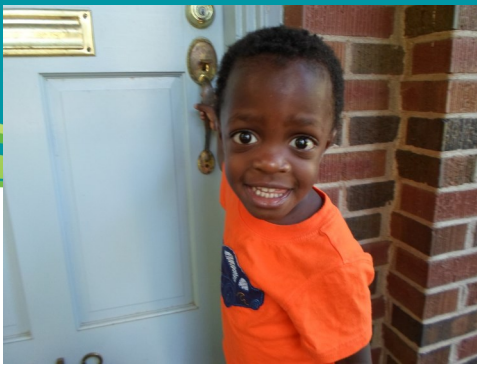
Jason & Tammy (Collin)
Ryan & Amanda (Jaxon)
Adam & Chrissy (Lukas)
Alan & Sheila (Liliana)
Adam & Jennifer (Zander & Zoe)
Dimitrios & Jennifer (Evangelia)

Our adoption journey started on February 7, 2004, the day our son was born. Despite a healthy and normal pregnancy, the delivery became complicated and ended with our son in the NICU and me in the ICU post hysterectomy. My husband and I had never even thought about adopting a child, but God had a special plan for our family. He knew there was a child on the other side of the world that would need a family and He used this traumatic day for good.

After some time, my husband and I began to seriously consider the possibility of adoption. For many reasons, we felt led to an international adoption. In 2006 our church hosted an adoption seminar by A Helping Hand. At about the same time our church had also started doing mission work in China. Many circumstances began to present themselves which made it clear to us that China was the place to pursue our adoption. In January 2007 we officially started our paperwork and began a new chapter in our life. Our official log in date was September 5, 2007. When we started our paperwork it was approximately an 18 month wait to referral for your child. Totally doable! Right?!? Little did we know then that things were going to drastically change. As the wait for a match continued to grow, so did our disappointment and frustration. During this time a couple of opportunities for domestic adoptions presented themselves, though again, with much disappointment none worked out for our family. With the passage of time we now see that God had a bigger plan for our family.

As the wait continued to grow with weeks turning into months and months into years with no improvement in sight, my husband and I began to seriously consider a special needs adoption. For those of you who have completed adoption paperwork regarding

(Continued Next Page)



Judah

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Many thanks to our donors and churches for all your support!

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(Continued from previous)

a special need, you know that it is a very difficult task to sit down and decide which type of special needs you would consider and which you would not. For this reason it took us eight months to finally complete our paperwork. Then with a series of incredible miracles, a more dedicated prayer time for our family about our future daughter and the amazing work of God, we were matched just two months later with Chloe on April 26, 2011!

I cannot put into words the incredible emotions our family felt that day. The almost four year journey was hitting the high point. I wanted to shout it from a mountain top; as a matter of fact I told anyone that would listen. The joy in our hearts was overwhelming. Praise God for His amazing gift. It is now over two years later and I can now see how this was the perfect match for our family and it was all orchestrated by God. I don't think there is any human way possible someone could have matched our daughter so perfectly to our family. Her dynamic personality and loving spirit are such a blessing to us. In addition to gaining a daughter, our experience deepened our faith, taught us to rely on God and not our own abilities, and instilled in us the need wait on God's perfect timing.

_Kim Eden (Adoptive Mom)

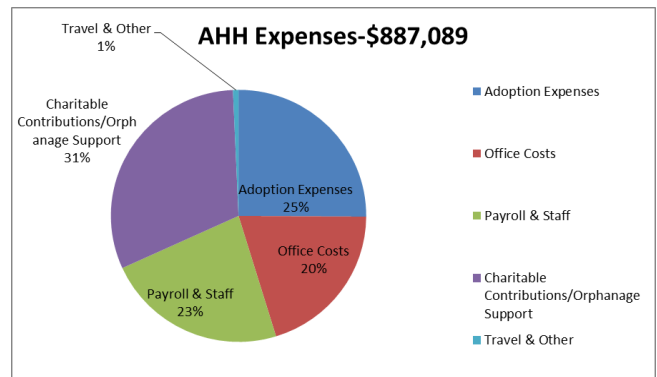
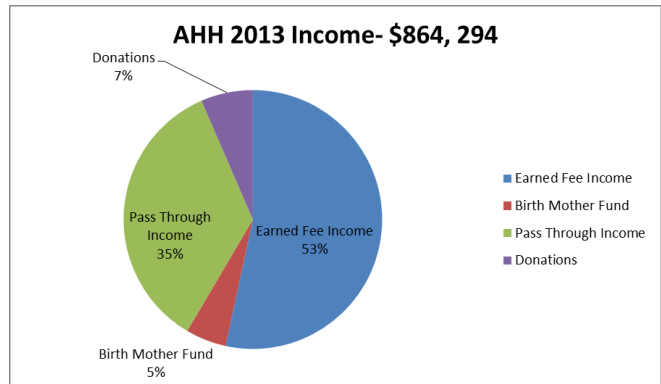




Financial Information

So far this year, thanks to your generous donations, AHH was able to bring home 28 children! Below is a graph explaining where our revenue comes from. You can see below that the majority of our revenue comes through fees and that much of the funds received is passed through to others (foreign providers, humanitarian aid, etc.)

This year, AHH's expenses will exceed our income. This is mainly due to increased expenses and our continued attempt to keep fees low for adoptive families. That is why we rely on donations to subsidize the cost of adoption. In order to end the year in the black, AHH needs to raise approximately \$25,000. Some of these funds include \$9,000 needed for the baby's home in Uganda. Please consider making your year end donation to A Helping Hand. We need you!



Note: AHH will be moving next year as our lease is up in March of 2014. We are currently looking for new office space for lease. If you own office space or property in the Lexington, KY area or know anyone who would be willing to donate office space, please let us know. If we can find a way to subsidize the cost of our office space, our expenses would be greatly reduced.

Please make checks payable to A Helping Hand Adoption Agency and send donations in the return envelope provided. If you prefer to make your donation online, please go to <https://hhaa.ejoinme.org/?tabid=436431> or visit our website (www.ahelpinghandadopton.org) and click the donate button.

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