



2020 Annual Report

Empowering youth to escape homelessness and thrive.



Letter From HFL Leadership

When Hope for Life began 12 years ago, we intentionally chose our name to demonstrate our belief in the power of hope even in the middle of unimaginable hardship. We never imagined that 2020 would test our belief in hope the way it did. As the pandemic hit, like many other nonprofits, we were simultaneously faced with increased need from youth and families in our programs, increased prices, and a decline in funding. Rwandan children and families who were already suffering, struggled even further after COVID-19 disrupted any stability they'd worked to achieve. There were many days that were bleak. But you stood alongside us, powerfully demonstrating the power in community, as well as the fact that there is always a reason to hope.

We are grateful and proud to have partnered with you to provide 1,325 people with emergency COVID relief. Nine interventions were utilized ranging from the provision of personal protective equipment and soap, to rent and utility support to keep families safely in their homes. These important resources not only helped keep children alive, but they enabled families to remain together without the fear of having to re-experience separation.

During this momentous year, we also brought a trauma-informed care consultant on staff who helped our programs and team become trained in trauma-informed care best practices. Additionally, we intentionally wrestled with issues of race, power, and inequity believing that the best way to achieve

our mission is to focus on empowerment, family-reunification, and equitable justice. This work is complex and often difficult, but we are committed to continuing these conversations and efforts long-term.

While this year was the hardest we've ever experienced, we also have many encouraging things to share in the pages ahead. One of these is the fact that your partnership helped over 1,400 Rwandans fight homelessness, material poverty, and trauma. As you read this report, we hope you will remember that each number represents a real person's story. A story that continues to arc towards healing, self-sufficiency, and dignity through your partnership.

Thank you for being part of this challenging and simultaneously beautiful year. We know without a doubt that our mission cannot be achieved without you.

With gratitude,



Megan Chao
U.S. Executive Director / Co-Founder



Christophe Mbonyingabo
Interim Rwanda Executive Director



About Hope for Life

Our mission is to provide youth with holistic, family centered, and trauma-informed interventions to escape homelessness and achieve flourishing futures.

Our Core Values:



Holistic

Our efforts at empowerment seek to address the entire human experience including the physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, and systemic aspects of our humanity.



Empowering

We seek to come alongside people in a way that honors their inherent value. Further, we believe that Rwandans are the best equipped to lead change in their own communities.



Transparent

International development is complex and doesn't always go as planned. We seek to be truthful, reliable, and transparent.



Culturally Aware

We commit to respecting the dignity and culture of each person we interact with, especially in our multi-cultural context.



Faith-Inspired

Our faith in a loving God motivates what we do, and informs our commitments to being holistic and culturally aware.

We are committed to ethical storytelling and anti-racism.
In 2020, we:



Implemented anti-racism training for all US Board members and staff during the onboarding process and well as annually.



Identified Black-owned businesses to purchase from as much as possible.



Staff implemented anti-racism discussion and evaluation into their monthly staff meetings.



Focused on organizational culture as it relates to white supremacy while also intentionally focusing in increasing representational diversity.

Impact: COVID-19 Relief

The COVID-19 pandemic left no nation or community untouched. In Rwanda, as is true in many other countries around the world, the impacts of COVID-19 were experienced most intensely by those who were already struggling with displacement and material poverty. Children living on the streets immediately experienced increased risk living outdoors. Newly reunited families quickly used up the little savings they possessed and found themselves facing eviction or utilities being shut off.

Many parents and older youth in our programs lost their jobs, temporarily or permanently, along with any progress they’d made toward financial independence.

Relief isn’t an intervention we typically utilize but in 2020, it became an essential part of our programmatic success. Your partnership enabled our team to quickly pivot and develop nine interventions that were used to keep children and families alive and safely together through the worst of the pandemic.



Impact:

1,324

Individuals supported through COVID Relief

105

Personal protective equipment packages provided

132

Food relief packages distributed

88

Households assisted with rent and utility support

218

Individuals provided with medical care and/or medical insurance

33

Small business grants funded

14

Youth supported through emergency housing

9

Individuals assisted in securing new employment



*Cedrick’s Story:

Cedrick lived in HFL’s Center until he graduated high school in 2019. Soon after, he obtained his first job and proudly transitioned into independent living. Unfortunately, when COVID-19 hit Rwanda, he immediately lost his employment. HFL helped him with rent and food assistance, and assisted him in finding another job in the construction industry.

He is now able to pay for the majority of his monthly living expenses on his own again and is expecting to graduate out of HFL’s programs in 2021.

**Name changed for confidentiality*

Reintegration Program

HFL's Reintegration Program exists to see youth and families healed and empowered through psychosocial and economic training and support.

Once a youth is reconnected to his family or community, regular follow-up from trained case managers and professionals is provided to ensure successful and lasting reintegration.

COVID-19 Impact:

The pandemic disrupted the typical methods and interventions utilized in this program, resulting in less families experiencing reunification than expected. Additionally, almost overnight, most families in this program suddenly went from making economic and emotional progress forward, to simply surviving. Thus, our focus had to temporarily shift toward ensuring that each family could remain healthy, together, and safe.

113

Youth served

63

Families served

11

Family reintegrations

4

Young adults assisted in obtaining employment

2

Young adults assisted in obtaining internships

2

Surgical operations paid for

80%

Families connected through HFL to local village leaders



*Thomas & *Ajay's Story:

In 2019, brothers Thomas and Ajay reintegrated home after healing from homelessness at HFL's Center. They were overjoyed to be back home with their family while also able to continue their education. In 2020, their mother unexpectedly lost her job due to COVID-19 and the family suddenly became at risk of eviction and losing all of the progress they've worked so hard towards.

They were supported with rent, food, and household assistance to ensure their family could remain safely together until their mother found new employment.

**Name changed for confidentiality*



Transitional Program

Children and youth are empowered to escape homelessness with short-term transitional housing and holistic services.

They are served through 24/7 trauma-informed rehabilitative care including education, physical and mental health support, faith formation, and family tracing and reconciliation.



COVID-19 Impact:

Schools in Rwanda were shut down in March and remain closed for the majority of the calendar year. Because most of the children in this program have already been out of school for many years while experiencing homelessness, we knew we had to find creative ways to continue their learning from home.

Our part-time tutor transitioned to a full-time role and developed a curriculum alongside a local professional teacher who volunteered with us for over half of the year.

The second area most impacted by the pandemic was family reconciliation. Due to restrictions on in-person training and visits, we didn't have as many families reunited as we had originally projected. However, we are proud of the creative ways we found to continue prioritizing family reunification.

32

Children served

8

New children admitted

15

Families reconnected

200+

Therapy sessions provided

26

Art therapy sessions provided

1

Child council formed and 10 meetings held



*Justine's Story:

Justine has lived at HFL's Center for the past few years where he has been healing from experiencing homelessness.

In 2020, he made significant emotional and relational progress which culminated in regular communication with his mother for the first time since he has been in our care.

The two have been making great strides in restoring their relationship and hope to be able to move home together in 2021.

**Name changed for confidentiality*

Outreach Program

Youth experiencing homelessness are connected with resources and services to meet their basic needs and develop long-term solutions.

Services include meals, showers, laundry, referrals to community partners, and individualized case management.

COVID-19 Impact:

When the COVID pandemic hit Rwanda, we were required to temporarily close the Outreach Program for safety reasons. We quickly helped secure emergency housing for all of the program’s regular participants.

Unfortunately, we were prohibited from resuming the program’s regular activities for the rest of 2020. Additionally, the government released new permanent regulations that impact this program’s operations.

While the future of this program is currently unknown, we are committed to working alongside local authorities to ensure that youth actively experiencing homelessness receive the services they need.

- 46

Youth served
- 24

Regular attendees
- 17

Youth provided with temporary emergency shelter due to COVID-19
- 17

Youth empowered to leave homelessness long-term

9

Moved back home with family

8

Accepted into HFL’s Transitional Program
- 11

Youth transited into vocational boarding school
- 3

Youth supported to find an internship or employment
- 2

Local community partnerships utilized
- 1

Health training session administered in conjunction with a local medical clinic



*Ganza’s Story:

Ganza had been experiencing homelessness for five years before he heard about HFL’s Outreach Program. He began attending weekly and with his caseworker, developed a long-term plan for his future. In March 2020, he slept outside for the last time.

He and ten other youth were enrolled in vocational boarding school and Ganza chose to study welding. He expects to graduate in 2021 and will then begin a welding internship.

Outside of school support, Ganza continues to receive emotional support and life skills training from his caseworker.

**Name changed for confidentiality*



**Ganza with a few of the other HFL young men completing vocational training, and his caseworker (middle).*

Finances

Revenue:

Child Sponsorship	\$45,977 (7%)
Grants	\$152,912 (25%)
A Week of Hope Virtual Campaign	\$92,047 (15%)
General Donations	\$137,748 (22%)
Capital Campaign	\$184,550 (30%)

Total Operating Revenue	\$428,682
TOTAL REVENUE	\$613,232

Expenses:

Programs	\$497,138 (84%)
Programs	\$357,399
Capital Campaign	\$139,739
Management/Admin	\$33,116 (6%)
Fundraising	\$59,351 (10%)

Total Operating Expenses	\$449,866
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$589,605

After several years of significant revenue growth, HFL experienced a decrease in operating funding in 2020 as a result of the global pandemic and economic recession. When the pandemic hit, we immediately removed all non-essential expenses, reducing our budget by nearly 25%. Our original operating budget was set to \$546,534. However, we ended the year raising \$428,682, a reduction of 22%.



Partners

289

Total financial partners

72

New partners

1,352

Donations processed

\$275,232

Grant funding

Special thanks to:

The Hovde Foundation
KeHE Cares Foundation
One Day's Wages

\$11,650

Church partnership funding

Special thanks to:

Quest Church
Northlake Christian Church
Chapelstreet Church

\$31,554

Company matches



CHANGEMAKERS

In 2020, we launched our new monthly giving community, the Changemakers.

This is a group of passionate and determined individuals all over the world whose ongoing support sustains HFL's programs. Because Changemakers are vital partners creating real impact, they receive special communications and invites to Changemaker-only events. During this inaugural year, 39 people were part of the Changemakers program.





HOPE FOR LIFE'S

A WEEK OF HOPE

Each year, we usually hold an in-person fundraising Gala in the greater Seattle area that typically results in 30% of our annual income.

Due to the COVID pandemic, unfortunately, an in-person event was not possible. Instead, we pivoted to an online giving week called A Week of Hope. Although we did not raise the same amount of funding that we typically do from an in-person Gala, we were immensely grateful that 103 people participated and contributed a total of \$92,047 to sustain Hope for Life's programs.



We appreciate the flexibility and generosity of our A Week of Hope partners including our Event Sponsors:

Platinum

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

Gold

RonaldBlue&Co.[®]
Wisdom for Wealth. *For Life.*[®]

Supporting

HAROLD'S
LIGHTING



Capital Campaign

In 2019, we announced plans to expand our programs. Little did we know that the next few years would be so tumultuous!

Timelines had to be adjusted numerous times as we navigated pandemic lockdowns and capacity restrictions, national supply shortages, and increased prices, as well as unprecedented weather conditions. Nevertheless, we persisted! As of the end of 2020, the project is 55% completed. In 2021, construction will be completed for an on-site administrative facility and office, as well as a second Center. We cannot wait to share the finished results with you!

In 2020, \$184,550 was raised toward the project from 9 partners. To date, 97% of the project has been financed with a total of \$409,000. Just over \$11,000 remains to complete construction and furnish each facility. We wish to give a special thank you to all of our capital campaign financial partners as well as our construction partner, GA Collaborative, who have shown continued flexibility and understanding throughout this journey.

Fun Fact:

One of the things we love most about GA Collaborative (GAC) is their emphasis on supporting our local community.

They intentionally hire construction support workers in our neighborhood, providing training opportunities, pension contributions, and lunch, ensuring workers can take their full compensation home to their families. GAC has included past HFL participants in training opportunities and have even hired several of them!

This emphasis on putting resources back into the community is the holistic transformation that we are proud to be a part of!



Looking Ahead

2020 was projected to be a year of significant growth. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and global recession impacted many of our 2020 goals and nearly all of our timelines. With this in mind, 2021 will be a year focused primarily on recovery.

We have made the difficult but important decision to focus our time and efforts on maintaining our programs instead of growing them. Thus, we will not be accepting any new program participants this year. Instead, we will prioritize our ability to continue providing high quality care to those already enrolled.

We hope that this year brings enough recovery that we will be able to execute our goal of doubling the Transitional Program and filling our second Center in 2022.

2021

School resumes in Rwanda

New Executive Director Begins in Rwanda

Family Economic Empowerment training with older youth begins

Family Economic Empowerment training with family caretakers begins

Construction on two new facilities completed

New administrative facility is opened and ready for use

A Week of Hope Virtual Gala

2022

Thank You For Partnering With Us!

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