

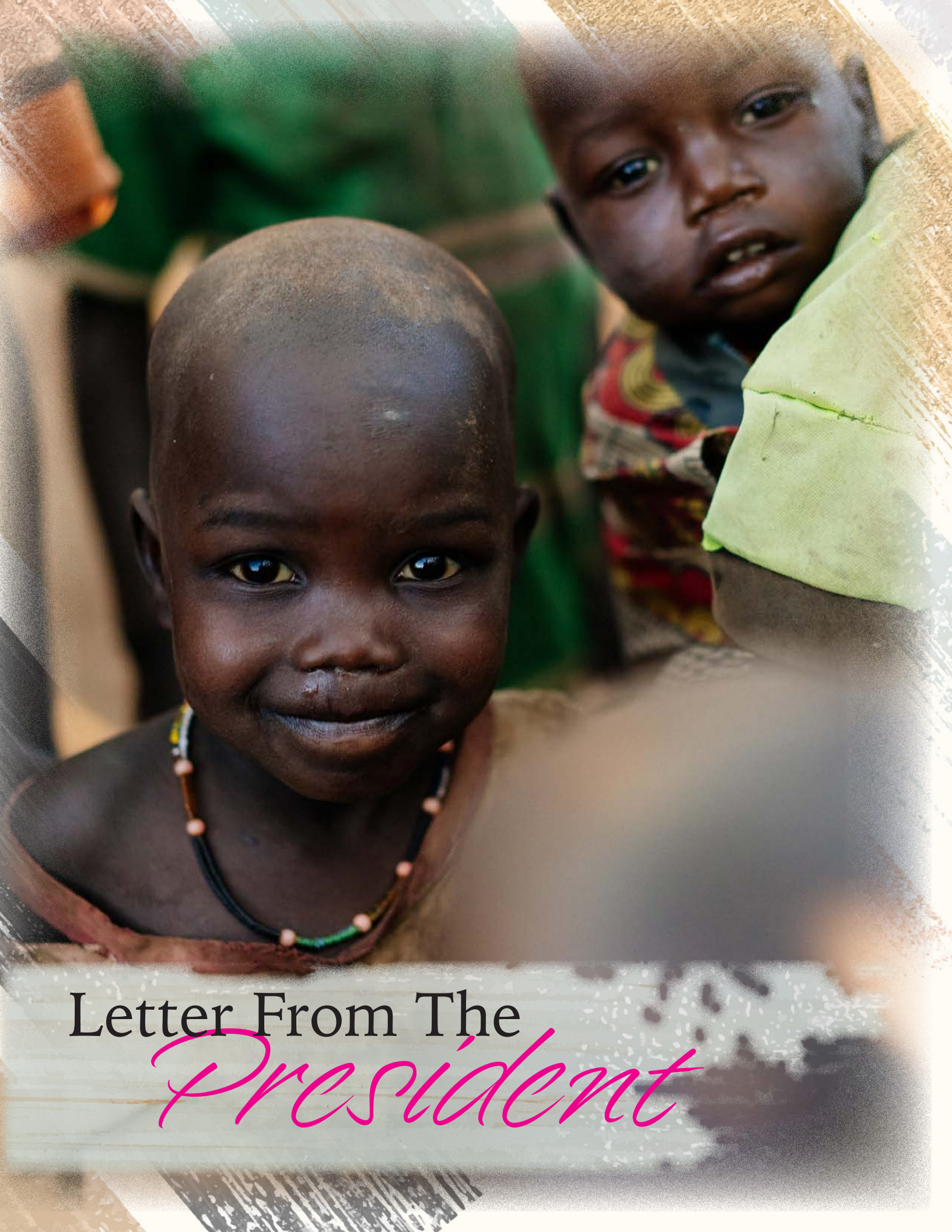


hope's  
cry



*Annual Report*

2023



## Letter From The *President*

When we discovered our ministry center was on the border of the most heavily trafficked region of East Africa, a vision was born. This year, we saw the beginning of that vision realized. The Hope Center, the first-ever Christian-based aftercare facility in Karamoja was opened to support survivors of human trafficking in the most critical phase of their rehabilitation.

This year also marked the first major venture for our organization with an international partner. EverFree, a global organization dedicated to fighting human trafficking, partnered with us to establish the Hope Center using their proven model. We have been so delighted to work closely with them to ensure the survivors entrusted to our care receive the highest quality support and maximize their chance at a life of true, lasting freedom.

Over 70 churches and hundreds of individuals joined together with us for the first annual Freedom Day celebration in July of 2022 to launch the Hope Center. More than \$30,000 was raised and thousands of prayers were lifted as we celebrated the first 7 survivors arriving on our property.

The work ahead of us is daunting. The task sometimes seems impossible. But, we are on a mission to end human trafficking in Karamoja through the power of the Gospel. As survivors are transformed by the renewing power of Jesus, they are enabled to live a life of true freedom and equipped to lead their communities into the newfound Hope they discovered. We won't stop until the Gospel has reached all of Karamoja. We won't stop until all are free.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Todd Allen, President  
Hope's Cry International



Meet The

# *Karamojong*



## *Karamoja*

In the region of Karamoja, bordering the Hope Center, human trafficking is especially prevalent. The Karamojong people are a nomadic tribe, settling in eastern Uganda, related to the Kenyan Maasai warriors. Because of their past warlike tendencies and physical and cultural differences, a massive racial rift exists between the Karamojong and native Ugandan peoples. As a result, they are by far the least developed, least educated, least engaged people group in all of Uganda. In fact, until recently, there hasn't even been a road or access to public utilities in the majority of the Karamoja region.

This makes the Karamojong enticing targets for human traffickers and slave traders.

Traffickers will travel into remote regions of Karamoja and promise the villagers their sons and daughters will receive a good paying job and education in the capital city. Through these lies, the parents consent to allow their underage children to be taken. Most will never see them again.

Once the traffickers reach their destination, they will confiscate all forms of identification and force the children into slave labor or even prostitution. Because of the seclusion of the Karamojong and the intense racial tension that exists, very little is being done to stem this epidemic.

Our partners have rescued and begun the rehabilitation process for many Karamojong survivors. However, reintegrating them back into society has proven to be a challenge. The Hope Center is the only facility working in that region to provide further aftercare and follow-up services for these survivors.



## Grace's Story

Grace was only 11 years old when her father died. To help her family survive, she worked as a nanny making \$5 a month. The family she worked for did help to pay for her school. But as she began to fall behind in her studies, they were no longer able to continue sponsoring her education. She applied for a scholarship to learn nursing, but they told her she hadn't done well enough in school to qualify.

Out of options, Grace heard about job opportunities in Nairobi. This is a very common trafficking method, but Grace didn't know. She needed work and her friends said they knew of some work in Nairobi.

She was connected with someone who helped her with bus fare. This is common in trafficking as well, but Grace simply thought she was fortunate to have such good friends. When she arrived, she met three other Karamojong girls and begged them for a place to stay.

She worked with them for a few days and each time her new "friends" claimed someone had stolen the money or they were paid less than expected. She reached out to one of her traffickers, who was pretending to be her friend, and told them how she was being cheated. The trafficker arranged for her to work for a new family.

Grace was promised \$50 per month in salary for performing housework and maid services for the family. She worked long hours and many times they would not allow her to eat. Her host family told her she was not allowed to leave the house or have a day off. Then they refused to pay her salary. Worst of all, she endured frequent sexual exploitation.

Hungry. Exhausted. Alone. Hopeless. She was trapped.

Then we found her.

Our partners rescued Grace and several other girls from their traffickers in Kenya. They brought them back home to Uganda and Grace came to us, here at the Hope Center.

She is one of our most promising survivors, thriving in her new surroundings as we work to get her home.

Shortly after she arrived to the Hope Center, we played the Jesus film in Grace's heart language of Karamojong. When it was over, Grace exclaimed, "Now I surrender all my sins and burdens unto Jesus".

We praise God for His rescuing power as He works in Grace to make her a leader of her people. Her story of freedom and hope has just begun.



# Welcome To The *Hope Center*



*The Hope Center*

The Hope Center offers emergency shelter and critical aftercare to survivors of trafficking from the Karamoja region. Here they receive care for the whole person: body, mind and spirit. The Hope Center provides a safe place of healing for survivors to discover their true identity and their purpose for living. Through education and resourcing, we empower them to re-enter society no longer as victims but as influential, transformative members of the community.

Vocational Training is offered to every survivor at the Hope Center and we plan to expand this initiative to the community level in the future. By providing valuable skills and business education, we empower young women to control their own destiny. This ensures they always have a way to provide for themselves and their family without the need to resort to desperate, undesirable methods of earning income.

The first 7 survivors and their children moved into the Hope Center in July of 2022 and they are thriving. The character values and business skills they have learned are already paying dividends for their emotional and spiritual well-being. They are well on their way to becoming the future leaders of their communities.



*Lillian*

Lillian Ayello has been a key member of our partner organization, Everfree, for many years. She was supposed to be managing another new initiative in a different country, but in God's plan, she came to us instead. She is managing the Hope Center program, as our Technical Director, for the first year while we identify and train a full-time Program Manager.



*Herbert*

Herbert Opolot is the Property Manager and Head Of Security for the Hope Center. As our longest tenured employee, he has truly become our trusted partner and friend. He manages the daily operations of the Hope Center facility and grounds, while also coordinating security and aiding in developing our self-sustainability projects.

# MEET THE HOPE CENTER STAFF

*Gabriel*

Gabriel Matovu, our HR & Finance Manager, started as a driver for our short-term mission teams. We soon recognized his potential and began to gradually elevate him into roles that maximize his skillset and abilities. Most recently, he has spear-headed a major food distribution initiative for COVID relief. He also facilitates the school meal program at our local school.

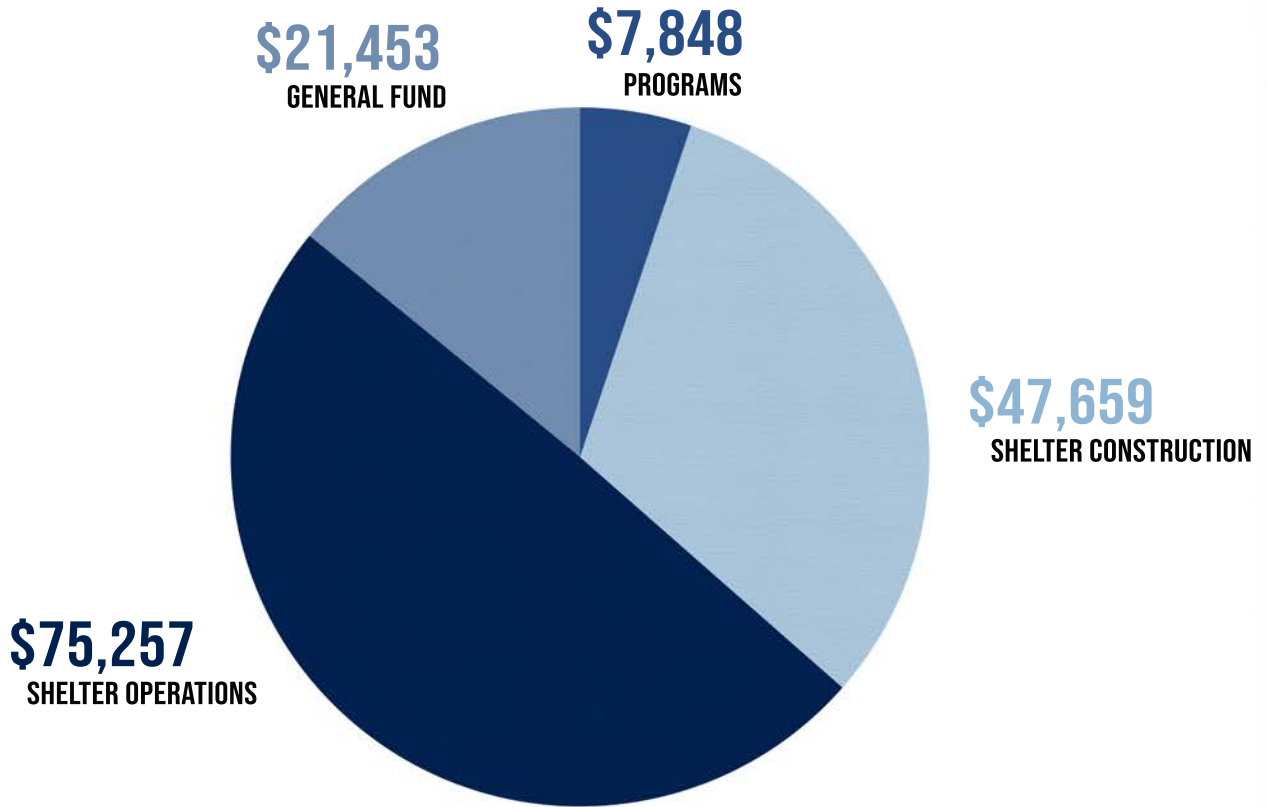


*Esther*

Esther Chalangat also comes to us from our partner organization, Everfree. She serves as Case Manager for the survivors participating in the program. Esther fills a vital role for our shelter program, especially in the early days of recovery, to make sure our survivors have the best chance to stay forever free.



# 2022 INCOME



# 2022 EXPENSES

