



A Baker's Dozen

Four brothers from Latin America were just days away from being separated from one another when Todd and Michelle Ingram learned about their need for a forever family through social media. Both had a huge heart for children and they had several of their own already. Michelle witnessed her mother take in children even as she faced the challenges of single parenthood. Todd understood through reflection on his own adoption how that decision can change the direction of many lives.

"I looked at these four beautiful boys and knew immediately that they were meant to be a part of our family," Michelle explained. "Todd's only question was 'how soon can we get them home?'"

To bring their four boys home would cost the Ingram's nearly a year's salary. Through the Adoption Support Fund, the boys had a child-specific grant. Additionally, Todd and Michelle applied for a family grant. The Adoption Support Fund grants meant Todd and Michelle could bring their boys home sooner. And it meant the world to the boys, who now have a forever family to call their own. While in Colombia, Todd and Michelle connected with the boys' sister, whom they have now adopted. "We are so excited to bring Luisa into our family. She is our Baker's Dozen."

"Not everybody can take in children or adopt," Todd said, "but every gift is an investment in children and helps families build a foundation of love and trust."

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An Amazing Synchronicity

Sometimes incredible synchronicity creates unimagined magic. Extra. Ordinary. Put them together and the magnitude of what happens can be outside our imaginings.

Two siblings in foster care. Adopted by two different families — on the same day, in the same courthouse. Extraordinary. The magic that followed means each child gained a new family and each family embraced new extended family. The siblings have an extraordinary opportunity to remain in close contact. The built-in mutual support the families give each other also means 11-year-old Josie and her brother have the comfort of each other and the stability of a permanent, loving family.

Adopting an older child from foster care can come with some unexpected challenges. John and Heidi, taking a leap of faith and great love, embraced Josie as their own. Heidi explains, "You have to change your whole life to accommodate another person you don't know." In this case, this also included forming strong connections with another adoptive family to keep the siblings' relationship intact.

"We are very grateful for the whole experience and want people to know there are successes out there."

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Forever Families for Every Child

Here's how your gift today will help children thrive for years to come:

Adoption Support Fund

For older children, sibling groups and children with special needs, your gift means the difference between growing up in an orphanage or foster care, and spending a lifetime in a loving family. Grants of up to \$3,000 from the Adoption Support Fund help remove financial barriers for families eager to adopt waiting children.

Post-Adoption Services

Your gift supports adopted individuals and their families throughout their lifelong journey. You enable CH/LSS to offer Post-Adoption Services that provide education and build community including Adoption Day Camp, a mentoring program, search and background services, support groups, educational events and volunteer opportunities.

Global Family Support

With our worldwide partners, we support efforts that promote the care, protection, health and education of vulnerable children in countries all around the globe. Your gift ensures children living in orphanages receive the best possible care and supports community-based economic development projects that help families remain intact.

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This year the adoption programs of Children's Home Society and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota have helped hundreds of children thrive.



33 infants joined families through an open adoption.

212 children joined their adoptive families

98 children from **6 countries**

joined families through **international** adoption.



81 children living in foster care were placed in permanent adoptive families.

Since 1998 we have distributed over **\$5 million in 24 countries** to support Global Family Support projects that promote the care, protection, health and education of vulnerable children and families in communities around the world.



Our Adoption Support Fund awarded **\$140,230** in grants to help **37 children** join their new families.

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