

2019

annual report

About This Issue

2019 was The Hope Venture's tenth year as an organization, and what a year it was! This annual report is a brief snapshot at all of the incredible things God did through The Hope Venture this year and in the first ten years of its existence.

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we're on an adventure
to bring hope and dignity
to the most disadvantaged
people in the world.

From the Director

2019 was an awesome year for The Hope Venture! For one thing, we turned 10 years old. That in itself got us super pumped up. Kind of hard to believe that what was born in a basement is now impacting thousands of lives every year. We're pretty psyched about that. We are an organization that has sought to inquire of God for direction, that has believed there is a God that loves the whole world and who calls us to jump in with Him to restore real hope and dignity into people's lives. We are honored to be on this journey with all of you! Together God really is using us.

Our purpose statement says that we are on an adventure to bring hope and dignity to the most disadvantaged people in the world. It truly is an adventure. If you've never seen behind the scenes of a cross cultural organization, one that is seeking to impact lives thousands of miles away, with broken people leading and receiving, you might not realize how bumpy the ride can get. We have sought to be transparent with you every step of the way. We don't do this perfectly. We're figuring some things out as we go. This year we revamped the entire backend of our website and accounting structure and struggled early in the year to get everything syncing correctly. Ahh, have I already lost you? Not so glamorous eh? Anyway, we got that figured out just in time to hire new staff. Little did they know we barely knew what we were doing. :) We started heading overseas to check on projects, figure out what was going great and what was going wrong, connect with partners, capture some stories, and most of all to just sit with new and old friends who our projects benefit. We came back from overseas touched and inspired, burdened to remind you what a difference you are making. We made a book called HOPE + DIGNITY that captured our first ten years, began planning for our Night for Hope which was AMAZING, and ended the year bustling with energy and passion as we headed into 2020.

From the pregnant gals in Uganda to the sponsored students in Kenya to the forgotten people of Jawadhu Hills, there is no doubt that we are bringing dignity and hope into real lives. It is such a privilege! Thousands of people found hope with us this year. Thousands saw The Hope Venture treat them differently than the people around them do. What we did mattered. It lifted people up. It renewed their strength to face their particular situation. It gave them hope. Thank you.

Lastly, we say we are impacting some of the most disadvantaged people in the world. For us, this often involves those in extreme poverty, defined by the UN as earning less than \$1.90/day. So many of our recipients are day laborers, people struggling day to day to have food on the table and a roof over their head. Others we help might make a bit more than that but not a lot more. Perhaps everyone we work with has some form of economic poverty. But that's not the sum of their circumstance. They also face the hardships of being an orphan or a widow or have some injustice that keeps them stuck down in this world. We're here to lift them up. And we couldn't do it without you.

As we head into 2020, we see that God's hand is on us and we are blazing forward. There are more people in poverty, more orphans, more widows, more of the hurting... and we are positioning ourselves to bring hope and dignity to the least of these. Stick with us. We're just getting started!

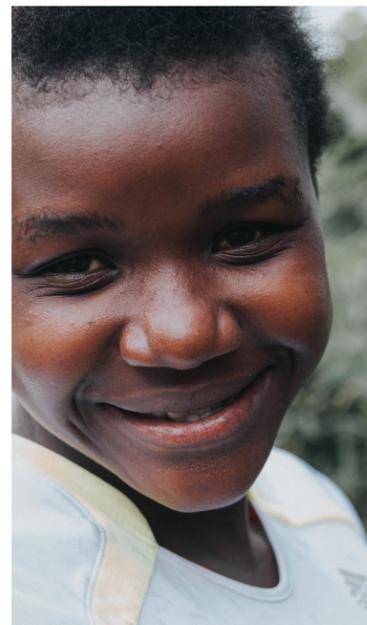
Cynci Petersen, Executive Director
The Hope Venture

Where We Work



Samali

Kampala, Uganda



There seems to be something healing about gardening, about using your hands, about working the earth. Maybe we feel like we are connecting to creation in a way that feels right, like it's the way that it's meant to be. Perhaps there is something divine about producing, about creating, about caring for the land. Walking through rows of crops, checking each plant, pruning its leaves, watching over, watering and waiting. It's a rhythm

on a small patch of land. There wasn't much space, just a small plot tucked away into the hillside, but it now teems with life, overflowing with the fruits of Samali's labor.

Now Samali is spending five hours a day farming. She's growing tomatoes and jackfruit and corn and cocoa beans, enough to feed herself and her child. She's dreaming of enough growth to feed her community.

Samali talks about farming like it's a safe haven, like it's a breath of fresh air in the midst of a life that has been choking her. She said her favorite thing to do is to water her plants, just to stand there and watch water trickle over the leaves. There's something healing about routine tasks, about the rhythm of work. Samali is timid—a timidity that comes from wounds—but when she talks about farming she comes alive. Her eyes brighten up and a smile comes to her face. She thinks of it with thankfulness in her eyes. Like it has been a gift of healing to her.

that slows us, that opens us to the movement of God, to God's movement through the earth, from the seed to the harvest.

For five hours a day, Samali works the land. And it seems like she's healing.

At 14, Samali became pregnant. Then the father of her child left her. She had no money. Her dad had passed away years ago, and her mother wasn't helping support her. At 14, Samali had nothing and no idea what to do next.

Then a woman took her into her home and began caring for her and supporting her. She took her to The Hope Venture's partner, Wakisa Ministries, where she was able to meet other young pregnant women and receive care through her pregnancy. The Hope Venture then gave her the chance to receive vocational training with an organization called Agromax. At 15, Samali graduated from Agromax having learned farming techniques which empowered her to begin a small scale farming operation

At 16 years old, with a 1 year old child, no family and little money, you'd think her situation would be bleak. But it isn't. It's fruitful. It's beautiful. It's full and lush. And it's hopeful. There's a small hope sprouting out from dry ground.

written by Caleb Petersen



Where We've Been

THE STORY OF THE HOPE VENTURE

- Sept 3 – HV is BORN
- 1st project with Charlie - 1000 Backpacks distributed
- Office at Miller's home!
- Meghan is 1st paid staff!
- Abraham, an orphan from the world's largest slum, gets sponsorship
- Many more lives are being helped
- Begin Mama Kit project
- Paul revamps website for free!
- Cry out to God to keep up with growing needs!
- 1st student retreat in Kenya
- Sapna, age 11, goes to school for the first time
- Skits are prototyped at our wells for our first time ever!
- We respond to our first international crisis helping victims of the Nepal Earthquake
- Phase 2 of Vocational Training begins!
- Abishek gets his 4th backpack and is filled with JOY and HOPE!
- Raise funds for K-12 School in India
- 714 Mama Kits delivered
- 44 HS students sponsored
- 33 individual fundraisers
- Launch Agro-max Project
- Turn 10 Years Old
- Launch Jawadhu Hills project
- "People Like Us" Camp Theme
- Hope + Dignity goes to Print
- Help 17000 people



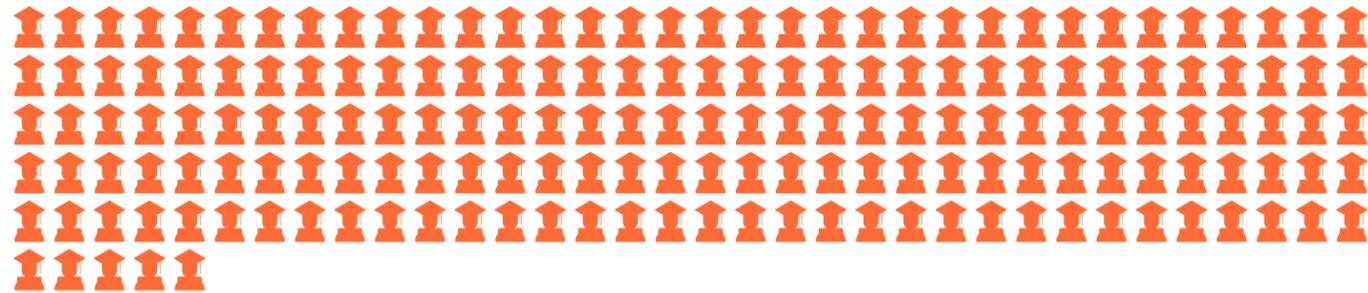
- God lays foundation
- Founder prays 18 years for India
- Major partnerships added with Anuja, Raja, Elijah
- Website launches
- Asha gets vocational training!
- 3 more staff begin to get paid
- Run for Hope debuts
- Tshirts are made for the first time
- Build our 1st school in Jharkhand, India
- People from 120 cities of the world are supporting us
- Move office to Peanut Butter Factory
- Do concessions at Pinnacle Arena for our feeding projects
- Surpass 15,000 backpacks distributed to date
- Start cow project and Emongo births Cynci the cow to help 400 kids!
- 1st Night for Hope!
- 1st Kenya service project builds playground
- Water piped to oletukat for 1st time ever
- 2nd cornhole joust :)
- Tiled art collage at Gateway Mall
- Adam is 1st fulltime staff
- Cynci, the founder, finally goes fulltime in August!
- 1st WIG set
- Income increases for 10th year in a row
- Giveaway 1000 Tshirts on UNL campus
- Sponsorship doubles

EDUCATION



Featured Project

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP



175 Students



"Once I was a street boy roaming around, used to use drugs, but when I came to find Nasha my life changed. Now I'm in Form 2, 17 years old, and when I finish school I'd like to become an engineer or a lawyer. I want to encourage people who are like me... I know there is a person who has more pain than me, I'm trying to become happy. I'm not happy all the time, but I'm trying to become happy. I slept in cartons, I slept in cars. But now I feel like I'm alive again, I was dead and now I'm alive."



-LEWIS





HEALTH



Who We Are

2019 STAFF



Cynci Petersen
Executive Director



Katie Horan
Director of Donor Relations



Josh Petersen
Creative Director



Caleb Petersen
Project Manager



Jackie Hinrichsen
Development



Todd Frye
Operations Director



Charlie Abro
South India Director



Elijah Ombati
Kenya Director



Anuja Lal
North India Director



Vivian Kityo
Uganda Director



Sushil Mirandi
East India Coordinator

2019 PARTNERS

2019 INTERNS



Matthew Relihan
Accounting Intern



Madi Meacham
Marketing Intern



Elisabeth Gross
Sponsorship Intern



Ben Herbel
Fundraising Intern / Camp Director



Michaela Reddel
Photography Intern



Molly Paez
Social Media Intern



Katie Hermsen
Accounting Intern



Connor Blankenau
Project Management Intern



Carlee Koehler
Social Media Intern



Ty Constant
Accounting Intern



Amy Sumpter
Project Intern



Jackqueline Schrock
UNL Club Intern



Ethan Carlson
Prayer Intern



Hayley Hamm
Run For Hope Director

2019 BOARD



Troy Bredenkamp
Chairman



John Kroeker
Vice Chair



Tracy Brester



Katherine Stewart
Secretary



Jody Kongsjord
Treasurer



Adam Boyle

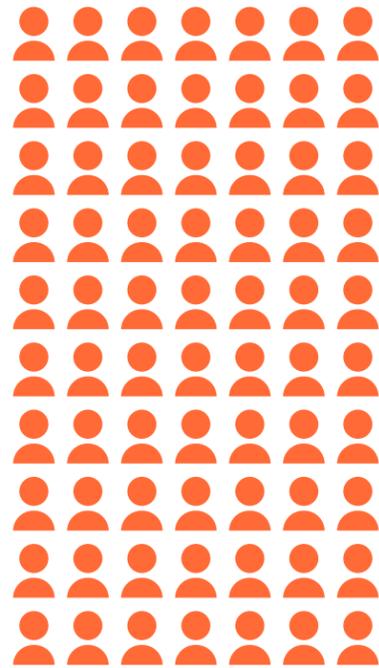


Cynci Petersen

Our Supporters

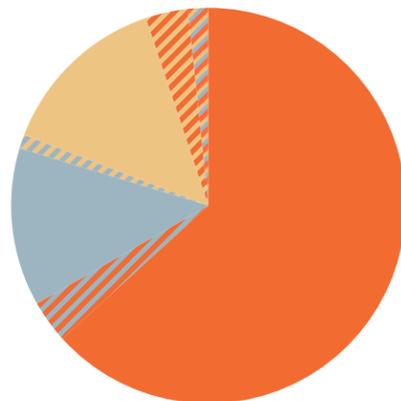
FOLLOWERS & SUBSCRIBERS

7000+



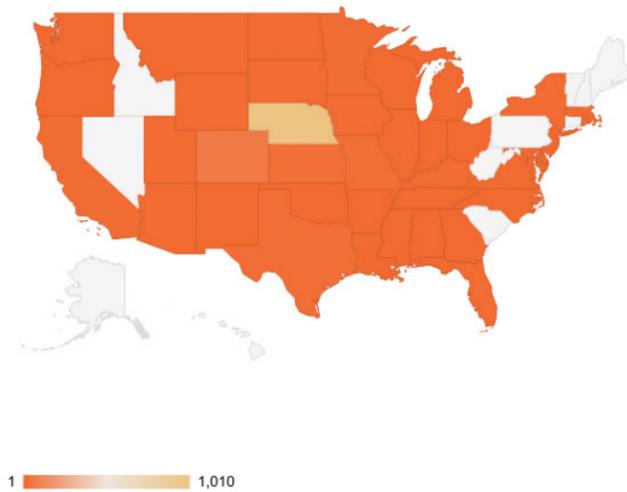
List Types

- Mailing List
- Facebook
- Instagram



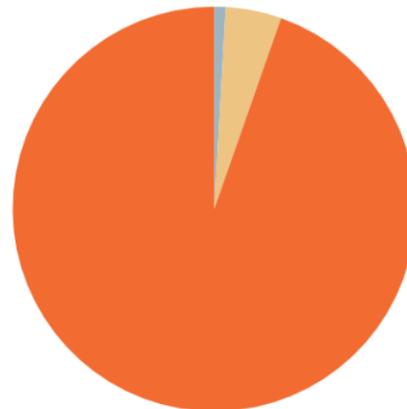
DONORS

1207 donors



Donor Types

- Church
- Organization
- Individual



COMMITTED PEOPLE

336 committed

- Backbone Team Members
- Student Sponsors
- Other Project Supporters
- Trip Goers
- Volunteers

"10 years ago I was in a quandary, trying to find my way and you gave me hope. You make things happen, a little at a time and I am doing the same. Life is a journey and I'm with you!"

- one of our first donors who has been with us for 10 years

INSIDERS & ADVOCATES

67 people

"I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to work at Hope Venture I felt empowered and encouraged everyday I came to work. I was inspired by not only your obedience to God but also your passion in which the work was done. It was contagious. I learned so much about myself and what I desire from my professional life, this was invaluable. I left for the summer feeling capable to hear and follow God's will for my life. I feel so blessed to say I played a small role in the operation. Thank you for leading me well and continuously pointing me towards God, it changed my life!"

- Spring 2019 finance intern

Our Volunteers

AFRICA TEAM



INDIA TEAM



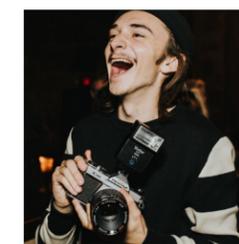
RUN VOLUNTEERS



MAILERS



NIGHT FOR HOPE VOLUNTEERS



Highlight of the Year

A NIGHT FOR HOPE

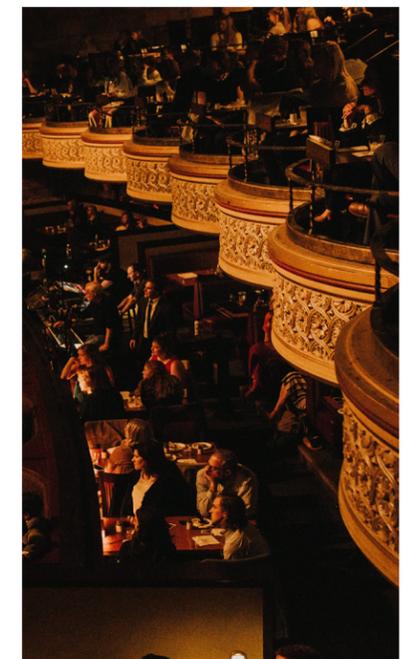


CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF HELPING LIVES FIND HOPE

A Night For Hope was an amazing night and a special way to celebrate 10 years as an organization. We did a live ask at the event which is something we have never done before, but we were blown away with your generosity and with God's faithfulness. We raised over \$53,000 at the event which completely funded our new project in Jawadhu Hills. We are establishing Community Centers where people can come to learn, study, and create together. The Centers will have courses available in tutoring, adult-literacy, tailoring, and computer skills. This project will make a difference in an area of the world that has been neglected. Our partners are so excited for this project, and so are we. Beyond that, the Night for Hope is a catalyst for us. It often helps us bring in new supporters, and it motivates us moving forward.



\$60,000 RAISED

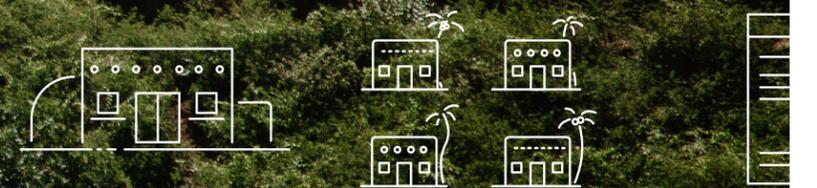


Jawadhu Hills in Southern India is spread over two districts (Tirupattur Taluk of Vellore district and Thiruvanamalai district). This hilly, forested region has been largely neglected by the district and state administration, which has resulted in a lack of infrastructural development and poverty. There is limited access to jobs, education, medicine, or support of any kind. The area under consideration for this project is broadly divided into 14 villages with around 800 residents per village. The Hope Venture seeks to address the lack of development and poverty of the people in these villages on a case by case basis, initially working within a limited scope of beneficiaries and later broadening working assets to include more people and improving their life standards. The work we will do in Jawadhu Hills will be under the broad vision of bringing hope and dignity not only to individuals, but to the community of Jawadhu Hills as a whole, so that the villages of Jawadhu Hills will be preserved and sustained for many years to come.

JAWADHU HILLS

Villages in Jawadhu Hills will be empowered to develop as a community, whereby they can function within the society at large. Each village will be a community that is dignified, hopeful, functioning, and sustainable. This begins at the individual level, seeking to bring hope and dignity to a few people at a time through opportunities in education and income generation.

THE DREAM

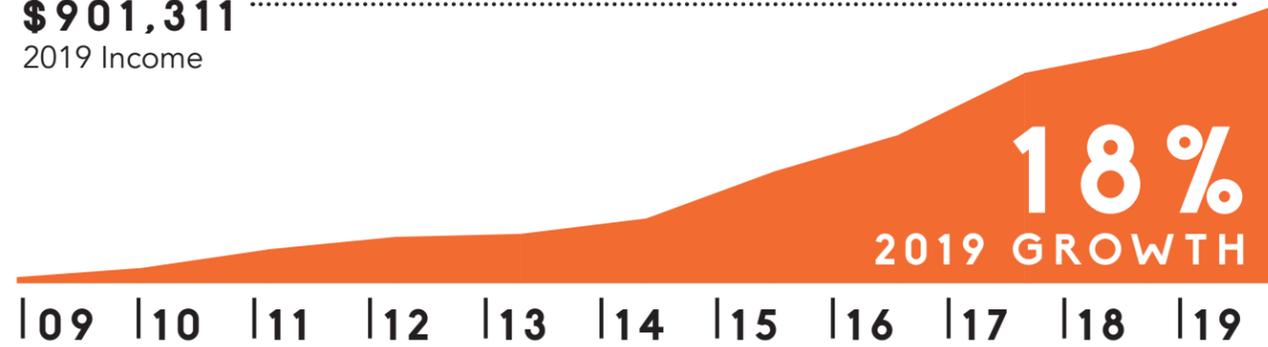


Our Financials

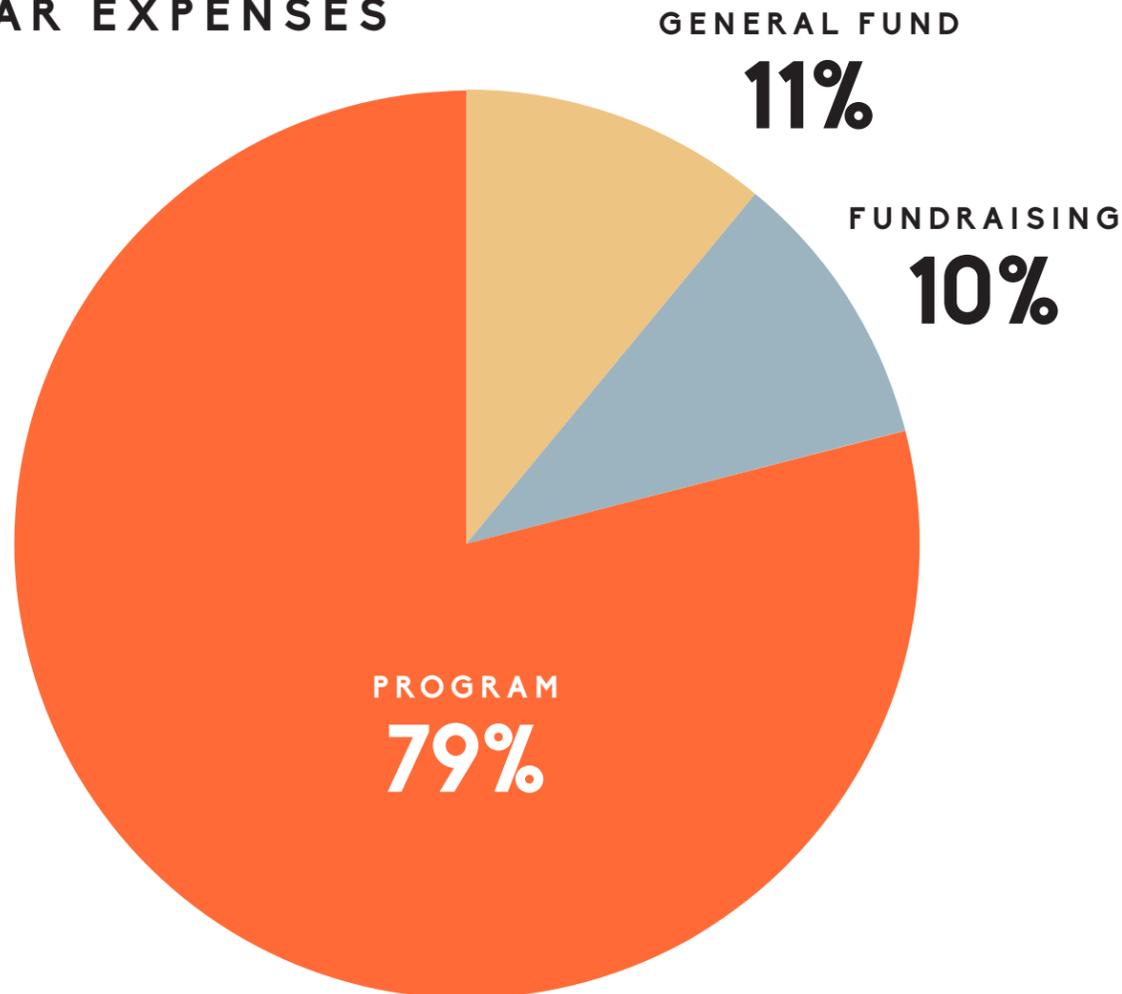
10 YEAR GROWTH

\$901,311

2019 Income



10 YEAR EXPENSES



2019 Income/Expense Report

	<u>TOTAL</u>
INCOME	
34000 · BB BackBone Contributions	290,823.94
35000 · PROG Program Contributions	
35500 · BACKPACK Contributions	85,859.46
36000 · STUDENT Contributions	180,137.64
37000 · VT Contributions	21,250.00
37500 · SCHOOLS Contributions	51,043.47
38000 · FOOD Contributions	35,732.15
38500 · WATER Contributions	1,940.00
39000 · GOATS - COWS	9,560.08
39500 · HOME OF HOPE Contributions	4,347.00
40000 · MAMA KIT Contributions	8,837.00
40500 · CRISIS Contributions	1,751.00
41000 · PROJECT COORD & TRAVEL	60,825.98
44000 · WHERE MOST NEEDED Contributions	48,312.32
35000 · PROG Program Contributions - Other	0.00
Total 35000 · PROG Program Contributions	<u>509,596.10</u>
45000 · Investments	4,225.93
46400 · Other Types of Income	1,496.61
49000 · EVENT FUNDRAISING Income	95,168.26
Total Income	<u>901,310.84</u>
Gross Profit	901,310.84
EXPENSE	
50000 · Grants	523,656.73
63000 · All Salary Expenses	127,632.13
64000 · Fees for Services	15,033.43
65000 · ADV - PROMO - MOTAJ	32,771.56
70000 · OFFICE EXPENSES	20,964.43
72000 · Information Technology	2,216.98
73000 · Occupancy-Facilities.Equipment	10,527.00
74000 · Travel	74,327.61
79500 · Insurance	3,944.00
80000 · EVENT FUNDRAISING	31,502.87
Total Expense	<u>842,576.74</u>
Net Income	<u><u>58,734.10</u></u>



Teopista

Kampala, Uganda



I did not expect there to be exclamation points in the police report. I expected formality and matter-of-factness, but instead I encountered righteous indignation. I expected an unemotional and unbiased report, but instead I encountered a Ugandan police officer who must have struck his keyboard with angry and passionate jabs, unable to come to terms with the information that had to be typed.

Teopista was raped by her dad when she was in 3rd grade. It was just her and her little brother at home since their mom died a few years prior. So there was no one to stop it. Her dad continued to rape her night after night for two more years. Finally, she ran away. She cried, she refused to eat, and she said she'd commit suicide if they made her go back there.

Near the beginning of it all, her younger brother had run away. He told the community his dad didn't like him. He shared that he didn't have any bedding to sleep with, but his sister shared a comfortable bed with her dad every night. Somehow the community let it go on.

In August 2018, the police finally got involved. They came to arrest the dad and as they took him away, he looked

back and said to Teopista, "You will never amount to anything." That was the last thing he ever said to her. A few months later he died in jail. Those words have hooked deep within her. They haunt her.

After the police arrested the father they didn't know what to do. Where was Teopista to go? What was she to do? How was she supposed to walk in the aftermath? She had nothing. No mother, no father, no safe place to be. Just pain, deep wounds, and horrifying memories.

People rallied. Her story was shared. The community got involved. Wakisa Ministries, the Hope Venture's Ugandan partner, was contacted. Vivian, the director, knew of a good boarding school very close to Wakisa, and she thought getting Teopista into a safe environment was the most important thing to do. She emailed us. Our hearts broke.

But we didn't have a student sponsorship project



in Uganda. We only worked with Vivian to provide vocational training for young women, and we knew that stepping into Teopista's story was big. We couldn't just send some funds. Teo needed care she could count on. She needed sponsorship, someone who'd be there all the way through. Stepping into Teopista's story meant beginning to think about Student Sponsorship in Uganda.



We said yes. Funds were sent. Teopista was taken in. A couple months later we visited her. She cried in our arms when we told her she will amount to something, that she does not have to believe what her dad said. For a moment, her walls seemed to fall.

Her school is safe. Her room is safe. Her teacher is amazing. The Wakisa staff have been visiting Teo at school and going to church

with her on weekends. Together, they're walking in the aftermath.

Her story has been a catalyst for us to expand into Uganda. We have already met more young women with

similar stories. It's so difficult to hear the pain these women have gone through, but we are going to do what we can to help in their moment of crisis. Providing the fees and materials necessary to go to school and get an education, might offer a new future. By the end of 2019 we sponsored another young girl like Teopista, and at the beginning of 2020 we launched our high school sponsorship, sponsoring 4 young women, and we hope to do more.

For Teopista, walking in the aftermath is not easy. The dust has not settled. Restoration is a process. Pain is present, and yet hope presses in like light through a window. Hope reaches out through kind teachers, loving neighbors, gentle classmates, strong leaders, and even through the responsive hearts of people thousands of miles away. Thank you for your partnership with us to restore hope and dignity in Uganda.



written by Caleb Petersen



A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink and gold sari, is smiling warmly while holding a young boy. The boy is wearing a patterned shirt and is looking towards the woman. They are standing in front of a teal-colored wall. The woman is wearing gold jewelry, including earrings, a necklace, and bangles. The boy is wearing a patterned shirt with a floral design. The overall mood is joyful and affectionate.

THANK YOU

FOR

AN AMAZING

TEN YEARS

