




2023 IMPACT REPORT

THE
GLOBAL
ORPHYAN
PROJECT

**in
every
corner
of the
world,**

**there are
children
who are
suffering**



Over **140 million** children worldwide live as orphans due to their biological parents being deceased, unknown, or unable to care for them.

More than 7 million U.S. children are referred to government child protection agencies each year due to maltreatment, and nearly 400,000 have been removed from their homes and placed in an overburdened foster care system.

Up to **90%** of children living in orphanages around the world have at least one living parent who could care for them if only they had the means.

From bustling cities to rural villages, families are collapsing due to the overwhelming stress of poverty, trauma, substance use, physical and mental illness, war, and other adversities. Without help to overcome these difficult social problems, families will continue to break apart, leaving our children to suffer the highest consequences and putting the future of our society at great risk.

CARE

FOR

EVERY

CHILD

Our mission
is to break
the orphan
cycle through
the power of
community,
commerce,
and the love
of Jesus.

Circles of Care

We believe that every child belongs in a healthy, loving family. And that families should be supported by their local church and caring members of their community.

This philosophy — what we call our ‘Circles of Care’ — drives our ministry and puts the child at the center of everything we do, fundamentally guiding our work to ensure a healthier, family-style model of care for every child we serve. We partner with a global network of churches and community leaders whom we come alongside and empower to provide local, proactive, and effective care for vulnerable children and families.



Child -----
Family -----
Church -----
Community -----

our impact in 2023



international
ministry

42,362

children served

\$5,074,926

economic impact

domestic
ministry

69,859

children served

\$30,377,767

economic impact

marketplace
ministry

125,000+

hours of employment
in Haiti

\$2,199,111

in apparel sales

112,221 children served
in 30 states and
11 countries

**care for
every child**

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Twenty years ago, this ministry was born from one family's decision to care about 19 orphans living on the other side of the world through the local church, seeking no personal recognition. Their focus was simple: empower local caregivers to be the heroes to their own children. This distinct approach continues to guide the life-changing work that we do today, and after two decades, our impact is exploding all over the world.

As you'll discover in this impact report, 2023 was our first time serving over 100,000 children in a single year! Achieving this milestone is proof that the Kingdom of God is advancing through local churches to strengthen the most vulnerable children, and loving families in their midst.

I am so encouraged by what we will accomplish together in the next twenty years of impact. Thank you for engaging in our mission to break the orphan cycle and facilitating local, proactive, and effective care for kids.

In Jesus' name,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Joe Knittig'.

Joe Knittig
CEO, The Global Orphan Project

international ministry

41,100 children remained safely with their family after receiving prevention services

We believe that finding positive, sustainable solutions to pervasive and complex social problems can be accomplished from within local communities. That's why we partner with exceptionally passionate and capable leaders in Haiti, Africa, India, and the Middle East who are embedded within the community and have first-hand knowledge of both the needs of vulnerable families as well as the resources that are available to help them along the entire spectrum of **Prevention, Care, and Transition.**

This combination of ministry initiatives provides a holistic and healthy response to caring for vulnerable children and their families, and the dedication and influence of these local leaders has the ability to break devastating cycles in more powerful ways than any outsider could ever do.



orphan prevention

It's normal for families to experience a few hard and stressful times. Quite often, environmental and societal factors beyond their control can create overwhelming challenges that threaten to break their family apart unless parents are well-equipped with the vital skills, resources, and relationships they need to overcome them.

Our prevention ministry — which makes up the majority of our work — equips local churches to strengthen families by empowering parents in their role as caregivers and proactively addressing complex issues that can cause family breakdown. Through our Strong Family (formerly Father's Family) Program, our partners are equipped to lead peer-based education and training groups where

parents learn vital skills for obtaining food security, improved health, financial literacy, healthy relationships, spiritual healing, and more.

Empowering families through job creation is also an important component of both the program and our entire ministry. In Haiti, where most families are living in extreme poverty, our marketplace ministry GOEX Apparel models - in one of the most brutal places on earth - how free enterprise, with consumers connecting with makers through day-to-day commerce, is the greatest "orphan prevention" force on earth, empowering families to stay together through the dignity of work.

[Read more on pg. 14](#)

young man dreams big while putting family first

In Uganda, a young man named Frank was at a difficult crossroads following the sudden passing of his mother. She had been the primary caregiver to him and his three younger siblings — the youngest of which was only eight months old at the time — and now that responsibility was placed upon Frank's 19-year-old shoulders. Family was very important to Frank, but how would he possibly be able to care for his siblings and pursue his own dreams?

Our local church partner was alerted to his family's situation and they invited Frank to participate in their family strengthening program. It was here that Frank gained connection to a local support system and learned effective skills that empowered him to keep his family together while continuing to grow his own potential. His biggest dream, which is drawn up on a poster and hung prominently on the wall, is to have a home big enough for his family to live in together, safely and comfortably.

Through the support of the local church, Frank has been able to take ownership of his life and provide for his family, one small step at a time. Although he feels far away from accomplishing his biggest dream, Frank has already achieved so much in becoming the great man he always wanted to become.

orphan care

In instances where family breakdown cannot be prevented, our partners are equipped to recruit and train kinship and foster families to care for children in a family-style environment rather than in an orphanage. This enables children to remain close to their family and home community with caring adults who can support their healthy physical, mental, behavioral, and social development.

Our care ministry is the one place where we actually strive to decrease our number of children being served as a result of more families being strengthened through prevention services and fewer children needing out-of-home care.

orphan transition

One of the most powerful tools that can help liberate children and families from poverty is an education. However in Haiti - the poorest country in the western hemisphere - almost all schools are privately run and require tuition fees that are simply too high for most parents to afford. Many children remain out of school each year, attending only as often as their parents can secure and allocate the funds.

Our partners in Haiti are working to increase access to education for youth aging out of care through our Transition Academy, a two-year vocational-technical, life skills, and discipleship program that equips youth to become independent, thriving adults. A total of 317 students have successfully graduated from our academy over the years, and we are ramping up efforts to decentralize and expand the program to multiple locations across Haiti in order to serve more youth.

ongoing conflict in the Middle East

As the world watched events unfold in Israel and Gaza on October 7, our team in Lebanon felt the all too familiar wave of tension as the threat of war faced them daily. The Southern border of Lebanon that meets Israel's northern border is often a hot spot for fighting as the two nation's painful history of war remains fresh. Beirut, just a couple hours drive from the border, is not immune to the threats. Family members in the Southern region face the threat of their lives and livelihood, drone strikes reach the city, and all of this on top of an already failing economy, leaderless government, and strained ecosystem.

And yet, the work continues. Despite the tension and personal risk, our team continues to press into partnering with

local churches to care for the most vulnerable families.

In October, GO MENA launched its first pilot of the Strong Family Program with a local church. The idea of church-led community development is novel to the Lebanese context, a country that has unfortunately had to often depend on relief and foreign aid. Striving to break this dependency is a challenge, but our partners have chosen to say "yes!" to the Spirit-led work of strengthening families. It would be perfectly understandable if in the face of uncertainty, our partners decided to pull back from new work — however, they have instead chosen to press on in the face of adversity and unrest.

domestic ministry

The U.S. ranks among the wealthiest countries in the world, yet many parents are struggling to provide for their family's basic needs. As a result, millions of children are reported to government child protection agencies every year due to maltreatment, and 400,000 have had their lives completely disrupted from being removed from their homes and placed in an overburdened foster care system.

Often it's not abuse that's behind these investigations and family separations, but rather, neglect stemming from the overwhelming effects of poverty. Preventing neglect and keeping families safely together is entirely possible with more interventions focused on stabilizing and strengthening families. An overabundance of local churches, organizations, and caring people are positioned in every community with both the desire and resources to do something remarkable to solve our nation's foster care crisis, and our tech platform CarePortal connects them all – right now, in real-time – to drive meaningful action for children and families in crisis.



STEP ONE

A child or family in need requires help from a child-serving professional



STEP TWO

The child-serving professional vets and types needs into CarePortal



STEP THREE

CarePortal alerts nearby churches and community members to needs



STEP FOUR

Community members and churches partner to ensure that the child and family is helped



25,904
families served

69,859
children served

threads of hope

In Phoenix, Arizona, four siblings had lost both of their parents, and the oldest brother Daniel* was working hard to keep his family together. A request was submitted through CarePortal, asking if the community could provide clothing for all the children. Izzy Osorio with Shadai Phoenix Church mobilized members of her congregation and responded that they would provide and deliver the clothes.

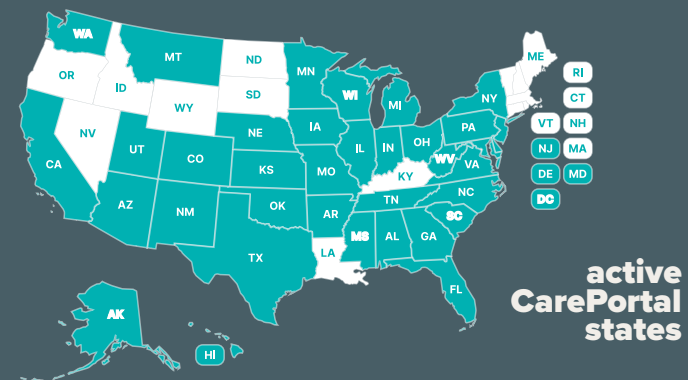
“The day we arrived, I was expecting to see a big brother like, you know, somebody older,” says Osorio. “But when I saw Daniel come out, he looked very young. We greeted him and started to give him the items, letting him know that we were there for him as a church with people that were interested in helping him and making sure that he and his siblings were taken care of.”

Church members prayed for Daniel and his family, and he shared a little bit of his story with them. The delivery occurred on the same day as the church’s evening services, so they invited the family to join them at the service which was in English and Spanish. The family attended and the pastor invited Daniel out to dinner to get to know him and talk to him a little bit more.

“When we all got to the restaurant and were seated, Daniel shared with us that this exact restaurant was the last place he and his parents, along with his siblings, had all enjoyed a meal together as a family,” says Osorio. “He then went on to say, ‘now I’m here with my new family.’ That moment was a way of God letting us know that we were doing the right thing and something good for other people and families in your community.”

Daniel has stayed connected with members of Shadai Phoenix Church for a while now and he continues to grow. “We never would have met him and his family without CarePortal,” says Osorio. “God is definitely moving in his life and we’re just happy to be a part of it as a church.”

**Name has been changed*



**marketplace
ministry**

**153,189
garments
produced**



Poverty is a complex and pervasive problem that impacts millions of people around the world. In Haiti, more than half the population lives below the poverty line, making it the poorest country in the western hemisphere. With little to no income and means to secure food, housing, education, and health care, many families break apart, leaving children orphaned and vulnerable.

Empowering families through job creation is why our marketplace ministry, GOEX Apparel, exists. We create sustainable, dignified, and fair-wage jobs that make it possible for workers to provide for their family. It's work that unlocks independence and freedom for parents to send their kids to school, feed their family nutritious food, secure safe housing, and more.

While gang violence and supply chain issues remain ongoing challenges for GOEX, we continue to do everything possible to provide for our workers who are living through unimaginable challenges in order to secure a steady income for their family to thrive. Because work means everything to them.





**Sustainable fabrics
or components in
every garment**



**Fair wages and
dignified work that
empowers workers**



**Positive social
impact in the U.S.
and in Haiti**



**High quality, fair
trade manufacturing**



**Shorter supply
chain that lowers
carbon footprint**



GOEX

FEEL GOOD. DO GOOD.

Daniel's story

In the heart of Haiti, Daniel, a dedicated husband and father, has been a steadfast member of the LIFE S.A. team since 2015. His employment not only sustains his family, but also enables him to provide education for his three children and his younger brother.

He is one of our employees that lives in a very unstable and dangerous neighborhood. He recently had to move his entire family to another family member's home just to keep them safe from stray gunshots at night. Despite the challenges of

the current situation in Haiti, his unwavering commitment to his work reflects his deep gratitude for the opportunities LIFE S.A. has given him.

His presence and dedication serve as a testament to the resilience of individuals in Haiti. Through Daniel's story, we shed light on the impact of fair wage employment in strengthening families and communities in Haiti. His journey exemplifies the invaluable role of organizations like LIFE S.A. in fostering stability and hope.

“ His presence and dedication serve as a testament to the resilience of individuals in Haiti.

”



our 100% commitment

When you give to The Global Orphan Project, every penny of your donation goes to care for kids. That's because 100% of our administrative overhead and fundraising expenses are covered by an anonymous group of generous donors.

The Global Orphan Project consistently achieves the highest ratings for financial health and transparency among charity assessment groups.

Your gift goes to where it's needed most to provide children and families with things like:

- 24-hour safe, loving care
- Nutritious food and clean water
- Meaningful connection
- Medical care
- Kinship and foster family support
- Vocational training
- Stability and dignity
- Fair wage jobs
- Vital resources
- Safe housing
- Education
- Spiritual healing



Audited financials and 990 documents can be found on our website.

A group of diverse children, likely in a school setting, are smiling and waving. They are wearing various school uniforms, including sweaters and skirts. The background shows a building and trees, suggesting an outdoor school environment.

**thank you for
being part
of a global
community
that is caring
for orphaned
and vulnerable
children**

**encourage your
friends and family
to get involved so
they can share in our
collective impact**



Donate

Give a one time or monthly gift
[GOPROJECT.ORG/GIVE](https://goproject.org/give)



Respond

Sign up to meet needs for kids and families in crisis
[CAREPORTAL.ORG](https://careportal.org)



Attend

Join us at a local event as a sponsor, volunteer, or friend
[GOPROJECT.ORG/EVENTS](https://goproject.org/events)



Shop

Purchase custom, fair-trade apparel that empowers families
[GOEXAPPAREL.COM](https://goexapparel.com)



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