

BASED OFF BARNA GROUP'S *Residential Care 2026* and *Residential Care: U.S. Giving and Missions (2021)*

FINDING 1

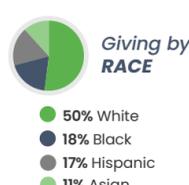
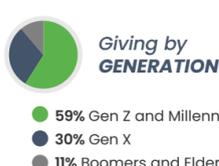
U.S. Christians are significant supporters of orphanages, children's homes and other forms of residential care for children.

GIVING

28%

of U.S. Christians report financially supporting residential care for children

Who is **FUNDING** residential care?



\$115 PER PERSON ANNUALLY

\$4.5 BILLION PER YEAR

Projected annual giving by U.S. Christians to residential care

Why do they **GIVE**?

#1 REASON:

41% responded that they give because it makes them feel good to help

81% of residential care donors say it is more important than other causes they support



GOING

Most common **MISSION TRIP** activity:

31% of people who have been on an international mission trip, report visiting an orphanage or children's home—that's 5.1 million people



30% of people who plan on taking mission trips in the future would like to visit an orphanage

Top country for mission trips and funding support:

MEXICO

13% of mission trip participants who visit orphanages report visiting orphanages in Mexico

22% of orphanage donors give to orphanages in Mexico



The U.S. Church facilitates support for orphanages



MOST COMMON RESPONSES:

40% of donors learn about the orphanage they support through their church

68% of mission trips to orphanages were organized through churches

FINDING 2

Most U.S. Christians report awareness of orphan care complexities, but many hold conflicting or unfounded beliefs.

PERCEPTIONS

"Why are children in residential care?"



Mixed responses:

72% report awareness that **POVERTY** is one of the most significant underlying reasons children are placed in orphanages

YET ONLY

23% believe the primary reason children are placed in orphanages is because their parents were **UNABLE TO AFFORD TO CARE** for them

Unfounded beliefs:

39% believe the reason children are separated from family is due to **ABUSE, NEGLECT** or **UNSAFE** conditions

ALSO

35% believe the most common reason children end up in orphanages is because their **PARENTS HAVE DIED**

"How does residential care impact children?"



Conflicting ideas:

68% report being aware that research reveals living in an **ORPHANAGE** has **NEGATIVE IMPACTS** on a child's development

YET

76% believe that orphanages and children's homes **PROVIDE A POSITIVE PLACE** for children

AND 82% see orphanages as **ESSENTIAL** for the children most in need

Importance of FAMILY

Nearly all Christians affirm that children thrive best in families

LEARNING Most Christians are **INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE** about orphan care and care reform



90% agree that **healthy families** are **essential** for child development

87% agree that **supporting families** is the **most effective solution** to orphanages and children's homes

65% were aware that **strengthening families** **reduced placement** in orphanages

FINDING 3

U.S. Christians are learning more about care for vulnerable children, but have not yet changed their giving and going behaviors.

COMPARISON

Between **2020** and **2025** data



Growing understanding since 2020:

26% **MORE** Christians understand **poverty** is the **most significant driver** of placement of children in orphanages



That represents

51 MILLION

more people!

The **BIGGEST INCREASE** in this learning among denominations and ages:



By Denomination

- 32% Mainline Protestant
- 29% Non-mainline Protestant
- 22% Catholic

By Generation

- 29% Gen Z and Millennials
- 27% Gen X
- 14% Boomers and Elders

Christians who believe residential care programs are **POSITIVE PLACES**:

DECLINED BY 10%



Christians who believe residential care programs provide **ESSENTIAL CARE**:

DECLINED BY 9%



Compared to 2020:

9% more Christians are **financially supporting** an orphanage, children's home, or residential care for children



21% more Gen Z and Millennials

22% less Non-mainline Protestants

16% more Catholics



TAKEAWAY

Data suggests early signs of progress in building support for family-based care for orphaned and vulnerable children.

Behavior change theory proposes change typically progresses from knowledge to attitudes to behavior. **Comparing 2020 and 2025 data shows increased knowledge about the realities of caring for vulnerable children, but this has not yet translated into meaningful behavior change, such as shifting donations and mission trips away from orphanages and children's homes.**