



5165 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20016
11835 W. Olympic Blvd. #295, Los Angeles, CA 90064

**2009 Upcoming Kidsave Events
Please come!**

May 11 6th Annual NY MiracleMaker Golf Tournament

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
For tickets and information, contact Jennifer Conroy
at (310) 479-5437 or jennifer@kidsave.org

June 11 Kismet for Kidsave

An evening of networking & more
Navy Heritage Center, Washington, DC
For tickets and information, visit www.kidsave.org

June 13 Kidsave "Rocks the House of Blues"

House of Blues, Sunset Strip, Los Angeles, CA
For tickets and information, contact Elise Martinet at
(310) 479-5437 or elise@kidsave.org

July 15-18 Kidsave 10th Anniversary Celebration

Join Kidsave communities across the country as we
mark 10 years of creating families and caring
connections for older kids.

Visit www.kidsave.org for more information and a complete
listing of all Kidsave events.

Please accept my tax deductible donation of \$ _____ and recognize my gift as follows:

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Method of Payment (select one):

I am enclosing a check for: \$ _____

Please charge my credit card: American Express Mastercard Visa

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**Please send all donations to:
Kidsave, Dept. 8432, Los Angeles, CA 90084-8432**

You can also donate online at www.kidsave.org or call (310) 479-5437.

Kidsave is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Tax I.D. # 91-1887623. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.



Kidsave's mission is to transform child welfare systems so
that no child is forgotten and that every child grows up in
a family with love and hope for a successful future.

Spring 2009

NEWS

10 YEARS LATER

Dear Friends,

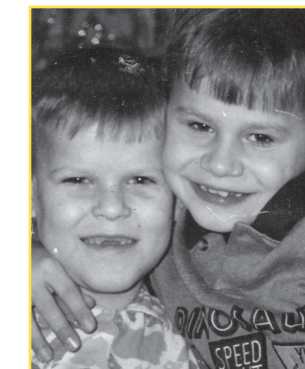
This year Kidsave is celebrating 10 years of program operation and advocacy for orphans and foster kids. Being in the trenches day to day, it is hard to see progress as over 30 million children are without both parents worldwide. The devastation of loss of parents is huge, and the impermanence and lack of connection causes great trauma to kids. But progress abounds. In 1998 when we started Kidsave, none of the major development agencies and none of the adoption agencies had programs to help stop the problem of children living in orphanages. Now the landscape is different. UNICEF has a child protection secretariat, due in part to our advocacy. While they said they would never focus on children without parental care, they have. The US Agency for International Development is harder to move. However, with a coalition of organizations who care, Kidsave is working to pass The Families for Orphans Act, which will make creating policy, conducting diplomacy and developing permanent family care for orphans a priority.

Read more about the Families for Orphans Act and the Foreign Adopted Children's Equality Act on our website. And plan now to visit Washington on July 15 to speak with members of Congress about the bills and how children thrive when they grow up in loving families with connections to caring adults.

Sincerely,
Kidsave Founders
Terry Baugh & Randi Thompson

This summer Kidsave is celebrating 10 successful years of Summer Miracles. As we celebrate this important milestone, we want to share one of the 1600+ stories that have emerged over the years.

Bill Goldstein met Sergei during the Kidsave's first summer - 1999. Sergei had been in the orphanage



Sergei and Ziggy at the Bologoye Orphanage

since he was 3 years old. When he came to the US that summer, he was 9 and had never been in a car or an elevator; had never used an enclosed shower; had never had a pet; had never even seen a man shave. "The first time he saw me shave he laughed and made faces at me," recalled Bill. Bill fell in love with Sergei that summer and the following January he traveled to the Bologoye Orphanage in Tver, Russia for Sergei's adoption.

On that trip Bill met Constantine, Sergei's best friend at the orphanage. When Bill and Sergei returned home to the US, Sergei lobbied his new Dad to consider adopting Constantine. In the summer of 2000, Constantine travelled with Kidsave's Summer Miracles program for a summer visit with Bill and Sergei. The boys had a great summer and by the end of the hosting period, Bill was ready to

adopt again. In January 2000, Bill adopted Constantine - now called Ziggy - and brought him home to be with his best friend and now brother Sergei.

Today Sergei is a junior in high school and loves photography. He also plays ice hockey, soccer, basketball and tennis, and has even learned to snowboard. Ziggy is a sophomore and an avid soccer player. Both boys are very artistic and enjoy drawing. Together with Bill, they are a very happy family and just one of Kidsave's many Summer Miracles.

From July 15-18, Kidsave will celebrate our 10th anniversary with events around the country. A national reunion of Summer Miracles children is being planned in Washington, DC. The day will include a visit to Capitol Hill and a picnic. Special tours and accommodations can be arranged for families interested in attending. For more information, e-mail terry@kidsave.org

For families not able to travel to Washington, DC, check the Kidsave website for the event nearest you.



Sergei and Ziggy today

Summer Miracles 2009 Needs Host Families

We are still looking for host families in the US for our 2009 program. If you or someone you know are interested in hosting an orphan from Colombia in your home for five weeks this summer, please contact Nancy Spence at nancy@kidsave.org or (443) 243-5219.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Several summers ago, students Jonathan, from Atlanta, and Stephanie from Ohio, set out to raise money for Kidsave's Summer Miracles program to help bring children to the US for a summer vacation. Through separate letter writing campaigns to their friends and families, Jonathan and Stephanie raised thousands of dollars for the program. Their success has inspired us to recognize other children who help raise funds and awareness of our programs by creating the Kidsave Kids Care Award.

The first recipients of the Kids Care Award are Dasha and Camila, both of whom are Summer Miracles "alum" who have been adopted by families here in the US.

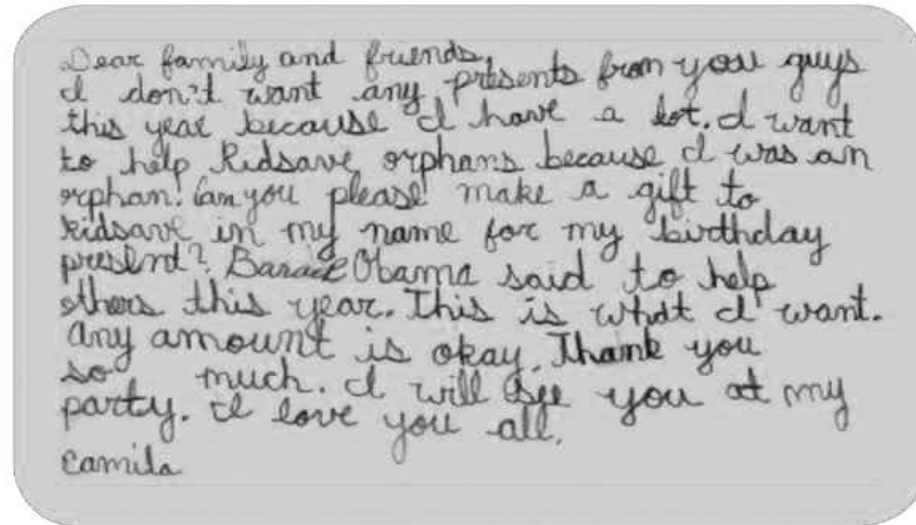
Dasha wanted to help her Kidsave community (greater Metro DC) raise the funds needed to bring children to the US in the summer of 2009. So, she undertook a Valentine letter writing campaign. Her theme – nothing is more important than the love of a family. Dasha sent out 90 letters to friends and family and so far has raised more than \$5,000 for her Kidsave Summer Miracles Community.

On February 9, Camila celebrated her 11th birthday. In lieu of gifts, Camila asked that her friends make a donation to Kidsave. When the celebration was over, Camila had collected nearly \$400 for Kidsave.

On behalf of all Kidsave kids, we thank Jonathan, Stephanie, Dasha and Camila for helping to raise awareness of children

growing up without families, and for inspiring others to follow their lead.

If you have a story of kids helping Kidsave kids that you would like to submit for inclusion on our website or in an upcoming newsletter, please forward the story and a photo if available to Sally Carlson, Director of Marketing and Communications at sally@kidsave.org.



RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES SUCCESS OF WEEKEND MIRACLES PROGRAM

In February 2009, the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) released the results of a study that demonstrated that the County is saving money and finding children permanent families through Kidsave's Weekend Miracles program. According to the research, since 2005 they have saved \$956,000 (approximately \$49,000 per child in the program), and that this public/private partnership has not only saved the County money, but it has made a difference in the permanency outcomes for the youth.

"It is clear to us that many of our children who are currently being hosted have made life-long connections through Kidsave," said Sari Grant, Recruitment Administrator for LA County DCFS. "It does appear that by having these connections, our youth seem to be happier, have fewer disrupted placements, and are doing better in school. We are hopeful that this will also impact their ability to become productive adults (and therefore be of even greater savings to Los Angeles in the long run)."

Meet Troy

It's very likely that you'll have something in common with 15-year-old Troy. He enjoys swimming, amusement parks, and board games. He loves art and music and has enjoyed being part of a choir. Troy enjoys different types of music and will listen or sing along to everything from classical music to Earth, Wind, and Fire to Etta James to Beyoncé. His recognition of songs and artists is amazing. While he sometimes likes to just hang out, Troy really enjoys being active. He's an honest young man who enjoys feeling responsible and earning peoples' trust. One thing he'd like people to know about him is that he really wants a family. That family can be one or two parents and have other children. Troy is very open to parents of different races.

For more information about Troy and other youth in the DC Weekend Miracles Program, please visit our website.



Meet Selena

Selena, born in 1995, is a very bright and insightful young woman. She is more serious in her nature than her brother Lon, but just spend a little time with her and you'll see her warmth and sincerity shine through. Selena possesses a very generous quality as well – her foster mother reports that Selena will often make her gifts, "just because."

Selena excels academically, earning her place in the gifted class at school. She loves to read and write and shows remarkable maturity for her age. She takes pride in her academic performance and she also enjoys learning new things. In a recent Kidsave trip to the Getty Museum, she demonstrated her inquisitiveness by asking questions on the architectural tour and commenting on the make of the buildings.

For more information about Selena and other youth in the LA Weekend Miracles Program, please visit our website.



NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Transforming orphanages from child abandonment to child placement centers

In November 2008, Kidsave introduced the Family Visit Model to child welfare specialists in the Yaroslavl region of Russia. With the support of Deloitte, Boeing and other businesses in the region, Kidsave held a two-day seminar designed to foster an exchange of ideas and motivate the adoption of child welfare "best practices" from other regions in Russia. Kidsave invited 50 child welfare specialists from the Perm, Smolensk, Saratov and Moscow regions to discuss regional and municipal permanency models for orphans, and share experiences in family placement and child abandonment prevention. As a result of the seminar, the region is now identifying orphanages that are ready to transform their institutions into child placement centers.

Breaking the cycle of child abandonment in Russia

Nastya began participating in Kidsave's Malenkaya Mama program in St. Petersburg when she was pregnant with her son Alexey. She met many volunteers who wanted to help young mothers, including Ekaterina, who became Nastya's mentor. With



Ekaterina's help, Nastya began to take better care of herself, learned how to care for her son, how to obtain the services she needed, and plan her future. Nastya's has recently found housing and is living independently with her son. She is looking for a part-time job and is preparing Alexey to attend daycare.

Kidsave's Malenkaya Mama program helps homeless pregnant and young mothers learn to care for their babies and develop strong, healthy parent-child relationships. Malenkaya Mama currently has 26 teen mothers and 29 infants in the program.

SUMMER MIRACLES EXPANDS TO GERMANY



In February 2008, representatives from Kidsave in Colombia met with a German adoption agency in Frankfurt to introduce our Family Visit Model and to explore the possibility of running a pilot program. Just two months later all was in place and Summer Miracles in Germany was launched.

Eight children were initially selected to participate. Prior to travelling, they received German language instruction as well as exposure to German cultural activities. In September 2008, the children boarded a plane to Germany and were greeted by six families who had signed on as host parents.

The result – by January 2009, all of the children had been adopted or had German families pursuing their adoption. Just two months later Summer Miracles Germany was launched.

MIRACULOUS ENCOUNTERS IMPROVING LIVES OF COLOMBIAN ORPHANS

Kidsave's Encuentros Milagrosos (Miraculous Encounters) program in Colombia is shining a light on older orphans living in Colombia. This program is providing family-life experiences and life skills training for older children from orphanages. A new evaluation of the program is showing positive results – for both orphans who are adopted internationally as well as orphans finding lasting connections in Colombia. To date, 74 children have participated in the program, and 34 have been adopted or found long term mentors, either in Colombia or through Kidsave's Summer Miracles program in the U.S. The children are also demonstrating



other positive outcomes – they are better socialized, healthier and doing better in school – and research by Colombia's well-respected Javeriana University indicates

significant improvements in psychological development.

Our partner in Colombia, Instituto Colombiano Bienestar Familiar, is making the expansion of Encuentros a priority and investing in family visits for orphaned children. Kidsave hopes to make the Colombian model for improving permanency outcomes for children more available to other Latin American countries that are struggling with poor institutions, lack of support for street children and poverty. Kidsave is proud to have such an innovative partner as the Colombian government and is proud to be affiliated with their good work.

SUMMER MIRACLES PROGRAM

Our Summer Miracles program continues to be successful in finding families for older kids. This year, the Colombian government has asked us to bring 100 orphans to the US for a summer visit. This is a stretch at a challenging time, but unfortunately the global economic crisis is increasing the numbers of families who give their children to orphanages for care.

We need host families now for Colombian children 7-14 years old who are available for adoption in Northern CA, greater

Los Angeles, Dallas, Atlanta, Metro Washington DC, Metro NY, and New England. If you live in one of these communities and can open your heart and home this summer to a child – or know somebody who may be interested in hosting please contact us. Volunteers are also needed to help organize events, fundraise, assist with media outreach, and advocate for the children. Please contact Nancy Spence at nancy@kidsave.org or (443) 243-5219.

Our staff and Summer Miracles communities are working hard to raise the money needed to make this summer a success, but in this economic environment, fundraising is challenging. We are working to match a \$135,000 gift to Summer Miracles. Please log in to the website at www.kidsave.org to help us give 100 orphans a vacation that will help them find families.