

# "LOVED TODAY'S SIMPLE CONCEPT, AND HOW A PANCAKE AND A CUP OF COFFEE CAN BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER THAT NEVER WOULD'VE TALKED MOST LIKELY BEFORE."

-KATHERINE // DONOR





# Letter from the Director

As I write this, I'm feeling emotional ⊖♥. I don't want to just summarize the facts or explain our strategies. We've been at this for 14 years, and I think what I like best about this past year is that I saw God at work here. I saw God work to love Abraham through our partners in Kenya, even when he felt hopeless and lost this year. I saw God put a plan in my heart for A Night for Hope that seemed impossible and then He accomplished it this year. I saw my body age and feel broken and unable but then read my son's words to not give up and am seeing God enable and renew me. I saw 10 underpaid staff and several unpaid volunteers rally beyond my ability to accomplish what only a team of people could do. I saw donors encourage me, text me, and give thousands of dollars to our cause. I heard of kids jumping and hollering to get people to their lemonade stand, and one man came to our office week after week, telling us thank you, asking for catalogs to take to businesses and wherever he could spread our work.

.03

This report has some numbers and stories. All of it is pretty incredible, so we do want to share it. But how do you report on God's efforts this year? "Oh, He did pretty good"? Ha, this report simply can't capture all that we are trying to say in summarizing 2023 at The Hope Venture. It is a glimpse of the love and hope we believe was found in the schoolroom in India and on the clinic bed in Uganda. Thank You, God, for the wide expanse of good that these pages represent. We are Your servants, and it has been our pleasure to serve You again this year.

Helping lives find hope together, Cynci for all of us



**CYNCI PETERSEN** Executive Director

# **The Hope Venture** 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR	03
OUR PURPOSE	06
2023 NUMBERS	08
WHERE WE WORK	10

### Projects

LETTER FROM OUR PROJECT MANAGER	
LOVINSA	
PROJECTS // 2023 OVERVIEW	
PROJECTS // 2023 BREAKDOWN	

### Local

-04

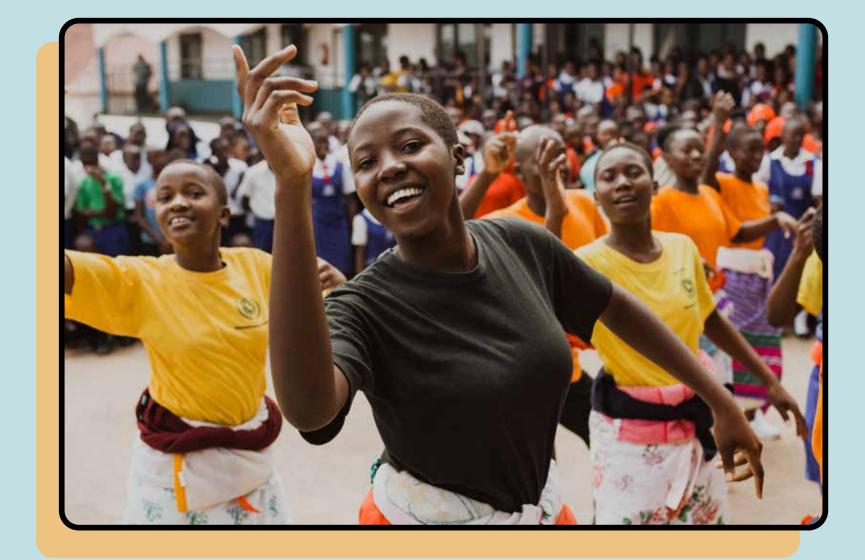
LETTER FROM OUR MARKETING DIRECTOR
TO THE RAFTERS
DONORS // 2023 OVERVIEW
EVENTS/CAMPAIGNS // 2023 BREAKDOWN
STAFF
BOARD
PARTNERS

### Financials

100% MODEL		
INCOME		
EXPENSES		
FINANCIALS		
ALL-TIME NUMBERS		

### What's Next

THANK YOU







TO THE MOST DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.



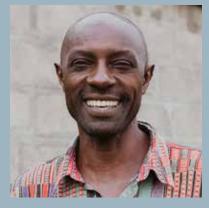














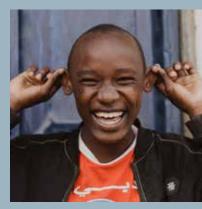














# Where We Work

OUR PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD



KENYA Total Projects: 9 Total People Impacted: 7,007 Total Given: \$452,247.96

### UGANDA

Total Projects: 5 Total People Impacted: 75 Total Given: \$131,350.00

### RWANDA

Total Projects: 1 Total People Impacted: 12 Total Given: \$12,850.00

### BANGLADESH

Total Projects: 1 Total People Impacted: 30 Total Given: \$5,500.00

INDIA Total Projects: 13 Total People Impacted: 10,532 Total Given: \$211,457.41





"WHAT IMPACTED ME SO MUCH THIS YEAR WAS WHEN 25 STUDENTS GOT SPONSORS WITHIN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME (WITHIN 24HRS). MY FAITH WAS POSITIVELY IMPACTED BY THE FACT THAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE OUR EXPECTATIONS!"

-FANUEL // PARTNER







## Letter from our Project Manager

Dear Friends of The Hope Venture,

I hope this year has been a great one for you! It has been a year of progressing with our existing projects and partners and starting a few new projects too. This year we have tried to invest more time into our projects, by focusing on getting reports that update us on what is happening and through regularly evaluating them. The intentional time that we have spent getting to know our projects better has been rewarding, like getting to know an old friend even better than you already did. We are excited about having invested this additional time into our projects and think that it will serve as a great benchmark for years to come. For example, we discussed in our Goats project evaluation with Nasha in Kenya that they wish to start to cultivate a sense of generosity and sustainability in the project. To do that, they are planning to encourage future goat recipients to give a goat to someone else after their goat has had 2 years to reproduce.

The new projects this year have also been deeply encouraging to me. One example of this is the Leprosy Care project that we started with Rev. Doddy Murty. Charlie Abro, who helped encourage Cynci to start The Hope Venture, introduced a few of us to Rev. Murty during the summer of 2022. That connection propelled us to start a center with Rev. Murty in January 2023 where people who have leprosy could come to get their wounds attended to and checked over by a doctor. I had the opportunity to visit the clinic this July, and seeing the love and care that Rev. Murty and his team exemplified to the people at the center was so encouraging and inspiring.

I am so very thankful that you decided to play a part in impacting lives overseas this year. I am grateful for your prayers for our Hope Venture team in Lincoln, our partners overseas, and the recipients of our projects. We could not do this without your support. Thank you.

Sincerely,



**JAMES PEREGRINE** Project Manager



Photo by: Avery Clark



# HEALING IN THE

HEARTACHE

Wow. That was my first reaction to Lovinsa's story. She's a 15-year-old girl in Uganda, and the things that have happened in her life are heavy. Lovinsa's story is one of extreme heartache, but even more so, it's one of beautiful redemption happening through healing.

You see, Lovinsa was living with her mother, but when she was seven, her father came and took her to live with him and his family, which included her stepmom and stepsiblings. Even after this switch of households, though, Lovinsa's mom was still the one financially supporting her through the means of her market vendor job. So Lovinsa was under her dad's roof, but she wasn't necessarily under his care.

This became even more evident when her stepmom left the house to go to a funeral one day, and her dad took her into another room in the house, away from all her stepsiblings, and had sex with her. He threatened her and told her not to tell anybody about what happened. He claimed that he had spoken with a sorcerer who had instructed him to rape her if he wanted his business to flourish. This happened several more times, and Lovinsa became pregnant.

After the news came out that Lovinsa had conceived, her father denied having any part in the pregnancy. Her father, who was supposed to protect her, instead exploited



her and left her helpless. After his repeated denial, her sister finally reported him to the police, and they took him to prison. So her father was gone, but she still had to deal with the effects of his actions against her. She eventually gave birth to a baby boy, but he was rejected because the form of his conception was culturally unethical. Not even her family she lived with wanted to associate with him.







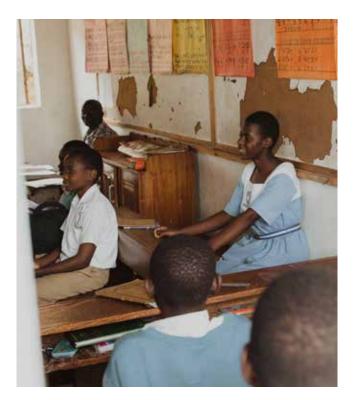
Lovinsa's mom wants to be able to care for her daughter, but she faces financial struggles and just doesn't have the means to take care of her, so Lovinsa went to stay with her grandmother.

What was she supposed to do? She wasn't educated, she didn't have the finances to cover her cost of living, which meant she couldn't pay for school, and she had to take care of her baby boy as a 15-year-old without the help of the father—her father. She faced deep emotions of betrayal, confusion, and hurt. But Lovinsa's story doesn't end here in the heartache...

She became the recipient of a scholarship from The Hope Venture through our partnership with Wakisa, a pregnancy center in Uganda for teenage mothers. She had been able to attend Wakisa and receive help from them throughout her pregnancy, and once she gave birth, we partnered with Wakisa to help her even beyond the raising of her child. She now goes to school at Buloba Primary School, and it's more than just a formal education for her. She takes classes and grows her knowledge, but she's also healing. It's a safe space. It's therapeutic for her to go to school... to learn about things she enjoys, to build healthy relationships with her teachers and classmates, and to work toward a diploma that can help her in her pursuit of a stable career.

She has also gotten involved with the Girl Guides group at school, which is similar to Girl Scouts in the US but has an emphasis on sharing the word of God and taking care of one another emotionally, spiritually, and physically. They also take care of the school premises and make sure it's clean. They play games and have fun with one another, fostering a fun, safe, and healthy community.







There seems to be a sprout of hope pushing through the ash in the midst of all the betrayal and hurt Lovinsa has walked through. Redemption is happening. Healing is happening. She laughs. She's made friends. She's found community. Her teachers love having her in class. The scholarship that was provided for Lovinsa is reaching far beyond the classroom—it's providing an opportunity for deep parts of her heart to be mended and restored.

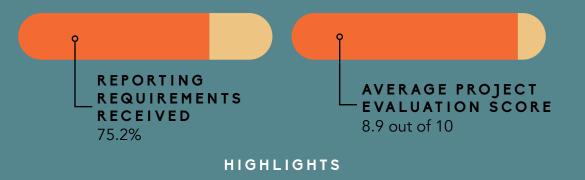
Written by: Carrie Wehrman



TOTAL PROJECTS

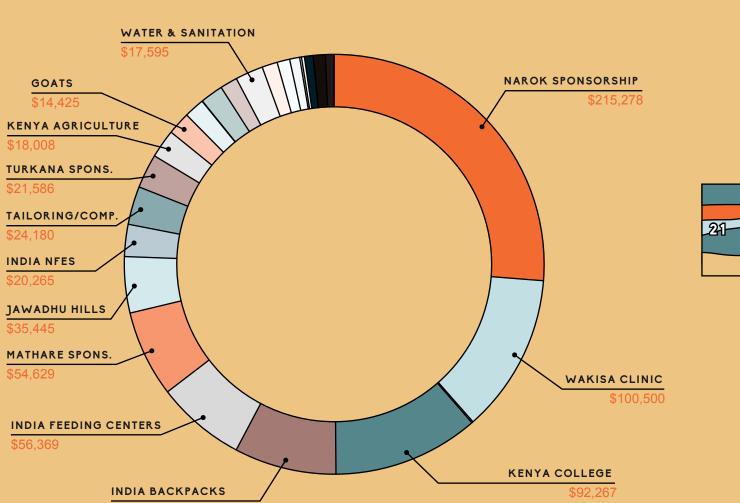


### STARTING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATIONS





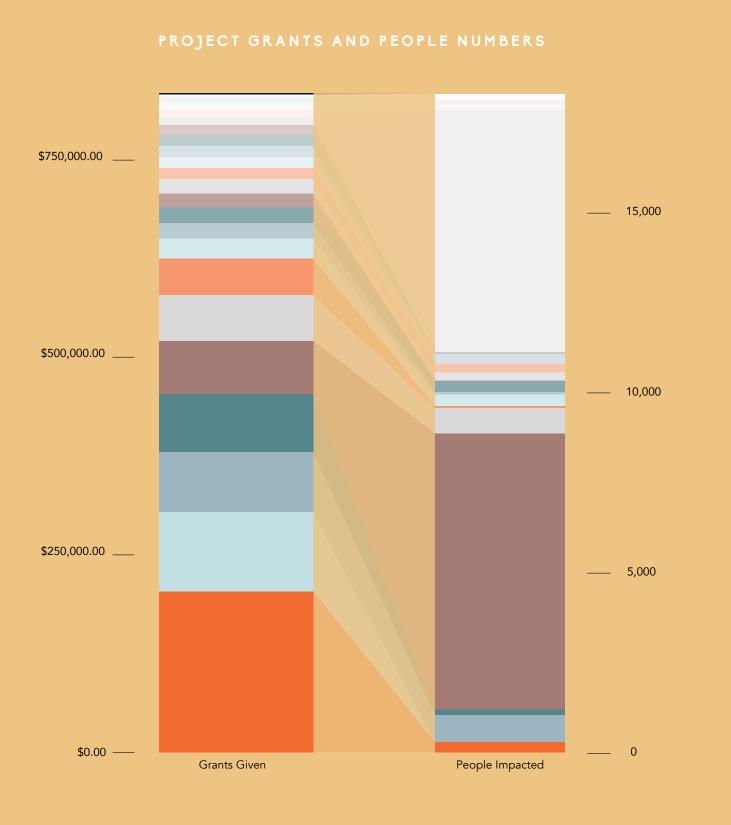


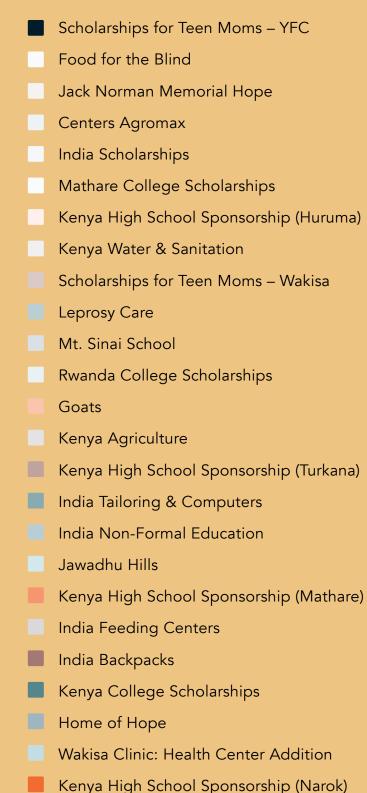


\$64,500

### Projects 2023 BREAKDOWN

### **Projects** 2023 breakdown (continued)





# A Deeper Look into One Life that Was Impacted



23

SNEHA'S STORY

Sneha has physical disabilities in her arms and legs, limiting her capacity to work in manual labor, which is a common career path for people from Perumpally, the village she's from in the Jawadhu Hills region of India. She would have to leave Perumpally to pursue higher education, and her parents didn't want to send her away because of her physical disabilities. So Sneha stopped going to school after 10th grade, which left her feeling extremely disappointed.

But Sneha had a friend who told her about a free tailoring course provided by The Hope Venture. Sneha gladly attended the classes and learned the skills, and now she can stitch clothes for herself and for her parents. Her family used to hire someone to stitch all their clothes for them, but now Sneha can do it herself how dignifying! Not only can she help her family, but she can also turn it into a career for herself.

> So Sneha gladly takes her seat in front of her sewing machine, full of joy to use her hands and feet, which had always been a limiting obstacle in her life but now are used to bring hope and dignity to her life.

Written by: Carrie Wehrman



**"IT'S NOT HARD. LIKE** HONESTLY, I'M JUST A DUDE. I'M JUST A DUDE WHO AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT. SO IF YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THEN IT'S NOT HARD TO BE PART OF IT."

- ALEX // DONOR





# Letter from our Marketing Director

At the start of 2023, my car broke down, so I rode my bike to work. Then I kept riding. Most days I rode. The Hope Venture's office is on the south side of the Haymarket right here in Lincoln, NE. I'd often stop for a glass of tea at The Mill, and I'd sit on a park bench along the bike path. I'd look around at the Capitol Building, downtown, baseball fields, Lincoln High, Antelope Creek. I often found myself thinking about this little city many of us call home.

Growing up, I felt like I'd have to leave to make a dent in the world. Now, it's been ten years since I graduated high school, and I'm still here. Whenever there was an opportunity to leave, something about this incredible community kept grounding me here. Year after year I started putting down roots, and you know what? I started seeing how a small community can make a big difference. The Hope Venture has become such a symbol of that to me.

This year 1,407 of you pooled your money together (to the tune of 1.5 million dollars) and said let's do something big together. You ran through Pioneers Park to bring education to kids in India, you traveled to Kenya and then held a First Friday event in the Haymarket to spread stories, you tuned in to a very chaotic Instagram Live telethon to bring meals to kids at feeding centers, you opened up catalogs with your kids to donate to people around the world, and (spoiler alert) you filled the Rococo Theatre to help build a new birthing clinic in Uganda—but more on that later. Your generosity together is spreading and the impact is real. This year alone we were able to impact more than 17,500 lives. Lives like Elizabeth's, whose family lost everything they owned in a fire that swept through Mathare—a slum in Kenya where we work. Not only were we able to get her a new home, clothes, and a bed, but she is getting sponsored to go on to high school, a step that could be completely life-changing.

In a world of nearly 8 billion people, impacting 17,500 might seem small—might not seem like a dent. But for Elizabeth, you made a big dent. For Lovinsa, you made a big dent. For Sathish, Ikram, Valentine, Daisy, Little Johnny, Mr. Kumar, and literally 17,500 people you made a big dent. That's crazy! We may not be able to end global issues here, but Lincoln, you are changing lives. And to all you non-Lincolnites, thanks for rallying with this small band of Midwesterners. This is what we call our Fun Generous Hub—this team of life-changing people. You. Thank you.

My car is now fixed, but I still ride my bike. Sometimes bigger and faster isn't always better. I'm learning that from you all. Let's keep making dents, one life at a time. Who knows, we might wake up one day and see a changed world.

Your Fellow Dent Maker,



JOSH PETERSEN Marketing Director





# FILLING THE ROCOCO THEATRE

Ever feel like you can't do something—the task is beyond you, out of your control, and absurd to the onlooker?

That happens a lot around here honestly, but for A Night for Hope this year, it was especially true. We feel this big, huge call to bring hope and dignity to the most disadvantaged people in the world. Big love from a big God. But we can't do it. We have partners, we have strategies, we are close to being ready to do so much more! But we don't have enough money for the needs. And neither do you. Currently, none of our donors could fund this entire endeavor on their own. We are doing something beyond any of our abilities! So we sensed we should find more people, gather us all together toward a united vision, and work together. That's what we are trying to do here, and A Night for Hope is the best tangible expression of that.

So after much prayer, we asked God to fill the Rococo Theatre to the rafters. To pack the place out. 800 people.

Then we felt stupid. I mean we're a small organization, a handful of staff and another handful of interns. We had tried to grow this event from 400 to 500 the year before and we failed. Now instead of seeking 500 again, we just skipped right to 800. And so we prayed again... maybe we were wrong. We formed a prayer team to gather monthly specifically



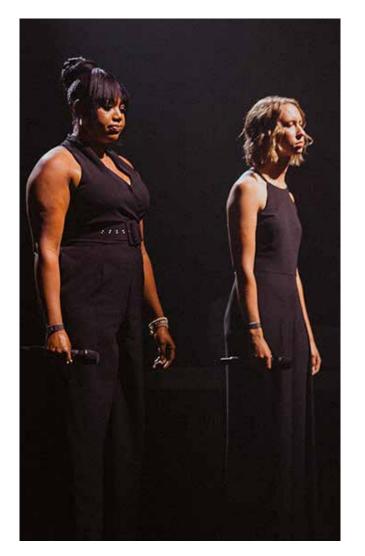


about this event for the whole year. We even tried to pray with less boldness, like just "for more," but then we felt like we should pray for specifically "800." We wanted to trust God, but we felt so unable.

I (Carli) was chatting with an HV board member, and he said something that struck me. He was talking about how a person might find themselves in a place where as long as the end result is flashy and glamorous, how you get there doesn't really matter. But he said that at The Hope Venture, the "how we get there" matters. And he's so right. I'm telling you, the "how" of A Night for Hope is an uphill crawl but with the most fun team in the world and with a

wild and mysterious God out front. I saw my teammates rise to the occasion and take on things they didn't know how to do. I even took on a couple of tall tasks. But dang it, we believed in each other. We worked late, we prayed, we cried, we high-fived at victories. The "how" matters here, and I do believe that God, our partners, our recipients, and you were honored with each decision that was made.

So we mixed things up. We did things differently. We made a drawing of the seats and started praying for every table. We launched ticket sales to some key stakeholders and recruited a "Hype Team" to get seats early. Our board brought their friends and family. We mapped out



the city and prayed for people from every part of Lincoln. We held pancake feeds in neighborhoods and put up billboards. We went to businesses, schools, churches, and to the press. And when it got closer and schedule conflicts arose (including a Husker football game on a Friday night!), we re-filled seats again and again.





Meanwhile, our team was working for months to put together a great event. I (Josh) led a team to Uganda to film content for the event and even brought along my one-year-old son. Back home, we had lots of people step in to help from musicians, to poets, to donors, to a last-minute caterer. Our team even sat together to write a handwritten note to every attendee. I think my hand is still cramping a bit today. We didn't know if we'd fill the seats, but we knew we wanted to set the stage for something magical to take place.

Then, the Sunday before the event, it



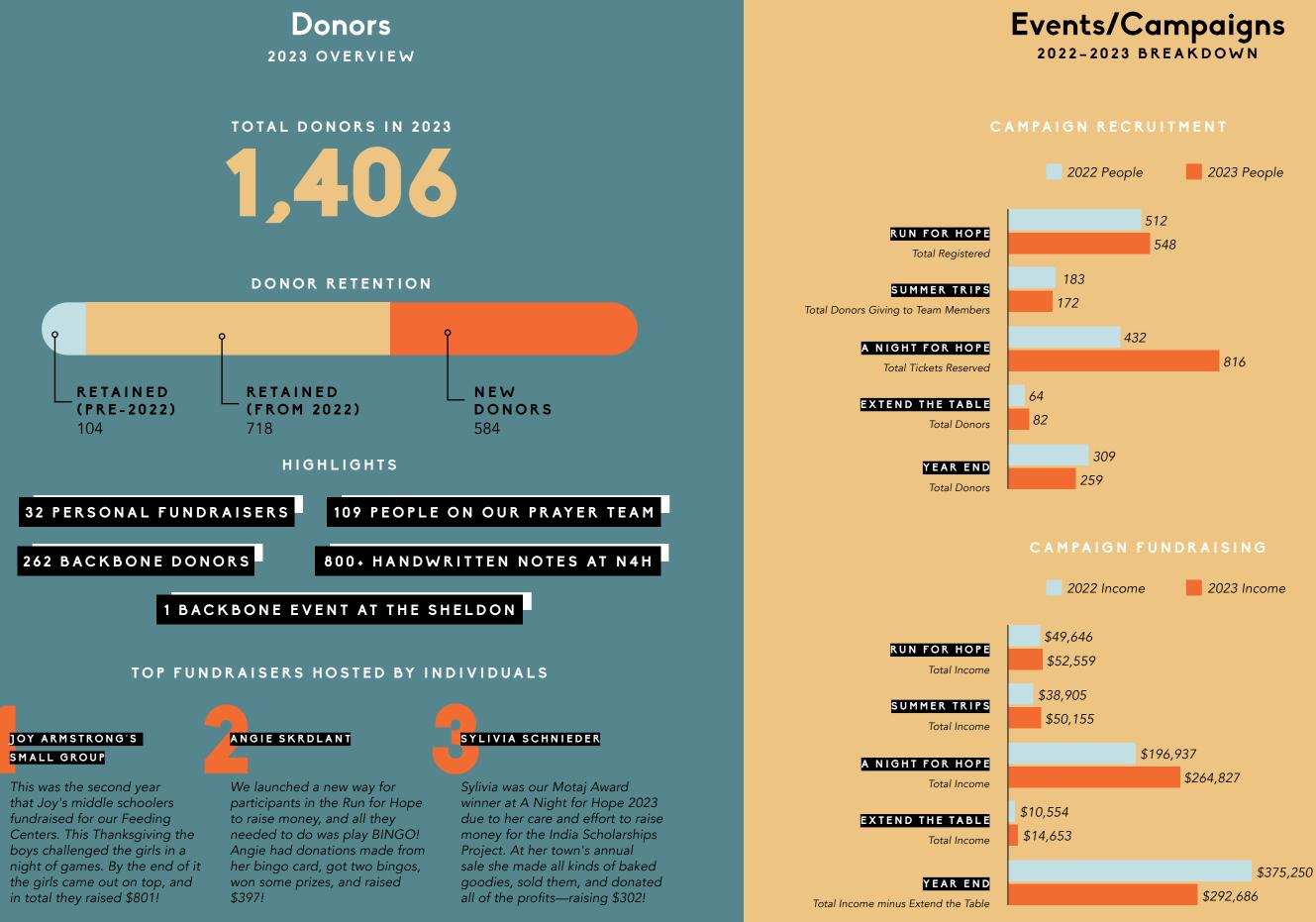


happened. We hit 800. And then surpassed it. Wow. The next morning at our staff meeting, I had someone come and play guitar and lead us in worship. I have trusted God for thousands of dollars, for hearts to change, for safety and fun and so many things, but this was up there in memorable moments for me. I had stuck my neck on the line in a way that I really felt was impossible without God.

Most people who know me well know that Jesus has swept me off my feet and is the absolute Love of my life. But sometimes I've been criticized for not "sharing my faith" or saying "Jesus" enough times or the way some people want me to. And yes, at The Hope Venture, I've wanted our actions to speak much louder than our words, and I hope they have. But this year, the "800" proclaimed Jesus to me. It may seem small or insignificant to the onlooker, but "800 seats reserved" shouted volumes to me. Upon reflection, maybe it was just for me. No matter. I will be a better leader because of how I saw God show up in the Rococo Theatre on the corner of 13th & P Streets in 2023. He is leading us. He is our God and our Hope. We believe in Him, and we are bringing Him to the world, together with you all. This is still the beginning. Let's go!

Written by: Cynci Petersen, Carli Huston, and Josh Petersen

-31



YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING! :)

ારી

### Staff THE FACES IN OUR US OFFICE





CYNCI PETERSEN Executive Director



PHIL TRUONG Operations and Accounting Coordinator



JOSH PETERSEN Marketing Director



LANDON BARTEL Donor Coach Project Coordinator



AUDREY

SCHANOU

Donor Coach

]AMES PEREGRINE Project Manager



HANNAH MOSEMAN Student Coordinator



CARLI HUSTON Head of Mass Marketing



KACIE HEIDBRINK Videographer & Graphic Designer



JOHN KROEKER Vice Chair



MEGHAN HARLAN Board Member

TREMAINE COMBS Board Member







JAYA NĚLSON Social Media Intern (Jan-May)



INGRID PAPALII Project Finance Intern (Sep-Dec)



MIA ACKERMANN Social Media Intern (May-Current)



CARINA SWANSON Systems Building Intern (Sep-Current)



CARRIE

RAY



CALEB KORTE Systems Building Intern (May-Oct)

BRADLEY

SULLIVAN

Project Finance Intern

(Jan-May)

(Jan-Jul)



CARRIE WEHRMAN Story Writing Intern

SPENCER

LANE

Project Finance Intern

(Jan-Dec)



Graphic Design Intern (Jan-May)



MAX RADEMACHER Systems Building Intern (Jan-May)



SUSHIL

East India

Southern India

VIVIAN Uganda

RAJA Bangalore, India



ACTS 4 RWANDA Kigali, Rwanda



AIG Mathare, Kenya



MARLA

STYLES

Board Member

















### Board THE LEADERSHIP WE RELY ON





BEN COHOON Secretary



COLGROVE Treasurer



AUSTIN EDWARDS Board Member



AMBER DAVIS Board Member



MOLLY BURGHER Board Member



AMY AUCH MOEDY Board Member

### **Partners** THE KEY LEADERS OVERSEAS







ERUS Turkana, Kenya



ANUJA North India



ELIJAH Narok, Kenya



FANUEL OPISA Mathare, Kenya



DR EMMA Kampala, Uganda

Not Pictured:

BIMAN & JASSON Bangladesh





"FOR ME, IT'S THAT 100% DONATION MODEL. WHEN I VERY FIRST HEARD THAT I WAS LIKE, WHAT?! THAT'S SO UNIQUE AND I'VE NEVER RUN ACROSS ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES IT LIKE THAT." - BEN // DONOR









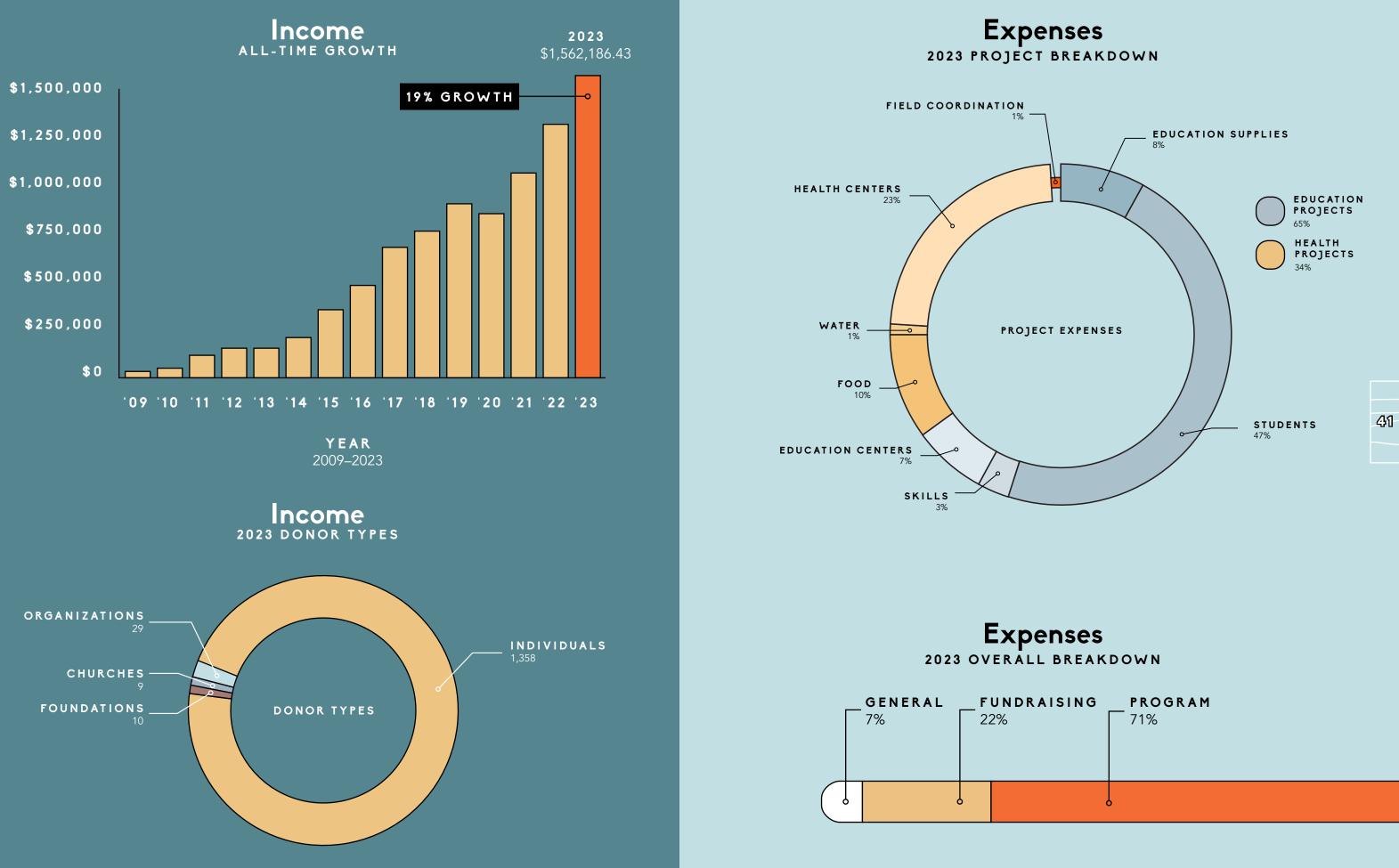


## **100% Model** know where your money goes

At The Hope Venture it's very important to us that all of our donors know where their donations are going. When it comes to trying to help those in poverty around the world, it can often be difficult to have any idea what your money actually goes to. Donors want to bring education to kids, but having assurance that your money is doing just that is often more difficult than it should be.

When we founded The Hope Venture 14 years ago, we set out to change that. We wanted to create a way that you could be sure your money went where you thought it was going, and to do that, we decided that we wouldn't take any percentage of your donation to pay for the operating expenses of the organization. We committed from the beginning to send 100% of all project donations straight overseas. At first this just meant our founder, Cynci, was donating a lot of her time to make it happen, but as we started to grow, she knew we would need a sustainable way to pay our operating expenses. This is when the Backbone Team began.

The Backbone Team is a group of incredible donors who support all of our overhead costs. Everything from staff salaries to credit card fees is paid for by them. They truly are the backbone of our organization, and because of them, we can continue to make our commitment to our 100% model.



DRAISING	<b>PROGRAM</b> 71%
c	

### **Financials** 2023 INCOME & EXPENSE

### INCOME

Net Income	\$38,270.04	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,523,916.39	
80000 · Events	\$61,410.16	6,073
79500 · Insurance	\$3,789.00	TOTAL DONORS
74000 · Travel	\$92,363.85	
73000 · Facilities and Equipment	\$18,693.07	
72000 · Information Technology	\$1,587.45	
70000 · Office Expenses	\$31,170.65	F
65000 · Advertising	\$38,528.16	
64000 · Fees for Services	\$21,426.69	
63000 · Salaries	\$400,412.53	
50000 · Project Grants	\$854,534.83	Total Liabilities and
EXPENSE		Total Equity
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,562,186.43	Equity Unrestricted Net Net Income
30000 · Program Contributions	\$947,508.67	Total Liabilities
20000 · Event Income	\$57,027.97	Total Assets
16400 · Other Income	\$4,372.55	
15000 · Investments	\$15,780.04	
10000 · Backbone Contributions	\$537,497.20	



### **Financials** 2023 ASSETS

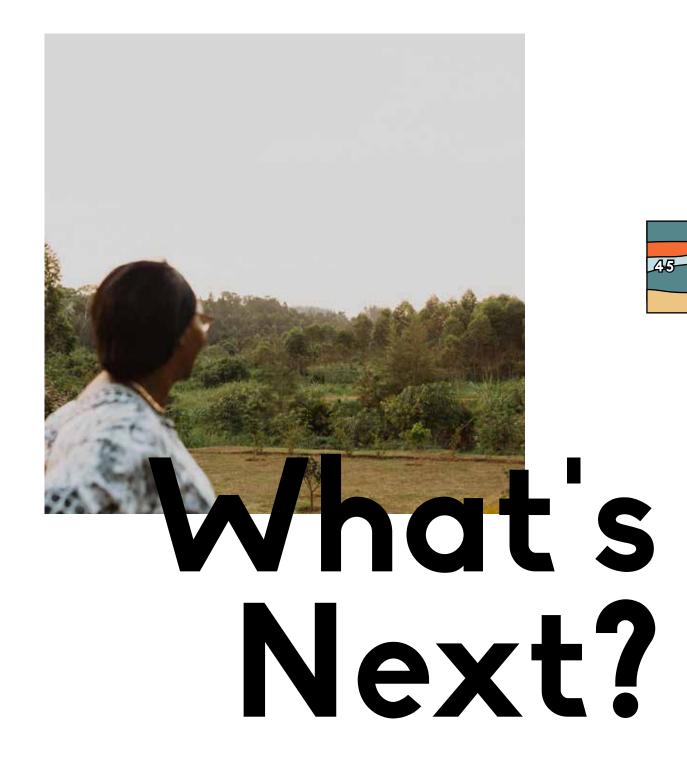
DEC 31, 23	DEC 31, 22	% CHANGE
\$506,543.45	\$485,124.29	4.4%
\$15,095.20	\$31,946.08	-52.8%
\$453,178.21 \$38,270.04 \$491,448.25	\$ 422,301.08 \$30,877.13 \$ 453,178.21	7.3% 23.9% 8.4%
\$506,543.45	\$485,124.29	4.4%

### **All-Time Numbers** FROM 2009 TO PRESENT

RAISED TOTAL RECIPIENTS \$8.6 90,000+ MILLION

**"SOMETIMES I THINK WE** FORGET THAT IT'S NOT ABOUT AN END PRODUCT, IT'S ABOUT THE JOURNEY. YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE SO LONG AS THE END PRODUCT IS ROSY, SHINY, AND GLAMOROUS, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WE GET THERE. BUT I LOVE THE FACT THAT WITH THE HOPE VENTURE, HOW WE GET THERE MATTERS." - TREMAINE // LOCAL PASTOR









As we move into 2024, we are reflecting honestly in our work. We long for God to be honored and represented well. I believe we're still in a learning stage with that. I hope we're always learning actually, but what this means for us in 2024 is that we are seeking to go deeper still before going wider. We are wanting to sharpen what we bring to the world. We are asking God what uniquely is He asking of us and how can we get better at that. What do we do well? Let's figure out how to dive into that and do it consistently. Let's repeat things more, instead of reinventing the wheel all the time, and create a rhythm that is sustainable and expandable.

This thought is reflected in our annual goals. In our Projects, we're aiming toward consistently evaluating our projects and even pushing our evaluation scores to be higher, making sure the quality of our work is increasing. In our Operations, we are pulling our learnings of the last 14 years into our unique operating system, now called hVOS 1.0, to clarify and align how we do things here at The Hope Venture. In our Marketing and Development Lanes, we are merging those into one FGH lane that better represents our desire to build a Fun Generous Hub, made up of diverse individuals growing to live and love generously, in order to fund our projects and do something together that we can't do alone. Together, we're going to "feel the rhythm, feel the rhyme" by repeating and expanding things that are working.

One tangible expression of this desire is in our WIG, our Wildly Important Goal. This year it involves our selfie videos from overseas. We have probably had more compliments, encouragement, and sharing of our work come from our personal videos for our student sponsors than maybe any other single effort. But as we grow, these are getting less consistent, coming from unknown tripgoers, not feeling as personal. If we can learn how to keep these small touches personal and consistent, even as we grow, then we will be positioning ourselves to handle more growth.

So look for our consistency and brand to continue to sharpen and repeat itself. Let us know if you're feeling the rhythm, feeling the rhyme, and let's get ready for all that God has in store as together we bring hope and dignity to the most disadvantaged people in the world.





# thank you

Photo by: Kacie Heidbrink



