



SPRING 2022

# THE MONTANA INITIATIVE

## AN INSPIRING STORY

How one family's adoption and prayer journey led to becoming a critical part of the Promise686 Montana Advisory Board

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"It was December 30, 2005, and my husband and I were boarding a plane. Final destination: Bangalore, India. We were traveling halfway around the world to bring home our new daughter, 6-year-old Bhavani. Adoption had been our hearts' desire since before we were married, 20+ years prior, and now that desire was becoming a reality.

She came to us with all the possessions she owned in this world ... the clothes on her back. Honestly, we don't even know her actual date of birth. There are no records of birth when you are born on the streets.

When you're a street kid that bounces around between orphanages and finally ends up in foster care, you have no worldly possessions. Her "baths" consisted of standing outside naked and having a bucket of cold water dumped over her head. She rarely used indoor plumbing and primarily knew to eat with her hands. Even in foster care, her bed was a concrete floor, with a small, light-weight blanket. I guess that was better than sleeping on the streets.

As you can imagine, bringing home a very wounded child who had been abused and neglected from birth was accompanied by some very challenging times. Transitioning from no boundaries whatsoever to rules and structure within a family; then moving from the only culture she knew to live in a primarily Caucasian community. There were frequent outbursts that went on for years, the emotional rollercoaster we went through, and trying of our patience that ran thin.

Thankfully, we had amazing support from family and some close friends that helped us provide what she needed most: a strong family! We still have our challenges, but we feel honored that God chose us to be her family.

About a year ago, I was introduced to Promise686 and I knew God was opening the door for what I had prayed for: that **He would use our story to help other families**. To be able to help launch Family Advocacy Ministries across the state and see this support, through the Care Communities, strengthen families is exciting. This ministry, and the Care Communities in particular, would have been invaluable to us, had this ministry been available when we were going through the most challenging years. **I am exceedingly thankful to get to be a part of a ministry that can meet the tangible needs of foster and adoptive families and carry out the heart of God: to care for orphans."**

# THE BIG REALITY



With over **140 million considered orphans** worldwide and more than **3,000 children in the Montana foster care system**, we know there's work to be done. Here's the thing ... it takes faith, time, money, and emotion to care for vulnerable children and without that support, the role of fostering or adoption can feel nearly impossible.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### SAVE THE DATE FOR SOMETHING BIG!

Our heart is to see the lives of vulnerable children impacted by the local church. We invite you to join in this BIG movement! Save the Date for our benefit on **June 17th, 2022 @ 6 pm** and stay tuned to learn more!

**Contact Aaron Scofield at [ascofield@promise686.org](mailto:ascofield@promise686.org) if you would like to:**

- Host a table
- Be a Corporate Sponsor
- Volunteer

Your generosity allows us to develop more FAMs across Montana, helping churches to care for more children in their local communities. That's BIG.

### FEEDBACK FROM PROFESSIONALS

"As this child's worker I can breathe a little easier knowing she has a little support as she enters adulthood."

"It was not a complicated decision for divisions in our department (CSKT-DHRD) nor for our leadership to continue with the partnership that we have. This service has proven itself invaluable to our staff and case managers who work with at-risk children and families by saving us substantial time and resources. We will continue to partner as long as it remains available to us. Thank you!"