

STAYING

MISSION FOCUSED

In a year of
unprecedented
challenges





HIS Purpose Prevails

Dear Friend of Chariots for Hope,
“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails” Proverbs 19:21.

What an appropriate verse for 2020! We all started the year with many plans, but the unprecedented events of 2020 changed almost every aspect of our lives.

For me, this “disruption” brought a huge blessing to my family’s lives with our move to this area and the start of my position here at Chariots for Hope. I am awed and honored to be a part of this amazing ministry and am deeply moved as we continually see God’s hand guiding the work being done at each of the homes we operate.

As we look forward for Chariots, we’re excited to see how God continues to transform the lives of each one our children and the opportunities that HE brings to the homes, the team, and this ministry. We know that with HIS faithfulness, as well as each one of you who walks with us on this journey, miracles will continue to happen and the children whose lives we touch will receive the joy and hope that comes from being


Gail Rittenhouse
CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Teresa Castronuovo
- Sherri DeWalt*
- Bob Feller, Chair
- Paul Keisling
- J.R. Ketterer
- Jim Kulp
- David Rossi
- Richard Smyth*
- Stella Mugambi Tai

* Term ended September 2020

MISSION AND VISION

Chariots for Hope exists to honor God by loving, nurturing, and providing for vulnerable and orphaned children by leading and sustaining holistically healthy children's homes in Kenya. We seek to provide these children with opportunity and hope so that they develop into exemplary citizens, leaders, and followers of Jesus Christ.

our values

CHRIST CENTEREDNESS—We will rely on Christ to lead us and abundantly bless our efforts.

INTEGRITY—We will do what we say and zealously steward all that is entrusted to us.

EXCELLENCE—We will strive to do the best we can do to fulfill our mission and vision.

COMPASSION—We will demonstrate our care for others by treating them with love and kindness.

RESPECT—We will treat everyone with dignity and cultural understanding.

HOLISTIC SERVICE—We will care for all aspects of the lives of the children we serve, including their physical, emotional, educational, social, and spiritual well-being.



adapt

IN THE FACE OF THE UNKNOWN

Like so many, we never could have expected what 2020 brought. However, as we look back, we see numerous blessings and provisions from the Lord.

COVID IN KENYA | Along with the rest of the world, the pandemic brought about significant changes to daily life in Kenya. The country closed its borders, schools, and the majority of public places in March. Unlike developed nations, only a tiny percentage of the population has the ability to work remotely. Significant economic hardship hit Kenya this year. Additionally, cases of COVID continued to rise as the year went on, spreading from the cities into rural communities. With the average citizen having very little access to health care, this was a major concern for many.

Our leadership team took swift action to ensure the safety of our children and staff. This included limited movement outside of the home, added sanitization practices, masking as appropriate, and following local and national regulations. We are so pleased to share that none of our children or staff members contracted the virus. We thank the Lord for his protection.

Trauma Healing Institute, a division of the American Bible Society, created timely and culturally-appropriate resources focusing on COVID-19 that we were able to get to our home leaders. These materials gave insight and instruction around finding quality information, understanding how to take action, and most importantly, pointing back to the truth of God's word in the midst of uncertainty.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT | The communities around our homes came through in amazing ways. During 2020, the homes received \$33,000 in donations of food, supplies, and cash from their local communities. In the case of Mahiga and Mukaa Children's Homes, the donations of food weren't just a few bags of flour. The community donated four to six months' worth of food! At Mahiga Children's Home, the director of a local tea factory even donated a hand washing station.

AT HOME | Just like you, our children and staff stayed home. While this presented many challenges, our Kenyan staff rallied. They used the time together in purposeful, intentional, and creative ways. They ensured the children had activities to fill their time that taught skills, reinforced their education, and poured into them as people.

SCHOOLS CLOSED | The schools in Kenya closed in March and did not broadly reopen until 2021. Not wanting the children to fall behind, we invested in bringing in extra tutors to give more personalized attention to the children and to add creativity to learning. These tutors were made up of community members and alumni.

MORE THAN A TUTOR | For our children, seeing an alumnus like Joseph come back to the home to invest in them has value far beyond the tutoring he provides.



Joseph, who finished college last year, is one of three Mulango Children's Home alumni who traveled back to their former home to help tutor the children when schools were closed due to the pandemic. The kids really enjoyed being taught by their big brothers and sisters!



A truly inventive hand washing station! A water tank with 2 pedals—one for soap, one for water—means hands-free washing.



Food donations to our homes included items such as maize flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, salt, tea leaves, biscuits and sweets, sanitary items, beans, and bananas.

EYES TO THE FUTURE

Chariots for Hope seeks to provide vulnerable and orphaned children with opportunity and hope so that they develop into exemplary citizens, leaders, and followers of Jesus Christ.

Taking this vision from a statement on paper to reality in the lives of our students takes purpose, intentionality, and action. Education is a foundational part of our program. We've committed to providing education for every child to the highest level they qualify. This includes trade school, college, or even university. In a year where formal education was nearly nonexistent, our commitment to our children and young adults held strong.

Jane is enjoying her studies at Chariots for Hope Academy at Maai Mahiu Children's Home.



INVESTMENT MATTERS | Victor and David each carry two titles—Home Manager and Dad. Both are critically important and interwoven into their relationships at their homes. Parents want to see their children succeed. Parents also see the unique attributes of their children. Both David and Victor excel at “seeing” their children. With over 100 children at both Maai Mahiu and Mahiga Children's Homes, where they respectively lead, these men take the time to know every child as an individual.

What does this look like? It looks like one-on-one conversations—a father sitting down with his children talking about their skills, gifts, and dreams for their future. It looks like advocating to a higher level school to gain admittance for a child. It looks like implementing an “out-of-the-box” idea, to set their child up for success. These two men are anything but passive when it comes to their children's futures.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, BUCKSON & CYRUS | Buckson grew up at Mahiga Children's Home and is finishing his training in motorbike mechanics. Motorbikes are a common mode

of transportation in Kenya and are always in need of repair due to the rough roads they travel. In working with this young man, David helped him see an opportunity. By acquiring just a few tools of his own, Buckson could provide his services independently, creating the flexibility to work outside the garage where he is being trained. David encouraged him to do his research as to what he would need and to create a proposal. Supporters have provided Buckson with funds to purchase the necessary tools, setting this young man up for success in his future.

Cyrus had a desire to study nursing but didn't have the grades to allow him to get into the program. Victor knew that this young man was good with numbers and as a CPA himself, helped Cyrus understand the role of an accountant. Realizing he would enjoy this field, Cyrus has joined college to study accounting and is doing very well. During COVID, Cyrus came back to Maai Mahiu Children's Home to volunteer his time to help the staff and to invest in the younger children.

Fathers sitting down with their children talking about their skills, gifts, and dreams for the future



David—manager at Mahiga Children's Home, and Buckson, who continues his training in motorbike repair and recently learned to drive a car!



Victor—manager at Maai Mahiu Children's Home, and Cyrus, following in “dad” Victor's footsteps of studying accounting.

Celebrating 2020

(yes, we said “celebrating!”)

GIVING THANKS
IN ALL THINGS

TOP 3 IN 2020

INSIGHTS FROM CHARIOTS HOME MANAGERS

In the midst of trials there were absolutely amazing moments at each home this year. The lists from every manager were so long. Managers remarked that moments that may have previously felt ordinary, now became special. They truly found joy, even in the hard and tiring moments. What an inspiration for us all!

KAPTAGAT | Levy

1. Completed new bathrooms with hot showers
2. Opportunity to build deeper relationships with children
3. Children and staff formed a choir

KITUI | Winnie

1. Rescued 8 babies
2. Staff bonded in special ways with the additional time at home
3. Celebrated the good health of babies and staff

MAAI MAHIU | Victor

1. Special game days with staff and children
2. An extra-long Christmas celebration together
3. New wash basins

MAHIGA | David

1. Alumni coming to help and encourage
2. A fish dinner (many children had never tried fish before)
3. New dining hall tables & chairs



Children thanking God for provision of consistent water

MOGOGOSIEK | Priscillah

1. Rescued 7 children out of desperate situations
2. Welcomed 7 new staff members to help in the home
3. Visits from the local governor and the Iranian ambassador

MUKAA | Amos

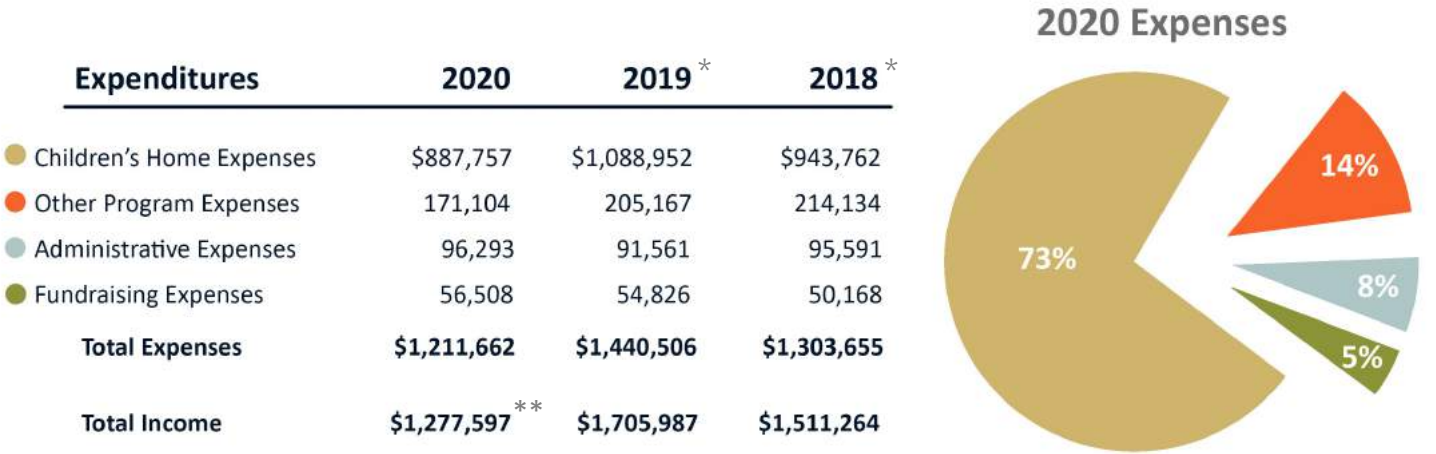
1. Children sharing their talents while hosting church at home
2. Children learning to plant vegetables and eating them
3. Celebrating Mama Beth as she retired

MULANGO | Michael

1. Eliminated water problems by adding in solar power
2. Hosted the first ever Mr. & Miss Mulango talent show
3. Enjoyed a Christmas bonfire

OGADA | Emily

1. Staff vs children games brought many laughs
2. Several children received glasses
3. Had a special Christmas VBS



GOD PROVIDES!

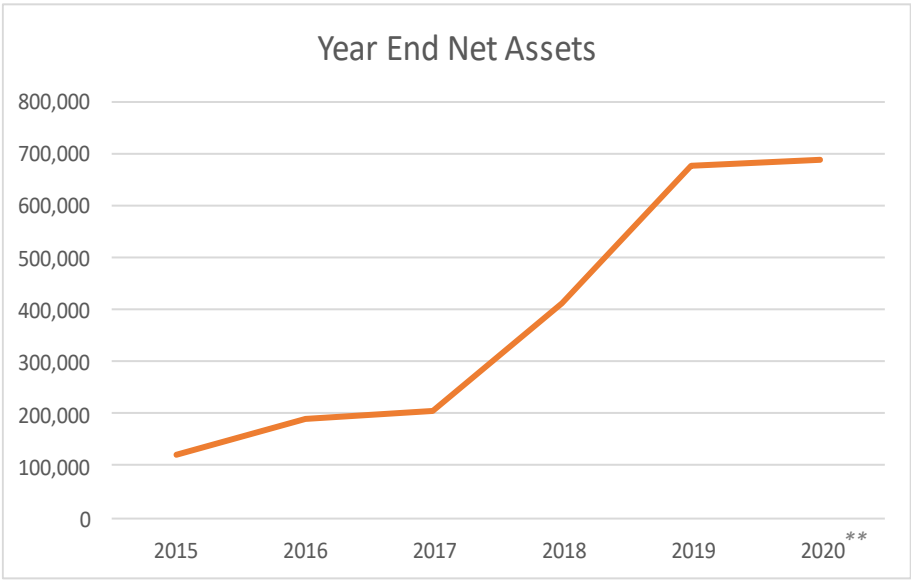
In a year where so many organizations struggled, Chariots for Hope was able to meet all the needs of our homes without cutting our programs or services to the homes. Thank you!

A significant portion of our reduced expenses were a result of Kenyan schools being closed, therefore we didn't incur the associated school fees. Not being able to travel and bring supporters over to Kenya also contributed to reductions in both income and expenses.

**Note: Income in 2018 and 2019 includes \$197,700 and \$143,000 respectively raised as part of initial stage of an education capital campaign. Campaign was placed on hold for 2020. Unaudited results. 2020 audit will be completed in the coming months.*

BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

Over the past six years, a strategic effort was made to develop a strong financial foundation for the long-term health of the organization. Given our commitment to the children in our homes, we know it is wise to build up savings, enabling us to fulfil our mission, even in the most challenging times. We still have much room to grow, and are so thankful for the faithful support of our donors in helping us reach this point. To God be the Glory!



***Includes \$41,880 in PPP loan which is expected to be fully forgiven.*

invest

CULTIVATING LASTING CHANGE

Investment comes in many forms. At Chariots for Hope we are dedicated to investing deeply into our children's lives. In order to do this well, we must also invest into our Kenyan staff members, equipping, training, and encouraging them as they live out the gospel in the lives of the children we serve.



These biblically rooted lessons utilize games, activities, stories, and discussions to teach and reinforce important concepts.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Investing in a child's future goes beyond the doors of a classroom. We worked with a trusted partner to create a customized Life Skills Training for our homes. Ten essential topics are covered in cultural and appropriate ways. Not only did our homes get to utilize this curriculum while schools were closed, but it will be integrated into our ongoing program for years to come.

- Creative and Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Effective Communication
- Character Development
- Self-awareness Building Skills—understanding your strengths and talents
- Interpersonal Relationship Skills—including handling conflict
- Coping with Stress and Emotions

STAYING CONNECTED

In any given year it's not uncommon for our US staff, board members, and core partners to make 15 trips to Kenya. In 2020, only one trip in February, before the closures, was able to happen. Always looking to enhance our communication abilities, we began testing out a new technology upgrade in early 2020. Little did we know just how important this upgrade would be!

Video calls became a consistent option at all our homes. This transformed the way our US and Kenyan leadership teams have interacted while travel is restricted. While it will never replace the importance of being together in person, we were so incredibly thankful for God's timing in this enhancement.



Loving the new technology—a successful Zoom meeting for Chariots' US and Kenyan staff.

thank you! 🖐️

Our gratitude is far too great to fully express. The generous and faithful support of our partners, donors, and prayer warriors pushes our work to new heights each year, by the grace of God.

HOME PARTNERS

Home partners play a vital role in our homes. They are committed to providing significant resources and building deep, meaningful relationships with our children's home staff members and children.

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Bethlehem Baptist Church
Chelten— a church of hope
Christ's Home
Cornerstone Church of Skippack
Immanuel Leidy's Church
Integrity Foundation
Pearl S. Buck International
Sustained Acts

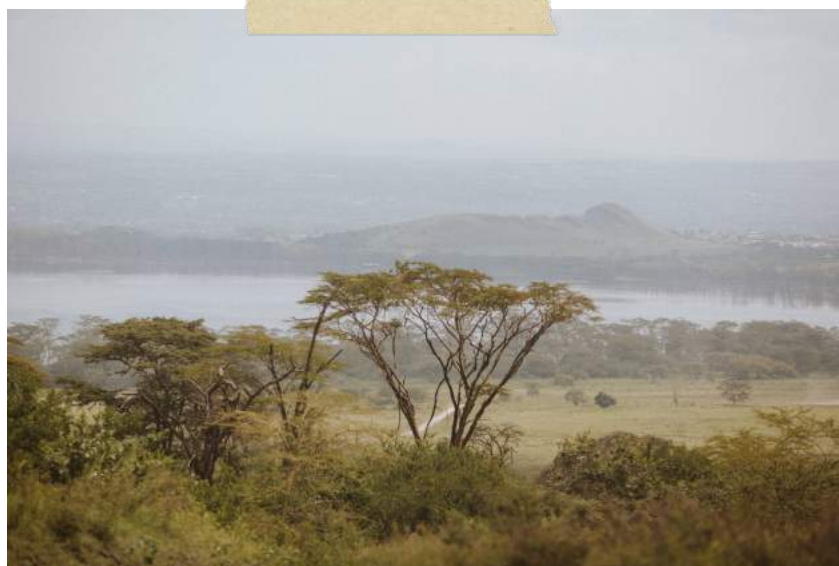
FRIENDS OF CHARIOTS

Friends of Chariots are businesses and organizations that generously contribute to the work of Chariots for Hope through donating finances, resources, or services.

Ambassador Advisors
Bring Me Hope
Chelten Child Development Center
Greenwood Mennonite Church
Gwynedd Manufacturing
Hunsberger Family Foundation Inc.
Salshots Photography
Liberty Ministries Thrift
Mission Projects Fellowship
Pretty Bird Coffee Co.
Trinity Valley Community Church

What a year! We're so thankful for the hundreds of individuals and families who have faithfully and sacrificially given in 2020. Though we have chosen not to recognize individual donor names here, please know that we could not meet the needs of so many children in Kenya without your gifts.





Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
Isaiah 1:17

Chariots for Hope

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