



**International
Social Service
USA**



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WHAT WE DID:

We helped **751** individuals return to the U.S. and get assistance reintegrating, **214** were children, **90** were unaccompanied.

We completed **180** home studies to ensure the safety of children being placed with families abroad and in the U.S.

We opened **1,020** cases and worked with **101** countries.

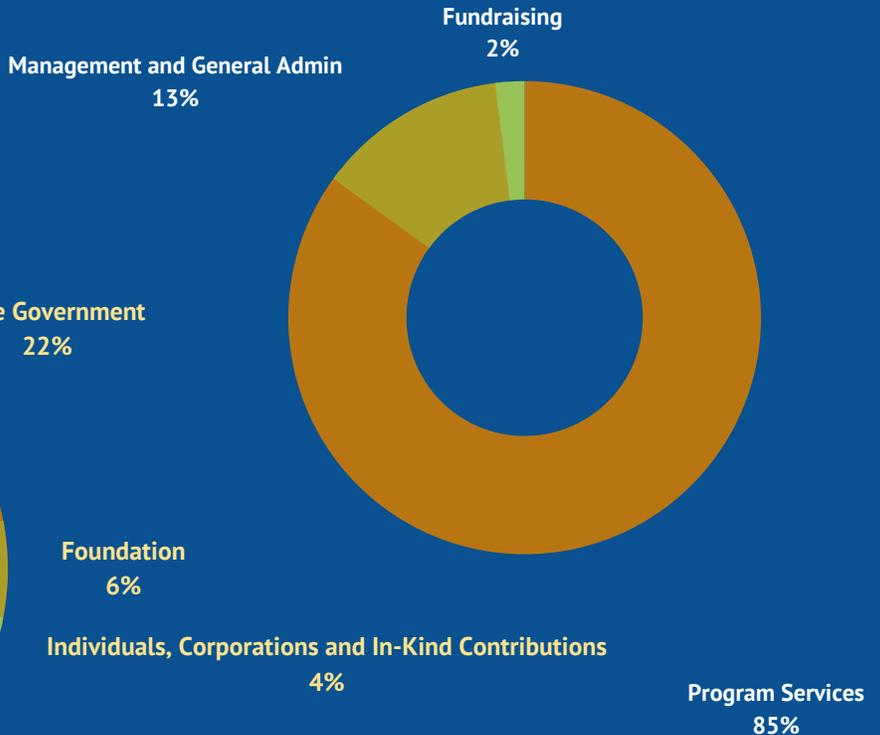
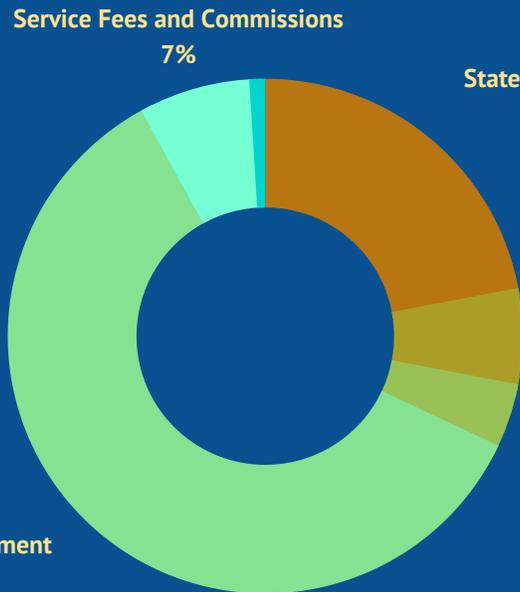
FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

International Social Service, USA's Financial Activities Throughout 2019:

"I am forever grateful to you."
- *ISS-USA client Tony,* after being reunited with his biological mother, Maria, after decades of separation.*



Total Income:
\$2,283,966.00



Total Expenses:
\$2,353,751.00

Ending Net Assets:
\$607,986.00

Events and Activities in 2019

ISS-USA showcased its cross border case management expertise in a variety of contexts. Specifically, we:

- Presented on behalf of **ISS network** at an expert **"Child-Sensitive Return and Reintegration"** workshop at **UNICEF**. ISS' expertise in transnational case management and social service are essential components in implementing quality sustainable solutions for children and families.
- Presented at **"Multidisciplinary Workshop on Matters Related to Unaccompanied and Separated Minors: Reunification and Returns"** in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by the **Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)**.
- Co-facilitated a **"Continuum of Care Post-Repatriation: Serving Repatriated Children"** workshop presentation at **The Best Practices Summit** with **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** and **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Children and Family Services**.
- Collaborated with **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)** in Honduras by visiting staff from **Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)** to gain insight on their programs supporting the safe return of Honduran children.



ISS-USA presents at **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)**'s roundtable discussion on **"Strengthening Families: Moving to a Global Perspective."**



- Hosted 7th Annual Conference, **"Beyond Separation: Protecting Cross Border Families,"** on best practices in identifying cross border cases and providing social services to cross border families.
- Continued ongoing collaboration with **Familias Solidarias Honduras** to provide social services to separated cross border families and children in Honduras.
- Used our cross-border management model and best practices outlined in **ISS' "Children on the Move Guidelines,"** to serve vulnerable children returning to Guatemala, through funding and collaboration with **Lumos**.



ISS-USA participated as an official charity partner for the **TCS New York City Marathon**. One of our charity runners, Bobby Harris (below, second from right), hosted a "Pupusas for a Purpose" fundraiser to support ISS-USA's work to help separated cross-border families.



None of this work is possible without the support of our donors, volunteers, board of directors and staff!

Thank you for reunifying and reintegrating separated families by supporting ISS-USA. You have made a difference in the lives of many cross border families!

STORIES FROM 2019

Zeneida's Story

Zeneida* is a 6-year-old girl from a rural community in Guatemala. She travelled to the US with her father, but was separated from him at the southern border. Her father was deported, and Zeneida spent five months in US custody before being returned to her family in Guatemala without any support or resources.

In addition to their migration debt of \$5000, Zeneida's family had to borrow money to travel to meet her upon her return to Guatemala. ISS-USA was contacted to take on the case.

ISS-USA's partner in Guatemala - a social worker named Andres - began working with Zeneida and her family on a reintegration plan. They expressed their wishes for a better future in Guatemala without having to migrate, but work opportunities were scarce and they felt helpless.

Andres helped Zeneida enroll in school, provided her with school uniforms and supplies, and connected her with a local literacy organization to help get her caught up on school work. Today, Zeneida's teachers report that she is a motivated student.

Andres was also able to help Zeneida's family install a solar panel light in their home so that the family could do extra work into the evening hours and Zeneida could study and complete her homework after school.

The family had never been able to take their children to a doctor, so Andres accompanied them to their first few appointments and helped the family secure a few basic medicines. The family expressed their gratitude for Andres' help.

Today, Zeneida and her family live happily in Guatemala. Zeneida's father is earning double his pre-migration monthly income and is saving to pay off the family's debt.



Frank's Story



Frank* was born in Germany to German parents and was adopted by an American military family stationed in Frankfurt. The family eventually relocated to the U.S.

Frank had several half-siblings who grew up in Germany - Emmeline*, Lukas*, and Heidi*. They suspected they had additional unknown siblings. After reaching out to ISS-USA's partner in Germany, it was discovered that their brother Frank was living with his family in Minnesota.

Acting as an intermediary, ISS-USA sent a letter to Frank informing him of the existence of his German siblings. Frank was thrilled, sharing that he was aware that he had half-siblings and had recently begun his own search for them.

His half-siblings were then able to send an introductory letter with photos of themselves and one photo of Frank as a baby with their mother. The siblings are now in frequent communication and are thrilled to be reunited.

Ten unaccompanied U.S. Citizen minor siblings from the Bisset* family were removed from their biological father's care in Canada* after police received reports that they were living in an unattended van parked at a grocery store. The children were taken into protective custody and placed in foster care pending repatriation to the U.S.

ISS-USA contacted New York*, the state in which the children were born, to ask for assistance with the children's repatriation and placement with Child Protective Services (CPS).

After numerous conference calls with multiple agencies overseas and in the U.S., the ten minor siblings were finally repatriated to New York, accompanied by their Canadian foster parents and social workers.

They were met by CPS social workers, and all placed in the same foster home under the supervision of the CPS. Their new foster parents are now going through the process to legally adopt them.

The Bisset's Story



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Our Mission:

ISS-USA MOBILIZES A DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS TO EFFICIENTLY CONNECT VULNERABLE CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES WHO ARE SEPARATED BY INTERNATIONAL BORDERS TO THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED.

CONTACT US

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