HOPE
VENTURE
LET HOPE BE YOUR GIFT TO A HURTING WORLD

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

Above: A game of duck-duck-goose, naturally. :)

Cover: A moment of connection at the Navjeevan Hope Center.

Photos by: Julia Trost

The Hope Venture Catalog 2026

Welcome! Thank you for taking the time to pick up this catalog, maybe read it, maybe ponder it, maybe even respond to it. There are hurting people in the world, more than just you and me, in different ways than you and me, and we can care. Perhaps we're even called to care. Check out our projects and perhaps step in to help in a new way this year. Together, we are changing lives. - Cynci

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the heart
BEHIND THE RISK

Giving money is hard.

But why? We're taught to be generous and share with our neighbor in kindergarten. We hear stories of a good Samaritan on the news and it warms our hearts. The car in front of us pays for our coffee and it's a delightful surprise to our day.

But if generosity is an iceberg, the actual act of giving away our money is just the tip. There's something deeper and much more vast happening under the surface: fear. Fear that we aren't going to be okay, that we won't have enough, or that we'll look like a fool. That's why giving is hard; it's risky.

But…isn't there also a freedom? In giving it away? In releasing the control? Don't you find…life? In the trust fall?

There's so much to this conversation. And if you're a Christian, there's even more. God calls us to be generous; to care for the poor, the widow, the alien. He says to ask him for just our daily bread, and to trust that he's going to take care of us, just like he takes care of the birds.

So if generosity is an iceberg, then the bottom part is that trusting God is hard. And of course it is, we're human. Pride and control are our best friends. But God's kingdom is different than man's kingdom.

God's kingdom says lay your life down and there you'll find it. God's kingdom says you're blessed when you give it all away. God's kingdom says trust him, and somehow, some miraculous way (literally) he will care for you. I think of the line from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* often. The kids are in the Beavers' den and Mr. Beaver tells them that Alsan is the great Lion. "Is he—quite safe?" [asked Susan.] "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good."

Ever been on a grand adventure and it was safety and predictability at every turn? Of course you haven't. The longing of God's heart is to be with us, to welcome us into the adventure, risk and all. He asks us to step out, to lean in, to give away. And while it doesn't feel safe, it is good.

We hope this catalog can help you journey into opening your hands and living the adventurous, generous life with God.

-Carli Huston // Staff Journalist

HERE IS THE WORLD.

BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

DON'T BE AFRAID.

-Frederick Buechner

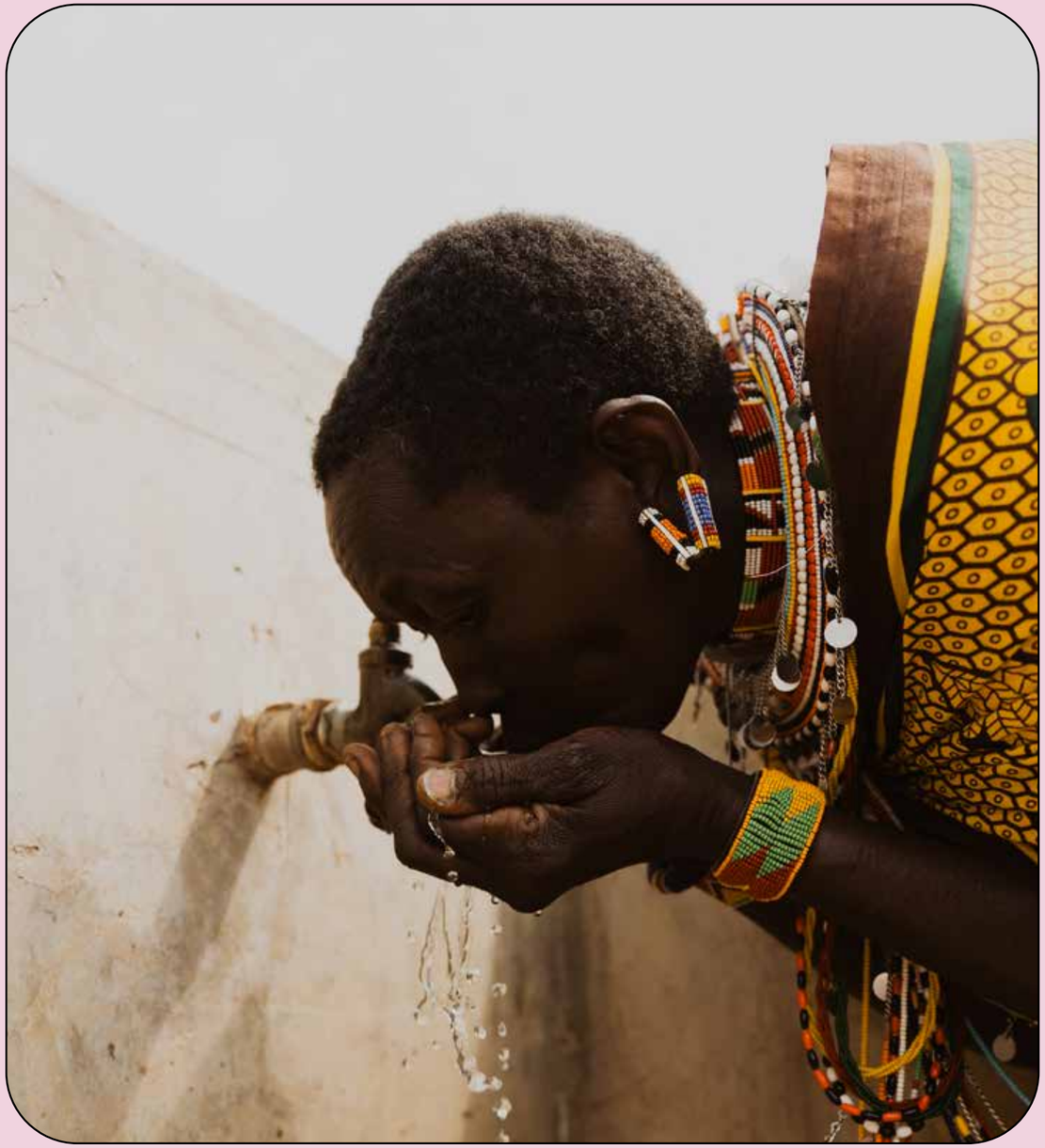
THE HEART BEHIND THE RISK PODCAST
To engage in more conversations like this, give our podcast a listen. Available on spotify and hopefully wherever you listen to podcasts :)

Fear not
I am with you
You are loved
Don't forget

Give it up
Give it away
Eyes up
There is more

POETRY + PRAYER BOOK
To sit with some of these thoughts—in solitude, with God, in close community—we created a poetry and prayer book. Order one here -->

THE HEART BEHIND THE RISK



$22,000
2026 Budget

Communities in remote areas of Kenya face the same struggle as many around the world face: dirty water. This project provides wells, toilets, and even sanitation trainings for people who would otherwise go without these basic necessities.

$720 - provide a toilet for a family in Kenya

$768 - provide a water tank in areas of Kenya with limited access to clean water

$10k - maintain clean water for nearly 10,000 people for a whole year

$24,000
2026 Budget

For $65, our Goat Project serves those in Kenya living in extreme poverty. Many of the families are affected by severe droughts. Due to the harsh climate, it is difficult for some animals to survive, but goats are resilient. This project provides free goats to families in need, which then serves as a source of income and nutrition.

$65 - provide a goat

$15,300
2026 Budget

This medical camp provides medical attention to individuals who are facing health issues and cannot utilize the local hospitals due to not having the financial means necessary. People with curable diseases end up dying because of this. Community members can come and be seen by doctors and clinicians and get the care they need.

$43 - provide medication and supplies for one day of the camp

$6,060 - run a medical camp for five days in the slums of Kenya

$8,000
2026 Budget

Many kids in Mathare get their breakfast and lunch meals at school, but when the schools are on a break, these kids often go hungry. This project provides these kids with breakfast and lunch during the three school breaks throughout the year.

$3 - provide breakfast and lunch to a child in Kenya

$45 - provide food for a child for 15 days during their school break

$2,270 - run the entire program for one school break for 50 kids

by this kind of hard work we must help the weak

Rooftops in Jawadhu Hills.

Photo by: Carli Huston

VERSES THAT BUILT US

The Scripture That Built This Place

When I was founding The Hope Venture, I was so struck by how many times God's Word talks about caring for the poor and needy—between 2,000-3,000 times actually. "Do not fear" is known as the most common command in the Bible, coming in at 365 mentions. It's all over the place: God cares about the vulnerable and he wants us to too. Here are just seven of those scripture references that guided the formation of The Hope Venture. We call them our Foundational Scriptures. - Cynci

1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)
16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

(v18 from the Message): 18 My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.

Luke 3:11 (NIV)
11 John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

James 2:15-17 (NIV)
15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

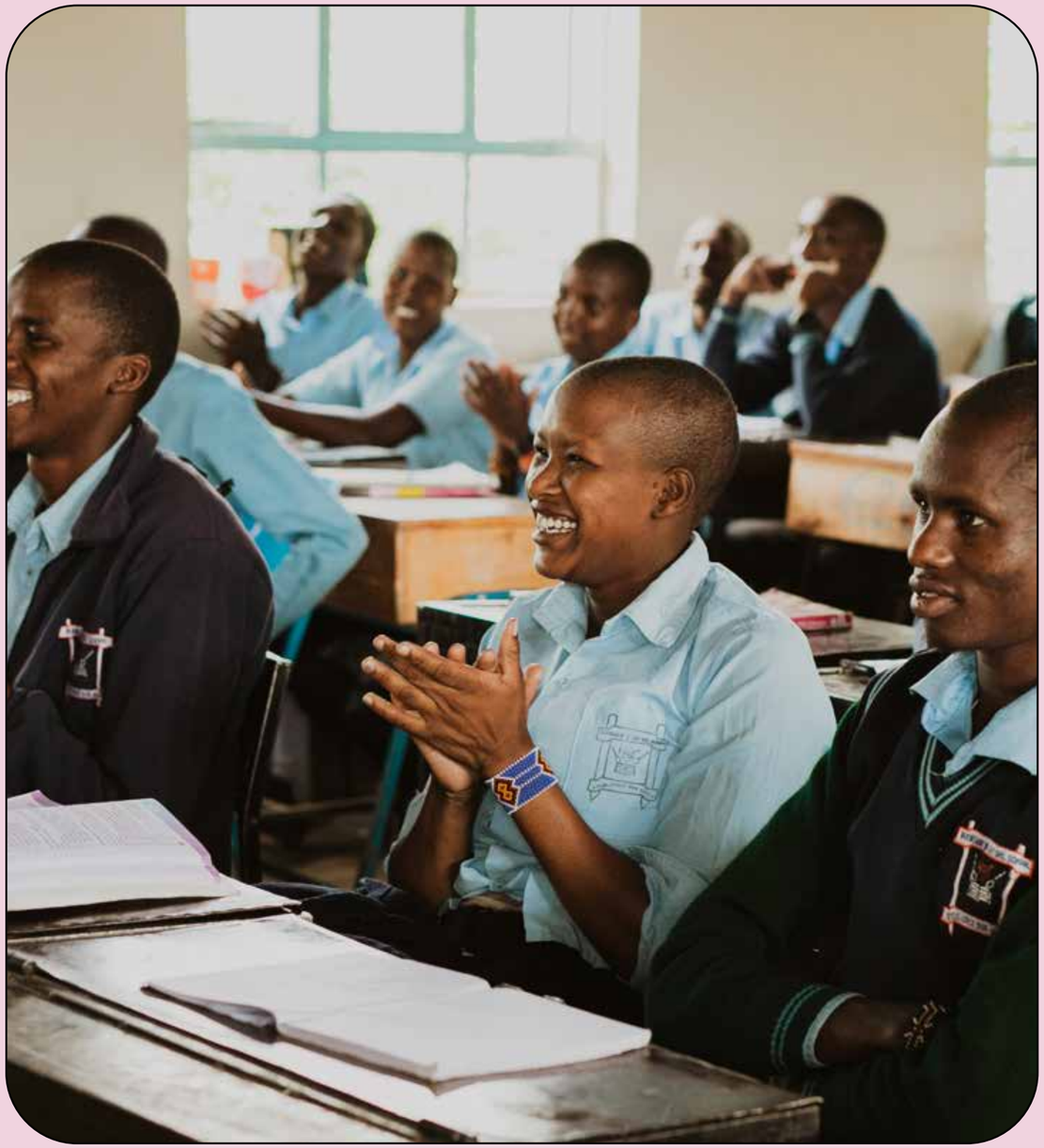
Prov 3:27-28 (The Message)
27 Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbor "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket.

Acts 20:35 (NIV)
35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Eze 16:49 (NIV)
49 Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

Ps 146:7-9
7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, 8 the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. 9 The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

I invite you to pause here for a minute. Don't move on too soon. Every so often we read through these as a staff and have a time of discussion, and that's where the real beauty (and challenge) of these verses comes out. So what if you poured another cup of coffee, grabbed your journal and let these soak in a bit…what do they bring up for you? Pray through them. God's Word is still alive and active and can say something to you today.



370 Students
2026 Goal

Through the years since we started sponsoring students, we can't count the number of high schoolers who have sincerely thanked us, told us they'd be dead like their friends in gangs, told us they're the first in their family to get to go to high school, told us they're no longer afraid, told us they don't worry about getting chased out of school for lack of fees anymore. Sponsorship has changed their lives.

$75 - sponsor a student in Kenya/ monthly

$900 - sponsor a student in Kenya/ annually

$50,000
2026 Budget

Our College Scholarship Project seeks to provide further opportunities to students in Kenya and Rwanda who have finished high school and are seeking further opportunity. Many of these students even have been sponsored through The Hope Venture's High School Sponsorship Project.

$90 - provide a scholarship for a college student in Kenya or Rwanda/ monthly

$1,080 - provide an annual scholarship for a college student in Kenya or Rwanda/ annually

$15,900
2026 Budget

No matter where kids live, going to school feeling stupid or embarrassed about your clothes is no fun. This project provides uniforms for high school students in Uganda and elementary school students in Bangladesh. Help bring dignity to those in need so they can reach their full potential without this worry.

$77 - provide an 11-item uniform for a high school student in Uganda

$22 - provide a uniform for an elementary student in Bangladesh

$80,000
Budget 2026

This project funds Dr. Emma's malnutrition clinic and outreach program. He and the staff there do incredible, life-saving work, to not only stabilize the kids, but also to bring hope and training to their moms for when it's time to leave the clinic and return home. This project is meeting a real and extreme need in Uganda and we're so thankful to partner with Dr. Emma!

$1.25 - provide a dewormer kit

$170 - provide care for one child

$208 - provide a pediatric wheelchair to a child with additional complications

$7.5k - run this center for a month

What $3/day Looks Like

Our projects here at The Hope Venture are focused on serving people in extreme poverty—which is defined by the UN as living on $3 or less per day. It's hard for many of us to visualize what that might look like. So, we asked ChatGPT to create a sample budget for a median Lincoln household of four, and we asked our partners to help us mark it up with what would need cut.

budget

Category	Lincoln, Nebraska (Median Household)
Monthly Income	~~$4,900~~ $180
Housing	~~$1,350~~ $25
Utilities (electric, water, trash)	~~$250~~ $18 (includes cooking fuel)
~~Internet~~	~~$70~~
Cell Phone	~~$120~~ $8
Food	~~$750~~ $90
~~Dining Out~~	~~$200~~
Transportation	~~$250~~ $10
~~Auto Insurance~~	~~$180~~
Healthcare & Medicines	~~$350~~ $10
Education/School Costs	~~$300~~ $12 (need to find more in budget)
Clothing & Personal Items	~~$150~~ $5
~~Entertainment~~	~~$450~~
~~Subscriptions~~	~~$75~~
Emergency Savings	~~$350~~ $5
~~Retirement Savings~~	~~$250~~
Vacation/Family Events	~~$155~~ $2

+ $10 for farming needs

Three kids playing on the foundation of a home that was swept away by a flood. Mathare, Kenya.

Photo by: Carli Huston

WAKISA CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

$10,000
2026 Budget

This clinic is built on the grounds of our partner organization, Wakisa, which provides housing for young pregnant women throughout their pregnancy. With the clinic on site, moms are able to give birth right there instead of having to drive long distances to hospitals. This saves Wakisa money and also allows for more regular checkups for the moms and babies.

$150 - provide one week's supply of maternity ward items

$12 - provide one box of surgical gloves

$550 - provide an obstetric delivery set, which comes with a range of instruments used by midwives

MAMA KITS

$13,400
2026 Budget

If a woman in Uganda is pregnant and shows up to the hospital for delivery without her own medical supplies, she can get turned away at the door. This leads to dangerous and unsanitary deliveries, which can result in the death of the mother, child, or both. For $7, mama kits come full of all the supplies these moms need to ensure a safe delivery, which keeps them and the baby safe.

$7 - provide a mama kit

$24,200
2026 Budget

This project provides scholarships for young moms to return to formal education so they can thrive and be transformed to achieve their educational dreams. These are young women who have dropped out of school and are not able to pay their school fees on their own. A scholarship puts them back in school so they can create a better future for themselves and their child!

$1,785 - provide a scholarship for a teen mom to go back to high school or on to college in Uganda

$5,000
2026 Budget

We're so excited to introduce a new partnership with Healing Wings Ethiopia. Together we will start with a project to improve physical sight along with providing spiritual counsel to those who have never had help in their struggles to see.

$1.25 - give sight through a pair of reading glasses

$125 - provide 100 pairs of eyeglasses

Sarah

How a scholarship can put a girl back in school and allow her to dream of a new future

Sarah in school (2026)

Sarah (2026)

Sarah, in the pink, laughing with the other girls who received scholarships

Photos by: Carli Huston and partners

Another bead of sweat rolled down her forehead. Her back ached, the sun bore down. But she had to keep going, it was the only way she could afford groceries. There—she picked up another one and added it to the rest. She counted what she brought in that day…twenty bottles.

This is how Sarah used to make money: collecting plastic bottles and selling them for what she could. Her mom had too many mouths to feed—eight, to be exact—but not enough money to feed them. Her dad wasn't in the picture. Sarah did what she could as a teenager, until she found herself unexpectedly pregnant.

A student. Pregnant. No support from the father. This only meant one thing: drop out of school and take care of her baby. That's exactly what Sarah did, but life wasn't better with just the two of them. There were many nights when Sarah and her daughter went to bed hungry, and the community wasn't going to make an effort anytime soon to help them. Sarah and her daughter were a laughing stock.

But the story doesn't end in hunger and humiliation. Eventually Sarah got connected with our partners in Uganda and was granted a scholarship to return to school. Her baby would be cared for and Sarah could finally finish out her education and start dreaming up a better future for them.

Now she's in school with her sights set on becoming an accountant. She's going on school trips to visit the equator, she's learning how to make beaded bags, and her reading scores are on the up and up.

Slowly but surely, Sarah's coming back to herself, saying that her self esteem is growing and that her fellow students see her as an equal, not as someone to make fun of. This is what restored dignity sounds like. This is the impact of a young girl being invested in.

Written by: Carli Huston

$17,000
2026 Budget

Our Feeding Center Project provides free, nutritious meals on weekdays for kids who live in areas of extreme poverty and don't have enough food. We currently run eight centers in India. Each feeding center provides daily food for about 50-90 hungry kids and adults. In addition, we come alongside these kids, provide tutoring at the center, and seek to turn the direction of their lives.

$.50 - provide a meal for a hungry child

$500 - run a feeding center in India for one month.

$35,000
2026 Budget

This project comes alongside four villages in a mountainous region in India called Jawadhu Hills. This region has largely been abandoned by the government, leaving the residents of the villages without identification and their basic needs met. Our partners have started feeding centers, tailoring centers, computer centers, and tutoring centers to come alongside these locals, love them, and help meet their needs.

This project is fully funded currently. Thanks for your generous support!

CHENNAI

From the hotel window.
Chennai, India.

Photo by: Carli Huston

$4,600
2026 Budget

This project is in honor of Jack Norman, a boy who passed away from cancer. It provides tutoring help to students, as well as medical outreaches to individuals living in hard-to-reach mountainous villages.

$35 - provide a medical checkup for five people

$195 - cover the cost of one medical outreach

$420
2026 Budget

The funding for this project will work to maintain the wells we have already dug in India, ensuring they are working properly and the water is clean.

$30 - maintain clean water in a well in Southern India for one month

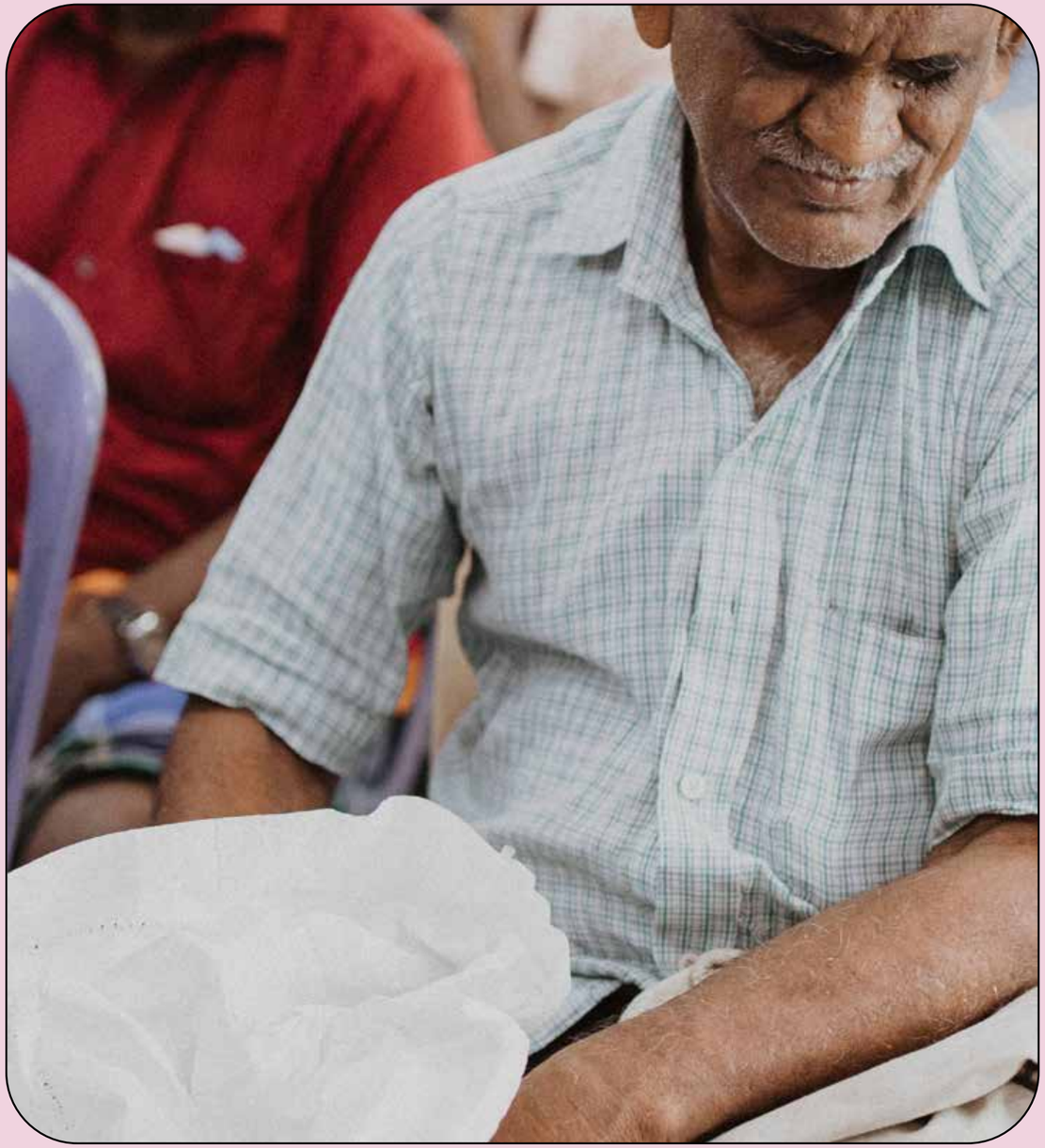
$20 - provide a water testing kit in East India

FOOD

CHARLIE

INDIA

FOOD FOR THE BLIND



$2,000
2026 Budget

This project provides kits with groceries, some medical supplies, and a few essential items to people who are blind and in poverty. These kits aim to meet vital physical needs, bring hope, and show compassion to some of the most neglected and forgotten people in India.

$25 - provide groceries for two weeks for someone struggling with blindness

HEALTH SUPPLIES

MURTY

INDIA

HYGIENE KITS

$3,000
2026 Budget

These hygiene kits are provided to vulnerable children in Northern India who are connected to our partner's churches. They contain items ranging from toothpaste, general soap, shampoo, and more, and provide dignity to these kids.

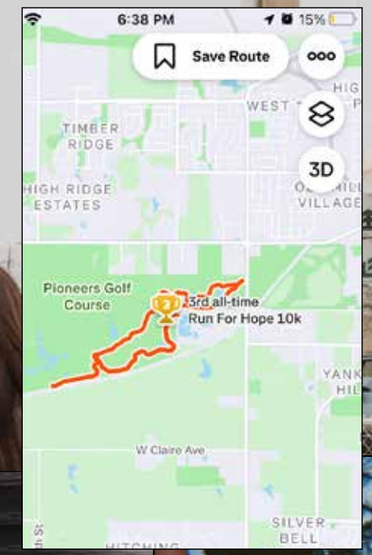
$8 - provide a kit of necessary hygiene and sanitary supplies to people in Northern India

$80 - provide ten kits

BASED IN LINCOLN

based in Lincoln

OUR FUN GENEROUS HUB

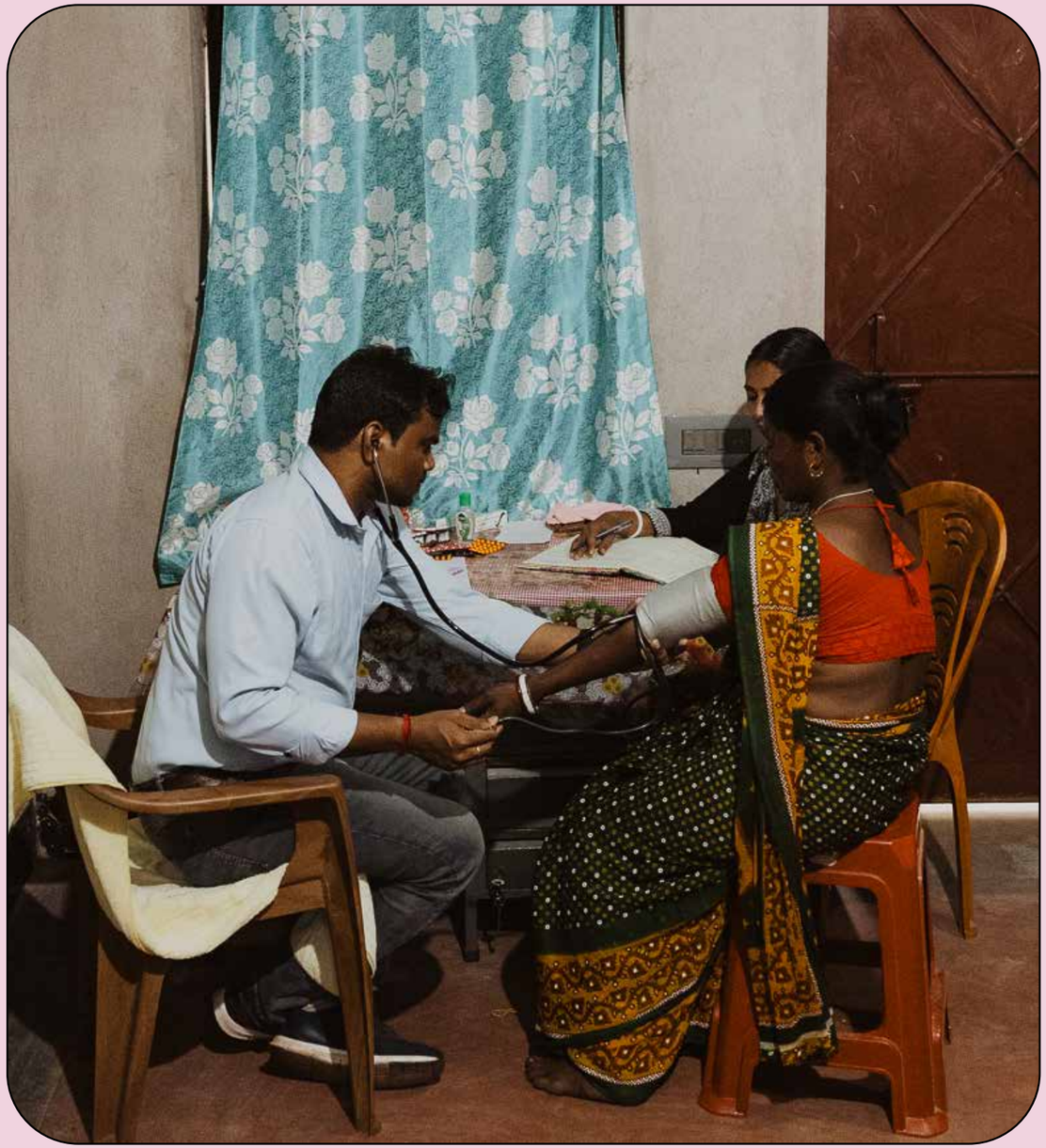


We hope to be your neighborhood connection to global giving. So stop by the Starbucks on 27th and Pinelake if you want to chat with our director about life, God, and probably food. Grab a slice with one of our donor coaches at Yia Yia's to ask questions about our work. Come run with us at Pioneers Park to provide education to kids in India. Pop down to the Railyard for our Mother's Day Market and save lives in Uganda. Or impact a new project every year with us from the Rococo Theatre. Engage your neighborhood with a lemonade stand. Pray for our recipients with your church. Donate a portion of your business's sales. The ideas are endless. The community is close by. The impact is global.

$10,000
2026 Budget

Some students in India already have a connection with The Hope Venture, either through our Backpack Project, our Feeding Centers, or even our Jawadhu Hills Project. Due to living in extreme poverty, they lack the funds to access quality and/or further education. A $330 donation provides a scholarship to help these high school students improve their educational opportunities or even pursue higher education.

$330 - provide a scholarship to help India high school and college students



$33,800
2026 Budget

In India, people with leprosy often encounter great prejudice and lack proper medical care. This project provides a medical clinic weekly where patients are seen by a nurse and a doctor, as well as occasional food rations.

$40 - provide one doctor visit to our Leprosy Center

$3,120 - empower over 80 women living in the leprosy colony with free tailoring training for a year

$45k - fund the entire Leprosy Care Project for one year

$12,300
2026 Budget

Our Tailoring Project seeks to equip women that come from poor economic backgrounds. Many of these women have the desire to work but just don't have the skills to do so. Not only do our tailoring classes improve their employability, but it gives these women a safe place away from the stress of home life for community and sisterhood.

$130 - provide tailoring training for one woman

$230 - run a tailoring center for one month

$14,700
2026 Budget

This project equips kids and college students with practical digital skills that local schools rarely provide. Many of these kids have never touched a computer before. In computer class, they get to learn things like graphic design and typing. Learning computer skills not only gives students a better chance at job opportunities in the future, but it's also a transformation in how they see themselves.

$110 - provide computer training for one child for a year

$175 - run a computer training center in India for one month

Jina reading scripture with a lamp at the ready for when the power went out.

Photo by: Julia Trost

JINA

$10,000
2026 Budget

This is a tutoring center for neighborhood kids in Kolkata, but the impact goes beyond tutoring. Our partners visit homes and sit with weeping mothers, struggling fathers, and students who've had to grow up too fast. In addition, they hold a medical clinic twice a year. This project is about coming alongside families and building education and relationships.

$300 - tutor a student for one year

$400 - provide a field trip

$83,000
2026 Budget

For just $15, our Backpack Project provides a year's worth of school supplies to a needy boy or girl in India or Bangladesh. The supplies are purchased from local vendors, assisting even more locals and avoiding shipping costs. All the backpacks are distributed through local pastors and leaders who have ongoing involvement in these kids' lives, caring for the families and showing them the love of Christ.

$15 - provide a backpack

$1.5k - provide 100 backpacks for a village

Kerala

The story a place can hold

Our partners praying with a local family

One of the backpack recipients in Kerala

High in the hills of Kerala, India, where the air is cool and the tea plants flourish, is a story not of relaxation and beauty, but of former British occupation and rows of dilapidated "layam" houses for the plantation workers. Locals still live in the layam houses today, but instead of representing cozy homes, they represent generational poverty.

These houses are cramped, often lacking proper ventilation, electricity, and running water. Diseases run rampant in these conditions, and at times it can seem there's no way out. You're stuck there.

It's to this place that our partners crossed highways and interstates in a car for five-and-a-half hours, then trekked to the remote villages carrying stacks of backpacks on their shoulders. But they weren't just bringing backpacks, they were bringing hope.

A backpack with school supplies may seem simple to us, but if you live in a layam house and your only option is to send your kids to school with empty hands, then a backpack becomes essential. It's a kit of tools for their learning, for their chance at a better life.

Our partners know this, which is why the long journey is worth it to them. The people are worth it to them. They were able to distribute over 500 backpacks in 21 locations in this area… that's 500 kids who've been given a chance, been given dignity. 500 kids who can change the story of their place.

Written by: Carli Huston

Pastor distributing a backpack

Photos by: Partners

BECOMING A MORE GENEROUS CITY

One of our goals here at The Hope Venture is to continue to grow the generosity of our city. We believe that a more generous city can have a greater impact on poverty than we ever could alone. This year, we want to make the opportunities to give more known through a campaign we're calling *Maybe Today's Your Day*, and you can be a part of it.

Our goal is to get as many people in Lincoln to take one step of generosity with us in the month of December. It could be a $.50 meal or a $10,000 water project. We'll track all of the Lincoln donations live on our website and keep you up to date. So, our ask to you is to take one step of your own (it could be anything from this catalog) and then, if you are up for it, pass the word along to your friends. There are several resources we have for the campaign, if any of them resonate, scan the qr code and we'll get you the tools you need!

take a step

If you live in Lincoln, join the campaign by taking one of the following steps :)

- O PROVIDE A SAFE BIRTH
- O FEED A CHILD
- O LOVE THE ABANDONED
- O HELP WITH LEPROSY
- O GIVE A GOAT
- O PROVIDE A BACKPACK
- O HELP THE BLIND SEE
- O EMPOWER A WOMAN

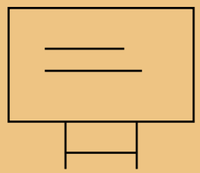
>>> thehopeventure.org/today

spread the word

Help us grow the generosity of our city by sharing the campaign with your circle!

ORDER A T-SHIRT

POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA



REQUEST A YARD SIGN

CREATE AND SHARE A ZINE

See the campaign here:
THEHOPEVENTURE.ORG/TODAY

LEAVE A COMMENT :)

Maybe Today's Your Day

HOPE VENTURE

TODAY YOU COULD:

- ○ Provide a safe birth
- ○ Feed a child
- ○ Love the abandoned
- ○ Help with leprosy
- ○ Give a goat
- ○ Provide a backpack
- ○ Empower a woman
- ○ Help the blind see

This December we are trying to see how many Lincolnites would take one step to help someone in extreme poverty. It could be as simple as 50¢. :)

cut here >>

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE 800 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD LIVING ON $3 OR LESS EACH DAY?

We're a Lincoln nonprofit trying to help that >>>

WE SAY 100% GOES

OUR 100% DONATION MODEL

Did you know we send 100% of all project donations directly overseas to the project intended? That's right; we don't keep any of it. We want to earn your trust because you should believe in any organization you give to. To do this, we have a separate team of people called our Backbone Team who provide funding for things like monthly rent, staff payroll, and even things like sticky notes and pens. So rest easy...your money is going where you think it is. (And OK fine if you want to join our Backbone Team, do it! Let's build this together, with trust!)
- Cynci

Through the van window.

Photo by: Julia Trost

Sista sista <3

Photo: Julia Trost

DONATION FORM

Use this form or donate online at thehopeventure.org.

Kenya Water & Sanitation
$

Mathare Medical Camp
$

Kenya High School Sponsorship
$ ☐ monthly

School Uniforms
$

Wakisa Crisis Pregnancy Center
$

Scholarships for Teen Moms
$

India Feeding Centers
$

Jack Norman Center
$

Food for the Blind
$

India Scholarships
$

India Tailoring
$

Navjeevan Hope Center
$

Goats
$

Mathare Feeding Program
$

College Scholarships
$ ☐ monthly

Uganda Malnutrition Clinic
$

Mama Kits
$

Eyeglasses
$

Jawadhu Hills
$

India Wells
$

Hygiene Kits
$

Leprosy Care
$

India Computers
$

Backpacks
$

Where Most Needed
$

Backbone
$ ☐ monthly

TOTAL

One-Time
$

Monthly
$

Let us know who you are!

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____

_____

Scan to donate or mail this form + your donation

>>>>>

The Hope Venture
315 S 9th St #200
Lincoln, NE 68508

The Hope Venture is a registered 501c3 with the United States government. All donations are tax deductible. We will do our best to honor each request. In the event that a project becomes fully funded, we will direct the funds to the project most similar. If no preference is indicated, the funds will be directed to Where Most Needed.

RETURN ADDRESS:

THE HOPE VENTURE
315 S 9TH ST. STE. 200
LINCOLN, NE 68508

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 1887
LINCOLN NE

MORE INFO:

www.thehopeventure.org | @thehopeventure | hello@thehopeventure.org | Cynci 402.802.8296

A recipient showing off his bike to James. :)

Photo: Julia Trost