



**2015**  
Annual  
Report

THE  
**GLO**BAL  
ORP**H**AN  
PROJECT

Transforming lives  
through **orphan** care.





“Orphans aren’t a burden; they are a blessing.”

– Mike Fox, Chairman, GO Project

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

# Introduction & Thanks

GO Project Family and Friends,

Let's face it. Annual reports have a reputation for boring. We hope to break that mold. So, instead of summarizing a government tax document\* to explain our 2015, we're addressing three questions everyone involved with orphan care should ask:

- (1) Most of these children have family, right?
- (2) Isn't it better to teach a person to fish?
- (3) Aren't there children right here in the U.S. that need help?

Yes. Of the 150 million orphans we hear about from UNICEF, it's estimated 90% have a living parent somewhere. Many sincerely want to care for their children, but due to oppressive poverty and other pressures, they simply cannot without help. To support these families, most led by single mothers, we launched The GO Exchange (pages 11-14).

As GOEX affirms, we are committed to the concept of teaching people to fish. We are also committed to children having a safe bed to sleep in, food in their stomachs, and a chance in school the next morning. We all like to avoid bandages, but if you're cut, a Band-Aid comes in quite handy. The world of caring for orphaned and abandoned children is far more complex than fishing, skinned knees, or pithy one-liners.

It takes a family to raise a child. When families break down, the Church has a Biblical mandate to care for orphaned and vulnerable children. It is a privilege to support the local church around the world, from Kampala to Cambodia, through our International Orphan Care ministry (pages 3-6). It's also a privilege to help the church care for U.S. Orphans right here in Kansas City and across our own country.

U.S. Orphans? It's not an oxymoron. At any given time, more than 400,000 children reside in the U.S. foster care system. More than 100,000 of them have had their parents' rights terminated. Orphans. They live as wards of the state while too many of America's 400,000 churches stay on the sidelines. Is it possible church and state can cooperate to transform our child welfare system from state-centered to church-based care? We believe so, as we explain with CarePortal (pages 7-10).

We've never been more excited about the work the Lord has given us for 2016. We see Him leading through GOEX, International Orphan Care, and CarePortal. We give our lives in following. What a privilege to serve Jesus here with you by caring for His children and families in need!

Love, respect, and gratitude,

*Your GO Project team*



\*Our Form 990 is always available via the the web





## International Orphan Care

**Our world is broken.** Poverty, disaster, disease, addiction, apathy, and abandonment place tremendous pressure on families. Often children living without the covering of parents pay the highest price. When family breaks down, we believe the Church has a Biblical mandate to step in and care for the orphan. So, we partner with local churches across the globe to provide culturally-relevant care to orphaned and abandoned children.

**Our world is full of hope.** Since 2003, GO Project has supported the local church in feeding thousands of children, building homes and schools, funding medical procedures, training mamas, digging wells, providing vocational training, and sharing the love of Christ in a most beautiful way – through the spirit of family.





2,317

Children in 24/7 Safe Homes



6,743

Children in School



237

Communities Impacted



573

Vision Trip-GO'ers

## Church in India Says 'Yes'

India has the third largest HIV epidemic in the world.\* In 2013, GO Project partnered with a local multi-site church in India to care for 30 children in the rural village of Sarampet. The church began seeking new ways to serve children in crisis in the slums of Hyderabad, where GO India headquarters are located. With oversight from a local HIV clinic, the church felt led by the Holy Spirit to build homes to care for HIV+ children that had been abandoned.

In August 2015, in the midst of horrific stigma that hurts these children more than their physical illness, five HIV+ children moved into the new homes that were constructed within the church building. We count it an honor to partner with a local church in India who said "No" to fear and stigma and "Yes" to the love and potential these amazing children have to offer.

*\*Avert.org*



“The church began seeking new ways to serve children in crisis in the slums of Hyderabad”



# Where Our Partners Serve



“It is a privilege to support the local church around the world, from Kampala to Cambodia, through our International Orphan Care ministry. It’s also a privilege to help the church care for U.S. Orphans right here in Kansas City and across our own country.”







*Churches caring for kids and families in crisis*



## Domestic Orphan Care

CarePortal, GO Project's domestic ministry, recognizes the need for local responses to local challenges. CarePortal seeks to empower local churches and child welfare agencies by streamlining the process of communicating and addressing the full range of child welfare needs. CarePortal leverages a proprietary technological platform to realize the church/agency partnership while also developing a relational network emphasizing a church-centered child welfare culture.

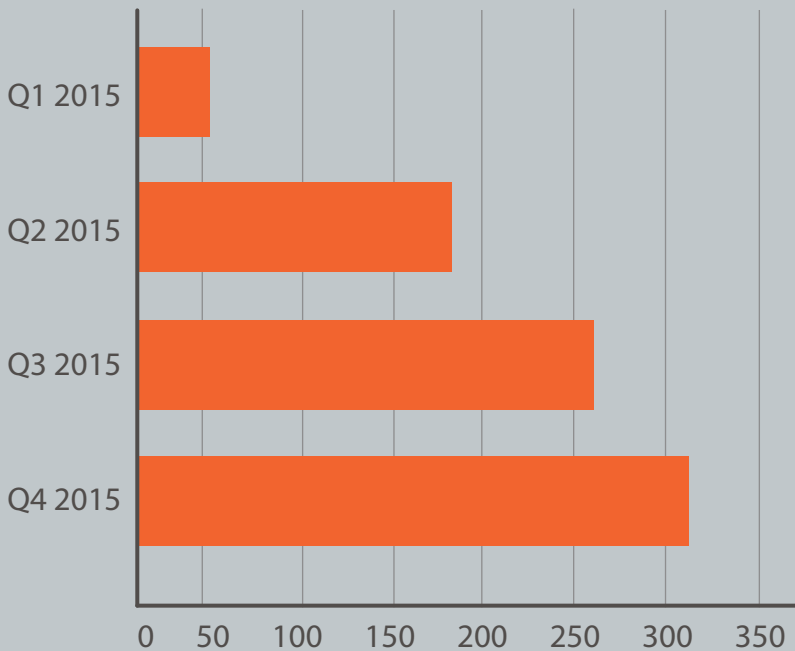
Since CarePortal began receiving requests from child welfare agencies in 2014, each quarter has seen growth in the number of requests from child welfare agencies and the number of responses from churches. At the end of 2015, CarePortal was active in Texas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, with three other states participating in a pilot program. CarePortal anticipates 2016 geographic growth to include new states and new counties in current states of operation.

“CarePortal offers amazing opportunities to help meet crucial, right now needs of children in our community. It's so much easier to mobilize volunteers when the need is clearly communicated, elicits focused action, and makes an immediate impact in the lives of those being served.”

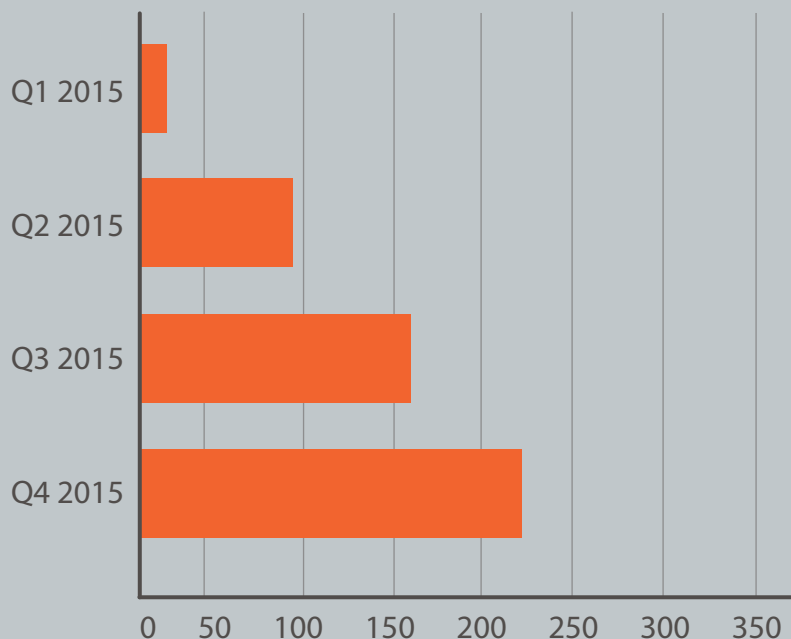
– Arizona CarePortal Church Coordinator



## CarePortal Requests by Quarter



## CarePortal Responses by Quarter



## You're Worth It

In July 2015, a Kansas couple decided to buck the societal strain of appearance and embrace a life of generosity. The couple had identified a trend in CarePortal requests for baby cribs, and the crib at the end of their neighbor's driveway was waiting to be collected by trash services. The couple elected to collect and to store the crib, knowing that a future CarePortal request for a crib would come.

Sure enough, the request arrived, and the couple responded to meet the need. Their foresight allowed them to anticipate and to prepare to meet the need. Like so many in the CarePortal community, the couple joined the case worker in delivery of the crib.

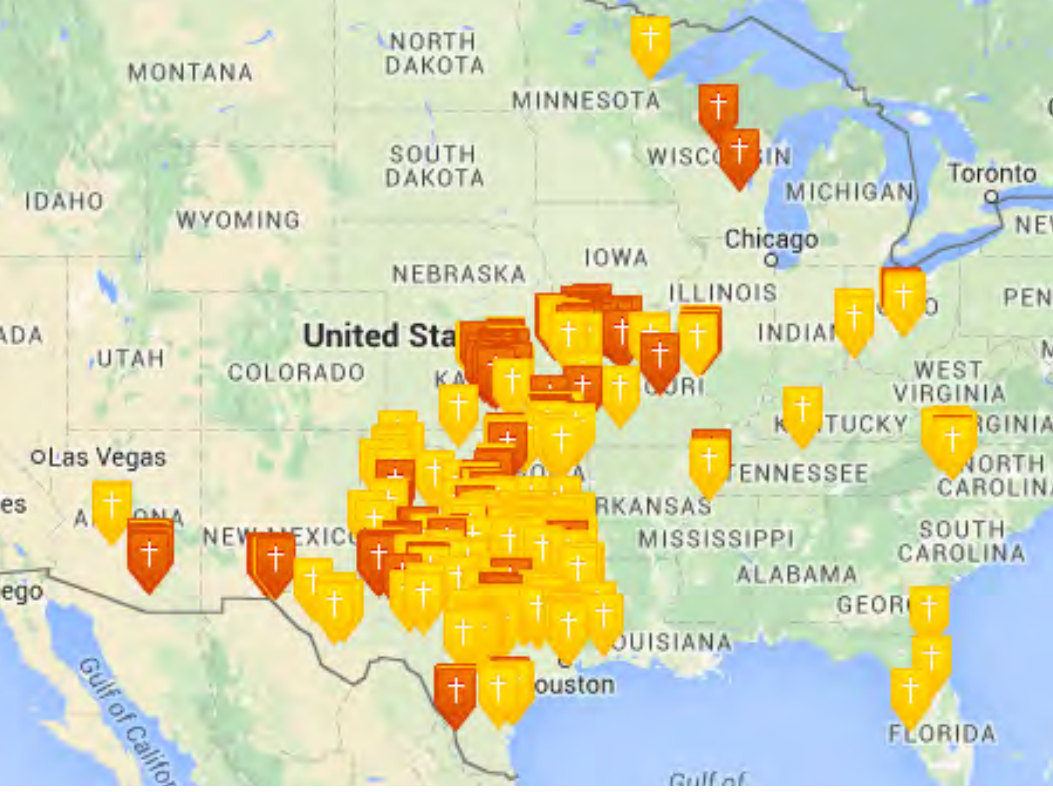
Upon meeting Kayla, the mother in need, the couple asked what else could be done. The couple left and gathered additional items, returning to the home with much-needed house furnishings. Kayla, very much aware of the expense required to furnish her home, commented, "You still felt I was worth doing it for."

This Kansas couple believes that each CarePortal response conveys a larger message about living a generous life:

"God loves you and you're worth it. We're going to hold open-handed, whole-life generous lives because you're worth it and Jesus says you're worth it. And Jesus loves you."







“This is what Christ has called the Church to be.”

— Oklahoma Pastor

“This is an amazing gift from God. You have helped this family, who struggles day to day and shown them that others care about them...they are not lost in this world.”

— Kansas Social Worker

Financial value of requests met by churches:

**\$169,906**

(Average of \$332 per request)

## CarePortal's Year in Review







# Children Impacted 1,173

*Learn more at [careportal.org](https://careportal.org)*







## GOEX: Creating Jobs, Strengthening Families

**Give a man a fish; feed him for a day.** Teach a man to fish; feed him for a lifetime. Invest in a man's fish business and become his customer; he'll feed others.

The GO Exchange ("GOEX"), a unique apparel and artisan enterprise, is GO Project's flagship economic development venture. 100% owned by GO Project, GOEX leverages the consumer marketplace to create and support living wage jobs via apparel and artisanal goods.

GOEX works with designers and local makers in Haiti and Uganda to make a collection of gorgeous handmade accessories, from handbags, to scarves, to jewelry. We buy our collection from the local makers to support them and their families, and sell the products here in the U.S. Our production partners make and sell for GOEX and now many other customers. For buyers here, this is a unique way to join hands with local makers there to care for children and families through the dignity of work.

GOEX Apparel focuses on making living wage apparel in Haiti for distribution in the U.S. Specifically, we support a living

wage production facility in Haiti called LIFE. We hire struggling parents and young men and women who complete our Pathways Academy. They earn more than double the Haitian minimum wage. They make high quality tee shirts for companies, schools, churches, and other organizations who order promotional tees, and who want a missional, living wage option for their apparel. We also make apparel for private label clients.

The LIFE facility opened in 2015, switching on the first sewing machine in April 2015. Over the course of 7 months, 84 employees were hired, including 12 Pathways graduates. GOEX Apparel is our fastest growing division, with the potential to create hundreds of living wage jobs over the next two years.

All GOEX apparel decoration and order fulfillment is done in the urban core of Kansas City, allowing us to create dignified jobs here in our own community. In sum, GOEX has become a fully integrated artisan and apparel company, with a focus on orphan care and orphan prevention from production all the way through fulfillment.

# 84

## Apparel Jobs

“To see these young men and women go from children who once saw no way forward, to hopeful, talented workers — who are breaking the orphan cycle and helping others — is a gift from God.”







**\$1,015,044**

**In Sales**

(up from \$416,000 in 2014)



**475**

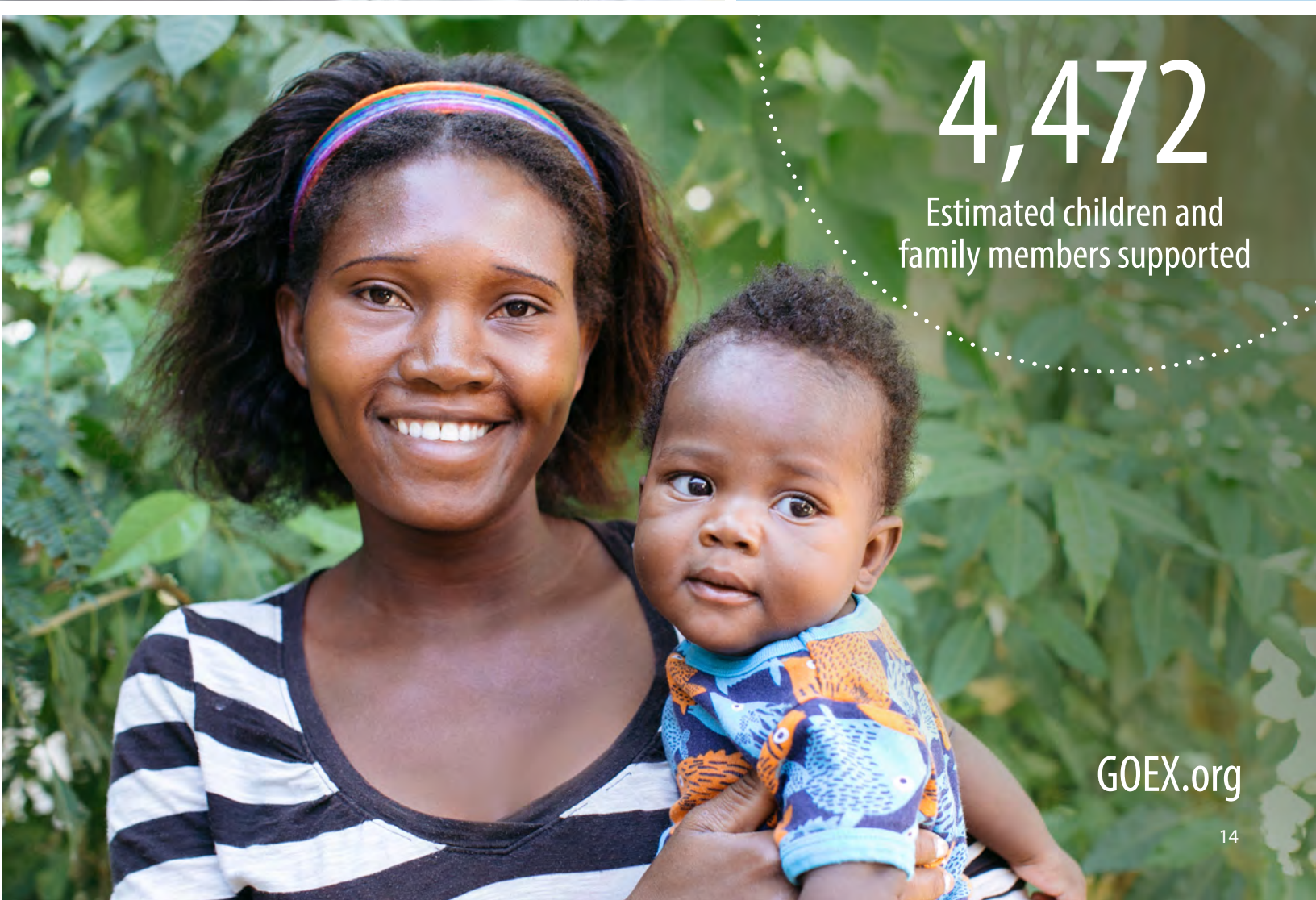
Artisan Jobs via  
Production Partners





## When they turn 18

On a momentous Saturday in August 2015, our first Pathways Academy class in Haiti graduated. Of these incredible young men and women, who had aged out of orphan care settings just two years prior, 14 completed apparel-related vocational training. 12 earned jobs at LIFE. The two others, our best apparel students, accepted positions at GO Haiti to teach apparel production at Pathways Academy. We see the incredible value and potential in the eyes of the children we serve. For years, we've been asked: "what happens when they turn 18?" To see these young men and women go from children who once saw no way forward, to hopeful, talented workers – who are breaking the orphan cycle and helping others – is a gift from God.



# 4,472

Estimated children and family members supported

GOEX.org



# THE GLOBAL ORPHAN PROJECT

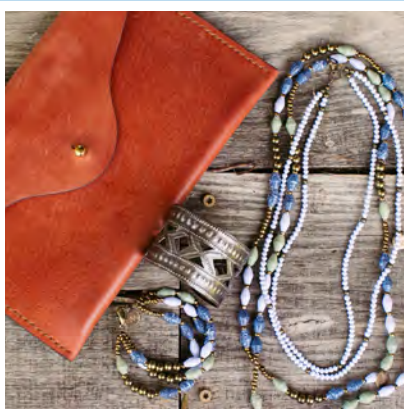
*transforming lives through orphan  
care and orphan prevention*



Change a life...make this ministry your own.



GO



SHOP



GIVE



LOVE



*Special thanks for the photography talents of Rachelle Crowe.*

Learn more at [goproject.org](http://goproject.org)

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