



ADOPTION, FOSTER, & ORPHAN CARE MINISTRY

HoustonsFirst.org/Legacy685

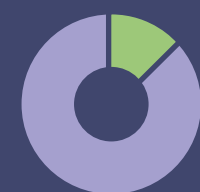
The Legacy685 Adoption, Foster, & Orphan Care Ministry at Houston's First began in 2008 to provide resources and community for adoptive and foster families — and those wishing to become them. In the fall of 2011, the ministry launched an Adoption Assistance Fund to provide financial support for families seeking adoption. The fund received a substantial boost that October when it was the designated recipient of a special offering given by the church family when we observed the Lord's Supper.

The fund continued to grow from additional gifts and proceeds from the Run For Hope 5K held each spring. Now, since its inception, the fund has distributed \$352,000 to provide funding for the adoption of 94 children! Funding for the 100th adoption is expected to be provided this August — almost three years after the fund began.

Since their desire is simply to place children in forever homes, the fund is not limited to Houston's First families. In fact, over 87% of the families who have received funds are from outside our church family. Lifesong for Orphans — a third party ministry that does extensive work on behalf of orphans around the world — manages applicant approvals and fund distributions designated by Legacy685 ministry leaders.

In addition to the fund, the Legacy685 ministry provides resources to pre-adoptive and pre-foster couples, as well as to those who have already adopted or are currently fostering. These resources include in-depth courses, small groups, helpful materials — and a community of people with similar stories.

Legacy685 is beginning to partner with organizations who, like them, desire to raise the standard of excellence in holistically caring for orphaned children around the world. For example, Jose and Shari Salazar run Casa Salazar in Guatemala, providing a stable home for up to 8 displaced children. Legacy685 is equipping the Salazars with resources about parenting children from "hard places" and sponsored them to attend conferences about caring for hurt children. Through emails and social media, Legacy685 continues to mentor the couple as they serve the needs of their children.



94 CHILDREN ADOPTED WITH SUPPORT FROM LEGACY685 FUND

12 by Houston's First families
82 by families outside the church

16
NATIONS
REPRESENTED

31 USA
26 China
12 Ethiopia
7 Uganda
3 Congo, Ukraine
2 Bulgaria, South Korea
1 Armenia, Colombia, Haiti, India, Lesotho, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Russia

31
FAMILIES ADOPTED CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

blindness
cancer
cerebral palsy
cleft palates
Down syndrome
spina bifida

NEWS + UPDATES

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant, biblical community where we **gather our hearts**, **grow our souls** and **give our lives** as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

TWEET OF THE WEEK: "Honored this Memorial Day weekend to join my husband & other veterans to lead in prayer at the altar of @HoustonsFirst." — @JoniHannigan

ALL CAMPUSES

Deacons' Meetings & Church Conference Today — The Loop Campus

The Deacon Administrative Committee meets today at 2:30-3:30p (Garden Rm), all Deacons meet at 3:30-4:30p (Oasis Rm), and the monthly Church Conference is from 4:30-5p (Oasis Rm). Anyone may attend the Church Conference, but only church members may vote.

HighPoint Bible Study

Every Wed @ 11:30a — 1010 Lamar (tunnel level)

HighPoint meets at our Downtown Campus with lunch beginning at 11:30a for \$8, and Bible study taking place from 12:10-12:40p. On Jun 4, Executive Pastor David Self will speak on the topic "When Judgment Comes."

CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

Houston's First Baptist Church Night at Minute Maid Park

Fri, Aug 29 @ 7:10p — Minute Maid Park

Astros vs. Rangers! Pastor Gregg throws the first pitch! Houston's First's Singers lead the national anthem! Houston's First family members from all four campuses are headed to the ballpark for a night of baseball, hot dogs, fireworks, and more! Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events for discounted tickets and more information about our night at Minute Maid Park!

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

Camp Intersect

Jun 5-8 — Trinity Pines, Trinity, TX

Camp Intersect is two camps in one location — one for Grades 3 & 4, and one for Grades 5 & 6. This 4-day camp and missions experience includes small groups, worship, recreation, swimming, and games! Don't miss out on all God has in store for you! Details and registration at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.

CONTACT Derek.Nease@HoustonsFirst.org
Tony.Bianco@HoustonsFirst.org

Vacation Bible School

Agency D3 is looking for young recruits to discover, decide, and defend the truth about Jesus! Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events to enlist now for Agency D3 branches at Sienna (Jun 16-19) or The Loop (Jun 23-27).

CONTACT Katie.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org
Kim.Shelby@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE / SINGLES / MARRIED

MetroLIVE

Begins Thu, Jun 5 @ 7p — The Loop (Worship Center)
People in their 20s/30s from across Houston will gather on Thursday nights at The Loop this summer for Bible teaching by Jonathan "JP" Pokluda and a guest musical artist each week — beginning with Shane & Shane on Jun 5. Visit MetroLIVE.org for more about what's ahead this summer!

CONTACT Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

MEN

Men: Serve

Sat, Jun 21 @ 8:30a-1p

Men will gather at The Loop then go out in teams to serve the widows of our church family through yard work, home repairs, and other projects. Advance registration is required by Fri, Jun 13, so sign up to serve at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.

CONTACT Eric.Reed@HoustonsFirst.org

SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

The Loop Campus

7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024

Worship 9:15a-11a-5:30p

Life Bible Studies 8a-9:15a-10:45a-4:15p-6:45p

THE LOOP

Summer Rush 2014 Thru Aug 22

Students in Grades 6-12 — don't sit around all summer being bored...jump into Summer Rush with AMP and Wired Unplugged, HUB Nights, Schlitterbahn, Rushmore, Rush Week, and more! Check out the details at HoustonsFirst.org/SummerRush or on The HUB Students App.
CONTACT Susan.Newman@HoustonsFirst.org

WOMEN

Summer Bible Studies

Every Wed, Jun 4-18

Choose from two studies as women gather this summer. Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Women for details about the classes. For info about childcare, contact Ministry Childcare at 713.957.7614:

• "Ever After . . ."

9:30a-Noon — Reception Rm

Shannon Owen, teacher; Lisa Holcomb, hostess

• Reality Check! Freed to Be a Woman of God

6:30-8p — Rm 249

Chandra Peele, teacher; Marlen Spivey, hostess

CONTACT Haylee.Nelson@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS

WOMEN

Women's Ministry Summer Series

Mondays @ 9:30-11:30a — Cypress Ministry Center

Save the date for the Summer Lovin' Women's Bible Study Series! On Jun 30, Jul 14, and Aug 4, speakers Paige Swiggart, Katie Brou, and Candace Ganjavi will cover topics such as Lovin' Your Family, Lovin' Your Church, and Lovin' Your God. Childcare will be provided. More details coming soon!

CONTACT Andi.Farrell@HoustonsFirst.org

Meet MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Today @ 4-5:30p — Cypress Ministry Center

MOPS is coming to Cypress in the Fall of 2014! Join us at this information meeting and find out what this ministry is all about! Childcare will be provided.

CONTACT Andi.Farrell@HoustonsFirst.org

Backyard Kids Club Interest Meeting

Today @ 4-6p — Cypress Ministry Center

This summer YOU have the opportunity to build a bridge from the church to your neighborhood through relationships. We are challenging EVERY member of our church to be involved in some way! Come find out what all the buzz is about!

CONTACT Natalie.Stotts@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN

WOMEN

The Language of Storytelling

Every Mon, Jun 2-30 @ 7-8:30p

All Downtown women are invited to learn how to tell different Biblical stories chronologically as a tool for evangelism! Taught by Erika Brunson, this will be a great time of fellowship and growth. Contact Tiffany Butterfras for details and directions to the meeting location. Please note that childcare is not available.

CONTACT Tiffany.Butterfras@HoustonsFirst.org

Baptisms

Sun, Jun 8 @ 12:45p — Tellepsen Family YMCA

Immediately after the Jun 8 worship service, we'll head over to the YMCA (808 Pease) to celebrate baptisms! If you're interested in learning more about baptism, contact Peter Lee or Campus Pastor Lee Hsia.

CONTACT Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA

Volunteer at Vacation Bible School!

VBS is coming to the Sienna Campus and we're looking for volunteers to work with our young recruits at Agency D3 from Jun 16-19 @ 6-8p. Contact Katie Walker if you are interested in joining the team!

CONTACT Katie.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org

Sienna Astros Tickets

Join others from the Sienna Campus at Houston's First Baptist Church Night at Minute Maid Park on Fri, Aug 29! Tickets are on sale now at HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna and will be available for pick up closer to the event.

CONTACT Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org



Be a missionary without ever boarding an airplane. Register to serve Jul 6-10 at one of more than 16 locations throughout the greater Houston area as the Houston's First family shares the love of Christ this summer! Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Houston18 for more details and to register!

CONTACT Jonathan.Huegel@HoustonsFirst.org

Houston 1:8 Evangelism Training

Sun, Jun 8 @ 12:30p — The Loop (Oasis Rm)

Learn effective ways to share your faith with others — and enjoy lunch, too! RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org/Houston18.

Houston 1:8 Prayer Training

Sun, Jun 8 @ 12:30p — The Loop (Harbor Rm)

Learn how to pray intentionally before, during, and after Houston 1:8. Lunch is provided. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org/Houston18.

Grab & Go THEN GROW!

Beginning Today @ 4-7p — The Loop

The Cafe at The Loop begins serving grab & go dinner options today! Pick up something to eat at The Cafe, then take it with you to your Life Bible Study at 4:15p or 6:45p. (Please, no food or drinks in the Worship Center.) The Cafe is also open on Sunday mornings with their full menu from 8a-1p.

MISSION 1:8

Jun 1, 2014

Looking After Orphans

Here at Home and Around the World

Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress . . .

James 1:27



Photo courtesy of As Our Own



JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

Through the MISSION 1:8 initiative, Houston’s First seeks to multiply our missional impact by increasing our church family’s giving to the church over two years by \$15,000,000. Of that amount, \$1,500,000 was slated for ministries working with the poor, widows, orphans, and prisoners. Thanks to your generosity to MISSION 1:8, Houston’s First has now given \$1,534,015 to help organizations serving these groups.

Half of that amount — \$764,015 — has gone to ministries serving orphans in seven countries on four continents. An additional \$333,000 was provided by a special gift, bringing our total giving to orphan-related ministries to over \$1 million since March 2013. As you read about the ministries we’re supporting, pray for the children and staff at each one. May they rely on God’s strength and provision, and may they know deeply the love of their Heavenly Father.



Photo Courtesy of As Our Own



VILLAGE OF HOPE

GUATEMALA | LifesongForOrphans.org/Countries/Guatemala

Village of Hope provides family, faith and a future to the least of these by providing holistic orphan care to special needs orphans, primarily those living with HIV/AIDS — all within a family-style setting.

“I came into the trip to Guatemala with a lot of unknowns. This trip not only changed my life to see how loving these kids were, but it also changed my perspective on HIV and AIDS and showed me that disease or sickness should never be a boundary to spread God’s love and His life changing Word.” — Sara Johannesen, March 2014 Trip Participant



LITTLE EDEN CHILDREN’S HOME

KENYA | MikeEdenMinistries.org

Little Eden Children’s Home cares for nearly 70 children ages 4 to 16. The facility includes a clinic to care for the children’s physical needs and a farm capable of feeding them and making the home self-sufficient. The children attend local schools, local Christian pastors address their spiritual needs, and Christian values are taught within the home.



HIS CHERISHED ONES

KENYA | HisCherishedOnes.org

As a young single adult from a small town and new to Houston, Trena Ivy was hesitant to serve during Houston 1:8 at Houston’s First. Over the next few years, God pulled her out of her comfort zone during some mission trips to Kenya. Then, in 2007 she moved there full-time and in 2009 she founded His Cherished Ones for the purpose of sharing God’s love with those in great need of the unconditional love of a Heavenly Father.

“The support of Houston’s First has enabled us to better serve and share love with our community. By helping to meet our financial needs, we are able to focus on the needs of our ministry by encouraging families, strengthening families, and placing orphaned and abandoned babies in families. With the support of Houston’s First, we are able to expand our ministry reach and work closer towards our goal of local sustainability.” — Trena Ivy, Founder, His Cherished Ones



INTO ABBA’S ARMS

KENYA | IntoAbbasArms.org

The desire of Into Abba’s Arms is to honor God by using the time, talents, and resources He places in their hands to introduce the orphans of Kenya to the love of Jesus Christ. They provide foundational spiritual training and discipleship for their children in a loving home environment, and are committed to developing the next generation of leaders for Christ in Kenya.

“We are grateful for the continuing support of Houston’s First which has helped to establish Into Abba’s Arms as a light shining in the darkness. You have blessed our children and community by providing VBS programs as well as ongoing project support for various needs around our site. We are so thankful for you and look forward to many more years of working together bega kwa bega (shoulder to shoulder) as together we serve the ‘least of these.’” — Jane Gravis, Founder, Into Abba’s Arms

ROMANIAN CHRISTIAN ENTERPRISES

ROMANIA | RCEnterprises.org

Romanian Christian Enterprises is making mercy happen in Romania by preventing poverty, restoring abandoned children to families and community, and providing comprehensive care for children with disabilities.

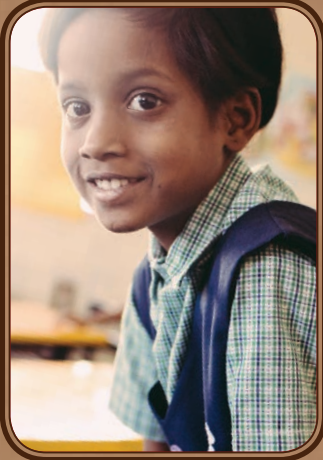


FAMILY LEGACY MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

ZAMBIA | FamilyLegacy.com

Family Legacy sponsors various types of ministries serving orphans in Zambia. One of them is Tree of Life Children’s Village. Tree of Life rescues children from severe cases of abuse and poverty by placing them in the Children’s Village to provide a safe haven for hope and healing.

“During 2012, after spending 10 days in Zambia and the children rescued and placed in the newly completed houses and hearing their stories, I felt led to begin a project to raise \$110,000 to build one of the remaining houses. In 2013 the home was completed and we named the home Agape House. “Agape” means pure and unconditional love, like that only found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.” — Colton Taylor, High School Junior



AS OUR OWN

INDIA | AsOurOwn.org

As Our Own is a Christ-based, community-driven movement in India that rescues vulnerable children from certain enslavement and exploitation and cares for them as our own. Among other things, our contribution enabled them to add a Director Of Child Development, improve the quality of education for their girls by moving them to an ICSE English-speaking Christian School — and rescue six new children and bring them into the As Our Own family, for life.

“The outpouring of support Houston’s First has shown As Our Own has had a significant impact in the communities we serve, and it has been transformative for lives of the girls in our family. By God’s grace we have been able to make significant strides this past year as a result of your partnership and support. May God be glorified by all that we accomplish together through the lives of these girls. Thank you for being a part of the As Our Own family.” — Ralph Borde, CEO, As Our Own



NEST OF HOPE

EAST ASIA

Nest of Hope’s mission is twofold: For children at the orphanage, ages 2 to 14, they provide a loving home for both abandoned and underprivileged children, challenged by the burden of special needs, as well as ethnic minority status. Through their vocational school, Nest of Hope provides skills training and basic education for older orphans and underprivileged children, age 14 and above. They seek to provide all of their children with hope for the future.

“Meeting the children was transforming. Although I was initially nervous that we wouldn’t get along, when I met them I glimpsed the intense love Jesus has for the little ones...the least. Leaving the orphanage was difficult, but the Lord graciously reminded me that these kids are His, and He loved them long before I came to know them.” - Tarah Hilton, UH-Clear Lake Senior, Mission Team Member

THE HARBOR

RUSSIA | TheHarborNN.org

Tens of thousands of orphans in Russia are moved out of state institutions each year at age 17. Most enter a cycle of self-destruction, often falling into a life of crime and many ending in suicide. The founders of The Harbor recognized that a gap exists between the orphanage and life outside. The Harbor fills this gap by placing orphans in residential family-style communities, giving them an education, and teaching them skills necessary to maintain a home and thrive in Russian society.

“We officially opened The Harbor - Nizhny on May 1, 2014, taking in our first resident and pulling together a highly qualified staff to holistically support orphans who have aged out of the system. This would not have been possible without the generosity of Houston’s First through MISSION 1:8!” — Sue Marshall, Founder, The Harbor - Nizhny