



2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, iStand Parent Network Inc. made significant gains to accomplish the vision and mission of the organization.

Three children came home in 2016 as a result of direct or supportive assistance from iStand. We provided direct advocacy and resource referrals for **53 parents**, including **three ongoing prevention cases**. Although we work for all children's return, some access gains have been acquired as well. Unfortunately **two children** of parents whom we assist have aged out, but we are happy to report that both children have regular contact with the seeking parent, though they remain in the countries of abduction. Domestic and international barriers to returning children are formidable, and, in some cases, providing emotional support to our parents as they carry on with their personal battles parents is all we can do.

In cooperation with our Network partners, stakeholders, and a growing base of public and private support, we implemented our most successful annual International Parents Conference & Embassy Walk, **drawing parents from 11 states and three countries** for three days of engagement with federal agencies, Congressional actors and each other. We hosted a Congressional Briefing in the U.S. Capitol with prominent leadership participation from both chambers and political parties; strengthened our cooperative relationship with the U.S. Dept. of State; and played an integral role in the expansion of the Dept. of Homeland Security Prevent Departure Program.

iStand continued our quarterly advocacy days in Washington, engaging with more than **30 offices in the U.S. House and Senate**, and hosting two briefings for Senate Judiciary staff. We became a founding member of the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction which is comprised of seven parent-led organizations banded together to prevent and end IPCA.

We gained **three new affiliates** who believe in our mission: *International Social Services – USA*, *Children at Borders*, and *Arche International*. These partners will help us advance the IPCA Reform Movement to prevent abduction and return children home.

We expanded our prevention initiatives, advising at-risk parents, judges and attorneys to adopt effective abduction prevention strategies during custodial processes. iStand was an invited presenter at the National Criminal Justice Training Center/Fox Valley Technical College and **hosted two webinars** in the NCJTC series on IPCA and domestic violence.

Internally, we welcomed new board members and iStand volunteers participated in a series of marketing and branding workshops to help us elevate our brand and our message through a clearly-defined mission statement, well-aligned marketing materials and a consistent, dynamic and useful website. We are continually amazed by the speed and far-reaching impact of our efforts. We know this is a testament to the commitment of the Board of Directors, our iStand Angel Donors, our Coalition partners and, most importantly, a growing, energized parent community for whom there is no alternative but to STAND until every child comes home.