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icmfamily.org

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AS OUR COMMUNITIES RECOVER IN 2021,  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN A NETWORK OF COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE  
WHO ARE KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND FAMILIES INTACT.

## *Empowering Partners*



Learn more at [icmfamily.org](http://icmfamily.org)

## ILLINI CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC.

### *2020 Annual Report*

### DEAR FRIENDS OF ICM,

As I reflect back on the last year, I am reminded of the fact that in February of 2020, we had no idea what we were in for in the coming months! Words like “lockdown” and “quarantine” felt completely irrelevant to my life here in Central Illinois. Now, in February 2021, the thought of life being back to “normal” feels like a highly anticipated dream.

The day to day ministry at ICM was greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The needs of those we serve have changed and in many cases increased. The ways in which we conduct our services have been temporarily altered in order to both meet the unique needs of children and families, while simultaneously upholding appropriate safety measures.



In the coming pages, you will hear updates from our Family Care and Adoption departments. Despite the challenges faced in 2020, our mission to “Glorify God by restoring and empowering families” has not wavered. Staff, volunteers, and financial partners continue to faithfully play the roles they feel the Lord has called them to as part of the ICM team. We are grateful for each of you!

As I look to the year ahead, many questions come to mind. Will the needs of those we serve continue to grow? How will the financial resources of ICM be impacted as so many churches and families also struggle to keep their heads above water? Will life indeed go back to “normal” in 2021? I do not know the answers to these questions. I cannot predict the challenges or victories we will experience in 2021, but there is one thing I know for certain. I know nothing that occurred in our world in 2020 caught our Heavenly Father by surprise. I know that Isaiah 40:8 tells us that *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”*

We at Illini Christian Ministries believe that we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that longs for reprieve. It has been nothing short of a joy and honor to serve over the last year! We enter 2021 with hopeful anticipation of how the Lord will use ICM to accomplish His purposes in the coming year! Thank you for joining us on this journey!

INNOVATIVE  
FAMILY CARE

ACCESSIBLE  
ADOPTION

AFFORDABLE  
COUNSELING



*sign-up*

FOR OUR MONTHLY  
E-NEWSLETTER  
TO LEARN  
ABOUT OUR 3  
CORE PROGRAMS  
YEAR-ROUND.  
VISIT  
[ICMFAMILY.ORG](http://ICMFAMILY.ORG)

In Christ,



**Nadia Berger, LCSW**  
Executive Director



# Family Care

in partnership with  Safe Families for Children

## A Placing Parent's Perspective

"I knew ahead of time that I'd need the help of Safe Families for my two youngest boys. I needed that time in order to go to the hospital, have a baby girl, and take a few days at home to heal and bond with her. Having that time to learn her habits and patterns, as well as being able to mentally prepare myself for my new reality as a single mom with 3 kids all under 3 years old was extremely helpful. During the hosting, I was able to video call the boys almost everyday and they also were able to continue both their virtual therapies while I was also on as well. The host family did amazing at keeping me updated on my boys such as behaviors and new food. I also got surprise pictures of them which always made my day. After my boys returned the team went one step further though and set up meal support for my family. Safe Families really went above and beyond to help me and my family especially when I needed it the most."



## Providing families in crisis with compassionate wrap-around support

### A Volunteer Host Family's Perspective

"We were recently entrusted to care for two sweet boys while their mom gave birth to their little sister! After meeting them all, we immediately adored the entire family. Placing mom was so thoughtful in preparing "cheat sheets" about every little thing we may have questions about and even packed pictures and favorite toys to make the time away easier. During their stay, we got to laugh, dance, play with our old baby toys, and remember what life looks like through little eyes. My 9-year-old daughter was able to practice her dream of babysitting and my six-year-old son stopped asking for video games to play pretend kitchen. While it is no shock that adding two young kids to the house made things much busier, it was a good lesson in showing love to others and enjoying the little things. Even though we know the time apart wasn't easy for mom or the boys, we hope it helped the transition of becoming a family of 4 a little smoother."

We are so thankful for our volunteers in Parenting Partners and Safe Families for Children that remained committed to supporting families throughout the last year despite the many obstacles! Sharnell Fritz, our Family Care Director, helps us see the story of one hosting unfold through the perspective of both a placing mom and host mom who were willing to share from their experience.

# Adoption

When Troy and Ammon Probst began their second adoption in late 2015 after adopting twin boys in 2014, they had no idea what the next four years would entail. The family of four experienced multiple setbacks and let downs along the way.



The Probsts amazed ICM's adoption staff with their steady perseverance and unwavering commitment to what the Lord would have for them. Even when they couldn't understand their situation, they believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that God's plans for them were good. Then, in the fall of 2019, Troy and Ammon were presented with the opportunity to adopt a second set of multiples. This time, twin girls!

The Probsts excitedly agreed to be considered and were able to meet with the girls' birth parents before their match was official. They spent the next couple of months preparing for their world to be turned upside down with all things baby, this time, with the help of the proud big brothers, Hank and Knox.

Marci and Eden Probst were born mid-December, 2019, and ICM was blessed to walk alongside the Probst family in 2020 as they navigated caring for Marci and Eden through

scars with RSV and repeated hospitalizations, the changes that the pandemic brought to caring for young kids, and finalizing their adoption over a Zoom call instead of in person as we had planned.

During the Probst's initial home study with ICM's Director of Adoption Services, Amanda Cooper, Ammon wrote in her autobiography a line that stood out to Amanda then, and seems even more pertinent now. Ammon wrote: "I'm sure there are much tougher roads ahead, but God is already there." Thank you, Troy and Ammon, for being willing to walk the tough road of adoption, and to do so with such faith, hope, and love.



# Financial

The pressures of 2020 brought out the generosity and compassion of many who knew a gift to ICM was a great way to bless their neighbors in crisis. Despite a significant overall deficit, one amazing area of growth was a 33% increase in the number of individuals and families who gave a gift to ICM last year.

We also celebrate that last spring, you gave over \$11,000 to the Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund. These funds provided direct emergency assistance with rent, utilities, and groceries in 2020.

We give special thanks to those whose prayerful planning and generosity helped sustain ICM's ministry through a bequest or charitable trust gift in 2020.

Fred A. Gilmore Trust  
The Laird Family

We also thank those who have honored a loved one by making a gift to ICM in 2020.

In Honor Of	Given By
Lois "Jean" Balind Corinne Helen Brown	Wendell Salm Lewis Brown Jr. Kelly Elliot Thomas Grindley Alwin Dueker Charlie Harris
Corinne Tallman Bob Morehouse Dale Woodrum	Wendell Salm Leon Norregaard Leon Norregaard

### Fiscal 2019-20 (Oct 1st - Sept 30th)

Total Revenue: \$355,358  
Total Expenses: \$484,574  
Total Deficit: \$126,313

TO EVERY PARTNER WHO MADE THIS YEAR OF  
MINISTRY POSSIBLE

Thank You!

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE 200

Legacy Partners

WHO HAVE PARTNERED FOR OVER 10 YEARS OR  
HAVE MADE ICM THE BENEFICIARY OF A BEQUEST.