



children's  
hopechest

# Annual Report

Transforming lives and communities  
through partnership

2020



# Our Mission

**Children's HopeChest** exists to glorify God by releasing the potential of orphaned and impoverished children and their communities. We do this through partnerships that cultivate two-way transformation.

# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

## Extraordinary Advances in Extraordinary Circumstances

*Dear Friends,*

As we look back upon our fiscal year of 2020, we can see that each of you has been instrumental in being God's hand of provision in some of the most desperate and trying times within the lives and households of the children we serve. The emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic hit the poorest of the poor in extreme and punishing ways. Much progress in sustainability building efforts were put on the back burner as our focus shifted to basic survival assistance due to daily wage earners being locked down and unable to earn wages to purchase any food amidst food supply chain crises.

Your continued investment and support allowed HopeChest to perform a quick pivot in operations and provide thousands and thousands of bags of basic food and hygiene supplies during government-imposed lockdowns. In many cases, our staff was able to gain special travel permissions from the government to allow home visits to check in on the welfare of children and their families, to deliver desperately needed food and supplies, as well as education supplies/materials, and to pray with the families. Where it was technologically feasible to connect with locked down families, HopeChest staff adapted normal CarePoint programming to connect via cellphone and online to engage children in spiritual discipleship and encouragement. Our CarePoints partnered with local and regional governments to provide hygiene training, hand soap and face masks made at several CarePoints, as well as helping to purchase medical and food supplies for distribution in the hardest hit areas.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, significant progress was made in upgrading our ability for staff to communicate on a worldwide basis with the implementation of a new business communication platform that is improving productivity, connectivity, and information flow. Because of the faithful generosity of our donors through extreme and unprecedented circumstances, we have been able to keep hope alive in the children, their households, and their communities. We are grateful, beyond measure, for what God has done through the many, many thousands of you who have heeded the call of James 1:27- to care for the widows and orphans in their time of distress.

In His grip,



Ken Sparks  
President & CEO  
Children's HopeChest and Greater Calling



*Ken with two recent Uganda CarePoint youth who started a welding/steel fabrication business after receiving HopeChest assistance and training.*





**264 People**

traveled on 30 visits to their  
partnered CarePoints



**8 New Partners**

and 5 Vision Trips with  
potential partners



**10,222**

children sponsored

## A Year Like No Other

### *Supporting CarePoints through the COVID-19 outbreak*

Impoverished communities around the world were some of the hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. HopeChest worked tirelessly to protect and assist our CarePoints and the communities they serve. Our number one priority was the health and wellbeing of our country staff, parents, guardians, and communities- which meant adapting to the extraordinary circumstances imposed by a worldwide pandemic.

Children's HopeChest implemented enhanced hygiene procedures and awareness training at CarePoints, as well as adapted operational procedures to reduce gathering sizes and increase distance between staff. A special COVID-19 Relief Fund raised \$21,925.00 which provided the most at-risk children and community members with food, soap, hygiene materials, and other emergency supplies above and beyond what normal sponsorship funds could cover.



*Children learned proper hand-washing techniques.*

As the crisis continued to unfold, country staff routinely visited CarePoints to make sure they had everything they needed to keep children and families safe and healthy. Due to the economic toll of the pandemic, HopeChest also ensured that as many income-generating programs as possible continued to function with safety adaptations. Even in a difficult situation, we were delighted to see our vision for long-term community improvement being realized in unexpected ways, such as tailoring skills being used to provide masks.

# Food Insecurity Across The Globe

## *Multi-faceted effort for communities in crisis*

HopeChest has dedicated years to fighting global poverty- and we were determined not to lose progress due to the pandemic. COVID-19 caused vast food shortages, disruptions in supply chains, and limited access to nutrition in vulnerable areas. A special Food Security Relief Fund raised \$18,157 which provided immediate food relief for the hardest hit families and providing training, equipment, and seeds for families and community gardens to help drive ongoing agriculture.



*A guardian of a CarePoint child sells food at a market for additional income*

*The COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty [in 2020], with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021, depending on the severity of the economic contraction, according to The World Bank.*

# Dignity and Empowerment Through Friendship

## *Continuing our Friendship Model in 2020*

As an organization, HopeChest often encountered roadblocks due to some countries having negative connotations with the term “sponsorship”. That’s why we initiated the Friendship Model and have continued to implement it in our operations! We believe that having a child select someone they want to befriend provides dignity and empowerment by giving the child a **Voice and a Choice** in the process. While the Friendship Model wasn’t new this year, we launched 3 new CarePoints under this model, all in Guatemala. The 3 new CarePoint partnerships established 513 new Friendships during this time!



*CarePoint children select their friends from profile cards*

# Impact by Country

## ETHIOPIA

- **4,451** children served
- **1,902** guardians of CarePoint children participated in income-generating activities
- **1,515** children participated in clubs

## Blessings Return Tenfold

*A mother's hard work and dedication to take care of her family*

Dani is a mother of a CarePoint child. Dani participated in the IGA and Self-Help Saving Groups training, and is an active member of one of the CarePoint Savings Groups, named Geta Yalew Yihun, established by the Ukro CarePoint. She is diligent in her efforts to combat poverty and is committed to making her family an exemplary one in her community. In



addition to her other savings group, she has been borrowing from a group savings account at local microfinance for elevating her small traditional food business. Remarkably, Dani even returned her loan sooner than it was due! She is now awaiting her next business move with her newfound skills and trade.

*Self-Help Saving Groups and similar finance programs are one of the fastest ways to strengthen a rural economy!*

*Dani's life has been transformed by her hard work and CarePoint training!*



### UGANDA

- **2,498** children served
- **305** children completed grief and trauma counseling courses
- **85** graduates received startup tools to start their own businesses

## A Lifetime of Impact

### *From CarePoint child to family breadwinner*

Florence is 24 years old, and is a former CarePoint child. She was one of the first to graduate from the Bukedea CarePoint! She received training in tailoring at Iowa Training School located at the CarePoint. Florence used her skills to open a tailoring shop out of her home, where she lives with her husband and two children. She has secured many regular customers within her village. She is the primary income earner in the family with her small business. Florence says that her tailoring business has enabled her to feed and educate her family. She used her income to purchase land for farming, where she and her husband grow food for the family. She hopes to keep growing her business and move the shop to a nearby trading center, where she'll be able to attract more customers. "I would be nothing in this world, but because of you and my sponsors, I am a useful person now in my family."

*"I am grateful to HopeChest for such tender hearts you have for children."*  
-Florence



Florence in her shop with her wares

### ESWATINI

- **4,480** children served at HopeChest CarePoints
- **13** graduated from Swazi Leadership Academy
- **75** children went through the grief and trauma counseling course
- **226** children were trained as Small Group Leaders to facilitate group discussions during discipleship lessons at CarePoints

## Community Support in a Socially Distanced World

### *Trusting God even in a pandemic*

In a year full of challenge and uncertainty, the Grief Support Course offered at Eswatini CarePoints became a crucial resource for the community. Even in ordinary times, life always comes with emotional challenges and losses. When the pandemic began, a whole new wave of difficulties emerged- lockdowns, economic shutdowns, social distancing practices, loss of



*A group of children with their grief support course certificates*

jobs and businesses, and even the deaths of loved ones. However, the training that CarePoints provided was tremendously helpful to empower the children and the staff with emotional strength and intelligence. Socially distanced sessions were held when restrictions eased. One 16-year-old girl had lost a sibling at the beginning of 2020, and her family lost all their income. She was able to fight back feelings of worthlessness and loneliness with the guidance she received, especially from studying the book of Job. Another young boy who had been abandoned by his father to be raised by his grandparents was able to confront his feelings about the situation. The

pandemic exacerbated his struggle, with the limited amount of contact he could have with other people. Throughout the course, he became hungry for the Scripture, and has made an amazing turnaround in his life. The Grief Support program has been an invaluable addition to the CarePoints!





- **3,689** children served
- **3** new CarePoints
- **75** individuals participating in income-generating activities

## Financial Transformation in Guatemala

*Saving and investing in an enriched future*

The pandemic has hit Guatemala hard. The government locked the whole country down- schools, churches, and businesses could no longer operate. As the situation continued, the economic impact became more and more evident. Many families lost their only source of income. God guided the CarePoint staff to implement an economic empowerment project for the community, starting in August 2020. The project brought a group of 10-20 people together to increase their savings and assets while holding each other accountable. With no outside capital provided, the model powerfully demonstrated the agency and creative capacity of those living in poverty. The members were provided the opportunity to save frequently in small amounts, given access to credit on flexible terms, and a basic form of insurance. The group is also taught what the Bible says about money and how to glorify God with the resources they have been given. The group continues to operate independently after 9-12 months, realizing HopeChest's vision of generational, long-term improvement in the fight against poverty.



Community members receiving economic empowerment education

*We are committed to equipping individuals with resources like employment training, vocational skills, and income-generating activities, as well as community savings and co-ops.*

## RUSSIA

- **717** children served (391 at orphanages and 326 at CarePoints)
- **168** participants in the Young Mother's Program
- **168** youth received dental services
- **283** participants in Mentorship Program

## An Orphan's Life Transformed

*Using God's love to inspire confidence*

Olya graduated from the Urzhum orphanage, one of the HopeChest CarePoints near Kirov, Russia. She had a long relationship with her sponsor in the United States, with whom she exchanged many letters. Urzhum orphans attend mainstream, comprehensive schools in the area that offer English as a foreign language program. Olya didn't realize her interest in the English language until she completed the 11th grade and her final exams, when she became motivated to try a dual program at Vyatka State University in Kirov. The chances of being accepted to the program were low. However, with her hard work and God on her side, Olya was accepted to the program and is currently a senior at VSU majoring in Elementary teaching

with an English minor. She later admitted that she always admired the job of a translator, but lacked the confidence in her ability to master another language. She also knew that language mastery opened up new possibilities, like foreign cultures and traveling. Olya has great potential, and a bright future, because of the support of her sponsor and on-going guidance from HopeChest support.



*Olya with her friends and classmates*

## MOLDOVA

- **73** families reached by holistic assistance
- **86** children engaged in early learning education
- **135** women and children reached with the Psychological Art Studio

### Early Learning Center

*Raising resilience of vulnerable children in single-parent families through early child education*

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions in 2020, indoor and outdoor activities were suspended. We had to find new ways of meeting and teaching from a distance. Our team tried as much as possible to keep contact with families looking to serve them in these hard and fearful circumstances. Therefore, we applied a new format, by which we could continue our lessons, both with mothers and with children. From the start, seven groups were formed and we conducted online meetings in order to inform all parents about changes and new opportunities during the pandemic, as well as share safety measures and give new updates about the restrictions. We stayed in contact on the phone with those mothers who do not have access to the internet. The new training format included lessons for children that were distributed to individual homes, and lessons for mothers that were held on Zoom. The children's lessons were the main story, and came along with all the necessary materials for application, drawing, and other activities, as well as video instructions for each activity that parents needed for their group. Thus, the child and the mothers could engage independently at home, using the materials and video instruction to conduct a full lesson. At this moment, we see the joint activity of the children and mothers as an opportunity to spend more quality time together and develop better relationships.



*A staff member conducts a virtual early learning education class*



### KENYA

- **152** children served
- **\$91,690** raised for infrastructure projects
- **152** attended discipleship classes
- **100** guardians participated in Income-Generating Activities

## A Grandmother's Love

*Support for generations to come*

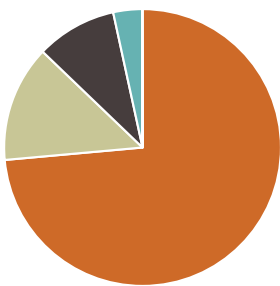
Gladys is a grandmother who takes care of 9 family members, including her five grandsons. The boys' father passed away and their mother left the family. The Mt. Elgone CarePoint has supported Gladys with nutritional, educational and medical support for the family. They have also received discipleship lessons that have encouraged them in their spiritual growth. Gladys has also joined the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) Program. This has allowed her to save some money to start her own chicken project. She now dreams of having a large poultry farm of her own, thanks to the empowerment, training and support she has received from the CarePoint programs.



# Financial Transparency

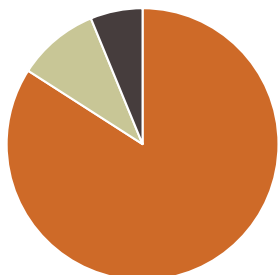


Thank you for trusting Children's HopeChest to be good stewards of your financial gifts. We are passionately committed to honoring the name of Jesus in everything we do, faithfully and prayerfully investing every dollar entrusted to us for the transformation of lives around the world. Currently, as members in good standing of the ECFA, a Platinum-Level GuideStar Participant, recipients of Charity Navigator's 3-Star rating, and a "Certified Transparent" rating from Excellence in Giving, you can be confident that the information shared in our 2020 Annual Report is audited, accurate and transparent.



## TOTAL REVENUE 2020

Total Revenue .....	7,657,994
■ Sponsorship .....	5,633,680
■ General & Grants .....	721,256
■ Designated .....	1,041,791
■ Other Income .....	3,944



## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN 2020

Total Expenses .....	7,236,595
■ Program Services .....	6,084,247
■ General & Administrative .....	703,366
■ Fundraising .....	448,982



# Get Involved





# How Can I Get Involved?

## DONATE

Join our mission to break the cycle of poverty and bring long-term transformation to orphaned and vulnerable children.

[hopechest.org/give](https://hopechest.org/give)

## EMPOWER A CHILD

Sponsoring a child is one of the most personal ways that you can make an impact on global poverty.

[hopechest.org/empower](https://hopechest.org/empower)

## SHOP AND DONATE

What is the absolute easiest way to make an impact and support one of your favorite nonprofits? Sign up for AmazonSmile in five quick steps!

[hopechest.org/amazon-smile](https://hopechest.org/amazon-smile)

## PLANNED GIVING

Change the lives of children around the world through HopeChest while also benefiting you and your family for years to come.

[hopechest.org/planned-giving](https://hopechest.org/planned-giving)

## VOLUNTEER

Are you interested in reading about children's lives from all over the world? Volunteer to read through mail to, and from, sponsors!

## PARTNER WITH US

Learn more about experiencing transformational, two-way relationship with a CarePoint community.

[hopechest.org/partnership](https://hopechest.org/partnership)

## PRAY

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

*Proverbs 31:8-9*



Children's HopeChest is deeply appreciative of your support.

"I thank Children's HopeChest and our CarePoint staff for the guidance and counseling they have given me. It has opened my mind, I am able to think big, and am also able to help my friends to plan for better things in the future. My God bless HopeChest and all the sponsors".

*-Thomas, 18, Uganda*

"It's amazing how the sponsors saw our struggles while they are so far away and thought of us. We are so very thankful for their support and want them to know that we appreciate it". *-Mothers of CarePoint children, Ethiopia*

"I want to thank you for all of your prayers. I feel very blessed that God has given me this opportunity to be part of this ministry. Know that I am praying for you daily, may God bless you." *-Luis, 16, Guatemala*

"I had made notes in our budgeting class at Vladimir CarePoint before we went to Globus, but this big store still overwhelmed me! I knew what I needed to buy, but there were so many different kinds of everything! ... I learned more about shopping and budgeting in one day than I ever knew before. ... Thank you!" *-Daria, Russia*

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