



HOPE FOR LIFE



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering youth to escape homelessness and holistically thrive.

LETTER FROM HFL LEADERSHIP



Dear friends,

2022 was a year of change at Hope for Life (HFL) and we celebrate with you the progress and impact that was made in the midst of new leadership, new challenges, and new opportunities! Daniel Ledama was appointed the new Executive Director on the ground in Rwanda after a year-long transition period. We also said farewell to one of our co-founders and US Executive Director Megan Chao after serving for 14 years, and, in January of 2023 our new US Executive Director, Edward Sumner, joined the team. With fresh leadership now firmly in place, our collaborative efforts to empower youth to escape homelessness and holistically thrive with their families is gaining great momentum.

While leadership changes to our team were unfolding, there were also philosophical and practical transitions taking place within the Rwandan government that impacted HFL's approach to executing our mission. In keeping with international trends away from long term residential care and towards family based care and reunifications, the government established the National Rehabilitation Services (NRS), the lead agency responsible for outreach to children on the streets and the sole provider of referrals for boys and families needing care. This shift proved challenging for many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating in this space as outreach and long-term care were no longer approved nor accepted. However, HFL quickly emerged as a leading agency in this new ecosystem as we accelerated our Family Support and Monitoring and Family Economic Empowerment programming efforts. In this way, we significantly increase the likelihood of successful reintegration and homecomings for boys graduating from school and our Transit Center programs.

As a result, we are delighted to report that in March of 2023 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rwandan government empowering HFL to serve 60 boys they will refer to us. HFL will also be permitted to resume

outreach in 3 communities that the government has approved us to operate in. 2023 is shaping up to be our biggest year yet!

Despite significant internal and external changes afoot, HFL's 2022 programmatic success is cause to celebrate. We made great progress in helping our boys and families to recover from COVID 19 aftershocks. While many families throughout the world recovered quickly, the vulnerable boys and communities we serve remained long left with very little hope. HFL was honored and privileged to provide meaningful transformation during this season by increasing household economic sustainability, improving child & parent relationships, and addressing deeply embedded hindrances to transformation such as gender inequalities and disempowering mindsets. We empowered many boys in our programs to graduate from care at the Transit Center and be reunified with improved and stable family environments. All the boys we serve were able to continue their education and many had amazing grades while others graduated from high school and vocational training.

While our team and the landscape of our mission have changed, our commitment has not wavered. We are deeply invested in transforming the lives of those we serve, and consider it an honor and privilege to link arms with you to do just that as we forge ahead in 2023. We trust this Annual Report will be informative and that you will be inspired as you read amazing stories of empowered children and families that YOU impacted in 2022.

Onward with gratitude,



Edward Sumner
US Executive Director



Daniel Ledama
Rwanda Executive Director





ABOUT HOPE FOR LIFE (HFL)

Hope for Life was born in 2009 out of a collaboration and friendship between four Rwandan and American women who wanted to empower children to escape the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Today, that collaboration continues with a focus on local Rwandan leadership and holistic programs which empower youth to transition off the streets and back into healthy families. Together, the Rwandan and US organizations work in partnership to provide Rwandan youth and their families with trauma-informed interventions to escape homelessness and achieve a flourishing future. While things may look different than they did at their inception in 2009, HFL staff and programs continue to adapt to better serve the changing needs of our residents and families in pursuit of our ongoing mission.

As a nonprofit based in the United States, partnering with an organization based in Rwanda, we are particularly committed to the ideals of ethical storytelling and anti-racism. This commitment requires ongoing self-reflection, education, and action to ensure our programs and operations are equitable and inclusive. In 2022, Hope for Life staff and Board members worked to incorporate both a racial equity lens and a lens for conscientious storytelling into all decision-making processes, including program development, fundraising, and strategic planning. Hope for Life also sought to protect the dignity and privacy of program participants and their families when sharing stories of impact. Additionally, the US HFL team also strived to combat institutional racism by removing unnecessary barriers from our hiring and volunteer process and from our search for corporate partners and vendors. These principles and actions allow Hope for Life to help create a more just and equitable world, not only for our residents and their families, but for their communities and our community of support.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS BRING NEW HOPE

In 2022, Hope for Life Rwanda began the process of pursuing partnership with the Rwanda government to scale impact and continue our work in changing times. We are excited to share once again that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was indeed signed and secured in the spring of 2023! With this agreement in place and construction complete on the second Center, Hope for Life will be able to serve our largest class of beneficiaries yet, more than double our previous capacity. This new partnership with the Rwandan government provides Hope for Life the opportunity to work with more children, youth, and families seeking to escape homelessness and material poverty. Together, we are more able than ever to carry out our mission to help beneficiaries and their families holistically thrive.



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.



24

CHILDREN
SERVED

100%

OF RESIDENTS
ATTENDED SCHOOL

2

RESIDENTS GRADUATED FROM TECHNICAL AND
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVEC)

14,490

MEALS
SERVED

749

THERAPY SESSIONS
PROVIDED

111

SCHOOL MONITORING
VISITS

68

VISITS FOR MEDICAL
SUPPORT



We are deeply grateful for all of the foundations and individuals who support our capital campaign efforts. Our facility is truly remarkable and we couldn't have done it without you!

JEAN'S STORY:

When 11 year old Jean* first came to Hope for Life in January 2020, he had been living on the streets for some time. His father had passed away, and he had become estranged from his mother. He felt hopeless, made worse by the traumas he had experienced while homeless, but in the Transitional Program, Jean was able to deal with his past through individual and group counseling, and he returned to school. At the Center, he felt protected, cared for, and supported, and he was looking ahead with hope. HFL staff were able to trace his family and reunite Jean with his uncle and relatives, and in April of 2022, Jean went home to visit. When he returned to the Center, he shared with his case manager, "I wanted to stay at home with my uncle... I want to live with my family." Today, Jean has been reunited with his family, and is thriving in school and at home.

*Name changed for confidentiality

REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

HFL's Reintegration Program empowers youth and families to heal through psychosocial and economic training and support. When a youth is reunited with their family, they are supported with regular follow-up from trained professionals and case managers to ensure that the reintegration is successful long-term.

Reintegration is implemented through two sub-programs, Family Support & Monitoring and Family Economic Empowerment, both of which serve both parents/caretakers and youth.



OLIVIER'S STORY:

It's been roughly 5 years since Olivier* separated from his family due to family instability. After his parents were detained by local authorities, he turned to the streets to look for food. Olivier came to Hope for Life in 2017, but family tracing was slow-going, as Olivier had few details of his family, and was reluctant to share what he did know. HFL staff were finally able to contact his mother Aline* in jail in 2020, but were unable to visit due to COVID-19 restrictions. Aline was able to share more information about Olivier's family, and with her help, Olivier was reintroduced to the family who adopted Aline following the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Hope for Life reached out to this family, and they were overjoyed to reconnect with Aline and her son Olivier. Aline's adoptive mother shared, "I raised his mother, and... I can still raise him as well and I want him to know her mother's family because we have always been her family." His mother is still in detention, but she has also been reunited with Olivier. When they met in person, Aline shared, "I can't believe that this is my son right here. I knew some people were taking care of him but as a mother, I couldn't stop thinking if he is safe enough... He looks well cared for and grows into such a handsome boy." Today, Olivier is flourishing with his mother's family, and they all look forward to Aline returning home.

*Name changed for confidentiality

Family Support & Monitoring (FSM) Impact:

- 129** YOUTH, SIBLINGS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS PROVIDED WITH YEAR-ROUND SERVICES
- 4** FAMILIES OF YOUTH TRACED AND LOCATED
- 97%** OF FAMILIES REINTEGRATED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL
- 22** NEW REINTEGRATIONS

Family Economic Empowerment Impact:

4

WORKSHOPS PROVIDED FOR 41 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS

4

MOTHERS GROUPS HOSTED FOR 28 MOTHER PARTICIPANTS

6

YOUTH ASSISTED IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT

10

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ASSISTED IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT

9

PROGRAM GRADUATES (THOSE WHO HAVE ATTAINED AND MAINTAINED INDEPENDENCE THROUGH HFL SUPPORT)



“Education is a key that opens many doors for our youth, empowering them to build a foundation and future for themselves and their families!”

ANGELIQUE'S STORY:

Angelique* dropped out of school due to extreme material poverty. In 2018, she reached out to Hope for Life after hearing about the program from a friend, hoping to find a way to return to class. Through HFL, she was able to receive scholarships, allowing her to focus on her studies and reach for her dreams. She soon rose to the top of her class, and dedicated herself to Mathematics, Physics, and Geography in order to become an engineer. Last year, Angelique graduated from secondary school, and is looking forward to helping solve problems in her community. “When I get financial ability, I will show goodness to others as I was shown by Hope for Life,” she shared.

*Name changed for confidentiality



FINANCES

\$17,265

END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN

\$24,223

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

\$49,870

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

\$102,702

GRANTS

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$612,109

\$275,761

GENERAL DONATIONS

\$142,289

GALA

\$61,024

MANAGEMENT &
ADMINISTRATION

TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$530,390

\$302,790

PROGRAMS

\$123,206

FUNDRAISING

\$43,370

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PARTNERS:

287

TOTAL
FINANCIAL
PARTNERS

76

NEW FINANCIAL
PARTNERS

13

GALA SPONSORS

1,453

DONATIONS PROCESSED

\$387

AVERAGE DONATION SIZE



CHANGEMAKERS



In 2020, we launched our monthly giving community, the Changemakers. This is a group of 7766 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 2022, 46 households gave over \$51,000 as part of the Changemakers program.

“Big thanks to all of our friends who sponsored specific HFL children in the past! We retired this unique funding opportunity at the end of 2022, shifting focus to Changemakers, our community of monthly supporters empowering our efforts year round!”

A NIGHT OF HOPE

In 2022, we held our first in-person gala in three years. It was wonderful to be with the Hope for Life community of support for an evening of fun and fundraising. Together, we met and exceeded our goal of raising \$130,000 for children, youth, and families breaking the cycle of homelessness. Thanks to all the guests and sponsors who made this event such a success!

Presenting Sponsor: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Platinum Sponsor: Cascadia School

Gold Sponsor: Quest Church

Silver Sponsors: Coastal Community Bank, Rise Performance & Health

Bronze Sponsors: Anthera Floral, Cafe Opla, Debbie & the Dogs, Planted Living

In-Kind Sponsors: hunniwater, Smasne Cellars, Watts Brewing Company

Our 2023 annual gala was held on September 8th at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle.



“Hope for Life’s 2023 Night of Hope was a memorable night of celebration and raising funds to support all of our beneficiaries and their families. What an incredible community of support!”



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Begun in 2019, the Capital Campaign saw the completion of the second Transitional Center and kitchen in 2022. With this, Hope for Life is now able to serve over 50 beneficiaries at any one time, doubling the capacity at the Center.

Special thanks to all of our financial partners for this project, who helped raise over \$49,000 in 2022 to meet the rising costs of supplies. We look forward to the completion of the erosion mitigation project, in addition to the new Administrative building and additional landscaping!



“As we see the increase in child homelessness in Kigali, Rwanda, we are so grateful for the supporters and partners who made it possible for us to serve more beneficiaries through our facilities!”

LOOKING AHEAD

January
2023

New US Executive
Director Starts

April 2023

MoU Partnership with
the Government

May - June
2023

Onboarding New
Beneficiaries

August
2023

Completion of
HFL Transit Center
Construction

September
2023

Night of Hope Gala

October
2023

Strategic Plan and
Budget Approved
for 2024-2026





HOPE FOR LIFE

**THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US
IN 2022!**

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