

ALIVE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF KIDS ALIVE® INTERNATIONAL
SPRING 2021

Shared goals for a global journey

This past year has been an important time to clarify our organizational goals as we begin to move out of a year of pandemic. And my prayer is that as we “write the vision,” – Hab. 2:2b-3a (ESV) – we will all be inspired to run toward the goal of a world where all children are safe, loved, and whole.

The needs of the children we serve vary according to continent, country, community, and circumstances. But our team has identified shared global goals for the children in our care across our organization – ones that apply to all children no matter where they live or what kind of past they bring with them. We define those goals as...

- **To enjoy a vibrant, life-changing relationship with God.** There is no higher goal than that of helping a hurting child to understand and experience the deep love of the Father and to trust Jesus as Savior. This is the foundation on which we build, and we invest in this goal from the first day a child enters our care.

- **To experience emotional and physical well-being.** Vulnerable children come to us with physical needs and deep emotional pain locked inside. Each of our programs addresses the physical needs as we focus on emotional healing. You are helping us to make investments in professionals who have training in trauma-informed care and are dedicated to walking with a child to true healing.
- **To be equipped for a life of independence and service.** We want to do more than heal a child's hurts; we want to prepare and equip them for successful independence and the desire to serve family and community. Our kids receive life skills instruction, training in marketable skills, and connection with local churches for support and service.
- **To live in community, free of fear and violence.** Too many of our kids live in communities that are not safe and do not have adequate resources to secure justice for children who are abused or exploited. Our professional teams seek to stand in this gap, working with community partners, local leadership, and government authorities to change the way they protect and support children.

May each of us “run with perseverance” toward these goals, full hearted, with joy and courage to show every child how much they are treasured by our good Father.



Corbey Dukes, President



Journey from Hope to Home: Restoring and

What is a journey?

In the simplest, most literal terms, a journey is a trip. But as all of us who have traveled – literally or figuratively – know, it encompasses much more than the movement from where we are today to where we will be tomorrow or in 10 years.

For vulnerable children and orphans, the journey from the pain of their past to a future of hope and wholeness is one with many starts and stops, inevitable disappointments, and hard-won victories.

For many years, residential care was the solution, the destination of the journey of a homeless child, whether the reason for homelessness is the death of or abandonment by the child's parents, separation from family by war or other calamities, or abuse that makes it impossible for a child to return home.

While we understand that a quality residential option is often a necessary "rest stop" on a child's journey, we firmly believe that the best long-term option is a real family. This could mean reunification with biological family, or when this is impossible, careful placement of a child inside a loving Christian family in or near that child's community.

That's why with every stop along a child's winding path, we look with confidence toward the real destination – family!

1

The child arrives and we assess her level of trauma and her ongoing needs

2

Team develops an individual care plan with necessary interventions and support

4

Our team offers the child tools for healing and she undertakes the hard work of rebuilding her life

3

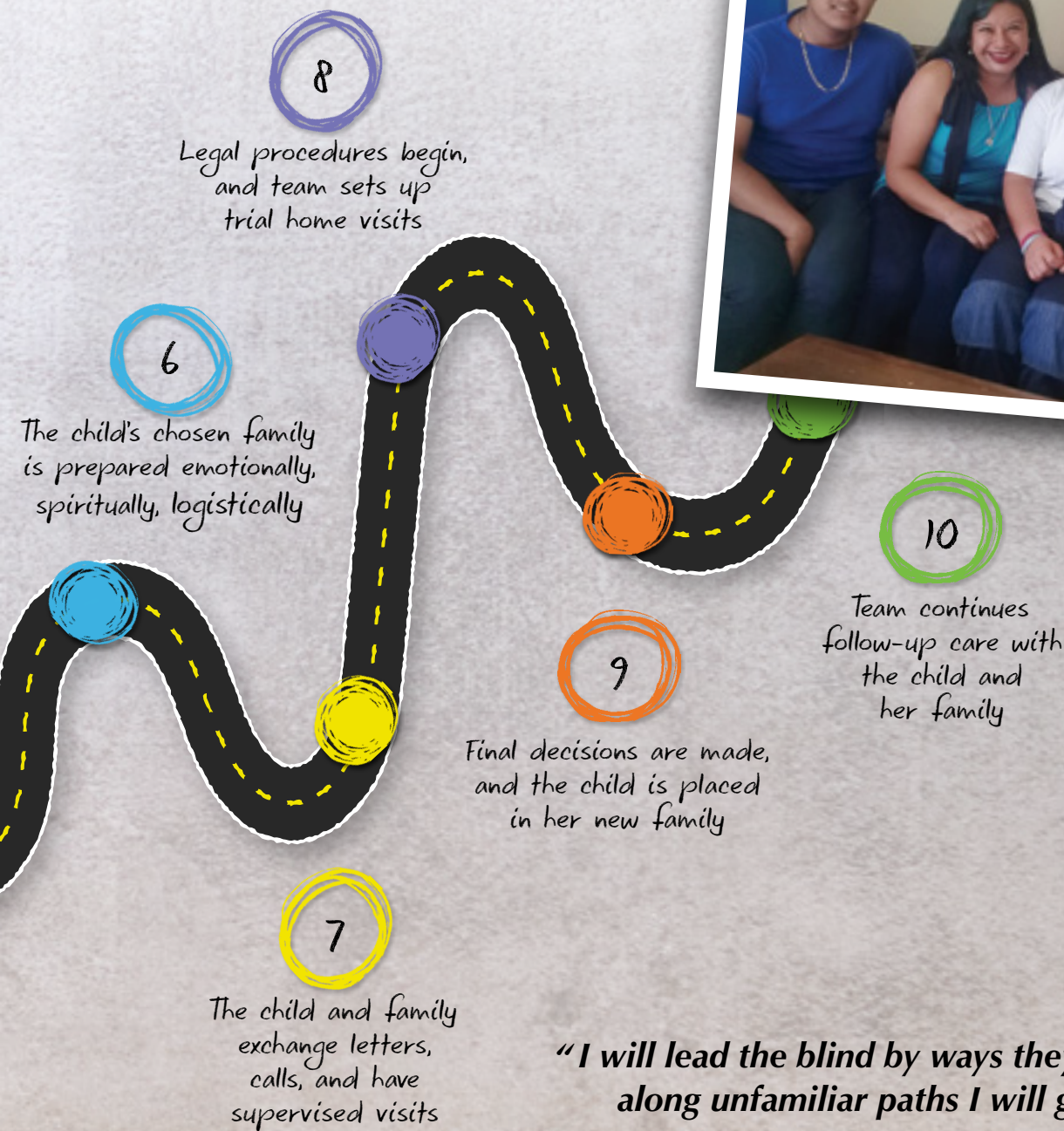
The child is loved and cared for as her journey to healing begins

5

Team determines the child's readiness for family placement, investigates options



Rebuilding Young Lives



***"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them."***

Is. 42:16 (NIV)



Kids Alive welcomes new Executive Vice President



Kids Alive is delighted to announce the newest addition to our senior leadership team! Rachel Davidson takes on the role of Executive Vice President of Global Ethics and Policy and will lead our efforts to build and maintain an infrastructure and culture that values and protects children, families, staff, and volunteers.

Rachel holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from University of Florida, and an MBA from Stetson University School of Business. She received her law degree from Stetson in 2006 and has been a member of the Georgia Bar since then.

In addition, Rachel has served on several significant committees and critical advisory groups in the areas of children's law and safeguarding.

Her most recent position was Director of the Georgia Office of Child Advocate for the Protection of Children, further building upon her experience in court and foster care systems, sexual abuse, and trafficking.

"Having been blessed with a childhood and family in which I felt unconditional love and security," Rachel shared, "I believe God calls me to help other children experience those same feelings. Throughout my career, I have been driven to not only ensure children are and feel safe and secure, but also to cultivate a culture which supports others to do the same."

Rachel and her husband Patrick are the parents of Graham, 11, and Marissa, 8. They make their home in Atlanta and Rachel will work from our Atlanta office. Join Kids Alive in praying that God will use Rachel's strengths and expertise to make a positive impact for every child we serve.

**"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" — Micah 6:8 (NKJV)**