

Building on
STRONG
Foundations



2015 ANNUAL REPORT
INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE-USA





EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



JULIE G. ROSICKY

Around the world, more people are on the move than ever before.

Throughout our 90 year history, we have fought to make “home” and “family” a reality for every child and adult separated from their families by international borders. As we plan for the future, we must:

- ▶ Strengthen our network presence around the world
- ▶ Protect people as they cross borders by providing services, such as reintegration, throughout their entire migration process



MARY MENTABERRY

- ▶ Advocate for the importance of social workers and mediators who implement the ideals we uphold in conventions, treaties, laws, guidelines and best practices
- ▶ Support, protect, and reunite the many families torn apart by voluntary or involuntary migration until every child and family is protected
- ▶ Advocate that decisions about where and with whom a person will live be based on what is in the best interest of each person.

JULIE GILBERT ROSICKY, Executive Director

MARY MENTABERRY, Board Chair

Children find safety with Family in Mexico

Jose and Enrique were removed from their home by Virginia Child Protective Services due to their father’s alleged sexual abuse. Their mother, who had been recently deported to Mexico, wanted her children to live with her in Mexico. Based on the detailed information that the International Social Service social worker obtained in Mexico, the boys were happily reunited with their mother in Mexico.

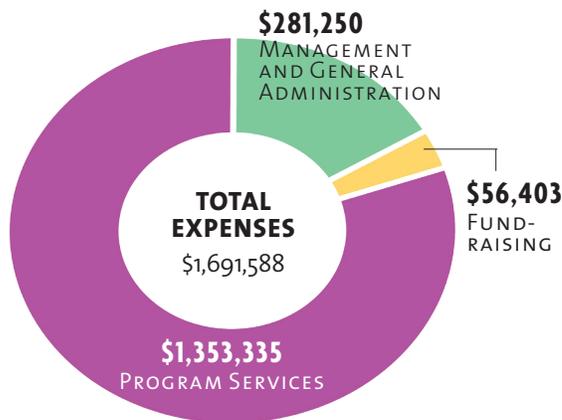
Teenager only wants to return “home” to the Dominican Republic

Edgar’s mother left the Dominican Republic (DR) to work in New York when Edgar was 1 year old; he stayed in the DR and was raised by a close family friend. His mother secured immigration paperwork to bring Edgar to New York at age 13. When in NY, Edgar was allegedly abused by his mother’s boyfriend and began associating with a local gang. International Social Service worked with Social Services in the DR to obtain the information needed by the court to decide if Edgar should remain in NY or return to the DR.

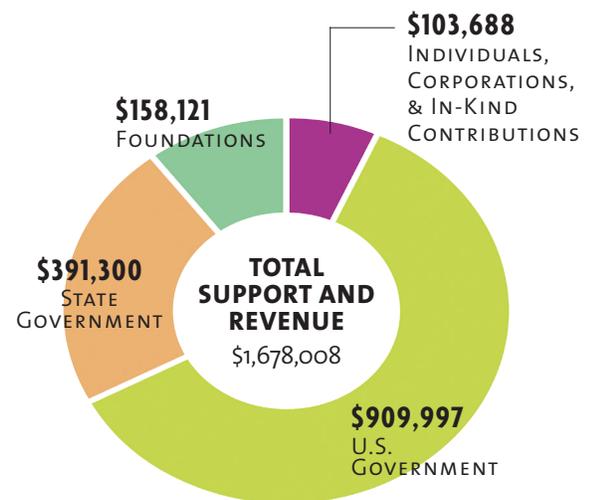
“The report was outstanding and definitely helped in getting the child...back home to Dominican Republic.”

— STATED THE CASEWORKER

2015 FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Thank you to all of our individual, family, foundation, government and nongovernment donors, whose financial or in-kind contributions make it possible to connect children and families to critical cross-border services. To see a complete list of our supporters, please visit our website www.iss-usa.org. Among our supporters, we are proud to include 100% of our board members.



BUILDING

Our mission:

International Social Service-USA is the U.S. member of a **global child protection and social service network**.

We mobilize a **domestic and international network** of legal and social work professionals to efficiently connect **vulnerable children, adults and families** separated by international borders to the services and support they need.

In **2015**, International Social Service-USA supported, protected and reunited more than **2799** vulnerable individuals from all **50 U.S. states** and one U.S. territory, and in more than **80 countries** around the world.

Making HOME and FAMILY a reality for vulnerable children and adults for 90 years!

On September 17th, we **celebrated our 90th Anniversary** in Washington DC. Of the many notable speakers and awardees, two have personally and professionally fought to protect children.



Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Recipient of the *Fred Warburg Award*. "ISS-USA works very hard to ensure that every child has the opportunity to live with a family that will love and cherish them."



Susan S. Jacobs Recipient of the *Lifetime Advocate Award*. "The tireless efforts of ISS ensure that families are not islands, that they are part of the whole."

Staff, interns, & volunteers at the 90th celebration. Many of the staff have been with ISS for more than 9 years!



ON STRONG



Child Protection Conference

Over 280 experts from 66 countries attended, including child protection authorities, judges, social workers, mediators, lawyers, psychologists, and international organizations. The conference promoted and strengthened the effective implementation of the Hague Child Protection Convention of 1996 and facilitated dialogue on the socio-legal dimensions of international child-protection. **The ISS network was highly visible, with more than 22 countries and 60 ISS staff, board and volunteers** facilitating, presenting, volunteering and attending the conference.



Felicity Sackville Northcott, PhD, Director of External Partnerships and International Services, presents.

Felicity Sackville Northcott, PhD, Director of External Partnerships and International Service presented as part of two panel discussions and Julie Gilbert Rosicky, Executive Director facilitated the proceedings for the opening day.

“You have taken a less than desirable situation and have dug in, pooled resources, brainstormed for helpful scenarios and tried to help my niece and nephews.” —STEPHEN ELLEDGE

583 of the total vulnerable individuals who received services were **children**, with an average age of **9**. **61** of these **children** were abandoned in other countries due to abuse or neglect and were safely returned to the U.S. **100** of these children **came back to the U.S. with destitute families** who were sometimes escaping domestic violence.

An Expanded Network: Larger Impact Worldwide



66 delegates from 33 countries made a historic decision at the **2016 International Council Meeting in Melbourne, Australia**. By resolving to expand membership, International Social Service **will create more opportunities for organizations to join our Network and adhere to our working principles**, as well as actively participate in the creation of policies and decisions. International Social Service is now better equipped to serve more and more children and families on the move.

FOUNDATIONS

Global Realities Demand Strategic Investment in the Future

More people are displaced today than during any other period in history. Our staff and board gathered together at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan to strategically assess **how to further increase our breadth and depth of services.** International Social Service - USA, in collaboration with other national and global partners, is committed to address these critical issues by: **(1)** Expanding our current services to benefit more vulnerable people; **(2)** Assuming our role as a unique, national expert that is part of a global network; and **(3)** Increasing our revenue over the next 3-5 years to enable us to assist more people in need.



Social workers verified the well-being of **100** children by ensuring that the **child's home environment was safe.** **30** children thought to be in **danger of abuse or neglect** were visited in their homes by police and social workers. **451** **vulnerable adults** were safely returned to the U.S. because they were destitute or had severe medical conditions.

Building the Network in Central America



To help build regional capacity in the Northern Triangle region and work to provide safe repatriation, reunification, and reintegration strategies for migrating children and families, International Social Service hosted a conference in Guatemala titled **"Coordinated Cross-Border Social Services for Children and Families Migrating in the Northern Triangle, Mexico**

and the U.S." Twenty six participants from five countries representing government, civil society and academia participated and developed a list of commitments towards establishing a coordinated network for cross-border services for migrating children. Action steps included maintaining ongoing, cross-border contact with conference participants and the extended network of stakeholders to deliver safe repatriation, reunification and reintegration services to migrating children and families.

National Blueprint Champion for Excellence Award



International Social Service was awarded the 2015 CWLA National Blueprint Champion for Excellence Award in the category of Agency Innovator **for demonstrating innovation and excellence in the delivery of programs and services** to advance improved outcomes for children and youth using the principles of the National Blueprint.

984 adults received advice on complicated cross-border questions.

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children and families
across borders

U.S. Veteran's only wish is to return safely to the U.S. from Vietnam

Bill was in Vietnam and had been separated from his family for two years. He became ill and semi-comatose, making traveling home almost impossible. The U.S. Department of State worked together with International Social Service and the State of North Carolina to plan for and safely receive Bill in time to reunite Bill with his family for the holidays.

"You enabled my family to bring Bill home to the U.S., and it was so special. It was Bill's dream to come home. You are in our hearts forever." — COMMENTED HIS WIFE WHEN BILL ARRIVED TO THE U.S.



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