

Helping 137 Kids

When Chris Gross of Santa Clara, California, heard about 137 children who lost at least one parent in the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City, he thought, "Where would I be if my folks weren't around when I was growing up?"

With that motivation, he set up a college fund for those children.

His first step was to call the chief executive officer of his company and tell him that he was going to set up a fund, and that he would be donating his annual salary as an investment analyst – all \$53,874 of it – to the fund. He then challenged his company and 18 others to match his gift, so that the fund might reach \$1 million.

"It's not easy living without a paycheck," Gross admitted, but the 26-year-old had no debts and lived frugally with four roommates.

Word of Gross' sacrificial gift quickly spread through the Central Coast region of California, and many residents responded with personal gifts. Several benefit shows, concerts and seminars were held, including benefits by the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Giants.

Can one person's example make a difference? Absolutely. We see it proven over and over again daily in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles and in the work of Life Care at Home.

--Beecher Hunter