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THE CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS CELEBRATES NEW BOARD MEMBER
Dr. Albert Reyes to bring invaluable leadership to global coalition

WASHINGTON, DC — More than 400,000 children live today within the U.S. foster system – a number now being driven upward by the opioid crisis. Meanwhile, an estimated 15 million children worldwide have lost both parents. The challenges are immense, but a global coalition of churches and 190+ respected organizations are laboring together to change reality for these children.

This week, the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) celebrated the addition of a new board member to the leadership of this work, Dr. Albert L. Reyes. Dr. Reyes serves as President and CEO of Buckner International.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Reyes’ immense experience, rich wisdom, and effective servant-leadership for children will now play such a vital role in guiding and growing the work of the Christian Alliance for Orphans,” said Jedd Medefind, CAFO’s President. “Dr. Reyes embodies the heart and vision we work to see reflected in churches across the globe.”

Without intervention, children that grow up outside of caring families face a future that is [statistically tragic](#). By their mid-20s, roughly four in five young men have been arrested. And nearly 70 percent of the young women are on public assistance. Those who “age out” of foster care without being adopted experience [PTSD at nearly twice the rate of US war veterans](#).

These immense vulnerabilities are just as vivid for children who’ve lost their families worldwide – with dramatically increased rates of disease, malnutrition, human trafficking and other ills.

Yet alongside this stark reality, many signs point to a rising response among churches for these children. Recent studies have shown that practicing Christians [adopt](#) and [foster](#) at rates much higher than average. Likewise, Christians invest significantly in this work as well. Since 2010, charitable giving by Americans to all causes has risen by just under 30%. During that same time frame, giving to Christian adoption ministries has [risen by 81% and to orphan care ministries by 90%](#).

Dr. Reyes previously served as president of Buckner Children and Family Services. Prior to his tenure at Buckner, Albert was president of Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio. He also has served as pastor of three churches and as a manager for Sprint’s National Customer Service Call Center. Albert and his wife, Belinda, have three adult sons.

“The need is vast and heartbreaking,” said CAFO board chair Tami Heim. “But with leaders like Dr. Reyes serving alongside self-giving people around the globe, there’s every reason for hope we can make a profound difference together for hurting children across American and all over the world.”