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A Mission Moment

Creating promising futures for children.... Whatever it takes!

It was a different world in 1883. LIFE Magazine had just been founded in Los Angeles, Thomas Edison had just installed the nation's first overhead wire lighting system in New Jersey, and time zones were just starting to be standardized across the United States. And tucked away in a farmhouse on the outskirts of an agrarian community in Indiana, another lasting institution was in its infancy.

Rev. John Rettig and his wife welcomed nine-year-old Herman Leisering to the brand new "Reformed Orphan's Home of Fort Wayne, Indiana" on October 17, 1883, thus creating the organization that is today known as Crossroad Child & Family Services. And though it has evolved with the times and undergone name changes of its own, the United Church of Christ has been our staunchest advocate, our biggest financial supporter, and our spiritual guide since that day. It has been your gifts, like those of your forebearers, that have allowed us to create promising futures for children for so long. As we approach our 140th anniversary celebration in 2023, we wanted to connect with you and share a little bit about who we are, who we help, and how we do it.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping all God's children who need assistance in navigating life's emotional challenges. Though we started as an orphanage all those years ago, we later transitioned into a full spectrum agency that provides residential, outpatient, home-based, and community mental health care for those aged 6-21. Many of the children who walk through our doors have already lived a nightmarish life. Whether from sexual or physical abuse, neglect, post-traumatic stress or any other number of reasons, they often come to us emotionally fragile and in need of trustworthy adults who have their best interests at heart. We feel called to care for all the children of the earth out of a spirit of love, protection, and mercy - the same that God has shown us.

Children like Daniel. His mother, who loved him dearly, was deeply concerned about his violent outbursts and anti-social behavior. At Crossroad, Daniel was able to identify his behavior as a trauma response to his father's suicide in 2011. He was just a young boy at the time but the fear, anxiety, and anger he felt affected his day to day life and began to control him. With the help of a dedicated team of professionals, including a habilitation specialist who Daniel's mother credits with saving her son's life, Daniel was able to come to terms with what happened to him, devise coping strategies, and have a plan going forward. All it took was adults who genuinely cared for him and desperately wanted to see him succeed.

Through your generous donations through the years, you provided socks for children who arrived with bare feet, coats for children who arrived shivering from the cold, food for the children who came to us with an empty belly, and hope for those who are struggling to find any. The trust you place in us and the support you provide is why we have been able to help children like Daniel for so long. When faced with a global pandemic and growing uncertainty, we were even able to say "It'll be OK. We've been through this before." That confidence was borne from the prayers that had been spoken for well over a century. It's what fuels us, guides us, and sustains us. With your help, we'll be keeping our promise well into the future, and we'll do whatever it takes to get there.