



SHAPING DESTINY



THE ANNUAL EVENT THAT IS TRANSFORMING LIVES

The sun shone over prepped fields as Ultimate Frisbee players stood geared up and ready for a fun-filled tournament. But this event was so much more than just a one-day competition. Sure, Ultimate Frisbee is an exciting game, but these players are more than just athletes. They're part of our Shaping Destiny family of Life Changers!

Over the last few months, teams from all over central Texas have been preparing for our 3rd annual Ultimate Frisbee for the Fatherless Tournament and it was amazing! On Saturday, August 12th, about 150 people showed up to play their hearts out on behalf of the children in our program. Prior to the tournament, each of the 13 registered teams were matched with a newly selected orphan or vulnerable child in our program who needed a sponsor. They stepped up to the challenge and rallied together to get their child sponsored for at least 1 year. They did an amazing job advocating on behalf of

these young ones and working hard to ensure a brighter future for each one. You see, playing in this year's Frisbee for the Fatherless tournament went much further than just an orphan care fundraising event; this sport is being used to change lives. Matthew is one of the lives changed by this event. This is his story ...

Matthew is a miracle child. If it were up to his biological father, he would have been aborted long ago and never given a chance at life. But thankfully, his Heavenly Father had other plans. Matthew's mother is mentally unstable and was taken advantage of by his father, which led to her pregnancy. The father tried desperately to pressure her into having an abortion but, with the support and encouragement of the soon-to-be grandparents, she refused and Matthew was born. Since his birth, his biological father disowned him and disappeared from his life—leaving his mother and grandparents to care for him on their own. Due to her mental condition, his mother is incapable of caring for him. And although his grandparents love him, they are advanced in age and unable to provide for him beyond basic necessities. The future didn't look good for sweet Matthew as education, proper health, and many opportunities for advancement seemed out of reach. That is, until he was sponsored by a team playing in our Frisbee for the Fatherless tournament.



This team took Matthew into their hearts like they knew him. They began spreading the word about his situation

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and what sponsorship could do for him and in no time, they raised the funds needed to sponsor Matthew for an entire year! Because of them, his life has turned around and we believe one day he will grow up to be the electrician he dreams of being. Now, he can return to school and his grandparents can rest easy knowing that the burden does not rest solely upon them. Rather, it's being shared with 11 young adults from Texas.

In total, Frisbee for the Fatherless 2017 raised \$11,780 which will be used to sponsor 28 children in our program, just like Matthew, for an entire year! We are ecstatic to know that these children will have opportunities for education, healthcare, love, joy, salvation, and so much more because of you. Thank you, to everyone who participated in this year's tournament: to all of our Ultimate players who played their hearts out, to the donors who supported them and the children they represented, to the individuals who made general donations to propel

the event forward, to our volunteers who came to set up and tear down and ensure the event ran smoothly, and to all of our sponsors and contributors who provided snacks, raffle prizes, and necessary materials. Because of you, lives are being changed and children are receiving hope.

And that's the Ultimate goal.



[60 MORE DESTINIES BEING SHAPED]

In many villages surrounding the Shaping Destiny center, hundreds of children are losing their education, their innocence, their health, some even their very livelihood. And while we cannot possibly care for every single child in this situation, because of you, we can reach out just a

little further and help little by little. In the last few months, Shaping Destiny has taken in 60 new children into our program. That's 60 new lives that are being changed by sponsors like you. This is one of their stories ...

Meet 7-year-old Silver. She lost her dad when she was very young to a tragic motorcycle accident. Her mother was crushed by the grief of losing her husband and overwhelmed by his sudden and unexpected death. Before long, she couldn't bear the weight of caring for Silver and her younger siblings by herself and finally gave up the fight by abandoning the three children with no one to care for them. Thankfully, their aunt decided to take them in—not because she had surplus resources available to her, but because she knew she may be the only one left in their lives who could show them that God still cared for them. Although Silver was grateful to have a home with her auntie and still be with her siblings, she was afraid that she would never amount to anything in life. What happened if she got sick? She knew her aunt wasn't able to pay for doctors bills. And she wasn't able to go to school—how could she ever become the doctor she dreamed of being this way?



And then one day, her life changed. Pastor Kai, our Cameroon Director, came to her home and talked with her aunt about finding her a sponsor through Shaping Destiny. Silver could hardly believe it! Just when she was at her lowest, a miracle happened and her life was touched by the generosity of a complete stranger across the ocean. A sponsor would enable her to go back to school! She had another chance at a bright future. She'd be able to go to the doctor if she got sick. She could go to school and if she studied hard, she knew she could become a doctor one day after all!

Silver is just one of the 60 new children we've brought into our Sponsorship Program. There are many children, just like her, whose futures, once stolen from them by tragic events, are now being restored by opportunities through sponsorship with Shaping Destiny. But we can't do this on our own. We need people like you who are willing to step up and join hands with us to sponsor a child.

So thank you to all of you who sponsor with us! And if you don't, would you prayerfully consider signing up to change a child's life? For only \$35/month you

can help children, just like Silver, go to school, receive medical care, experience love and a sense of belonging to a family, hope, faith, and so much more.

To sign up, visit
shapingdestiny.org/sponsor
for more details

BIG HEARTS PLAYING A BIG ROLE

[THE MEYERS FAMILY]

Dave and Gwen Meyers may look like your average family of 5 living in Chicago—Dave works in sales and Gwen is a stay-at-home mom of 3 biological children with an adoptive child on the way . They actively serve in their church, volunteer, and support many ministries that care for vulnerable families, women, and children. And while they may be the normal family next door, the Meyers are driven by something deeper and bigger than themselves.



“We believe that God’s heart is for every child to have the opportunity to grow up in a safe, loving family where they can discover who they are and what unique beauty they bring to the world. Sadly, the brokenness around us prevents many children from ever experiencing what that’s like ... but that’s one thing we really fell in love with about Shaping Destiny. They help fight against that brokenness.”

After hearing about our ministry a few years ago, the Meyers family began sponsoring a young boy in our program, Joseph. At the age of 8, Joseph lost both of his parents to HIV/AIDS. Heartbroken, hopeless, and alone, he had to drop out of school. But Dave and Gwen helped change his life. Because of them, Joseph has returned to school, continues to grow in strength and faith, and now lives with a local foster family in his community who loves him as if he was their own. None of this would be possible without the Meyers.

After working in different cultures and countries, Dave and Gwen see the true need for families and, while it may not be as glamorous, serving and supporting behind the scenes allows them to play their own role in God’s grand plan.



“After this life, when we stand before God, we believe that we will be able to look behind us and see all the children and families that we’ve been able to impact through our giving. Whether it’s through prayer, financial giving, or sponsorship we get to play an important role in helping these children see who God says that they are. God’s heart is for the family. He loves children and families and we all have a part to play.”

ORPHAN SUNDAY [2017]

Orphan Sunday is an annual event that is recognized on the 2nd Sunday of every November. People from all over the world honor orphans on this day by advocating for those who are without one or both of their parents and facing poverty. This is a great opportunity for us to advocate for orphaned and vulnerable children and spread awareness of this great need.

We invite you to get involved as well and advocate on behalf of the children that we all serve together.

How can you get more involved to help orphans this November?

1. Talk to your pastor about inviting the Shaping Destiny team to come and speak at your church.
2. Host a fundraiser with the proceeds going to benefit the children in the Shaping Destiny program. This could be a luncheon, bake sale, garage sale, or any fun idea you come up with.
3. Talk to your pastor or small group about speaking in front of your congregation and inviting them to sponsor waiting children.
4. Invite your small group, Bible study, young adult group, or church to rally together to pray and sponsor one or more children still waiting for a sponsor.

We can send you materials, child profiles, guidance, and support to help you along the way. We'll help ensure you are set up to talk about God's heart for the orphan and how others can partner with Him and with us to make a difference.

Contact us for more information.

