

WIDE HORIZONS  
FOR CHILDREN  
**NEWS**

How your gifts  
are transforming the lives  
of children in need

APRIL 2017

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**Wide Horizons For Children** is dedicated to the well-being and security of vulnerable and orphaned children worldwide. To help a needy child, please mail your donation today or give online at [whfc-donations.org/make-a-donation](http://whfc-donations.org/make-a-donation). Thank you!



The Bauers in Colombia last summer. First Lady María Rodríguez Múnera insisted on meeting this very special family who had adopted four siblings!

## Separated ... forever? Siblings faced heart- breaking prospect

**Here's how you helped one family adopt all four kids — and keep them together**

It was heartbreaking.

Four siblings from Colombia — Maria, age 13, Daniela, 11, Mateo, 9 and 6-year-old Carlos — were eligible for adoption. Child welfare officials thought adopting all four would be too much for most families ... so they separated them into two groups.

But the Bauers aren't like most families.

"Initially the conversation revolved around whether we would adopt one child with special needs or a small sibling group," says Brent, who lives in New England with his wife, Linda, and their two biological children, Abby and Jon.

When they learned about the siblings in Colombia, they felt it was their calling to bring them home — *all four of them.*

"My wife and I have said that God has a sense of humor, and this certainly was a surprise to both of us to feel sure of seeking to adopt all four," says Brent.

It's a leap of faith they were ready to take — but one that comes at a cost many families can't afford.

The financial burden of adopting four children at once could have easily dissuaded them.

**It didn't — thanks to adoption subsidies you make possible.**

"Financial assistance allowed us to focus on what really matters —

preparing our family to receive and care for the children we were going to adopt," says Brent.

How does it feel to double the size of your family? "It was — and

**"Sometimes the only way to make a lasting change is to do something crazy."**

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You give kids and families a hand ... when they need it most



The stories in this issue remind me how important a secure, loving family is for every child — and how that isn't an automatic thing for many kids. They depend on the generosity of people like you.

Families like the Bauers know that some kids need extra help, so they opened their hearts to four siblings from Colombia. They knew what it would mean for these kids to grow up together.

**You're a very real part of their story:** Thanks to your giving, an adoption subsidy gave them the financial help they needed to make it happen.

Kawan, a Korean adoptee, decided to search for her birth mother. Thanks to your generous giving, our post-adopt team was by her side to provide the counseling and support Kawan needed to find her ... *never imagining she would discover an entire family in the process!*

And your generosity helped 10-year-old Eduardo and his family stay strong during the many months it took him to recover from a crippling illness. Time his mother couldn't work or care for the family so she could be at his side.

Finally, our own Leku Hospital — recently awarded "leading hospital" status by government officials in Ethiopia — restores health to tens of thousands of desperately poor men, women, and children every year. It's life-saving care that keeps families together. Care generous friends like you make possible.

Every day, you join with us to keep vulnerable kids and families strong. You're an essential part of this life-changing work ... and I am grateful.

Janice Hoffman  
President and CEO



The Lopez family — grateful that your compassion and support helped keep them together during their son's medical crisis.

## Critically Ill, Scared, and Far from Home

You helped this 10-year-old heal — and his family stay together

**Eduardo was suddenly in terrible pain.** He had a perforated appendix and needed surgery. Quick.

Many more surgeries followed. That's a lot for anyone to endure — much less a 10-year-old boy.

And there was another big problem: The specialized care he needed was at a hospital in Guatemala City — a long, bumpy bus ride **hours away** from his rural home.

Scared and in pain, *Eduardo just wanted his mom with him.* But that meant she'd be unable to work for months...and be far away from the rest of the family. The loss of income would normally be devastating for destitute families like theirs.

**Luckily, the Lopez family had you by their side.**

They could count on you when young Eduardo faced a medical crisis.

Your generosity gave them the financial help they needed to make it through Eduardo's long recovery. Thanks to you, Eduardo's oldest brother also received the emotional support he needed to care for their two younger sisters while their mom was at the hospital.

Now Eduardo is improving. He's getting better every day ... anxious to get back to the things he loves, like playing soccer, drawing, and going to school!

And that could only have happened for one reason: **because you care.** ■

**Become a sponsor and transform a life ... your own!**

Kids like Eduardo are waiting for generous friends like you to help change their lives. Sponsorship is one of the best investments you'll ever make. You'll be amazed and thankful for your child's success! Become a sponsor today. To learn more, contact Eileen Minnucci at (781) 419-0377, or [eminnucci@whfc.org](mailto:eminnucci@whfc.org). Thank you!

## She Wanted to Find Her Birth Mother—But Got a Whole Lot More

You helped make Kawan's incredible journey possible

Kawan took a life-changing journey at age 31.

Make that *two* journeys.

The first? She gave birth to her son. The second? **She found her birth mother.**

Kawan was adopted from Korea just before she turned 3. She grew up in Massachusetts with two older brothers in a wonderful, loving family. Kawan was always curious about the circumstances surrounding her relinquishment — but she never wondered much about her birth mother.

That is, until she became a mother herself. That's when Kawan decided she wanted to search. "I think part of me wanted to see if she was okay. I don't think I'd be okay if I had to give up my little boy," she says. "The other part of me wanted her to know I was okay, too."

Her parents were supportive. But the logistics — and the cost of searching — can be prohibitive for some adoptees.

**Thankfully, your gifts made sure Kawan had the counseling and support she needed to connect with her birth mother in Korea.**

"Motherhood changes you. How could I not wonder?"

— Kawan, after the birth of her son

It started with email messages back and forth, which WHFC helped to translate. Kawan learned her birth mother was happy and curious to know more about her, too. "Knowing that — and having my own life full of love — made our meeting more of a confirmation that we could just be happy for one another," she says.

In Korea, the pair were introduced through a translator. Imagine her surprise when six more members of her biological family filed in, excited to meet her!

"That was the most amazing part of the trip," Kawan says. "She hadn't mentioned that her family knew about me, *let alone accepted me and wanted to meet me!* I had come with the expectation of meeting my birth mother ... and instead got an entire family!"

Kawan spent several days getting to know them. Now she understands more about where she came from — which helps chart the course for where she's going.

"There's so much to do after placing a child with a new family," says Kawan. "It's so important to offer counseling and post adoption services to families and adoptees at all phases. I'm very thankful, and hope others will have the opportunity to search, should they choose to."

*If they do, it will be because your gifts help make those connections possible. Thank you.* ■



Kawan, her husband and son in Seoul, beside her birth mother and other relatives



Kawan as a baby with her birth mother ...



... and reunited in Seoul



When Kawan started her own family, it inspired her to search for her birth mother

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## Siblings faced heartbreaking prospect



Colombia's First Lady and Mateo share smiles of gratitude for his new family during a visit to the Presidential Palace last summer.

is — a lot like deciding to ride the most extreme roller-coaster you can find,” he says, “celebrating the peaks but also drawing close together through the valleys.

“It brings a tear to my eye when I see all the children laughing and playing together,” adds Brent. “It’s a beautiful thing to see Abby and Jon teaching our new children how to be a family.”

*Keeping families together — that’s what your giving makes possible. Thank you for helping orphaned and abandoned children find their forever families. ■*



## Ethiopia’s Leku Hospital is saving lives, transforming a whole region

*All thanks to you*

It began as a dream: Bring health care to more than 1 million in the Sidama region of Ethiopia.

With the help of compassionate, visionary friends like you, the Leku Hospital was built. Today, more than 3,300 patients receive life-saving care each month!

And there’s more good news: Together with our Medical Missions teams — and the outstanding care your generosity provides — Leku has been recognized as a “**Leading Hospital**” in Ethiopia, and named a teaching hospital for 10 other hospitals in the region.

This special designation makes us proud. But the important part is that Ethiopian families are getting life-saving care ... especially mothers and children!

It’s all because you care. **Your giving saves lives.** Thank you so much.

*Are you a medical professional? Volunteer medical teams travel to Ethiopia 4-6 times a year for one week. To learn more, contact Debbie Mansfield at (781) 419-0352, or [dmansfield@whfc.org](mailto:dmansfield@whfc.org). Thank you! ■*



## Host a child this SUMMER!

Give a vulnerable child from Colombia the experience of a lifetime through the Kidsave Summer Miracles program. To learn more, contact Edna Cruz today at (909) 629-1015, or [ecruz@whfc.org](mailto:ecruz@whfc.org).



# Together we change lives!

**DONATE TODAY**

Return the enclosed card with your gift, or donate online at: [whfc-donations.org/make-a-donation](http://whfc-donations.org/make-a-donation)

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