

# THE PERENNIAL PATH

## Change Starts With One

Everyday people are making  
big changes in the world  
around them.

*More on page 10>>*



*Brittany's*  
**HOPE**

[www.BrittanysHope.org](http://www.BrittanysHope.org)

# Without You There Is No Us

The lifesaving work of Brittany's Hope cannot be accomplished without the passion and hard work of our diverse family of volunteers. You are our heroes & heroines. You come in all ages, sizes, and different walks of life. Each of you possesses unique a skill-set. **You are the hands and feet of our mission**, digging deep within and doing everything possible to safeguard our children's future.

**You demonstrate what only many can speculate** — that each one of us can bring about change and a simple act of kindness can make a difference.

This past summer, a group of 12 women in our local community took on the task of cutting dahlias outside the Brittany's Hope office. Rain or shine, 7 days a week, for 4 months, these ladies handpicked flowers with tender loving care and helped raise over \$10,000. **Their dedication funded 2 special needs adoption grants**, uniting 2 children with loving families.

Meanwhile, 600 miles away in Michigan, one woman has shown us that volunteers can make a vast transformation — all one needs is passion. Rebecca Cruttenden, a Brittany's Hope grant recipient, has been paying it forward by raising funds and assisting other families in bringing their children home.

On one of her morning runs, she thought,

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***"How can I make my recreation co-exist with my passion?"***

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The idea came to her rather quickly, and it was simple. Include others by way of a virtual Ironman! As she trains for her Ironman, others across the US are invited to exercise with her – motivating each other to raise funds for abandoned and at-risk children.

Her aspiration didn't stop at competing either, as she started a cookie business, Clara Cookies, where all the proceeds benefit children with special needs. To date, Rebecca and her family of volunteers, **have raised over \$200,000 for Brittany's Hope Adoption Grants**.

You, our family of volunteers inspire and motivate us — and we want to say ***"thank you"*** for your dedication, care, and time. You are the heartbeat of Brittany's Hope and without you, there is no us.

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There are only 24 hours in a day and what you choose to do with those hours can affect and alter another life.

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**What will you do with your gifts?**

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**Rebecca Cruttenden**

**Michelle Brenneman**

# How to Get Involved

*If you would like to become more involved in Brittany's Hope, there is a role for you to play — no matter what your talents or interest are. We'd love to have your help!*

## Advocate

Spread awareness of the orphan crisis.



- Book a speaking engagement at a church or business. Contact our office for speakers' resources.
- Hold a sponsorship event to support a child.
- Share stories of need or joy on social media.
- Hold a Lunch and Learn at work or home to educate peers. Contact our office for speakers' resources.

## Donate

Engage and raise funds for orphan children.



- Pledge your birthday by asking for donations instead of gifts. Facebook donate makes this easy!
- Bake cookies or open a lemonade stand to benefit orphans.
- Host a yard sale to clean your home of clutter while raising funds.

## Serve

Invest your time and talents to advance a meaningful cause.



- Provide clerical support in our office or at home.
- Volunteer at an event, Brittany's Hope holds several events every year, lend a hand to make them a success.
- Serve abroad with us and bring joy, love, and a caring touch to children in our programs.

For more information on how to get involved, **please contact us** at **[info@brittanyshope.org](mailto:info@brittanyshope.org)**, or call **717.367.9614**.

Clara Cookies Bakers

Dahlia Pickers

5K Race

# Planting Seeds of Hope In Viet Nam

A team of 11 college students and two professors from Delaware Technical Community College have committed to partnering with Brittany's Hope through service in Viet Nam.

The participants are eager to discover new perspectives from home and are excited to use their talents and learned skill sets to help orphaned children and communities in need throughout South and Central Viet Nam.

The team members will be covering their own travel costs and accommodations, *and are diligently working to raise funds toward a pledged goal of \$12,000, for project.* They will

have an experience of a lifetime, working hard and making an immediate impact on the children and families they encounter.

*Based on your continued compassion for our mission, we ask you to support the participants' effort* to improve the quality of life for children with disabilities at Thi Nghe Orphanage. The participants will bring joy to the kids at the house of love, provide struggling community members access to clean water and food; and will build a home for a single parent.

Every penny you donate will help to change a child's future and transform a community forever.

## Give Toward Trip Projects



### Community Home

Help purchase materials to assist with building a home for a homeless single parent who is at risk of placing their child in an orphanage  
*\$3,000 per home.*

**\$100**



### Food Care Packages

The current flood disaster in Central Viet Nam has affected many communities' food source. Your gift will deliver food relief for one month.

**\$30**



### Adaptive Equipment

Give children with disabilities the gift of mobility. Your donation will provide adaptive shoes & medical equipment for better maneuverability.

**\$15**



### Activities & Gifts

Your gift will bring joy to the lives of more than 500 kids. They will engage in fun activities and receive presents, giving them memories they will treasure for a lifetime.

**\$25**



Caroline & baby Thea

# Bringing Sweet Thea Home

Adoption is a loving and personal choice; one that is not short of challenges, personal sacrifices, and loss. Each and every adoption journey has its own unique twists and turns — like a roller coaster; with one never really knowing if the ride will be fast or slow, smooth or bumpy, but hoping it will come to jubilation.

For Caroline, it was a rewarding voyage, but not without personal sacrifices. **Her two week in-country trip in India morphed into an eleven-week stay.** As a single, working woman, she endured navigating India's bureaucratic policies, but continued to move mountains. Despite the challenges, she recounted the joy of bringing sweet Thea home.

*"The memories of the time are still fresh in my mind. **I remember fighting for the court documents to be issued so we could go home.** Thea was listed as HIV+, a medical diagnosis I was prepared for. Upon arriving home, I intended to have her blood drawn to confirm her HIV status, but that didn't go as planned. Due to Thea's tiny veins, our nurses were unable to draw her blood. At this point, and not wanting to force any additional trauma upon her, I discontinued the blood draw attempts.*

*It took me 8 weeks until I felt*

*comfortable to take Thea back to the Children's Hospital. With the help of a specialist, lots of Band-Aids, stickers, and a large stuffed owl, Thea's blood was finally drawn into 8 vials. A few days later, the nurse called with incredible news: Thea was not HIV+.*

*We were blessed, but a part of me was confused. The life I had planned for was suddenly different. I still read Thea books about HIV and her favorite one is A Positive Superhero: Growing Up with HIV.*

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***Two years ago, I never thought this adoption would come to fruition; a year ago I never thought I would ever be able to leave India...***

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*and today, I am a proud momma wanting to slow down time just so I can relish the charms of the present moment."*

It has been a privilege to have traveled alongside Caroline, and all of our grant recipient families in their adoption journeys. Hearing of the personal sacrifices the families make is both inspiring and humbling. **We are grateful to our families for their "yes" to adoption** and are committed to standing by their side with encouragement and support.

**Encourage. Support.  
Give toward an adoption grant.**

# Granted Children Home

*July 2017 to Present*

**Kai**

**from China**

"Adoption is fully  
transformative and  
rooted in love."

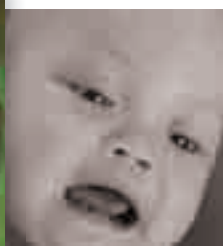


**Mira**

**from India**

"We can never express the  
gratitude of bringing home  
our daughter forever!"

**Emmalyn**  
**from China**  
"when we saw her,  
we both just knew that  
we were her family."



**Divine**

**from Burundi**

"This grant has  
been a blessing  
on our family."

Through your continued generosity, we reached a total of **1,133** kids **last year** who have been united with their family through adoption grants.

*Thank you for removing the financial barriers and helping them come home!*

## Miguel

from Colombia

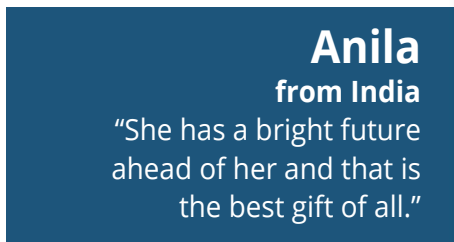
"We can't imagine life without him in it."



## Samuel

from China

"He is doing great and loves having a family."



## Anila

from India

"She has a bright future ahead of her and that is the best gift of all."



## John

from China

"Lots of prayers and well wishes to all the families and children to come."

# Against All Odds

## An Older Child Searches for His Family

Last spring, at this time, much of our attention was focused on a handwritten letter and a picture of a 15-year-old boy, Dai, from our sponsorship program in Viet Nam. Dai had bravely written to express his deep yearning to find his forever family.

We were all committed to advocating for Dai, so all options were explored. We sprang into action raising funds toward a \$10K adoption grant, making phone calls to families, and even publishing his letter. **As a teenage boy, time was running out for Dai; he had less than 6 months before becoming ineligible for adoption.** Despite our efforts, we knew that failure was a distinct possibility.

Against all odds, you made it possible for Dai's dream become a reality. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, his family made the long journey to Viet Nam and brought Dai home. He now has the support of a father, the comradery of a sister, and the love of a mother.

Dai's mother recently shared with us, "In the Brittany's Hope Spring 2017 newsletter, Dai wrote a letter to his future forever family — and we are now that family!"

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***While Dai was praying for a forever family, we were praying for a son.***

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*Dai has been home for a little over 5 weeks, is adapting well, and making friends. It has been wonderful to see the close bond between Dai and his younger sister, Siobhan.*

*We immensely enjoy sharing Dai's new firsts, like experiencing snow for the first time! Although he doesn't enjoy the cold weather, he is fascinated by snow and built his very first snowman. Dai recently told us that his greatest desire is to attend a college or university to further his education. He thinks this is a tremendous opportunity American children have that most children in Viet Nam will never experience."*

Dai's family is grateful and blessed to become this family of four. Without the support of Brittany's Hope donors, sponsors, and advocates, Dai would not have been able to have the wonderful opportunities in life that now await him. ***Now, his family can experience the joy of helping him become the best he can possibly be."***

***Donate to an adoption grant and bring a child home.***



*Dai and his forever family*

# Creating an Oasis

It's easy to find Sister Maurice - just follow the giggles of the children at the Oasis of Peace home in a rural village of Kisumu, Kenya. With an enchanting smile, Sister Maurice has a gift for listening intently to each child, sharing in the both their joys and their heartbreak.

It's difficult to find a family not affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Kisumu County. The disease prevalence there is almost 4 times higher than in other areas of Kenya. ***It's as if an entire generation of adults is missing, leaving the children behind to be cared for by elders.***

With Sister Maurice's own personal loss of her parents and two siblings, she knows firsthand the emotional turmoil of orphans and struggles within the community. She established a home to care for these children — yet, within the first 2 weeks, the home was flooded with frighten and malnourished children.

***"Those first few years were very difficult and frightening. I spent many sleepless nights questioning God and wondering where I would find the resources needed to feed and care for these children. Without a choice, I had to turn to the very people who knocked at my door for help."***

She managed to keep over 60 scared kids safe, making it clear that she was born to take on this joyful burden.

With her calm assertiveness and natural love, she empowered those around her to assist in any way they could: some donated corn or bananas, others carried drinking water. Yet though the surrounding community gave what they could, the resources weren't enough to sustain the home.

Moved by Sister Maurice's resilience and fight to care for these precious children, Brittany's Hope joined in her efforts. In 2 short years, with your guidance, she has equipped the home with proper furnishings, established a school, drilled a well, developed a large garden, and raised livestock. With each challenge, Sister Maurice rises to the task and enables others to find strength, take ownership, and create lasting change to guide future generations.

Sister Maurice has created an oasis, a home filled with beautiful music of kids' laughter. She recently shared with us, ***"I sincerely feel happy and fulfilled when the lives of orphans and the vulnerable are changed."***

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**Please help our partners continue to be a guide for those less fortunate.**

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***Sister Maurice & 2 boys from the Oasis of Peace***

# Your Successes in 2017

## Our Promise to You

Brittany's Hope believes in the fundamental right of all children to know the love and security of a family. Being ethical is one of the best ways to realize this mission. If you want more information regarding our kids, our families, our programs, or our finances, please ask. Giving is a very personal choice and we promise to be good stewards of your passion, time and gifts.

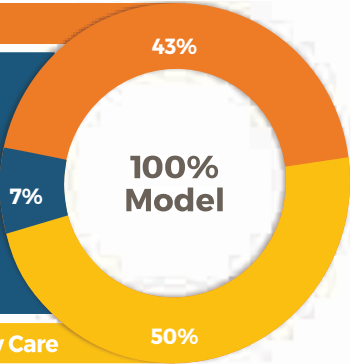
### Adoption Grants

#### Administration and Events

100% paid for by Corporate Sponsor

- Salaries (In-Kind)
- Facilities (In-Kind)
- Fundraising Supplies
- Marketing

### Sponsorship/Family Care



## Sponsorship



### Higher Education

Enrolled In 2017:

**54**

Graduated since 2005:

**62**



**In 2017**

**272**

Individuals Sponsoring Kids

**2,004 Kids**

Sponsored

## Adoption Grants

Uniting children with families.



**In 2017**

Children Home:

**121**

Countries:

**11**

**Since 2000**

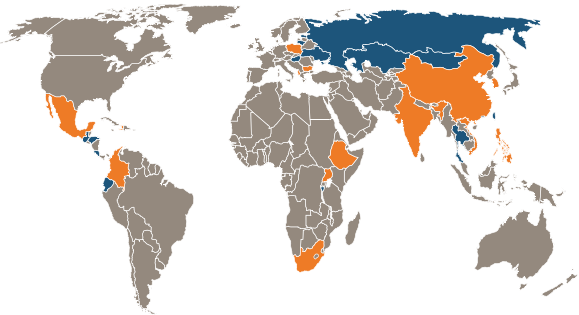
Children Home:

**1,133**

Countries:

**33**

2017 Since 2000



## Humanitarian Aid • Family Care



**149**

Kids Reunified Since 2005

Viet Nam



**3**

Countries Worked In

Kenya



**24**

Communities Impacted

Ethiopia



**855**

Families Preserved

# Support of over 2,000 kids – because of you!



## **A big thank you** to our 2017 Walk of Love Sponsors!





Aiding Abandoned Children Worldwide  
1160 North Market Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
[www.Brittany'sHope.org](http://www.Brittany'sHope.org)  
717.367.9614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Brittany's Hope

## Food Bingo

April 22nd, 2018 :

doors open at noon

Bingo starts at 1pm

Londonderry Fire Hall, Middletown PA

