

## IN HIS STEPS FOUNDATION – What is it?

In 1994 the Billy Graham organization held a Crusade in Cleveland, Ohio. Afterwards, a few families that had been instrumental in local leadership for this Christian event began to pray together about establishing a new public Christian foundation for God's work. Charitable status was applied for and In His Steps Foundation was created as a 501(c) (3) public foundation in 1998. In retrospect, three separate but related circumstances gave rise to the birth of the Foundation.

- The accumulation of wealth by many American families throughout the prosperous decade of the 1990's;
- The ceiling on the Federal Estate Tax of \$600,000 per American throughout the Clinton administration, resulting in a larger than intended percentage of Americans recognizing that they were going to pay Estate Taxes. Through the 1990's and into the first decade of this century, a number of new private family foundations resulted;
- The growing recognition that a Donor Advised Fund with a public foundation provides better benefits for the donors who utilize them, when compared to a private family foundation or other alternatives.

IHS Foundation's founding trustees embraced the idea of Christian unity, working together in a community toward the common goals and welfare of the community in Christ's name. By late 1998, IHS was funded, established an office, and hired staff to conduct daily business activities. Within the first few years, the Foundation's skeletal shape emerged consisting of:

- A General Fund for the Foundation's giving to Northeast Ohio area evangelistic Christian ministries through an open Grant application process;
- Family giving funds, called Donor Advised Funds, which families could use as a replacement for a Private Family Foundation within the legal structure of IHS;
- Legacy Funds for Christian ministries to build future resources and help promote the ideas of planned and deferred giving and Christian stewardship.

Throughout its first 21 years, IHS has developed each of these areas under a common umbrella of Christian stewardship and Biblically Responsible Investment (BRI) management.

As 2019 begins, In His Steps Foundation consists of almost 200 families and ministries that have established funds and planned giving arrangements, all administered by the Foundation. IHS has given away over \$63 million to domestic and international charities; including \$4.7 million through its own General Fund Grant program to NE Ohio ministries, and has assets of approximately \$28 million.