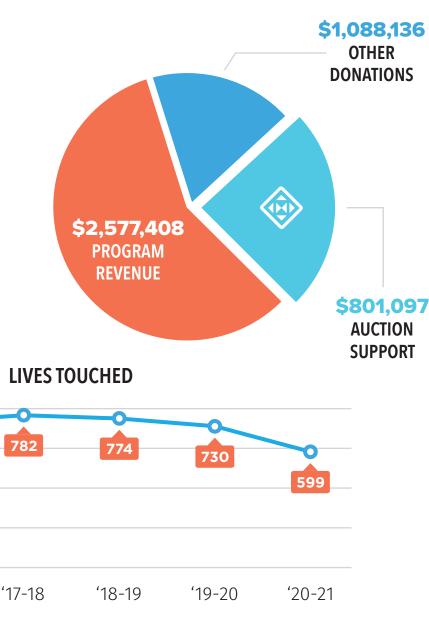


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While 2021 had its ups and downs, we are incredibly thankful to have felt the Lord's provision and guiding hand throughout the year. Of particular note was the opening of a home staffed by fulltime professional foster parents, creating a new type of service did not previously exist in our state. We thank God for his amazing provision in 2021, and look forward to 2022 with an optimism than is borne on the knowledge that the Lord holds us in His hand, and that He will make our paths straight.

**ED GRAF** (Executive Director)



Last 6 Fiscal Years

These numbers include family members impacted by all programs.





2021

CONNECT







# **ETERNAL EFFECTS OF 2021**

### Chad Kaeb, Development Director

Throughout 2021, I had the opportunity to connect with nine former residents, two mentees, and our former foster son. I am so thankful for each of these relationships that, because of your support of the ministry of Gateway Woods, God has brought into my life. All of them, although each are in a different place in life, have been a blessing that has enriched my earthly journey.

Take Josh, for example. Josh is living on his own and is working full time, all while going back to school to finish his bachelor's degree. He has such an amazing story of redemption and has a huge heart for giving back to those who invested in him, so one meal our family shared with him, he completely covered for us! I always enjoy spending time with Josh and I'm thankful for the testimony of God's work in his life.

Then there's Riley: a former resident that we hadn't had contact with for ten years. We received a letter from him this summer, seemingly out of the blue. After he left Gateway, he made some poor choices that landed him in prison. It was during his time behind bars, that God finally got his attention. He began a walk with Jesus and was baptized! Riley is evidence for me that even during our darkest times, God never stops His pursuit of souls in need of a Savior.

Raven was always an independent young lady and that trait has served her well as a single mom of two boys. Surviving in the big city of Chicago is not easy, but she has done an admirable job of providing for her family. While she does not profess a relationship with Christ, I definitely see her seeking for truth through her frequent Bible questions whenever we talk. I am so thankful for God's hand of protection and provision in her life!

This past December, our former foster son reached out and wanted to know if he could go to church with us. We have kept in somewhat limited contact with him, but this was the first time in 5 years that he came to church and celebrated Christmas with our family. While

it was difficult circumstances that motivated him to reach out, I am so thankful that God has brought him back into our lives. His heart is soft and open to God's leading, and I pray it stays that way.

Throughout the years, most of these relationships have been somewhat unpredictable as many of our former Gateway kids have drifted in and out of our lives. There are some wanting independence and space. There are some in the middle of difficult situations and need advice, help, and prayers. Others are doing well and it is so humbling and rewarding to hear from them.

As I praise God for the blessings of each of these relationships, I thank Him for where they all started: the campus of Gateway Woods. Through your generosity, you are investing in the eternal effects that relationships like these can have. Your involvement is making an impact for the Kingdom and it does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for being a blessing to Gateway Woods in 2021! •

Through your generosity, you are investing in the eternal effects that relationships like these can have. Your involvement is making an impact for the Kingdom and it does not go unnoticed.

**CHAD KAEB** (Development Director)

# **GATEWAY WOODS** 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



MEGAN (Foster Care Case Manager)

80

**Youth Enrolled** 



50

Mentors

# **OUR** : MISSION

To honor and obey God by providing help and healing to troubled children and families who then may bless others.



LIVES TOUCHED: These numbers reflect all of the lives touched including family members involved in counseling and direct care.







