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Celebrating God’s Goodness Through Adoption

Lee and Becca Snider with son Micah, adopted 2018
Celebration of God’s Goodness Through Adoption

Our Mission
We raise funds for adoption because no child should be without a parent.

Who We Are
We are a group of men and women who care for sons and daughters and who are mostly supported by amazing volunteers.

What We Do
Raise the Dough is a 501c3 (tax exempt) nonprofit organization on mission to raise funds for adoption. We receive gifts from friends, families, impact businesses and private foundations. These gifts enable us to support families as they incur financial needs through adoption.

Why We Do It
Adoption is expensive. The average cost for the adoptions we have supported is $35,000. We never want money to hinder families from growing through adoption.

How We Do It
We have partnered with Lifesong for Orphans to provide an application process to determine who we might help and to assess just how much financial assistance to offer. Those funds are held between Raise the Dough and Lifesong until the awarded families provide proof of adoption-related expenses. We then make disbursements to help them shoulder those costs. We rely on the grassroots support of family and friends to make this happen.

RAISETHEDOUGH.ORG
Celebrating God’s Goodness Through Adoption
by Tobe Forshtay, Executive Director of Raise the Dough

Greetings, dear friends, partners, donors and families. I’m writing this letter full of emotion. This will be Raise the Dough’s final annual publication. As the cover suggests, Raise the Dough is passing the adoption fundraising baton to our partner and fellow servant, Lifesong for Orphans. If this announcement comes to you as a shock, I experienced that too. If you are feeling a sense of bewilderment or grief or disappointment, I join in that with you. But I am confident as you read through this publication, you will join me in seeing why God began this good work through Raise the Dough and why He is continuing it through Lifesong for Orphans. So, hang on as we share what God did through Raise the Dough in 2021, celebrate the last seven years of His generosity and look forward to what He will do through Lifesong for Orphans.

God’s Way
You may be familiar with the story of the Israelites being freed from their bondage in Egypt. God called Moses to lead His chosen people (the Israelites) out of their captivity, redeemed them from their captors and brought them through the desert to the land that He had promised them. As Moses was passing away, God raised up Joshua to continue to lead His chosen people across the Jordan, and God gave them victory as they conquered and took possession of the Promised Land.

After some of these outrageous victories, Joshua continued the charge to overcome the next city. But in Joshua chapter 5, we read that they encountered an angel of the Lord’s armies. The angel had his sword drawn, and Joshua called out, “Are you for us, or are you for our enemies?” I love this. We know the Israelites are the Lord’s chosen people; we know that He chose Joshua to lead them; we know that God had given them victories. Now, we encounter the angel, and we think we know what happens next.

But the angel answered him. “Neither.” What? That’s right, “Neither.” The angel was ultimately declaring that he was with the Lord of hosts. He was fighting for God, and he was calling Joshua to consider who he was fighting for at that moment. The angel proceeded to tell Joshua to take off his sandals for he was standing on holy ground.

Joshua took off his sandals and fell to the ground in worship. And as he put himself into a submissive posture, he was then able to receive the instructions that the Lord had for him. You see, Joshua was a swordsman. He knew how to battle and overtake the next city, Jericho.

But Joshua received different orders. Joshua and his men were told to march around the city before God would give it into their hands. When they did as God instructed, He caused the walls of the city to fall, and He provided for His people, His way. (Joshua 6:1-27)

I feel as though I’ve had a Joshua moment. If this announcement comes to you as a shock, I experienced that too. If you are feeling a sense of bewilderment or grief or disappointment, I join in that with you. But I am confident as you read through this publication, you will join me in seeing why God began this good work through Raise the Dough and why He is continuing it through Lifesong for Orphans. So, hang on as we share what God did through Raise the Dough in 2021, celebrate the last seven years of His generosity and look forward to what He will do through Lifesong for Orphans.

God’s Timing
God has been so good to us here at Raise the Dough. We’ve operated in faith since our very beginning, saying, “Yes!” to each family who applied and praying for God to move in miraculous ways to bring us the gifts families needed. He has been faithful!

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God’s Provision
This decision still generates some weighty emotions, and I’m definitely still processing them, but I do have some reflections that I’d like to leave with you.

First: Thank You! We have had a front-row seat to God’s miraculous work. We’ve witnessed brokenness at the deepest levels, and we’ve witnessed extraordinary stories knit together by God’s design, bringing about restoration and beauty in ways that are hard to write about. But the truth is, this missional work was only possible because of you.

Second: Keep Up the Work! As we are closing the doors at Raise the Dough, we recognize that God is still at work, and you are still very much needed in this mission. Pray for the children awaiting adoption, pray for the mothers who have chosen life for their children but have experienced deep loss; pray for those experiencing the grief of infertility who find God drawing their hearts to adoption, and pray for those who will continue to do this work by occupation, as they need your time, talents and your treasures.

Finally: Fuel Our Finish and Close the Gap! We have a few families we still need to fund and some outstanding organizational costs to wrap up. As we cross this finish line, please consider giving us a financially strong finish. After our families and vendors are fully funded, we will close Raise the Dough and give any remaining funds to Lifesong for Orphans so that it might continue to use these gifts to fuel adoptions.

We have much more to share in this publication. I do hope you’ll read through some of our reflections on the past. We also pray your heart will rejoice as you read what our friends at Lifesong for Orphans have to offer those future families who need financial support. They are truly an amazing group of people.

You have all of my thanks. Until we meet again.

Tobe Forshtay
Executive Director, Raise the Dough

Tobe Forshtay, executive director of Raise the Dough, with wife Jaci (center) and their three children.
Celebration of God’s Goodness Through Adoption


2021 Annual Report

The number of families pursuing adoption between 2020 and 2021 has been fewer than in the preceding years. We recognize that life was changed drastically with the onset of the 2020 pandemic. Many families were concerned with health and safety, and there was little confidence in what information was being shared, compelling families to pause their plans to complete foster applications or even to adopt.

In spite of those disruptions, we saw an increase in donations. Additionally, Lifesong for Orphans reported that it was able to be more generous with adopting families because of the decrease in applications. Here is what Lifesong for Orphans observed:

At Lifesong, we have typically received at least 650 to 700 applications each year for adoption funding from Christian families within the U.S. or around the globe to help cover the cost of bringing their children home. In 2020, we received and processed 633 applications and in 2021, that number dropped to 541. While the number of adopting families has decreased, the average grant given has increased from $4,015 in 2020 to over $5,000 in 2021. That is a blessing and has helped families raise more money than we expected to see. Routinely, families are using their matching grant to help them raise $18,000 to $25,000. People are still giving very generously to support adoption!

We have also seen a steady increase in the number of new donors who are partnering with Lifesong. Since the start of the pandemic, 48 new partners have emerged who are helping bring orphaned children into healing families. On the subject of healing, we have also seen a dramatic increase in the amount of funding that's been given to help adopted children heal from the trauma they have experienced. In the past two years (2020 and 2021), $338,000 has been made available to 90 families for counseling, EMDR, neurotherapy and other therapies – compared to $89,000 to 30 families in the previous two years (2018 and 2019).

Slowly but surely countries are reopening. Adoptions are happening. Families are traveling, and children are coming home. Current active countries include Colombia, India, Thailand, Liberia, South Korea, Philippines, Bulgaria, Taiwan, Latvia, Nepal and the U.S. Right now, about 80% of families applying to Lifesong are adopting domestically. - Rich Metcalfe, Lifesong for Orphans Program Director

We were thankful to receive this report, recognizing that even in this interlude of greater uncertainty, families who have pursued adoption are being richly blessed. At Raise the Dough, we also saw this dip in adoptive families seeking support; the requests for assistance fell by 50% from 2019 to 2020, but increased by 25% from 2020 to 2021.

Join us in praying for families to continue on their adoption journey. Let's encourage them, journey with them and continue to fuel their pursuits with our partners at Lifesong for Orphans.

2021 Annual Report

by Tobe Forshtay, Executive Director of Raise the Dough

We have much to celebrate and much to share as we report on the activities of 2021. As has been our past practice, in this report we’ll provide information about some of our internal activities, we’ll share about the families we were able to partner with, we’ll celebrate the homecomings of children being adopted in 2021, and we’ll look briefly over our financial stewardship.

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Families Supported in 2021

In 2021, we were blessed to partner with eight families. Join us in celebrating these families who made the challenging, beautiful, hard, amazing and wonderful decision to pursue adoption.

Each of these families carries a unique story. They have been vulnerable in sharing their journeys and have made their stories available on their digital bios. You can find their stories at raisethedough.org/families. We are so thankful they chose this road. Thank you for supporting them.

Not pictured: Christian & Megan
Homecomings

This is by far one of the most amazing parts of the adoption journey. We pause to celebrate what we call a “homecoming,” when these long awaited children are united with their forever families. Join us in praising God for making these homecomings happen in 2021. While we rejoice over these homecomings, we are also acutely aware of the additional families awaiting their homecomings. Let’s keep praying that their future homecomings will arrive.
Celebration of God’s Goodness Through Adoption


Our family is incredibly grateful for the ministry of Raise the Dough and the assistance that they have given to us to complete our beautiful journey of adoption. Our precious Everleigh Joy was born in the state of Florida on June 16, 2021. We couldn’t believe it then, and we still can hardly believe that this baby girl is ours!

God began knitting her story together about 15 years ago. We were leaving a Right to Life Banquet in Warsaw, Ind., where our hearts were stirred by the powerful message of a woman who once had an abortion. We spoke with a friend following the event and told her that we wished there could be a way to give hurting moms another option. We would love to adopt the child of a mom who was considering abortion. More than a decade later, we received a phone call that would change our lives forever.

Our beautiful baby Everleigh’s birth mom lives in the state of Florida. She found herself pregnant and not sure what to do. She felt like she wasn’t at a point in her life where she could care for another child, so she went to an abortion clinic to abort Everleigh. It was the fall of 2020 and in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Everleigh’s birth mom refused to wear a mask in the clinic. She and the doctor got into an argument before the abortion took place. He told her that “she had no regard for human life,” and he kicked her out of the clinic.

Thank you, Jesus! On her way home, she called her sister in northern Indiana and told her that she didn’t know what to do. Her sister is a Christian, and she shared the conversation with our friend who is also a Christian, who had the conversation with my wife 15 years before.

Our friend called and said, “When you told me all of those years ago that you would take a baby who was going to be aborted, did you really mean it?” And God started this journey that put a smiley, loving, beautiful baby girl in our arms. We can’t imagine our lives without Evvie in it. Through our friend and the birth mom’s sister, we connected with the birth mom. Through Zoom and phone calls and text messages, we came to not only love our unborn daughter, but her courageous birth mother and birth family, who gave us the most unbelievable gift.

Leading up to Evvie’s arrival, her birth mom and my wife, Renee, spoke almost every day. It was beautiful! Renee was in the delivery room when Evvie was born, and I was just outside the door. We will be forever grateful! Her biological family is going to stay a part of all of our lives. We love them dearly and are grateful beyond measure for them!

Evvie’s name means “wanted” or “desired.” And she sure is! We call her Evvie which means “to live” or “to breathe.” Her middle name is Joy, and her story and her bubbly personality definitely reflect joy! We think that her name is incredibly appropriate. Thank you, Jesus, for Your hand of protection on Evvie, and thank You, Lord, for the ministry of Raise the Dough that has helped to make adoption financially possible for us and for so many!
The third annual Sons & Daughters Festival was held on a beautiful fall evening in September 2021. Food trucks, educational booths, kids’ games and activities, and stages consumed the lawn outside of First Christian Church in Warsaw, Ind.

For anyone in attendance, the message was clear: “One Church. One Adoption.” The focus of the festival was to create awareness around adoption — from the numerous nonprofits present to those leading worship and telling stories from the stage.

The event showcased the ways people can support the many local organizations providing foster care, adoption and trauma support services.

“We saw many families come to enjoy an evening of worship and fun together,” said Tobe Forshtay, executive director of Raise the Dough, one of the nonprofits that sponsored the event. “We hope they left knowing that there is a beautiful thing happening in this community. That people are loving one another in rather remarkable ways, and they can be a part of it.”

The 2021 Sons & Daughters Festival would not have happened without the support and involvement of so many. Thank you to these individuals, teams and countless volunteers unnamed.

**Speakers/Leaders:** Pastor Matthew Rogers (First Christian Church), Jay Bell (Lakeland Christian Academy), Jeremy Welch and the First Christian Church worship team, Nick Stanton and the Warsaw Community Church worship team, Stephen Coston and team, Lakeland Christian Academy Student Worship Arts Team, Ana Pierson (Pathway Community Church), Pastor Jim Brown (Grace Community Church – Goshen) and Mark Schultz.

**Nonprofits:** Adoptions of Indiana, All Blessings International, Baker Youth Club, Boomerang Backpacks, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children, Combined Community Services, Fellowship Missions, Heartline Pregnancy Center, Indiana Department of Child Services, Lost Sparrows, Spoonful of Imagination, Raise the Dough, Right to Life of North Central Indiana, Village to Village.

**Volunteers:** Too many individuals to name, but specifically Grace College Men’s & Women’s basketball teams, the Raise the Dough planning team and the families who rolled up their sleeves and lent a hand.


And lastly, to our amazing Community: This was done to show love to you, and you loved us well in return. Thanks for being a champion of adoption and supporting those most vulnerable among us. This is a challenge best embraced together.

“It’s easy to think that if I’m not adopting, then events about adoption are not for me. But this event teaches everyone that there are multiple roles in orphan care throughout our community, and it doesn’t have to be hard to get plugged in.”

- Genevieve Stoll

Team member of Blue River Digital, the organization that marketed the festival

“We work with abused and neglected children which at times results in the need for adoptive families and support for them. The mission of this festival is aimed at the population of children we work with every day, and being able to be a part of this community and vision will benefit those children.”

- Lindsay Castro

Indiana Department of Child Services

**Map of our 2021 Sons & Daughters Festival**

**Artist Mark Schultz shares his adoption story through his music.**
Thank you!

### 2021 IMPACT Partners

We were blessed by the generosity of a large number of donors in 2021. We received gifts from individuals and businesses across our county, outside of this region and even a few who have faithfully supported us from beyond the state lines. Thank you to each one of you!

Additionally, we took the counsel of Lifesong for Orphans as we launched our IMPACT Partner campaign in 2019. We sought to find like-minded, for-profit organizations and called on churches to give significant gifts to Raise the Dough to cover our administrative and operational expenses throughout the year. Those funds helped to cover salary, office, festival and general operations. We have had a growing list of IMPACT Partners, and for that we are so grateful.

Thank you to our 2021 IMPACT Partners!

### Churches

Christ’s Covenant Church | Warsaw Community Church | First Christian Church
Leesburg Grace Brethren Church | Oak Park Church

### Organizations (Over $1000)

Alderfer Bergen & Co. | Kosciusko County Community Foundation | Cultivate Consulting, Silveus Insurance Group
Wildman Business Group | Network Partners | Renewal Homes, Bass Audiology | Clearwater Car Wash | Core Mechanical
DreamOn Studios | Napa-Warsaw | K21 Health Foundation

### Additional Partners

Additionally, we are thankful to the individuals and organizations who have supported us in so many ways during the life of Raise the Dough. Thank you to the brilliant Greg Burkett with RipFish Interactive, who gave us a digital presence and created our logo and website.

Thank you to Blue River Digital who produced beautiful print pieces for us and managed our social media and merch store.

And thanks to Pulse FM, Oldies 101, and Willie 103, WRSW for providing airspace and promotions of our festivals and faithful work.

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### Our Board & Staff

We have seen many team members come and go, and an army of volunteers joined us at various times over the course of our history. We are blessed to have had so many wise, compassionate and talented people serve Raise the Dough, including:

**Founding Board Members**
Art Woodruff, Kyle Alcorn, Tobe Forshay

**Additional Board Members**
Brian Catron, Mallika Klingmana, Brandon Schmitt, Jennifer Nase, Marla Schlatter, Jeri Purdy, Neena Bergher, Julia Porter, Emily Brenneman

**Staff**
Jo Hickerson, Rachel (Starrett) Cole, Renita Weaver, Katie Jacobson

You all played key roles in enabling so many families to grow through adoption. Thank you!
Celebrating 2015 to 2022

We have so much to celebrate. Over the last seven years, God has done the impossible for us over and over again. We invite you to step back in time with us as we remember how Raise the Dough first got started and to marvel at the families and children whose lives have been forever blessed through your generosity and God’s faithfulness.

49 FAMILIES SUPPORTED • 38 ADOPTIONS COMPLETED • OVER $500,000 RAISED

A Look Back

by Tobe Forshtay, Executive Director of Raise the Dough

To put it simply, Raise the Dough, Inc. was born out of a party and a prayer. It all started back in 2008.

The Party

I had just started a job with Silveus Insurance Group. It was a joy and a blessing to work with that organization, and I quickly learned that while Silveus valued hard work, they equally valued celebrating. My contribution to the business’ celebration calendar was to highlight a rather under-recognized holiday: National Doughnut Day, which is celebrated annually on the first Friday of June.

The celebration included dusting off an old New Jersey cake doughnut recipe, purchasing a couple table top deep fryers, brewing some coffee and serving friends, colleagues and clients on a sunny morning in June. I cannot say that we launched in a large way, but this rather humble gathering grew year over year as the treats became better and more friends were invited.

By the spring of 2014, we had about a hundred party guests, and I was already calling on help from a few of our local restaurants to make the treats and brew the beans. We had ourselves an official party, and it was very sweet indeed.

The Prayer

Like many young married couples, my wife and I had joined a small group of newlyweds that met on Sunday mornings to study how we might live as married couples by God’s design. This friend circle would have dinner in our homes and play games or watch movies. Although we enjoyed the fun of just being together, we began reading books, studying the Bible, memorizing Scripture and growing together spiritually. One of our staple activities when gathering was to join together in prayer.

We asked God to bless our families. Ultimately, this group began praying for children, and children are what the Lord provided. Our small group began bustling at the seams with babies. While God was kind to say yes to those prayers for so many in our group, one of our families was unable to get pregnant. That broke my mind and my heart, and it disrupted my understanding of the heart of God.

We prayed for eight years for that family. We called on the Lord to be kind enough to allow them to conceive, and yet they did not. I wasn’t sure what could be done, but I began to inquire about adoption. I asked if that might be an option for them (not knowing anything about adoption myself). They acknowledged that it was a desire at one time, but the expense required to adopt was so high, it proved to be a barrier that kept them from pursuing it.

The Birth

In the spring of 2014, we continued to talk about the possibility of an adoption for this couple, and in doing so, it became clear to me that we had an opportunity to help. I was preparing for our annual Doughnut Day celebration, and it dawned on me that we had been giving these treats away for free for years. What might happen if we charged money for this party and blessed this family with a gift to help them adopt?
In April 2014, this dear couple was sitting in front of me at church, so I tapped our friend Heidi on the shoulder and shared with her my idea. God was moving me to invite our small group to help convert the Doughnut Day party into a fundraiser to help them with their adoption expenses. I asked, “Would this be okay with you both?”

The question was met with instant tears. Heidi shared how she and her husband, Kelly, were growing more comfortable with the idea of adoption, but that just the night before, they had told God rather boldly that He was going to have to show them how the money would be provided because they just couldn’t afford it.

So we threw a fundraiser to help Heidi and Kelly begin fundraising for their adoption. It was a huge success. Just over a year later, they welcomed little Brennan into their home, and with that, my joy was complete.

The Launch

As we began planning for the next Doughnut Day party in 2015, two new families inquired about leveraging the opportunity to fund their adoption journey. I knew if we wanted to do this, we’d need to formalize it. I called together a few friends, we formed our board of directors, filed for a 501c3, and in May of 2015, Raise the Dough, Inc. was launched.

We very quickly outgrew the table top doughnut fryers and shared with her my idea: God was moving me to be provided because they just couldn’t afford it.

Operations have typically been managed from kitchen tables or coffee shops, but then in 2021, we moved into a suite at the offices at North Central Indiana Right to Life. It’s been an amazing progression to witness.

The Families

But no doubt, the greatest blessing of this journey has been growing close to so many of the families and their new family members who leaned on this organization for support (ultimately, leaning on you to fund their adoption journey). We have quite a few new friends who have come and gone through the years, and one of our primary goals has been to stay connected, inquiring about prayer requests even years after the adoption journey has been completed.

To witness 38 precious children be wholeheartedly welcomed into these dear families leaves me speechless. This is the legacy that you all have been a part of. These children have their forever families today because you stood up to help. I invite you to read these names and praise God with us for each one: Brennan, Toban, Silas, Shiloh, Poppy, Ella Marie, Evelyn, Rihaan, Micah, Owen, Asher, Eli, Zoey, Lily, Mia, Margaret, Riley, Sophie, Travis, Ezra, Jennelynn, Judah, Waldo, Olivia, Zion, Willow, Bennett, Jefferson, Rebecca, Mallorie, Anaya, Millie, Merci, Ada, Pearl, Silas, Ezra and Everleigh!

The Highlights

May 2022 will mark seven years of operation for Raise the Dough. It’s a fitting finish line for us. As we look back, here are some organizational milestones worth rejoicing over:

• We raised just over $500,000!
• We partnered with 49 families, in some instances we provided financial support, but in all cases we provided prayer support.
• We learned how to cherish birth moms and dads and how to love them properly through this broken and beautiful transition.
• We witnessed other nonprofit entities launch and serve this region of the state, cherishing the unborn, promoting the sanctity of life and ultimately fighting for families.

49 Families Supported

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Families Supported</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1 family supported</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>1 family supported</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>8 families supported</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2 families supported</td>
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*We funded our first family, Heidi and Kelly, in 2014, although we were not officially incorporated.
She could have FaceTimed us from the hospital bed holding a newborn baby, and we would have had to adapt to that.

With Willow’s adoption, we had about an eight-week “head’s up,” and we were able to plan a little bit ahead for her birth.

All that to say this: it’s a very unique experience to be in the waiting phase of adoption. It can go from zero to 100 in a matter of moments. One day, we can be sitting in our living room, so frustrated at the seemingly endless waiting. And as we’re sitting there, we could get a phone call that we need to rush to the hospital.

It has required, in us, a completely different level of faith and trust in God.

We seem to have so much less control. So much less knowledge of the situation. God is orchestrating so many things, but they are all behind the scenes.

God is knitting our baby in another mother’s womb, and we are completely unaware of who she is or how she’s doing. It requires an openhanded “God, I trust you” attitude that nothing else has ever prompted us to embody.

Compared to some of our Bible heroes, our waiting phase isn’t very long. It can feel really long for us. We’ve been waiting for about 11 months to be matched with a birth mother. But when we look at the Scriptures and we read the stories of Noah, Moses, David and Rebekah, it showcases the depth and steadiness of their faith. In many cases, they had to wait years, even decades, to watch God do what He promised them. God was working the whole time, but they couldn’t see it. They just had to wait.

This shows me that waiting is one of God’s greatest tools in sanctifying us and building our faith. Waiting is a faith-forging experience. Waiting proves that we know God’s way and God’s timing is better. It’s not easy to have to wait, but it’s really good to have to wait.

This is just one of the ways that God has grown us through adoption. We can’t count the ways God has changed our life through Willow, and the list of ways He is changing us keeps growing through our waiting phase this second time around.

So we’re trying to wait well. We have our phones close to us. We have all the newborn diapers ready to go. But in the middle of the waiting, we’re trusting in God that in His timing, He will bring a new baby into our home soon!
These are the names of 38 children who were adopted with the prayer and support that you gave through Raise the Dough. Please read each name, and as you read it, pray that God would be doing a work in the life of that child and in the lives of the family members walking with them.

Brennan, Toban, Silas,
Shiloh, Poppy, Ella Marie,
Evelyn, Rihaan, Micah,
Owen, Asher, Eli, Zoey,
Lily, Mila, Margaret,
Riley, Sophie, Travis

Ezra, Jennelynn, Judah,
Waldo, Olivia, Zion,
Willow, Bennett, Jefferson,
Rebecca, Mallorie, Anaya,
Millie, Merci, Ada, Pearl,
Silas, Ezra, Everleigh
Celebrating God's Goodness Through Adoption

Pictured are the many children and families whose lives have been forever changed through your support.
Passing the Baton

God is still at work, and you are still very much needed in this mission. We invite you to support Lifesong for Orphans in all the ways you have so faithfully supported Raise the Dough. Pray for the children awaiting adoption; pray for the mothers who have chosen life for their children but have experienced deep loss; pray for those experiencing the grief of infertility who find God drawing their hearts to adoption; and pray for those who will continue to do this work, by occupation, as they need your time, talents and your treasures.
Passing the Baton

A Call Answered
by Rich Metcalfe, Program Director for Lifesong for Orphans

It has been a real privilege to get to know Tobe Forshtay and the Raise the Dough team since January 2020. I still recall my first phone call with Tobe, when I learned about the past ministry, current goals and future plans, and feeling thankful that the Lord had positioned Lifesong for Orphans in a way that would permit us to come alongside and help. The heart of Lifesong is to serve adoption advocates and lift as many burdens as possible so that their ministries can blossom. Lifesong is blessed to support over 530 churches and ministries who are seeking to bless and encourage adoptive families. Like Raise the Dough, we believe that money should never be the reason a child does not have a family. By God’s grace, Lifesong serves ministry partners and adoptive families at no cost.

One hundred percent of all donations given to Lifesong to support an adoptive family are given to that adoptive family to pay for adoption expenses. The donor receives a tax receipt so the money raised does not count as income for the family. More than that, we provide multiple fundraising tools to each approved family, like an online account, a free crowdfunding platform and many fundraising ideas. We pray regularly for our families throughout their adoption journey and are blessed to be able to offer help accessing post-adoptive care, like counseling, for their child and family.

Along with the joy of serving over 10,000 Christian families from all over the world as they move forward with domestic or inter-country adoption, we are also engaged in deep, Gospel-centered orphan care. You can find out much more about Lifesong, including our longstanding work in Ukraine, on our website: www.lifesong.org.

When Tobe let me know that he had been called to step down from leading Raise the Dough and that the board had chosen to close the ministry, I was saddened. The end of any ministry is hard, but there is always the joy of recognizing that the Lord is leading and that His plans are best.

Raise the Dough has been used by the Lord to bless many families. Today, there are many children who are now in loving families, positioned to influence another generation for the Lord. By God’s grace, Raise the Dough will leave a blazing legacy of God’s work in the lives of a very special group of saints from Warsaw, Ind.

We are looking forward to continuing to answer the call with you – in any way the Lord directs. If you have questions about Lifesong or any of the ways you can get involved (adoption funding, child sponsorship, orphan care, etc.) please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at rich@lifesong.org.

Rich Metcalfe
Program Director | lifesong.org

BRINGING JOY & PURPOSE TO ORPHANS

FAQs

In need of financial assistance for your adoption?
Lifesong provides an application for financial assistance through its website. Couples desiring to apply can do so at www.lifesong.org/adoption/apply

Is your church ready to get serious about adoption and orphan care?
Many churches are challenged when trying to help their members navigate the adoption process. Lifesong has a team ready and able to come alongside churches to ensure that holistic support is offered to those members. To support their orphan care ministry, connect with Lifesong today at www.lifesong.org/church-partnership.

Are you ready to fuel this ministry?
While Raise the Dough has been blessed by your financial support, we are encouraging you to begin supporting Lifesong for Orphans. One hundred percent of the funds given will go directly to families pursuing adoption. Learn how to maximize your gift and consider supporting Lifesong at www.lifesong.org/about/ways-to-give

If you wish to give to Lifesong by check, please make checks payable to Lifesong for Orphans and add a note sharing your desire for the use of funds (to a specific approved family, to the general adoption fund, or other). Checks may be mailed to: Lifesong for Orphans PO Box 9 Gridley, IL 61744

In whatever way you’re called to serve orphans, we’re here to help.

When you partner with Lifesong, you can find help for your adoption, reach children with holistic, Gospel-centered care locally and globally, and engage your church in God’s call to care for the fatherless.

Find Help For Your Adoption
Christian families can apply for matching grants, interest-free loans, fundraising support, and a FREE crowdfunding platform, as well as find post-adoption financial assistance. All gifts given through Lifesong are tax-deductible, and 100% of funds go directly toward adoption expenses. Lifesong has supported the adoption of over 9,500 children since 2002.

Reach Orphans Globally
Partner with local leaders to share the Gospel by caring for vulnerable children and preserving families with nutrition programs, education, safe homes, and transition programs. 18,007 children are served each day across 13 countries.

Advocate in Your Community
Support your local foster care community with The Forgotten Initiative, an advocate ministry of Lifesong. Learn how to build relationships and meet specific needs in your community. Join 30+ advocates serving 100+ agencies across the U.S.

Engage Your Church
Create financial solutions for adoptive families by starting a no-cost, personalized adoption fund at your church. Or engage in global orphan care projects through mission teams and child sponsorship. Join 518 adoption fund partners in 44 states.

Fuel Ministry through Business
Create life-changing, community-transforming job opportunities through sustainable business initiatives and impact investing. Lifesong-led businesses have created 432 jobs around the globe, impacting approximately 2,160 individuals.
Thank you for journeying with us!


Mila, adopted 2019

PO Box 256, Warsaw, IN 46581
RAISETHEDOUGH.ORG