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Spring 2016 Newsletter

Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow and the orphan. Isaiah 1:17

register by March 30th at katelynsfund.org

..... SHOW HOPE'S
EMPOWERED
to Connect
CONFERENCE
 LIVE SIMULCAST! | APRIL 8-9, 2016
 EQUIPPING YOU TO BRING HOPE AND HEALING TO ADOPTED AND FOSTER CHILDREN

 Dan & Terri Coley <i>Show Hope</i>	 Darren Jones TCU	 Dr. Karyn Purvis & Dr. Amanda Howard TCU	 Sanford University	 Henry Kilton TCU	 Alan & Debra Jones Parenting Adoptees Con Trust
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8:30am to 5pm **both days**

Christ Community Church, Sioux Center, Iowa
 CEU credits available for professionals

sponsored by:





Who will fight for me?

Every time I look at their faces, I feel like I can hear their voices, echoing this one question from the deep caverns of their hearts. They are the same five words that I've spent a lifetime wrestling with. The same five words that have drawn me nearer to the Lord's heart. The same five words that bring me back, time and time again, to the place of crying out for the orphan. Don't we all want to be the one who stands up and says, "I will! I will fight for you! Because you are so worth fighting for."

We have watched, humbled and amazed, as both sponsors and one-time gifts have poured in for our little ones in Haiti over the last 6 months. Our hearts have been wrecked and filled with praise at His faithfulness, at your generosity, and at the many families who have stood up as advocates on behalf of our kids. However, we're not done yet.

The six faces you see below are still waiting - waiting for one person, one family to stand up and say, "I will fight for you." One person, one family to meet their basic needs. One person, one family to commit themselves to her in prayer, in relationship, in love. Finding basic needs sponsors for these last six will not mean that the orphanage is fully covered - our humble sacrifice of \$60 per month is a far stretch from the logistical \$300 needed per child per month to cover every area of need - however, it does mean that we are able to look each child in the eyes and tell them about someone hundreds of miles away who loves them.

As I sift through the mountain of photos from our team's last visit to OneVision, a single thought stays prominent in my mind: we really are the lucky ones. Would you consider becoming a sponsor? As I look at the picture of my own child, holding the letter and small album we sent in hand, smile beaming across his face, I can both confidently and personally say, you won't regret it.

Visit <http://www.katelynsfund.org/orphanage-sponsorship> or email Lindsey at lindsey@katelynsfund.org for more information.



BERLANDA JOSEPH

Odeline Dorce

LOVE ONCHERE JOSEPH

Remise Paul

Mona Etoute

Sherie Sainvil

ONE VISION

One Vision children reading letters from their sponsors



Mission Statement

Speaking boldly for the fatherless. Advocating that all children, regardless of circumstance, race, or origin, are children of God, and deserve physical and spiritual restoration, implemented by the body of Christ, in obedience to the commands of the Father

Katelyn's Fund Board Members:

Kelly and Sheila De Jong
Fonda Hulstein
Kirk Hulstein
Lindsey Kuipers
Steve Lenters
Kristen Oostra
Mark Vermeer
Wayne Vermeer
Tammy Zevenbergen

Katelyn's Fund Support Team Members:

Sioux Center:

Alissa Kroeze
Sherri Langton
Beth Zomermaand
Stephanie Van Ruler
Patt De Jong

Veronica Postma
Kayla Kraig
Alissa Wynia

Sioux Falls:

Cara De Haan
Lacey Hubers
Toni Swanson
Jenny Sinkgraven
Celeste Osmanson



We thank and praise the Lord for your creative support!

Wow, we as Katelyn's Fund have been so blessed by a number of enthusiastic and creative ways that help support our ministry. Here's just one wonderful example: Just a few months ago, Gabe, Austin, and Colin from the Sioux Center Middle School presented a check to Katelyn's Fund (in support of One Vision Orphanage) for \$596.34! As a part of their school's "Genius Time Project", they felt a passion to raise money in support of buying sports equipment for an orphanage so the kids there could enjoy the love of games. The boys spent months planning and organizing a week of events in school that included a jean day for teachers, hat day for kids, and an intense head-to-head penny war. What fun and impact they had! Once again, thank you Gabe, Austin, and Colin for your passionate and creative support of the One Vision Orphanage kids in this way!



Gabe, Austin, and Colin posing with board members of Katelyn's Fund.

And there have been other creative efforts that have raised both money and awareness for the plight of the orphan! Just this past summer, both a pumpkin and sweet corn sale also blessed Katelyn's Fund by raising funds so needed by our ministry. These were enjoyed and carried on by both family members and friends.



We can't say enough how our ministry has been blessed of the Lord though the efforts of so many of you. As many of you know, our only support comes through individuals and churches that have a passion for carrying out Christ's call on us to take care of the orphans and widows.



Humbly asking, HOW ABOUT YOU? Whether it's creative ways like these or perhaps the donation of crop commodities or a gift from your estate, God can use you in a special and meaningful way to care for those who cannot care for themselves. He promises a blessing when we give with an open and obedient heart and we have witnessed countless times the fulfillment of that promise. Thanks be to God!

Honorary Donations

In memory of Raymond Willemssen and in thanks for the life of Cora Jael Schut

In thanks to the Smickley Family Foundation for their support

In memory and honor of Jeffrey Ryan Whitt

In thanks to New Hope Evangelical Free Church for their support

In thanks to the staff at People's Bank for their support

In thanks to Brazos Pointe Fellowship Church of Lake Jackson, Texas for their generous donation.

Donations to the ministry can be mailed to:

**Katelyn's Fund
Orphan Ministry
1327 Third Ave. SE
Sioux Center, IA 51250**

All donations are tax deductible. If you would like to make an honorary donation, please indicate the child/family in honor or in memory of.

Katelyn's Fund Support Meetings

Sioux Falls

All support meetings will take place on the 3rd TUESDAY of each month at Central Baptist Church | 3102 W Ralph Rogers Road | Sioux Fall, SD 57108
Please enter at the "Hearth Room" entrance on the west side of the front of the building

April 19 @ 7:00 PM – A Day in the Life: Tangible Tips for Adoptive + Foster Families

Come ready to get equipped and encouraged! Adoptive parent Tammy Zevenbergen will weave her experiences into an authentic discussion filled with practical tips for common day-to-day experiences many adoptive and foster families face.

May 17 @ 6:00 PM – Spring Potluck: Bring The Whole Family!

Life happens around the table! Load up the entire family for a night of conversation and community at Central Baptist Church. Bring a main dish and dessert or salad to share, and we'll provide water and table service. Please enter through the family Life Center (downstairs). We will also have full access to the gymnasium that night.

Sioux Center

Meeting at Sioux Center First Reformed Church Fireside Room

April 17 @ 7:00 PM – Breaking through to Teens; Creating Trust in the Unknown

Developing a trusting relationship with any teenager can be a challenge. For teens with dramatic backgrounds, it's especially challenging for both the teens and adults who care for them. Join us for popcorn and snacks as we watch the newly-released "Trust Based Relational Parenting for Teens" DVD. We'll learn practical strategies and tips based on Dr. Karen Purvis's renowned research at Texas Christian University.

May 12 @ 7:00 PM – Coffee & Conversation: The Power of Connection

Like minded community is such an important tool in the adoptive family's toolbox. Ever wish you could get to know other families like yours? Now's your chance! Grab a cup of joe and get to know other adoptive and foster families with a stress-free coffee date as we meet at Casey's Bakery. Come for the coffee, stay for the connections and community.

We are honored and blessed by MICA Fund

The Lord delights when His Body works in united ways. We praise Him for community and being solidified through His Spirit. Within the past year, one way that the Lord has shown His faithfulness and community to us is through the work of the MICA Fund. The MICA Fund has been serving the Lord for over 20 years, bringing awareness and giving financial grants to families adopting. They have focused their work on His leading, primarily domestic minority adoptions, and have provided hundreds of grants to families over the years. They are a ministry located in Minneapolis, MN. They have worked diligently, sincerely, and have made a great impact for Him. We have had the opportunity to have relationships with many of their board members and have been joined by prayer many times over the last decade.

As the Lord continues His work through each of them in new ways, we rejoice in all He has done through them collectively. We are deeply honored that they have felt His leading to give to us, to continue pouring into families. We are humbled by His moving in this donation and know that He is glorified. We trust He will continue to lead us as Katelyn's Fund and we are unified in partnership with those who have served so faithfully with MICA Fund as well as those that have supported them. We humbly ask you as MICA Fund supporters to continue your partnership with

us at Katelyn's Fund. We welcome you as family, and also ask for your continued prayers and support. Rejoice with us in this generous gift from the MICA Fund, praise Him for His provision to us to pour out to families. All praise and honor goes to Him for all He has, is, and will do for His beloved children.

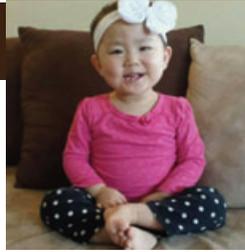


The Braun Family

Nate and Amy

Children: Caiden (4), Micah (2), and Faith (2)

Church: Community Christian Church, Minooka, IL



Hi! We are Nate and Amy Braun from Minooka, IL which is a southwest suburb of Chicago. We have been married for 5 years and have two precious biological boys named Caiden (age 4) and Micah (age 2). We attend Community Christian Church where Nate is currently serving as a leadership church planting resident and student ministries director. We have always talked about adopting because we felt that this is something that God calls ALL Christ-followers to consider. We started our adoption journey to our daughter Faith (age 2) in March 2015 and brought her home from China in January 2016! She has blessed our family beyond words!!!

We named our daughter “Faith” because it took every bit of faith that we had to start our adoption process at the time that we did. Nate had felt called into ministry for many years and had just quit his full-time (well paying) engineering job to finish seminary and start a ministry residency when we submitted our adoption application. Our income was literally cut in half and we knew that it would take a miracle to be able to afford to bring our daughter home. We also knew that Faith had some extensive special needs and there were many “unknowns” with her medical condition. After a lot of prayer we took the leap and God provided at every single step of the way.

One major answer to prayer during our journey to bringing Faith home was receiving the Katelyn’s Fund grant. We were blown away with the support we received from them, not only financially, but prayer support and encouragement. During our Skype interview with the team, I think we were all in tears as we prayed over our adoption process and Faith’s precious heart. It was just incredible and something that we will never forget!

Faith’s adoption day was January 5, 2016 and all of our prayers were answered. She has adjusted beautifully to our family and her brothers love her to pieces! She is easy-going, joyful, smart, stubborn, eager to please, and silly. It has been amazing to watch her blossom and make so much progress in just 2 months of being with her forever family! We had every reason to say “no, this isn’t the right time” or “we can’t afford it” but we are SO THANKFUL that we said YES and trusted God to provide!!! Thank you for letting us share our story!

“Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible”
Matthew 19:26 NLT

The Burch Family

Brandon and Michelle

Children: Karis (8), Micah (7), and Asher (5), Noam (2)

**Church: Bartlett Hills Baptist Church in Bartlett, TN -
We are serving as church planters in France**



We married in September of 2004 and lived our first year as newlyweds in France. Michelle was teaching English. It was during this time that we were called to serve in France as church planters. Between our return to the states in 2005 and finally arriving on the mission field in 2014, we had three biological children. Raising our support to do full-time missions proved to be more difficult than we ever imagined. We eventually came to France on a mid-term (two year assignment) praying that God would affirm our calling and bring in the rest of the support that we needed to stay on as career missionaries. We had been here about two months when Michelle brought up the idea of adding to our family through adoption. We had long dreamed of adopting but never knew if it would be possible given our circumstances. Adoption is expensive and we were still in the midst of support raising for our ministry. We were not living in the States and had no idea if there were even agencies who worked with expats. We were still adjusting to life with three young children in France. There were so many unknowns for us.

After much prayer and discussion, we decided to move forward one step at a time, until God closed the door. We were not initially thinking about China or even International adoption for that matter, but God kept directing us and opening doors. We decided not to fundraise for our adoption since we were still asking people to give towards our ministry here. We applied for many grants and Katelyn's Fund was the first to set up an interview via skype. It was such a sweet time for us. They prayed for us, for our adoption, for our ministry, for our family. It did not feel like an interview at all, but like a support team encouraging us in this journey. We were blessed to receive a grant from them followed by several others. We are pleased to say that we will be traveling to China in 9 days to meet our son for the first time. God has provided every step of the way. Outside of \$700 that we will pay off on a credit card, we are fully funded for this adoption, all glory be to God! We are still fundraising for our ministry and after a brief home assignment this summer, we hope to return to France as a family of six as career missionaries. God has grown us as a couple and as a family during this year-long process and we know that this is only the beginning of what He will teach us through this faith journey.

The Ellegood Family

Lones and Stephanie

Children: Hunter (11), Josie (5), and Katie HuaMei (5)

Church: Community Fellowship Baptist Church, Hickory, KY



Adoption is a powerful word for our family; a word that's been on our hearts for many years. We knew early in our marriage that we both had hearts for adoption. We just didn't know that calling would lead us half way around the world.

After our son Hunter (now 11) was born we soon realized we would have to adopt to grow our little family in Fancy Farm, Kentucky. In 2013 we started the process to adopt from China after hurdles with our state foster care system. In June 2014 we brought home our daughter Josie (now 5) from China. She had been blessed to be cared for at Bethel China in Beijing where she was treated with the utmost love and care. Little did we know that this was not the end of our adoption journey.

Josie asked if we could bring home a little girl she lived with at Bethel named Hua Mei. The girl had tugged at our hearts as well, so we promised we would do our best to adopt her if at all possible. After prayer and time we eventually gave up, and that's when we learned of someone advocating for a family for her. We quickly jumped into action, and despite many other families wanting her as well, we were blessed to be matched with her. We were blessed to have the support of our church, Community Fellowship Baptist Church in Hickory, Kentucky, through the process.

One of the biggest hurdles we had to face was the expense of the adoption. We had depleted all available funds to adopt Josie, so a new adoption meant starting from ground zero. We were very honored to receive a grant from Katelyn's Fund. It was a huge help in being able to fulfill all of our adoption expenses. Without it, we would not have been able to have enough funds to adopt our daughter.

As I write this, we are sitting in China completing the adoption of our newest daughter, 5 year old Katie HuaMei. We can't help but count our many blessings. We have definitely felt the Lord's hand on both our adoptions. Being able to live out James 1:27 is such a blessing, and being adopted by our Heavenly Father is the biggest blessing of all. May we all continue to pray for the millions of Orphans worldwide who still need a family as well for all those currently in the adoption process. Thank you, Katelyn's Fund, for helping to make many adoption dreams a reality.

The Keys Family

Grant and Kellee

Children: Ezra (7), Evie (4), and Elias (2)

Church: The Greenhouse Church, Miamisburg, Ohio (We currently live in Mazatlan, Mexico)



We are Grant and Kellee Keys and currently live in Mazatlan, Mexico, with our 3 children. We have been serving the orphan child with Back2Back Ministries for almost 3 years. We have felt a call to love the orphan and vulnerable child for several years, but the Lord has taken us on a focused journey that began as foster parents in Ohio to now living in Mexico.

We felt a burden to begin the adoption process in late 2014 and began to research options for adoption in Mexico. Even though we felt clear confirmation from the Lord to adopt, we ran into many closed doors for several months. Finally, we asked the Lord (rhetorically) if He may be leading us to another country and immediately heard Nicaragua. This seemed a completely crazy request, as we were living and serving many orphaned children in Mexico. Plus, we had no personal connections to the country, nor had ever traveled there. He continued to confirm this country, though, so we said yes. While we have experienced many setbacks and delays, God's Hand has been very clearly present each step of the way.

We raise 100% of our support so were initially hesitant to move forward with international adoption, as we did not have \$30,000 in which to complete the process. However, God has showed up for our family over and over again, and we can humbly and gratefully say that our adoption is completely paid. Katelyn's Fund played a big part in this process, and the Lord showed great providence and provision through the timing of the grant. An agency fee of \$6,500 was quickly approaching, but we only had \$3,449 from gifts given by friends and family. We had previously emptied our savings account for other adoption fees so were unsure how we would pay the remaining balance. Days before the due date, we received an email notifying us of the Katelyn's Fund grant for \$3,000...just ONE DOLLAR shy of what we needed. A moment we'll never forget!

Our dossier is completed and translated in Nicaragua. We are waiting for approval, at which time our family will be considered for any available children. We can't wait for the day that one or two more children become part of the Keys Family! We praise God for how He has worked through this process and are deeply grateful for the role that Katelyn's Fund ministry played in our story!

The Sombke Family

Brock and Kimberly

Children: Lily (18), Zeke (6), Ryker (5), and Kreed (2)

Church: First Covenant Church in Willmar, MN



We are Brock and Kimberly Sombke, and we live with our 4 biological children in Willmar, Minnesota. After our youngest child (2 years old currently, with PKU) was born, we started to talk about adoption. We wondered if there were children with PKU (domestically or internationally) that needed homes. Knowing that we have the necessary knowledge and resources, we began to pursue avenues to make adoption possible. We decided in June of 2015 that if this is the path God wants for us, doors will open. And they did! When we inquired about Zou Yuan Hang, we were told that no one else was really interested and China was wanting his file returned soon. We prayed and talked and decided that we could give this boy the necessary treatment for PKU, unconditional love, and a place of belonging in our home. We believe it's truly our mission to help others, and we want our biological children (and Zou Yuan Hang) to see that we will make sacrifices to help others, regardless of their color or nationality.

In August of 2015, we knew we may not be granted preapproval for this adoption from China based on our insufficient yearly gross income. We were preapproved, however, and we believe that Zou Yuan Hang deserves a family where he is loved unconditionally and has a place to truly belong.

This beautiful boy has the same rare, metabolic condition as our biological kids. Patients with PKU are missing the enzyme that correctly processes phenylalanine (found mostly in protein), and if not receiving the proper restricted diet, the excess phenylalanine builds up in his/her body and eventually in the brain, leading to seizures, the inability to focus, headaches, irreversible brain damage and mental retardation. Patients who follow their restricted diet (including prescribed daily formula with synthetic protein void of phenylalanine) can lead normal, healthy lives. We know that we can provide Zou Yuan Hang with the care that he needs since two of our biological children also have PKU. We ensure that they follow their restricted diet, including formula 3 times per day, and we test their phenylalanine levels from home biweekly to ensure healthy "phe" levels. We also visit the metabolic disorders clinic twice yearly for checkups, and the care team there is in communication with our children's pediatrician. We are grateful that medical insurance covers our children's PKU needs. It's our goal that Zou Yuan Hang will follow the same path, and we are so grateful that this condition is treatable.

We are currently awaiting travel approval from China and will travel in March to bring home our son, Ben Zou Gerald Sombke! Thank you so much for your financial support; Katelyn's Fund is such a blessing to us.

The Wheeler Family

Richard and Kimberly Wheeler
Daughter: Maliah Joy Wheeler (4 months)

Church: Covenant Life Church, Branson, Missouri



We are so grateful for the ministry of Katelyn's Fund. When my husband and I started the adoption process in February of 2015, we honestly didn't know how we would pay for our adoption, but we knew this was the direction the Lord was leading us to build our family.

When we had our conference call with the board, we had not yet been matched with an expectant mother. In fact, we even shared with the board that our biggest fear was not ever being chosen by an expectant mother. My husband and I were so blessed by the board taking the time to talk with us, and to pray with us. After that phone call, we were so blessed, and so encouraged. Little did we know, just a short time later, we would get our "yes" from an expectant mother who had viewed our profile, and who was due in only a few days!

It was actually while we were in a hotel, with our little girl, awaiting ICPC and to be given the okay to go home, that we received the most wonderful news of being given a grant through Katelyn's fund to help us fund our adoption. We both cried many tears, of happiness and thankfulness! There are no words to express our gratitude to everyone who made this possible. Thank you so much for everything you do, in helping to build families through adoption. God bless you all!

The Wilson Family

Paul and Laura
Children: Asher Emerick (3) and Kai Daniel Wilson (2)

Church: Calvary Baptist Church, Easton, Pennsylvania



Our story of adoption is one of loss giving way to life. After our first son was born, we excitedly started to dream about what our family would look like. We dreamed of our family of four kids, two years apart, all with personality traits and appearances that resembled us. As we began our journey of secondary infertility, the dream we built began to crumble. Secondary infertility was hard. My desire for more children grew stronger and stronger, yet reaching my dream seemed like it was slipping farther away. God had been growing in Paul a heart for adoption. When Paul approached me, I felt unfit to adopt. But God began to make it clear that He was calling us to adopt. He confirmed in my heart that I don't have what it takes to adopt. He has what it takes. He will give us the grace we need to face whatever comes. With confirmation of God moving in our family, we threw ourselves into the adoption process. And at every turn, God has been faithful. He has made it clear that we are to adopt a waiting child from China, a two-year old boy with hydrocephalus and a brain tumor.

Biblical Counselor David Powlison says, "We have good reason to be afraid, but we have even greater reasons not to fear." I have clung to this truth so many times throughout our journey. Adoption is scary. It's terrifying to adopt a child with the kind of health needs I prayed we would never have to face. The financial needs of adoption are overwhelming. As I think on these things, God graciously reminds me that these things are scary, but we have even greater reasons not to be afraid.

Words cannot describe our gratitude for Katelyn's Fund. We were offered a Skype interview with their team. Our conversation with them came at a time of feeling overwhelmed and burdened by our adoption journey. As they listened to our heart for adoption, our fears and sense of our own inadequacies and brokenness, they spoke life-giving words of hope, encouragement and truth. We felt a kindred spirit with them. They spent many minutes in prayer for us. They prayed for us in ways that we didn't know how to pray for ourselves. We were immeasurably blessed by our interaction. We were so humbled by the generosity of their financial support. The financial support is helping us bring Kai home quickly.

We could not do this alone. God uses His people in remarkable ways to remind us of the great reasons not to fear. Their prayer, spiritual encouragement and financial support are an incredibly significant part of our journey-- a story of God's faithfulness, goodness, and love. A story that we will get to tell for years to come. The best thing about being a part of a story you never would have wanted to be part of is knowing that God is authoring something beautiful.