



END OF YEAR GIVING ASK ARTICLE

Since our founding in 2008, Pathways for Little Feet has helped over 330 orphaned children join permanent loving families through our interest-free loan program. This year we celebrated two “firsts” for our organization.

For the first time in our history, we have had over \$1,000,000 come back into our Perpetual Family Fund through Pathways Families’ loan repayments. That’s \$1 million that Pathways Families have funneled back into new loans for new children to join new families.

To understand the significance of this “first”, consider this Pathways family’s story. Christopher and Marena Nachtigall were able to adopt their son Cohen because Pathways provided an interest-free loan to them. They were able to pay off their loan by making comfortable monthly payments. The Nachtigalls had this to say about Pathways, “Cohen is such a sweet boy, and we are so thankful that his birth parents chose adoption. We are also so thankful for Pathways whose mission is to make adoption more affordable for couples like us. We could have never made this happen on our own. Cohen is a gift in so many ways, and we are grateful to everyone who helped bring Cohen into our family.” Because the Nachtigalls have paid off their loan, Pathways was able to reuse those funds and help another family –The MacIntyres.

The MacIntyres had this to say after they adopted their daughter Cecilia, “Pathways was so generous in letting us repay our loan in monthly payments that we could afford. We were so excited to pay it in full, knowing that those funds would be used to help another family wanting to adopt.” The MacIntyres have also repaid their loan, and in doing so, they are helping another Pathways Family.

\$1 million has come back into our fund through loan repayments. Our Pathways Families have reinvested over \$1 million back into other families. That is a model of success, and we celebrate it!

The second “first” for Pathways was that for the first time in our history we have fully committed our Perpetual Family Fund. That means that every dollar that we currently have in the fund is already committed to an adoptive family. Demand has overtaken our supply! We are so thankful to be in a position to be faithful stewards of the financial resources that have been given to Pathways. As always, every dollar is being used for its intended purpose, and lives are being changed for the better.

But this “first” provides a unique challenge as well. We are committed to continuing to provide interest-free loans for adoptive families. Our desire is to expand this work. We anticipate that approximately \$250,000 will return to the Perpetual Family Fund through loan repayments in 2016. Through those repayments, we anticipate being able to make 33 loans to adoptive families in 2016. That is wonderful work; however, we believe we can do more, and we need your help to do it.

Our goal is to commit to 66 loans in 2016. In order for us to be able to help those additional families in 2016, we must raise \$250,000 before the end of this year.

Will you consider helping us reach our goal? Your year-end tax-deductible gift to Pathways will allow us to help an additional 33 orphaned children join loving families. Through our proven stewardship model, your gift will continue to recycle over and over again as families pay back the loan that your gift helped provide.

There are several ways to give.

- A response card and an addressed and postage-paid envelope is included in this newsletter. You can put your gift in the mail to our Houston office.
- You can go to our website (www.pathwaysforlittlefeet.org) and make your gift there. Just click on the “Donate” tab and follow the easy-to-use options.

Thank you so much for giving and making the dream of a forever family a reality for 33 additional children!

“We envision a world in which every child is a permanent member of a loving family”

THE PATHWAYS INSTITUTE FOR POST ADOPTIVE CARE

An adoptive parent whose child has come from a very hard place spoke these words: "Today my 7 year old son slapped me across the face. He threw a trash can at me, and threw stuffed animals at me (we had taken all the hard objects out of his room last month). I gave him space to cool off, and then came back and sat next to him to try to show him I was listening. That is when he smacked me. This is a hard job."

The child spoken about above was adopted into a loving family after being removed from his birth family because of abuse and neglect. Children who have experienced trauma early in their development have a difficult time connecting and transitioning after they have been adopted. Even though they are safe and loved, their histories do not allow them to feel safe and loved. They have a very difficult time adjusting and attaching to their new families. Diagnoses differ, but the experiences that children who come from hard places have is very much like the experiences that soldiers with PTSD have after returning from the battlefield. This places tremendous stress on adoptive families, and many of them are desperate to get help.

After helping over 330 orphaned children come home to their forever families, Pathways for Little Feet has decided to offer additional help and healing to families who are struggling with adoption PTSD. We have created the Pathways Institute for Post-Adoptive Family Care. The Institute is a source of help for adoptive families who really need it.

The Institute helps in the following ways:

- **Adoptive Parents Support Groups**

Pathways has developed a support group study that helps adoptive families begin the healing process through a Gospel-centered approach. After beta testing the material this past fall, our team will now be partnering with churches in the Houston area, facilitating new groups in the New Year. To bring a group to your church, please contact Heath Pressley, President of the Pathways Institute: heath@pathwaysforlittlefeet.org

- **Pastoral Counsel & Coaching**

Our team is available to offer pastoral counsel and personal coaching for adoptive parents. Sessions can be set up by appointment through the Pathways office.

- **Professional Counseling Referral**

The Institute is partnering with leading professionals in this field, and can point families to qualified licensed counselors.

The Pathways Institute is committed to helping adoptive families heal from a Gospel-centered core. We look forward to your partnership in this endeavor.

Recent Adoptions Stories

FAMILIES FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Christopher and Marena Nachtigall adopted Cohen. Paid off loan. They wanted to adopt but were concerned about the high cost of adoption expenses. Someone referred them to Pathways. "Cohen is such a sweet boy, and we are so thankful that his birth parents chose adoption. We are also so thankful for Pathways whose mission is to make adoption more affordable for couples like us. We could have never made this happen on our own. Cohen is a gift in so many ways, and we are grateful to everyone who helped bring Cohen into our family."

Daniel and Amy MacIntyre adopted Zane. Paid off loan. Wanted a large family. After two biological children they had medical issues that wouldn't allow them to have any more children. They chose to adopt to grow their family. "Zane has blossomed since coming home. He is a wonderful addition to our family."

Kenneth and Meredith MacIntyre adopted Cecilia. Paid off loan. One biological child before adoption. "Pathways was so generous in letting us repay our loan in monthly payments that we could afford. We were so excited to pay it in full, knowing that those funds would be used to help another family wanting to adopt."

Chris and Shiloh Bradley adopted Elizabeth. Paid off loan. Two biological children. Wanted to help a child in need. Elizabeth was a special needs child in China. After adopting her they were able to get the surgery that she needed to repair a cleft lip and palate. "We are so grateful to Pathways. They helped us get our girl home so she could live a full life."