



Together
for Good

TOGETHER FOR GOOD

2024

IMPACT REPORT

Our **Mission**

Together for Good (TFG) creates pathways for the local church to come alongside vulnerable children and families in Christ-centered ministry.

Together, we strive to ensure that no family walks through life alone.



Our **Core** Pillars

Do Good

We want to help followers of Jesus live out Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do good; seek justice; correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

Love Our Neighbor

God calls us to defend, visit, and care for widows and orphans – to love those who are isolated, without family or community. We believe Christians are called to walk with the hurting and the rejected – those who are in distress.

Mobilize the Church

We want to reignite the vision and purpose of the early Church by providing an opportunity for the Church to love our neighbors.

We connect those who **need** help with those who **can** help.



Letter from Our President

I recently visited with Jenny, a mom in our program, and her Together for Good (TFG) parent advocate, Maddy. Two years ago, God rescued Jenny from a life of addiction. With the support of TFG host families and Maddy, Jenny is successfully parenting her three-year-old son, Max. He is a happy boy, full of life! We are so proud of her.

"Jenny," Maddy shared, "God's sustaining love has carried you through some difficult times. We see you becoming the mother God created you to be. You are precious to Him. He will never leave you or forsake you. And we are here to walk with you. You are not alone." With tears in her eyes, she responded, "No one has ever told me I'm precious. Thank you."

I wish I could sit with you over a cup of coffee and share our 2024 Impact Report. It is full of numbers that represent lives – like Jenny's – who have been transformed by your sacrifice in serving and supporting TFG. My prayer is that you see a glimpse of the

"Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to His power that is at work within us, **to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"

Ephesians 3:20-21

incredible work God is doing through His Church – through you.

This last year, because of your prayers, generosity, and commitment, 365 TFG advocates and host families readily responded to 825 calls for help by offering hope, friendship, and the grace-filled love of Jesus.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are committed to growing our reach both deep and wide, mobilizing more churches and volunteers, and ultimately serving more families like Jenny's by sharing the truth that they are precious to God – and they are not alone.

It is an honor to partner with you. Your faithfulness is changing lives.




Maridel Sandberg
President & Executive Director



2024 National Board of Directors

Chair

Nicky Brown

VP of Advocacy and Government Affairs with HealthEquity

Secretary

Cindy Engelking

MBA Carlson School of Management, TFG Host Mom

Treasurer

Linda Rukavina

Health Coach with Mastering Diabetes

Directors

Stan Hamann

Retired Sr. VP of NorthRisk Partners

Darin Hunhoff

Executive VP, Energy at CHS Inc.

**The National Board of Directors provides oversight for all TFG sites. Additionally, each site has a local advisory committee.*

"Family doesn't have to be blood. And I am hoping that [our host family] can be part of our life and **we can just continue to grow together as a big integrated family.**"

MJ, Minnesota Participant Mom

Doing **Good** at Together for Good

Our goal is to keep families safely together through intentional relationships. These relationships are built in two primary ways: hostings and advocacy.

Emergency and Respite Hostings

During a hosting, trained volunteers open their homes to care for children. Often, when we first start hosting for a new participant family, the parent is in an immediate emergency. These crises calls come from a variety of referrals including, first responders, hospital staff, county social workers, treatment centers, prisons, or simply a desperate parent with no one to turn to. We are able to meet these families in some of their most difficult moments. As relationships are built with participant families, hostings move from *emergency* to *respite*. Respite hostings occur every 4-6 weeks and help establish reliable community for a previously isolated family.

Parent Advocacy

For a family to truly move out of crisis, the parent needs to know that they are not alone. TFG volunteer parent advocates are carefully matched by a TFG case manager to a one-on-one relationship with a participant parent. Each of these intentional friendships are unique; however, all involve regular check-ins, prayer, and the willingness to flexibly meet the needs of the participant parent.



261 families were served this year! More than 70% of families served stay connected with TFG.*

**According to a 3-year study.*



526 children were cared for this year! That is 126 more children than last year. Each of these children experienced the love of Jesus.



There were 1,531 hostings this year! That equals 3,667 days that children were in a safe home while their parents navigate crises.

2024 was a year of faithfulness.

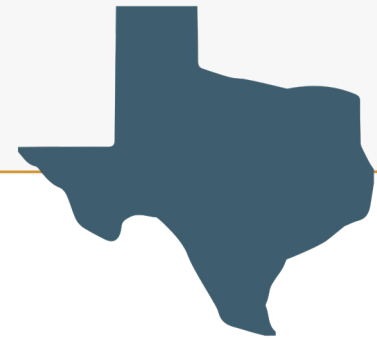
At each of our sites, we saw our donors faithfully give, our staff and volunteers faithfully serve, and God faithfully transform lives.



In **Minnesota**, there were 145 more hostings than in 2023. This reflects hiring an additional case manager, a 33% increase in referral partners, and the unwavering readiness of our volunteers. Growth was also seen at our annual gala, which had more than 800 people in attendance!



In **Iowa**, we partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Iowa State Director of Family Well-Being and Protection to help equip churches to serve in the child welfare space. We served over twice the number of families than the year prior – and today, nearly every participant family has an advocate.



In **Texas**, we hired two case managers – including a bilingual case manager. This has been a crucial first step to helping us better serve Spanish-speaking families in our communities. We had a 68% increase in the number of families we served as compared to 2023.

For a Good **Future**

2024 was the second year of implementing our five-year strategic plan that was formed in 2022. This plan was created to guide TFG as we meet the increasing demand of both families in need and Christians who want to be a part of Together for Good. Below are the six pillars of our plan and key accomplishments from 2024.

Known and Trusted

We launched a new website and increased our social media presence. We established a survey to measure TFG's ministry effectiveness in participant families' lives.

Volunteer Excellence

Over 100 volunteers attended Growing Deeper support groups in Minnesota and Iowa, receiving further education on topics related to TFG's work. We began testing a portal to improve volunteer on-boarding.

Employer of Choice

Across our Minnesota, Texas, and National teams, we brought on five new employees (two full-time and three part-time). Our staff (and board) attended the 2024 Christian Alliance for Orphans conference, receiving continuing education and refreshment.

Grow Our Reach

We met our fundraising goal to launch a TFG site in Wisconsin and started actively looking for a Site Lead. We hired a Vice President of Strategic Growth and created a formal site vetting process to prepare for expansion in the future.

Develop a Board of Champions

We welcomed a new board member, and our board has increased their engagement in TFG activities.

Financially Strong

We had a significant increase in our total donors. Additionally, our National/Minnesota gala was the largest ever with over 800 people in attendance.

Stewarding the **Good** that is **Given**

TFG National Income & Expenses for 2024

Income: \$2,219,221

| | |
|------------|---|
| 75% | Individuals, Foundations, Funds, and Trusts |
| 13% | Churches |
| 8% | Businesses |
| 4% | Other Income |

Expenses: \$1,901,193

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Advertising & Promotion | Merchant Fees |
| Accounting Fees | Office Lease & Supplies |
| Benefit Supplements | Salaries |
| Events | Social Security Taxes |
| Financial Services | Software & Subscriptions |
| Fundraising Platform | Training & Development |
| Insurance | Travel Expenses & Mileage |
| Legal Fees | Workers Compensation |

"I appreciate how TFG prioritizes transparency and stewardship. I know **my contribution is being used wisely to help families in crisis.**"

Doug M., Donor

Our model of **ministry mobilization** with **professional oversight** allows us to care for hundreds of families and children in a cost-effective way.



Mobilizing the Church

In Iowa, three churches wrapped around a mom, Shakerra, who was homeless after leaving a domestic violence situation. Host families from each church took in her four kids, caring for them until she found a home. Support volunteers then furnished her apartment, brought meals, and built relationships with Shakerra and her kids.



"As the body of Christ, we're always talking about living generously and being interruptible. That is just what [hosting] has been."

Cody DeKruyff, Iowa Host Dad

"It amazes me how complete strangers have shown so much love and care. After [Together for Good] came into my life, the blessings just kept coming and coming. I have never been so blessed."

Shakerra, Iowa Participant Mom

"I am just so thankful that Shakerra and her kids are in a good place now and that they feel the love of Christ. And I am so thankful that our church could be a part of that."

Jana Van Zante, Ministry Coordinator

335 **People** Attended Training



There are currently over 1,000 TFG volunteers serving in various ways across the nation and many more host families and parent advocates are in the process of becoming fully approved to serve.

96 **Churches** Mobilized



This is a nearly 15% increase from 2023. We had steady growth across each of our sites and are so grateful for the ministry coordinators who are serving as liaisons between their churches and TFG.

100,660 Volunteer **Hours**



This number represents the days, weeks, and months spent hosting, the check-ins from advocates, and the many ways our support volunteers care for participants.

5,030 **In-person** Visits



Our volunteers faithfully met the practical needs of participant families through Deliveries for Good baskets, meals, diapers, clothing, home organization, and transportation.



When Todd and Sarah Salava first began hosting Veronica's daughters, they never anticipated the friendship that would be built.

Veronica called Together for Good for respite care. She was working full-time, living out of her car, and overwhelmed as she cared for her two and one-year-old daughters, Promise and Aurora.

Shortly after being connected with the Salavas, Veronica found out she was expecting and – due to severe morning sickness that made her unable to work consistently – she lost her job.

When the Salavas heard about Veronica's increased hardship, they began hosting Promise and Aurora more often. They would care for the girls when Veronica was incredibly sick or needed time to search for a new job.

Through this extra care, Sarah and Veronica grew closer. Sarah said, "Being with her at such a vulnerable yet special time brought us closer together. Looking back, I think **God put us in each other's lives months earlier so we could establish that trust, and she would have someone to lean on when she needed it.**"

Veronica welcomed a beautiful baby boy while Promise and Aurora were with the Salavas. After giving birth, Veronica experienced postpartum complications. However, thanks to the Salavas and to Veronica's other TFG host family and case manager, she was never alone.

As Veronica's health improved, her friendship with Sarah deepened. Veronica told Sarah, "I am overwhelmed with gratitude, I genuinely cannot thank you enough – I literally tear up! **I'm praying one day I get to bless a young mom and give her everything you have given me and my kids!** I love you and your family!"

Sarah and Veronica's friendship is a beautiful example of the relationships being built through TFG. When families come to us without support and community, every crisis they face is overwhelming. However, when a participant mom has a host family or advocate alongside her, even challenging crises become more manageable.

Sarah shared, "Our hope for Veronica is for her to always remember she's a child of God who is loved and worthy of love and connection – that there are good people in the world who genuinely want to help and be a part of her life." Sarah added she hopes Veronica will continue to be a part of the Salava's life for years to come.



The Families We Serve

- 99% are single moms facing poverty
- 50% were in the foster care
- 30% have unstable housing
- 25% are survivors of sex trafficking
- Many are battling addiction, mental health struggles, or medical crises
- Many have experienced domestic violence

**These numbers are from families willing to share – the actual number may be higher. The majority of families experience a combination of the above.*

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their affliction**, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

James 1:27

Looking Ahead to 2025

Reaching More Communities

We will significantly increase the number of people exposed to our unique model of care in order to deepen our impact. Our goal is to see more families and children served in each of our current locations and beyond. We continue to prayerfully consider new requests to bring the TFG model to other cities.

Deepening Connections with Churches

Churches are the backbone of our work. This next year, we will be working to increase the number of our church partners in order to meet the growing needs of our communities. We also want to deepen our connections with current churches through intentional communication, visits from our staff, and greater opportunity to serve.

Improving Volunteer Experience

Our volunteers are incredibly generous with their time and resources. We want to honor them by providing seamless support throughout their journey with TFG. To ensure a smooth and engaging on-boarding experience, we will be launching a new volunteer portal.



You Can Make a **Difference**

Become a Host Family

Host families welcome children into their homes for a few days or several months. They share the love of Christ through their actions and words, drawing young hearts to the Gospel.

Become a Parent Advocate

Parent advocates offer friendship to our participant parents, providing a listening ear and helping to meet practical needs.

Become a Support Volunteer

Support volunteers serve both participants and host families. They work within their church to make meals, offer home organization, and to pray for all those serving.



*Together for Good does not receive any government assistance and is 100% funded through private donations. **Your financial support is key to our being able to offer services to vulnerable families.***

Scan the QR code or give online at www.tfgood.org/give





For the *good* of the **child**.
For the *good* of the **family**.
For the *good* of the **community**.

Together for Good 2024 Impact Report
www.tfgood.org