



**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**MOVING FORWARD**

[www.treeoflives.org](http://www.treeoflives.org)

# OUR MISSION

STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN  
FAMILY IN OUR SHARED BATTLE  
AGAINST HIV/AIDS AND POVERTY



# MOVING FORWARD



Friends,

Crisis has a way of showing us what we're made of. From the very beginning, Tree of Lives has leaned into the hard, the uncertain, even the impossible:

Creating an HIV/AIDS clinic in a rural, poverty-stricken area whose 5,000+ patients can now claim a 97% viral suppression rate, far surpassing the national average. Providing quality education and meals for 88 children of tea pickers who make less than \$2 a day. Establishing a loving home and a promising path for 60 vulnerable Kenyan children. Developing a comprehensive program for pregnant women that has achieved a 100% success rate in preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to child.

The past year set us a challenge unlike any we have ever faced. Yet our partners in Kenya stepped up in remarkable ways, finding creative solutions such as sending medicine and food support to those who could not travel to our HIV/AIDS clinic; replacing youth mentor group meetings with even more individual home visits; engaging in virtual learning at the Joy Village; celebrating families in a safe and joyful gathering at the new playground on the grounds of Nazareth Hospital.

Their dedication and resourcefulness was matched only by the sacrificial and overwhelmingly generous giving of our donors. In a year of uncommon adversity, we found that what was required of us we already had in abundance: love, faith, compassion, dedication, hope.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for being part of our Tree of Lives family. In the coming pages, you'll see all that your faithful support has enabled in a time unlike any other. Meaningful achievements made extraordinary in the crucible of a pandemic era.

As we move into 2021, our rejoinder to the past year is an even bolder confidence in the provision of our God and the steadfast love of our partners, donors, and friends. We are deeply blessed to count you among this number and look forward to sharing the brighter season ahead.

This is all eternal.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Wood', is located below the 'In Him,' text.

Jim Wood  
President  
Tree of Lives



# RUN FOR A KENYAN

Making a difference for the children at the Joy Village

In the unprecedented times of COVID-19, Tree of Lives recalibrated one of our major annual fundraisers and launched a virtual Run for a Kenyan Race. Participants were encouraged to walk or run and complete the 5K by December 1, World AIDS Day. We had runners from all around the country including Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland and close to home, in Norfolk.

We had a record number of participants sign up and complete the 5K! Along with the generosity of our corporate sponsors, we raised **MORE THAN \$13,000** to help the children of the Joy Village.

This year's donations will go to support costs related to the continued challenges from COVID-19, such as providing the families of Joy Village children with food assistance and purchasing PPE for our Joy Village families.

The funds will also help defray the costs of additional school fees for the upcoming year, since students will be going four quarters instead of three to make up for the time they lost.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Barclay Winn Family  
Children's Specialty Group  
East Coast Bicycles  
Kaufman & Canoles  
Moyock Animal Hospital  
Pitney Bowes Inc.  
Sentara Cardiologist Specialists  
Studio Optix  
Urology of Virginia PLLC  
Waterside Financial Group, LLC  
Wolcott Rivers Gates



# MAJOR DONORS

We are so thankful for all our donors and supporters. The following donors were major contributors in the 2020 fiscal year. (\$1,000 and up)

Nick & Susan Abu-Absi	Billy & Nell King
Everett & Kelly Alcorn	Jason Lacy & Celeste Ostman
Jacqueline Alcorn	Wayne & Susan LaSante
Del & Arenda Allen	Stephen & Katie Lawrence
Bob Ancell & Chris Miller	Carol Lewis
Monica Baker	James & Nicole Lock
Robert & Mary Jo Baylor	Keith & Beth McBain
Roy & Lorie Beskin	Colin & Patt McKinnon
Stuart Birkel & Nathalie Cassis	James Metz
Allison Bough	Michael & Megan Padden
Craig & Tricia Campbell	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Paine
Mark Carlson	John & Wendy Parker
Carol Davis	Dustin & Lynn Paul
Matthew & Courtney Epps	Chips & Suzanne Paulson
Adam & Cara Estes	David & Jeanne Perin
Haywood & Megan Foard	Kristine & Bill Rand
Jane Friddell	Bill & Susan Rawls
Jim & Krista Gates	Cline & Jennifer Reasor
Ron & Lucy Gates	Donald Reich
Peggy Gatje	Bryan & Jennifer Smith
Glen Green & Laurie Talty	Kristopher & Ghislaine Stonaker
Barbara Haga	Steve & Ann Story
Creighton Holt	Curtis & Nancy Struyk
Herb & Kathy Honaker	Margo Taylor
Mark & Luana Hugel	Taze & Katherine Taylor
Joanne Jenkins	Jim & Lin Tomlinson
Roger & Linda Johnson	Erik Van Strien & Sandee Ferebee
Don Johnston	Kip White
Ian & Hunter Johnston	Winston & Eunice Whitehurst

# CHURCH PARTNERS

Chapel on the Hill, Lake Geneva, WI  
Chosen for Completion Ministries, Portsmouth, VA  
First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, VA  
First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, IL  
Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake, VA  
Manitowish Waters Community Church, Manitowish Waters, WI  
St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Acton, MA



# CHILD WELLNESS

Giggles and fun at the new Holy Family Center Playground

Among the Holy Family Center staff are designated therapists that specialize in counseling for children. These professionals engage the children to help them work through various issues and develop positive relationships. Children are able to enjoy life in all its fullness when they feel safe, and are healthy and able to take part in normal activities, like going to school and playing with friends, without fear of stigma or bullying. This access to counseling is therefore especially important for the children at HFC, many of whom are HIV+ themselves or have families members who are HIV+. During the pandemic, these counselors also calmly explained what was happening and why the children needed to wash their hands, wear a mask, and observe other safety measures.

To enhance this support system, Tree of Lives worked with Nazareth Hospital to build a playground on the grounds of the Holy Family Center for play therapy. The playground provides a child-friendly space for counselors to meet with kids as well as a safe and fun area for those waiting for parents who are receiving treatments or meeting with doctors.

The activity of play helps the children develop self-awareness, self-esteem, assertiveness, and coping strategies for stress. Play has also been shown to help children develop healthy interpersonal relationships, empathy, and effective communication skills.



# 2020 HOLY FAMILY CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the compounded challenges of COVID-19 the Holy Family Center continues its strong commitment to treating HIV/AIDS in the community.

**11,267**  
tested for HIV

**621**  
newly diagnosed  
HIV positive patients

**543**  
newly enrolled into HFC  
treatment program

**5,439**  
active patients  
currently on ART  
(antiretroviral therapy)

**97%**  
overall viral  
suppression

**100%**  
TB screening of HIV  
infected individuals  
(TB is the major cause of mor-  
tality in HIV infected patients)



# 2020 MOTHER TO MOTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Mothers and babies thriving at the Holy Family Center  
in this landmark program

**846**

active HIV+ mothers  
in the program

**201**

mentor mothers  
active in the program

**27**

support group  
sessions held

**330**

total couples  
counseled

**65**

children discharged  
with a negative HIV  
status at 2 years old

**0%**

HIV transmission rate  
for the children born to  
HIV+ mothers enrolled in  
the program





# CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Giving families a bright future

Without intervention, there is up to a 45% chance that a HIV+ mother will transmit HIV to her child during pregnancy, during labor and delivery, or through breastfeeding. However, with simple interventions this rate can be reduced to below 5%.

For the past 7 years, the Mother to Mother program has had a

**0% TRANSMISSION** from HIV+ mothers to their children.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, God has been faithful and it has been another successful year for the program.

The Mother to Mother team got a beautiful surprise in the midst of a difficult year, when one of their moms stopped by, bringing her daughter's birthday cake to share with the team. Her daughter had just turned two years old and was HIV negative. The Holy Family Center staff members celebrated with the family, beginning with a moment of prayer to thank God for the triumphant journey and promising future of this sweet little girl.



# FOOD PACK PROGRAM

Combating malnutrition and encouraging drug adherence

The Holy Family Center offers a food pack program to support HIV/AIDS infected patients as well as those affected by malnutrition. The food packs supply a nutritious and balanced diet to help the body better process HIV/AIDS medications. Food insecurity is one of the largest obstacles for drug adherence. Many of the medications required cannot be taken on an empty stomach.

The food program is also vital for those who would not otherwise have regular access to nourishing meals. Elderly caregivers looking after orphaned or sick children are one of the primary beneficiaries of the food packs. Being able to receive this support enables them to take care of themselves so they can take care of others.

Throughout 2020, we distributed **1,498 FOOD PACKS** comprised of porridge flour, maize flour and beans. This year saw a drastic increase in the need for food packs, as many of the Holy Family Center patients were laid off from their jobs. Those hardest hit were the casual laborers who work on the flower, coffee, and tea farms. Many patients would not have been able to maintain their drug regimens without the food packs they received during their clinic visits.



**MEET A HFC PATIENT...** This young man is a tea picker for the Mabroukie Tea Factory. At one of his recent visits to the clinic, it was discovered that he had not eaten for two days. The food packs he received were vital in getting him back on to his drug program.  
*\*name withheld for privacy*



# MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Boxes of Love provide families with food and supplies over the holidays



Always a joyful time for the Tree of Lives family, this year's Boxes of Love distribution was more meaningful than ever. For many students at the Allamano School, their school lunch is the only full meal they eat each day. With schools closed since March due to the pandemic and many parents out of work, these students and their families had an even harder time putting food on the table. Boxes of Love not only provided food, they also helped families move into the new year healthy and hopeful.

Thanks to the generosity of more than **80 DONORS**, over **400 FAMILIES** of Allamano students and Holy Family Center patients received food and supplies to carry them through the holiday season. This year Tree of Lives

created **250 BOXES & SOLD OUT**. Each Box of Love provides a family with enough cooking fat, wheat flour, corn flour, rice, and beans to feed a family of four for six weeks. It also supplies school bags, clean water, toothbrushes, soap, shoes, warm coats, and blankets. It was a joyous day for families to receive this blessing from Tree of Lives. All told, we raised **\$16,410** - THANK YOU!



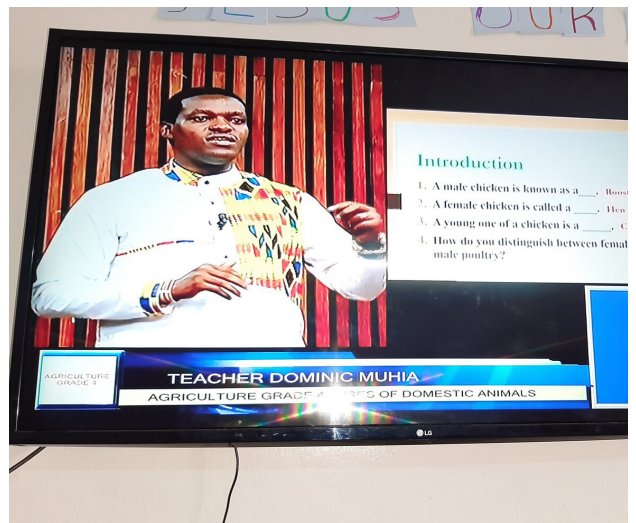
# VIRTUAL LEARNING IN KENYA

Joy Village kids join students all across the world  
in at-home school

Upon recording its first case of COVID-19 in March, the Kenyan government closed all learning institutions. The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), a state body under the education ministry, intensified delivery of school programs through radio and television broadcasts. The ministry delivered curriculum through four different platforms including radio, television, YouTube and the Kenya Education Cloud.

The Kenya Education Cloud posted extensive digital content free of charge, and included videos, audio and PDF material and e-text books provided by education publishers. The YouTube channel, Edu TV, also aired lessons for schools.

Like so many students elsewhere, the children at the Joy Village continued their studies at home with the help of tutors and virtual classrooms. Schools reopened for in-person learning in January 2021. Most students will be required to repeat their grade again this year and will go to school four terms rather than three to make up for the lost time. Tree of Lives is fully committed to helping our Joy Village kids get back on track and move forward in their academic careers. We have allotted additional funds to cover the increased school fees for the upcoming year and hope that you will join us in helping provide our kids the education they need to equip them for the future.



# WELCOMING NEW FACES

Expanding the Joy Village Family



**MEET Mary, our Joy Village Residential Coordinator.** Mary lives on the grounds at the Joy Village, overseeing day to day activities, managing the budget, and providing support for the mamas and the children. She works to cultivate relationships with the children's school teachers as well as community leaders in Limuru, the district where the Joy Village is located, and sources donations of clothing, food, and supplies for the families. Her favorite parts of her job include conducting weekly Bible studies with the mamas and teaching the kids how to bake! She loves the children as her own and never stops thinking of ways to show them they are cherished and valued. The kids adore her and the mamas appreciate having a helping hand and working together to create a loving home for each family. We are excited to welcome her to the Tree of Lives family!



**MEET Keziah, our newest Mama.** Mama Keziah has been at the Joy Village for several years as an auntie. Aunties fill in when a mama is away or on vacation. This year there was an opening for a new mama and Keziah was the obvious choice. She has long been a favorite at the Joy Village. The children always congregate wherever she is, hoping to get a bite of whatever she's cooking! Not only is she amazing in the kitchen, but she is also kind, loving, authentic, and supportive. Her smile is infectious and makes everyone feel loved in her presence. She is a true gift to the Joy Village and to Tree of Lives. We are deeply grateful for her beautiful sprit and servant's heart.

# 2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Revenue

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$333,321**

## Expenses

Administrative 21,345

### Kenyan Based Grants

Nazareth Hospital Charity Fund for Needy Patients.....	47,520
Holy Family Center Youth Program.....	10,000
Holy Family Center Food Pack & Infant Milk.....	12,000
Holy Family Center Patient Support.....	7,000
Holy Family Center Boxes of Love.....	6,500
Holy Family Center Cervical Cancer Care/Prevention.....	5,000
Mother to Mother Program.....	12,000
Allamano School.....	9,078
Allamano School Boxes of Love.....	5,500
Slum Child Foundation for Korogocho Children's Support Program.....	9,080
Mutomo Children's Feeding Program.....	5,000
Nazareth Hospital Pastoral Care & Counseling.....	12,477
Nazareth PPP Funding.....	2,000
Scholars.....	26,975
Holy Family Center Playground.....	5,000
Staff Engagement Training.....	3,000

Joy Village 123,525

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **323,000**

### Allocation from 2019 to cover one time expenses in 2020:

Joy Village Roof.....	43,624
Joy Village Borehole.....	1,987







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Tree of Lives, PO Box 11390, Norfolk, VA 23517