

# Raleigh's Place Annual Report

Living the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless.

# 2021

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# HISTORY & MISSION OF RALEIGH'S PLACE

Raleigh's Place was created 20 years ago after the death of Raleigh, Tim (co-founder) and Sharon King's (executive director/co-founder) oldest daughter. Raleigh became ill as a toddler. This illness led to many other debilitating issues: mental retardation, physical disabilities, and seizures. The Kings thought they would spend the rest of their lives caring for Raleigh and were prepared to do so. One fateful night, however, God demonstrated that He had a different plan for the Kings' lives. Raleigh died in her sleep after struggling with a seizure. Devastated by this, the Kings did not know what to do. They sought counsel from friends, family, church members, and pastors. God eventually led them to a Bible verse that immediately gripped their heart: James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (ESV) The Kings felt particularly called to care for orphans, thus the beginning of Raleigh's Place.

Raleigh's Place exists to live the Gospel by loving the Fatherless. We are a Christ-centered foster care ministry. Our desire is to impact the lives of foster children and families with the love of Christ. We serve Chilton and surrounding counties, providing homes, free summer camp and clothing, and education for children in need.

Since Raleigh's Place was founded, we have had over 300 foster children in our homes that have been cared for for varying lengths of time (we have also helped many of these children find forever homes, as well as recruited many families to become foster parents); we have served over 1,000 foster and adopted children and children in relative placements at Camp 1:27; we have provided clothing for over 630 foster children and families through Katie's Kloset; we have provided food for partner families; we have hosted several different foster parent training classes at our facilities; and have worked to prepare foster youth for life after care.

# OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY



Raleigh's Place continued to provide and support foster homes in 2021. We had long term, short term, and respite placements throughout the year. We were also able to provide food, clothing, Christmas presents, and other items to foster families. As we move into 2022, we are very excited to expand our reach as we add more families to our Raleigh's Place Homes program.



2021 was a big year for our Camp 1:27. We celebrated 10 years of camp ministry and welcomed our 1,000th camper! The Lord has been so good to Camp 1:27 by allowing us to serve foster children in such a unique way. We had 157 campers in 2021 as we returned to a normal camp schedule. Campers were able to play on our new low ropes course and disc golf course; both of which were put in by volunteers who we are incredibly thankful for.

Here is a quick recap of camp from our Camp Director, Raquel:

*"We saw God work in the hearts of so many campers and staff alike as we were confronted with the brokenness of this world. Sharing the Gospel with children from tough places, there is no room for gray areas in your message or behavior, they watched us so closely all summer! Many asked very tough questions about God and life, family and why things happen, and while we will not see the fruit of every seed planted, I pray that they will continue to grow and that the Gospel will take root in the heart of every single one of our campers. Most of all I pray that they will know that God is trustworthy and able to save them!"*



Katie's Kloset, our thrift store ministry, opened May 1, 2020... right in the middle of the Covid-19 outbreak. We were extremely blessed to serve the community during the pandemic and were excited to be open in 2021 for an entire year. In 2021, we were able to serve 132 foster children by providing clothing, baby furniture, toys, bicycles, and much more. Many of these children were able to shop multiple times throughout the year to meet their needs. All of these things were provided at no cost thanks to generous donations of items and funds. Other items not given to foster children are sold to the general public to support our other programs. A fun promotional we did from October to December was a \$100 store credit giveaway. We had over 1,200 customers enter the giveaway during this time! The Lord has continued to bless the ministry of Katie's Kloset. We are excited to see what is in store for 2022.

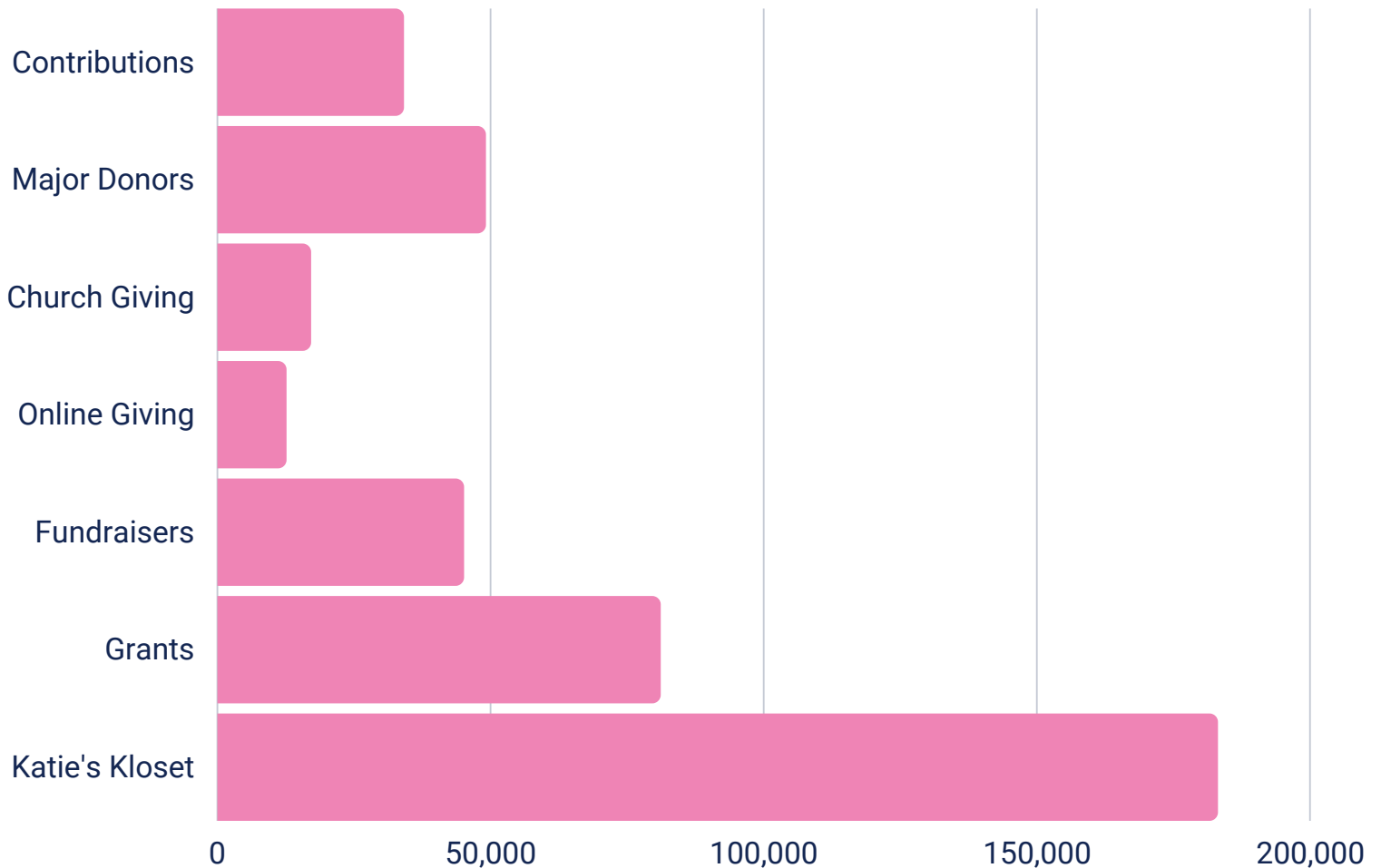


The Workmanship Initiative exists to tear down barriers that prevent foster youth from thriving as adults by providing housing and developing skills to attain self-sufficiency. We want to prevent homelessness, educate foster youth, help prepare them for the workforce, keep them out of the criminal justice system and off the street, and teach them risk management as to avoid substance abuse and early pregnancy. We began renovations of our Transitional Living Apartments but hit some bumps along the way. We are hoping we can resume after the new year and open the apartments by the end of spring. In the meantime, we have been working with teenage foster youth and youth-at-risk by teaching a life skills course that covers a broad range of topics that will prepare them for adulthood. We were able to teach this course to 45 youth in 2021.

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

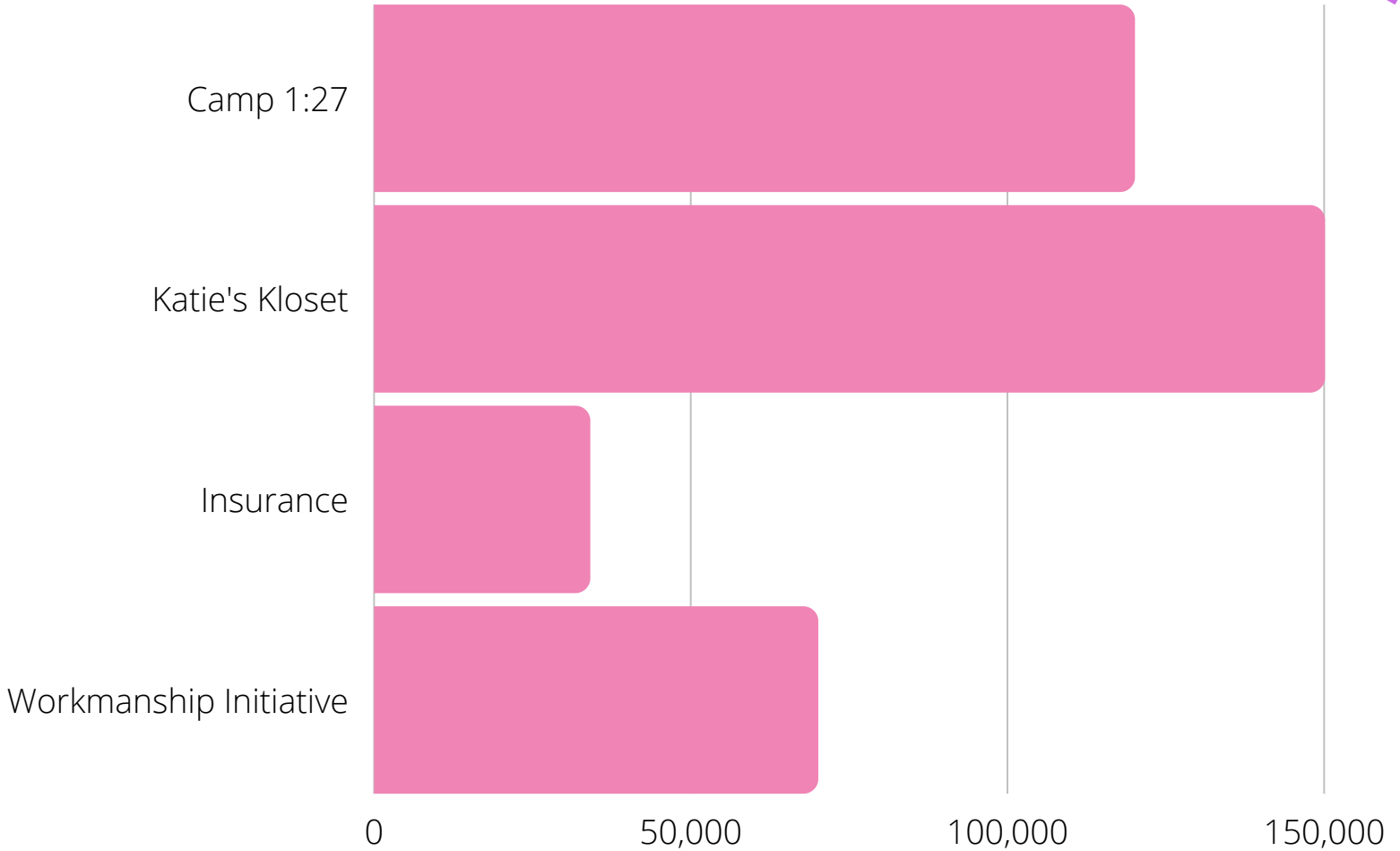
*James 1:27*

# FINANCIAL REPORT: REVENUE



The Lord showed out again this year in terms of our revenue. Our contributions were back up after the pandemic year. Our champions really stepped up to show their support. We hit a new record of grants received. We were blessed to receive grants from Alabama Power Foundation, Independent Presbyterian Foundation, Daniel Foundation, Protective Life Foundation, and Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation. Katie's Kloset had a full year of operation and we were blessed with the stream of revenue from the community. We were not able to have our usual fundraisers but we partnered up with Exit Royal Realty and their Teal Project for a fundraiser in July. Praise the Lord for His generosity so we can continue in our mission.

# FINANCIAL REPORT: EXPENSES



This chart shows our biggest expenses from 2021. The biggest is in payroll costs, which are included in their respective program costs. 2021 was our first full year of paying program directors and employees including Katie's Kloset and Camp 1:27 staff. Our Camp 1:27 expenses were back to normal after 2020's odd year. The Workmanship Initiative costs were much lower than anticipated since our renovations were hindered. We expect those costs to be significantly higher in 2022 as we resume work on the transitional living apartments. We also look forward to adding some new things in 2022!



# GIVING THANKS & LOOKING FORWARD

We close 2021 in awe of what the Lord has allowed us to do. There was a lot of uncertainty coming into the year because of Covid. We did not know if things would return to normal or if there would be mass shutdowns again. We were grateful to see some normalcy return and are praying that 2022 brings even more normalcy to all of our lives.

Regardless of the uncertainty that 2021 brought, we pressed on in our God given calling to Live the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless. We could not have done this without the love and support of you. Our champions have once again showed us how gracious they are and the importance of our work. Thank you! Our staff thanks you for your support. The children we serve thank you for your support.

As we move into 2022 we have some things to finish, changes to make, and new things to look forward to. A priority for 2022 is to finish our transitional living apartments for our Workmanship Initiative. As we mentioned earlier, we started renovations but had to stop work until we can get further approval from local municipalities. Once we get back going, we will have several work days to get projects done. By the end of our renovations, we will have 8 apartments (including a young mother's suite), laundry room, computer lab, kitchenette, dining/living room space, & office space. We are confident the Lord is going to provide so we can continue this project, open the apartments, and welcome residents into the program.

Camp 1:27 is expanding in 2022. We will now have 5 weeks of camp with one high school and one junior high week and three elementary weeks. Our goal is to finally break the 200 camper mark; a feat we have not accomplished yet. With an added week we need additional staff. Staff positions include counselors, junior counselors, and kitchen staff. Please visit our website to learn more about serving this summer.

Our Foster Homes program is also being expanded in 2022. We want to be more intentional about investing into foster parents by offering training and educational opportunities, stipends to help with new children, and special events to help nourish the bond between foster parents and children. One event we are doing this year is Foster Parent Night Outs. We have our first one planned for February! More information can be gathered from our website.

We were able to have one fundraiser in 2021 but we hope to have more in 2022. Please keep an eye out for those announcements when they come.

Please be in prayer for Raleigh's Place. There is much work to do to serve the fatherless. If you want more information about how you can be even more involved at Raleigh's Place in 2022, please contact us. We would love to have you on board!