

*America's Kids*  
**BELONG**



**2016**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# OUR MISSION

**Uniting government, faith-based, business and creative communities to end the foster care and adoption crisis in the U.S. - state by state.**

America's Kids Belong mobilizes government, faith-based, business and creative leaders around the goal of permanency and belonging for every child. Combining grassroots and "grasstops" methods, America's Kids Belong runs multi-sector campaigns in states and videotapes waiting children to ensure that every child is in a loving home by recruiting more foster and adoptive families. For the children we are not able to find homes for, we engage the community in our Dream Makers project to support aging out youth.

# Message From OUR PRESIDENT



This is a unique annual report. Some of you know America's Kids Belong and others of you know Adopt Colorado Kids. This report encapsulates the work in 2016 of both organizations because, as you will read later, the two have become one. There are reasons for this. In 2016, both organizations shared a similar mission (differing mostly in geographic scope), some of the same staff, and the same Board. Since they were legally different organizations, we were duplicating administrative work like IRS submissions, Board meetings, and accounting procedures. A combined organization helps us streamline our efforts so that we work with greater excellence.

From an outside perspective, everything pretty much remains the same. Adopt Colorado Kids is making a great impact in Colorado, and it helped launch some of its programs in other states now. It is a division of America's Kids Belong, similar to the divisions in other states like Oklahoma and Tennessee.

As the President of America's Kids Belong, I am humbled and grateful. I am humbled by what has been accomplished in the states so far, and I am grateful for the dedicated and talented team and board I get to serve with. Finally, I am deeply thankful for all of you who have partnered with us

because you want to see every child belong to a loving family. God bless you.

*Brian Mavis*

*President*

## Message From **OUR CHAIRMAN** Of The Board



Dear America's Kids Belong Family and Friends,

It has been an honor to chair this amazing organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for making this past year more impactful than we could have ever imagined.

The task set before us, to end the foster care and adoption crisis in America, is daunting. Today in America, over 400,000 children are in the foster care system, and 100,000 more are waiting to be adopted.

We are confident there are more homes waiting for these children than there are children in the system. With the vision, unshakable dedication of our leadership, the tireless work of our staff

and volunteers, the guidance and direction of our Board of Directors, financial support of our donors and prayers and support from our community, together we can do this.

When a community serves and protects their children by helping them find loving homes, their efforts have a multi-generational impact, not only for the children and their posterity but also for our society.

We thank you for caring for these children with your financial support and prayers. For the families who take children into their homes and provide a loving, safe environment, you are the true heroes.

*Evan Garber*

*Chairman of the Board*

## The AKB STORY

In 2005, Pastor Brian Mavis and his wife, Julie, were in Colorado beginning their journey into foster care. At the same time, Janet and Ryan Kelly were deep into politics working on a statewide campaign in Virginia. Neither couple realized then that they were laying the foundation for a first-of-its-kind solution to address a major issue and largely invisible population in the U.S.



Over the next few years, the Mavis family partnered with the state to make foster children the stars of their own stories using high quality photos and

videos. Brian and Julie introduced these photos and videos into the faith community with a challenge to respond. Their challenge was answered, and within only a few years, the number of children available for adoption in Colorado had dropped from over 800 to 280 – a number the state has maintained.



Meanwhile in Virginia, the Kellys' political path and personal adoption story led them to launch a campaign with the Governor called "Virginia Adopts." This pioneering effort used the power of the Governor's office, social media, and a collaborative approach to match over 1,000 children with permanent families in just one year, as well as recruit additional support into the Virginia foster care system.

Enter businessman, Joe Ritchie, and his Fox River team in Chicago, who specialize in public-private partnerships and bringing a business approach to the not-for-profit world. Laura Doherty, Joe's lead on Fox River's new Orphan Care & Adoption Initiative, was on the hunt for best practice and solutions to this very same national issue.

All three stories collided together for the first time in May of 2015. After meeting and vetting the work in Colorado and Virginia, Joe and the Fox River team knew they had found something special in not only these two models, but in the hearts of their leaders. They saw a solvable problem and, confident they had the right people on the bus, felt ready to move forward.

Together they launched America's Kids Belong in 2015 and consider themselves honored to join the fight for permanency and belonging for every child.

# Our PROGRAMS

## MULTI-SECTOR CAMPAIGNS

With a wide-variety of influencers on board, we can combine a number of our proven methods to help meet needs within the foster care system. Since beginning work in Oklahoma and Tennessee, alongside numerous faith leaders, government workers, foster advocates, artists and creatives, as well as a host of generous donors, we've already seen amazing things happen:

### The Oklahoma Fosters Campaign



America's Kids Belong served as the spearheading partner in the launch of the Oklahoma Fosters Campaign alongside Governor Mary Fallin and The Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and other community partners. The Oklahoma Fosters Campaign's goal was to recruit 1,053 new foster families. We helped them exceed their goal and recruited 1,084. We are continuing this campaign to create a sustainable change.

## The Tennessee Fosters Campaign



America's Kids Belong served as the spearheading partner in the launch of the Tennessee Fosters Campaign alongside Governor Bill Haslam, First Lady Crissy Haslam and The Tennessee Department of Children's Services, and other community partners. The Tennessee Fosters Campaign's goal is to recruit more foster and foster-to-adopt families, as well as support these families.

### I BELONG PROJECT™

## I BELONG Project

One of America's Kids Belong's signature programs is the I Belong Project™, which uses high quality videography to give foster children a face and a voice. These videos serve as individual recruitment videos for foster children who are legally-free for adoption and are waiting for their forever family. The videos capture the children's spirit, hobbies, stories and the kind of family they are hoping to belong to. We currently create videos in Colorado, Virginia, Tennessee, Kansas and Oklahoma. In 2016 we produced 164 videos.

## DREAM MAKERS PROJECT



Over 26,000 teens age out of foster care each year in the United States. These are children who have been removed from their biological families due to abuse or neglect. They have typically been moving from foster family to foster family for a period of years and feel abandoned, unwanted and are left to face the real world without family support. Dream Makers inspires and empowers these teens by giving them an opportunity to dream about their future. These dreams may be an internship that connects them with an opportunity for the future, a practical gift to launch them towards their next step, a gift to learn a new skill, or an experience to gain confidence. Dream Makers connects businesses, groups, and individuals to care for these youth's needs and their dreams. Some of the fulfilled 2016 dreams include:

- School books, tuition and college courses
- Numerous laptops for school
- Graduation cap, gown and party
- A Magazine Internship that led to a published article
- Veneers for a new smile
- Drivers Education Classes
- Deposits for 1st apartments
- A car
- Church Camps
- Sewing machine for a small business



## **The Two are One**

In late 2016, the Board of Directors for the “sister” nonprofits Adopt Colorado Kids and America’s Kids Belong voted to consolidate the operations into one organization. The consolidated nonprofit will go by the name America’s Kids Belong. By streamlining and sharing resources, the result is an organization that is laser focused on the shared mission both in Colorado and across the U.S.

## **I Belong Project™, Colorado**

We photograph and video children who are waiting to be adopted to give them a face and a voice to connect them with loving families. ACK partners with The Matthews House to recruit and support potential foster and adoptive families for Larimer County’s children and youth. Larimer County’s greatest need is families who are willing to receive teens, kids with special needs, and sibling sets as foster and adoptive placements. We provide monthly orientations to educate families and individuals about Larimer County’s training and certification process.

## **Colorado 2016 Highlights:**

- ACK staff helped launch the I Belong Project™ in additional states.
- 110 dreams were fulfilled for aging out youth
- In Larimer County
  - 88 families completed foster and adoption orientation
  - 4 kids were placed in their adoptive homes
  - We led 11 recruitment events

# 2016 THANK YOU TO

## **Our Board of Directors**

Evan Garber - *Chairman of the Board - AKB*

Joe Miller - *Chairman of the Board - ACK*

Ron Schaefer - *Treasurer*

Mark Deuschle - *Board Member*

Kathryn Bohmann, ESQ. - *Board Member*

Dawn Davis - *Board Member*

Scott James - *Board Member*

Natalie Moomaw - *Board Member*

Joe Ritchie - *Board Member*

Tim Shirk - *Board Member*

## **Our Staff**

Brian Mavis - *President*

Janet Kelly - *Principal and Director of Government Relations*

Julie Mavis - *Executive Director, Colorado and I Belong Project™ Director*

Laura Doherty - *Director of Communications*

Laurie Bates - *Operations Manager*

Kristin Allender - *Director of Community Relations, Tennessee & Child Welfare*

Scott Werner - *Executive Director, Oklahoma*

Lori Bruegman - *Dream Makers Project Manager, Colorado*

Kristy DeAnda - *Larimer County Recruiter, Colorado*

Jaalah Neerhof - *Foster & Adoption Recruiter, Colorado*

Elle Flowers - *Social Media, Colorado*

Shelby Mavis - *Social Media, Colorado*

## **Our Donors & Supporters**

### **AKB Top Donors**

William Allen

James Coddington

William Fralin

Chris and Britt Kelley  
Joe and Abbie Miller  
Joe and Sharon Ritchie  
Emily Tardy  
Cory and Crissy Verner  
Church of the City  
Davis, Graham, and Stubbs LLP, Jeff Brandel  
M3 Construction  
Worldviews, Calling and Culture

### **ACK Top Donors**

Karen Dean  
Chris and Teri Fall  
Todd and Jaime Kinzle  
Joe and Abbie Miller  
Andy and Jenny Welch  
Escape Velocity Systems  
Flatirons Community Church  
M3 Construction  
McDonnell Family Foundation  
Timberline Church  
Worldviews, Calling and Culture

### **Total Volunteers - 232**

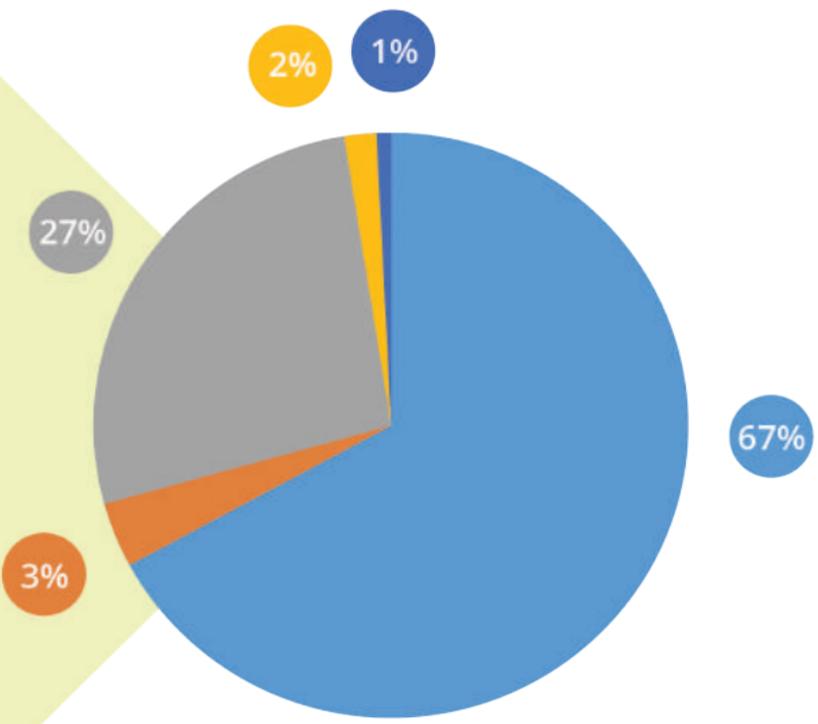
We are truly thankful for the hundreds of people across the United States who volunteered with us in 2016. Volunteers partnered with us by:

- Advocating on this issue and its solution to the faith, government, business, and creative spheres
- Being an invaluable part of an I Belong Project™ video shoot
- Supporting aging out youth in the Dream Makers Project
- Working tirelessly to create successful recruitment, campaign, and fundraising events
- Providing administrative support

# 2016 FINANCIAL RESULT

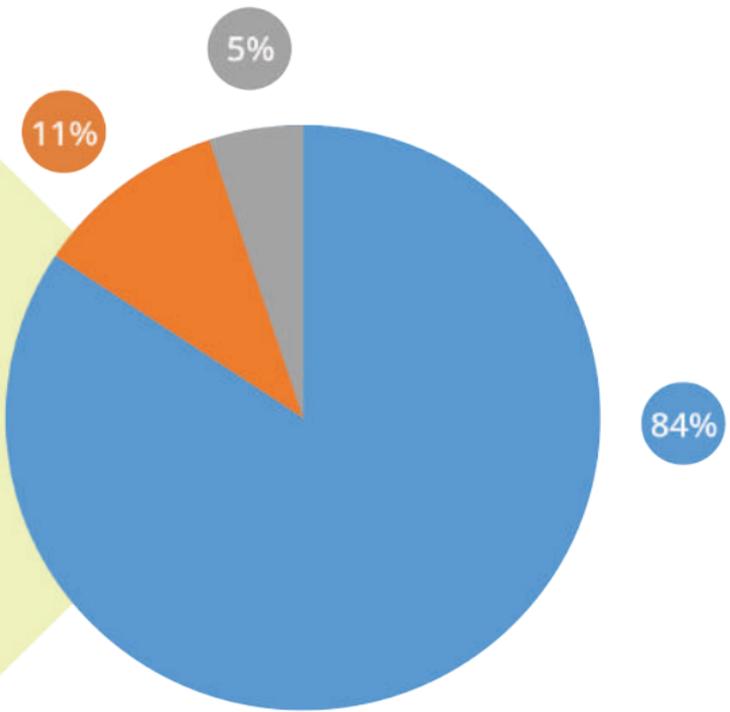
	AKB	AGK	Consolidated
Cash on Hand	\$95,066	\$153,872	\$248,938
2016 Income			
Individual Donations	\$265,811	\$225,315	\$491,126
Corporate Donations	\$5,000	\$19,596	\$24,596
Non-profit Donations	\$103,450	\$92,683	\$196,133
Grants	\$0	\$12,366	\$12,366
Other Income	\$3,684	\$1,770	\$5,454
Total Income	\$377,945	\$351,730	\$729,675
2016 Expenses			
Program	\$365,432	\$343,387	\$708,819
Fundraising	\$41,083	\$48,455	\$89,538
Administration	\$18,937	\$22,215	\$41,152
Total Expenses	\$425,452	\$414,057	\$839,509
2016 Operating Income	-\$47,507	-\$62,327	-\$109,834

2016 SUPPORT



- Individual Donations
- Corporate Donations
- Non-Profit/Church Donations
- Grants
- Other Income

2016 EXPENSES



- Program
- Fundraising
- Administration

# JOIN THE STORY

## Faith

- Dedicate a sermon or sermon series to educate & engage your congregation around the needs of foster care
- Host a “Next Steps” Dinner and Foster Certification classes at your church for prospective foster parents
- Start a “Wrap Around” ministry to equip your church in serving foster families

## Government

- Champion legislation that improves outcomes for children in foster care
- Partner with the child welfare system to improve outcomes for children in foster care

## Business

- Engage your workplace in the movement
- Make your business “foster friendly” (think Military Discounts for Foster Families!)
- Donate to help us reach the unique needs of every child

## Creative

- Use your unique voice and platform to create awareness and serve as an advocate for children in foster care

- Partner with us in writing stories, creating films, or be a part of a benefit concert, recruitment event, etc. to help us bring this issue to light
- Follow and share our stuff on social media and help spread the word

## Contact

# AMERICAS KIDS BELONG

### **America's Kids Belong**

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Windsor, CO 80550

1-844-216-5307

info@amkidsbelong.org



### **Online**

[AmericasKidsBelong.org](http://AmericasKidsBelong.org)

[AdoptColoradoKids.org](http://AdoptColoradoKids.org)

[DreamMakersProject.org](http://DreamMakersProject.org)

[Facebook.com/AmKidsBelong](https://Facebook.com/AmKidsBelong)

[Facebook.com/AdoptCoKids](https://Facebook.com/AdoptCoKids)

[Facebook.com/Dream.Makers.Proj](https://Facebook.com/Dream.Makers.Proj)

[Oklahomafosters.org](http://Oklahomafosters.org)

[TN.gov/tnfosters](http://TN.gov/tnfosters)

