

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:4

THIS CHRISTMAS YOU CAN HELP MAKE

Breathing Room

FOR FAMILIES



A SPECIAL YEAR END APPEAL 2020

Dear ICM Partners,

Can you picture having a child remote learning at your kitchen table when schools shut down? Or entering into the adoption process despite the uncertainty of the world around us? What about caring for a child on weekends so a dedicated mother could pick up extra work shifts? These are stories of "ordinary courage at an extraordinary time," and these stories are the heart and soul of ICM's ministry.

Whether it was providing a childcare solution so a parent could keep their job during Covid-19, a mostly remote adoption home study, or an affordable counseling session, ICM's core programs continued to create breathing room that helped preserve & empower families.

We hope and pray that this special year-end appeal will also make some breathing room for ICM programs as we head into 2021. To put it plainly, with the uncertainties of the pandemic lingering through 2020, our adoption service revenue and general fund giving suffered greatly. But this is a challenge we can overcome, and God is a great provider!

Through the end of 2020, we have a goal to raise \$50,000 to provide crucial support for ICM programs. If you have been blessed to be able to give, would you consider making your best gift this year to create breathing room for families?

Thank you and God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas!

"It's not exceptionally gifted people who serve with Safe Families. You start from somewhere...out of a step of faithfulness. It's His capacity, not ours."

Dustin & Whitney Underwood
ICM - Safe Families Volunteers
since 2017

Nadia Berger

Nadia Berger
Executive Director, LCSW



Connecting through Day Hosting

by Sharnell Fritz & Katie Dye, the ICM Family Care Team

We've been so thankful for our volunteers who have stepped up to help in new and creative ways during Covid-19. One of these ways is providing care to fill in the gaps in child care due to school closings and remote learning.

Here's what our placing parent and full-time student had to share: "With host mom's help I am able to study, and sometimes even to get some me time. She's taken stress and worry off of me, I don't even know how to explain it - it's like she took a load off of me...like when I had to move, she offered to come down and help. Her whole family came down and helped me move from one apartment to the next. There's a lot of support beyond helping with my daughter. I feel like I have a sense of community now here, and a support system. She is so much help that I don't think she really knows."

"I feel like I have a sense of community now...and a support system."



Asking for help is a sign of strength that we don't take lightly here. We are so thankful when connections between families are made and relationships like these are able to grow!

The Castle Family's Adoption Journey

by Amanda Cooper, LCSW, ICM Adoption Director

When Tyler and Becky Castle submitted their adoption inquiry for Rio in the fall of 2017, they never imagined the mountains that would move before Rio would become their son almost three years later. Rio was a medically complex one-and-a-half year old boy who was living in a long term care facility. After a few months of thinking that their inquiry had completely fallen through, the Castles learned that they were able to take Rio home in December 2017, just days before Christmas.



The Castle's world was immediately filled with medical assessments and therapies, but as time went on Rio's development exploded in every way. He learned to walk and then run within weeks of coming home. Rio is a quick-witted, sweet little boy who loves making his family laugh. We celebrate, together with the Castles, that Rio's adoption was finalized this September 2020!

HOW DO YOUR GIFTS HELP CREATE *Breathing Room* FOR FAMILIES?

When you give a gift to ICM, you know you are giving to an organization that's grounded in the love of Christ, serving local families, and working through His people. ICM is committed to excellence in three core programs: Innovative Family Care, Accessible Adoption & Affordable Counseling.

Every gift helps us recruit, train, and oversee a growing network of Safe Families volunteers. You also help us subsidize the costs of adoption services for families facing the enormous financial and emotional challenges of the process. Finally, your gifts allow us to offer Christian counseling on a "pay what you can" basis. Please reach out to us anytime to learn more about partnership with ICM!