

Dear Hope for Life Family,

Ten years ago, my good friend Megan and I ventured to Rwanda for an internship with no idea of the lives that would be changed, including our own. I remember sitting on a bus next to Chantal Umutesi, a Rwandan community leader who would later become a co-founder of HFL, sharing our dreams to help vulnerable children. I couldn't help but wonder if maybe sometime in the far future, possibly when we had degrees, money, and life experience, that we might start a nonprofit together. We had no idea that in only a few short months, God would lead Megan, Chantal and I to create Hope For Life. It has been a long and incredible journey, filled with God's grace, joy, perseverance, and challenges. We have seen hundreds of children's lives holistically transformed from challenge and despair into hope and promise.

So many children at HFL have profoundly impacted my life. One child in particular is Veterne. Crippled by polio as a young child, we met Veterne at a bus park. He was sitting in the dirt begging passengers for money as they walked by. He had no means of transportation other than being carried on the back of his younger brother Daniel or by dragging himself through the dirt. He lived in a child-headed household and had never been to school. Without an education, Veterne's future didn't include much hope other than lifelong begging. When HFL started a few months later, Veterne was one of the first we invited to participate. He excitedly began school and received much needed medical care where doctors determined that through surgery and physical therapy, he might be able to walk. Two years later, Veterne received corrective leg surgery and physical therapy. I will never forget the day he proudly stood up and shakily walked across the room for the first time. Today, Veterne is succeeding as a freshman in high school, preparing to pursue a career in medicine after graduation. He dreams of serving populations with special needs.

I am overwhelmingly proud of how far HFL has come, and the incredible people that are running the organization in both Rwanda and in the US. We are in a solid season, well positioned for growth during the next few years, and so it is at this time that I will be transitioning out of HFL. I am taking a sabbatical to pursue medicine (my other childhood dream). The passion to pursue a career in medicine has been reignited by the health challenges I faced after living in Rwanda. I am fascinated by the holistic and sustainable approach of naturopathic medicine and will begin a four-year medical program at Bastyr this fall to become a naturopathic doctor. I am so grateful for HFL, for the team of people that will carry on the vision, and for your partnership. Thank you for being an important part of changing children's lives!



Hillary Anderson, HFL Co-Founder

