



HOPE BEGINS WHEN A CHILD BELONGS



NAOMI'S  
VILLAGE

Ministry Report

2020



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“

It's the  
children the  
world almost  
breaks who  
grow up to  
save it.

-FRANK WARREN

”



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS



**A**fter 10 solid and rewarding years of building the programs and infrastructure needed to run a successful children's home, K-8 academy, and preschool in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya, God has recently given us the blessing and opportunity to strengthen our overall community relationships. While we have been doing regular outreaches for years and have robust programs aimed at providing for our community students' families, we still had not fully connected with our surrounding community.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with a flood that decimated our local area in May 2020, changed everything. Opportunities for Naomi's Village to minister God's grace to those in need skyrocketed. We became a major voice and a much more significant player in addressing the problems of generational Great Rift Valley poverty. Now more than ever, our children at Naomi's Village have an open door to serve wholeheartedly in the homes of the needy. And they love to do just that, which confirms the calling God gave Julie and me in 2009 –that we would raise an army of servant leaders to change Kenya one day.

You have made an indelible impact over the past decade through your prayers, gifts, and visits. But our work is not yet complete. We broke ground in October on a middle school/high school complex at Cornerstone, commensurate with completing the task of shaping these and other future leaders. We have land, design drawings, and furnishing donated, plus 1/3 of the construction funds in place already.

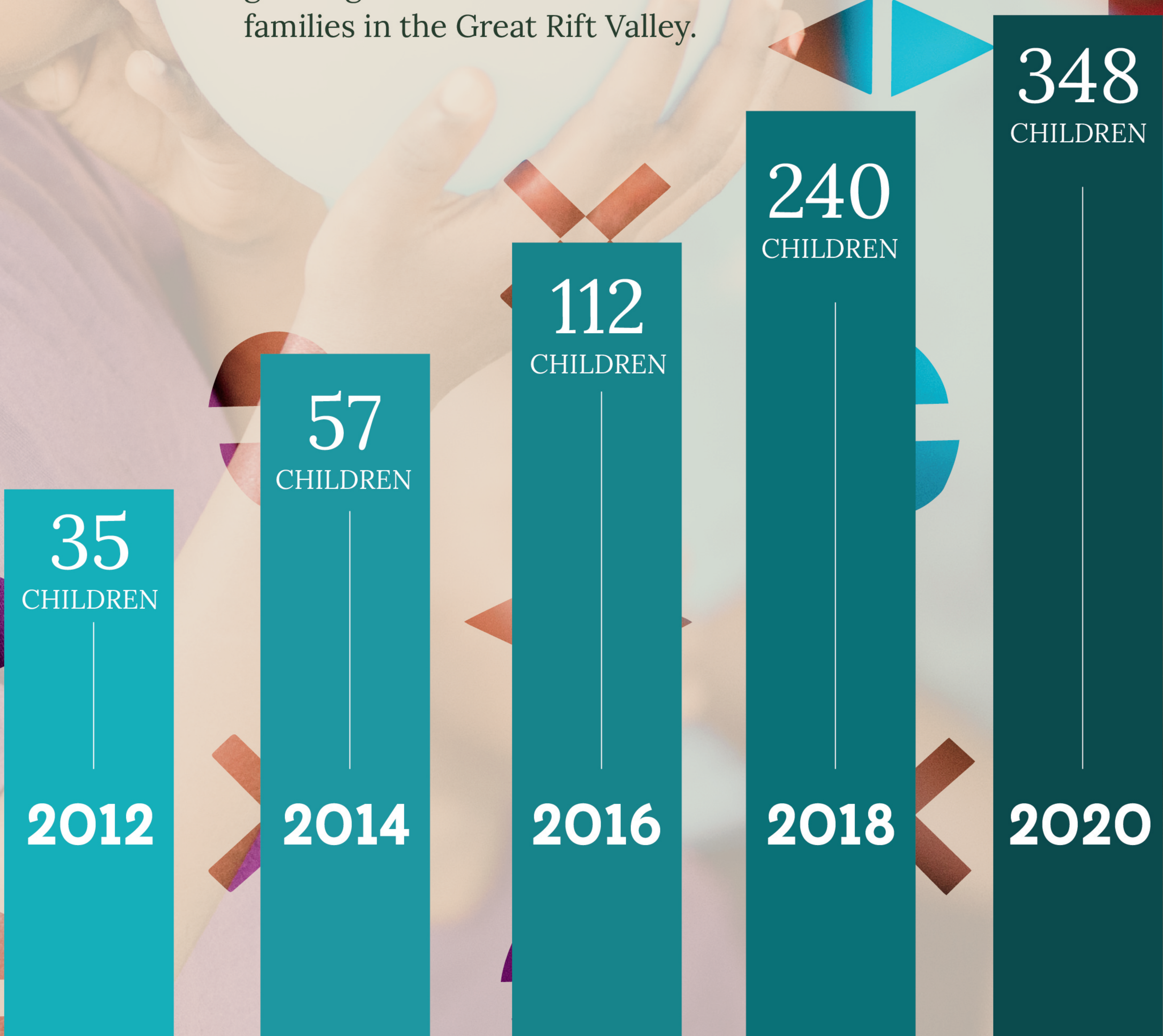
We are expanding for a purpose, to meet God's call to impact a greater number of children and families in the Great Rift Valley and beyond during the coming decades. We believe our children, as empathetic underdogs by virtue of the many challenges they must overcome, will grow up to do immeasurable Kingdom good one day. Together we will get there. And when we do, we will stand in awe at what God did through all of us.

Thank you,

**Dr. Robert & Julie Mendonsa**  
Naomi's Village, Inc.



**T**hrough both Naomi's Village Home and Cornerstone Preparatory Academy, we are impacting an ever-growing number of children and families in the Great Rift Valley.





**348** Children

**940** Child Sponsors

**4562** Meals/Supply Bags  
Donated to Families

**21** Bridges, Roads, Fences,  
& Homes Built



“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

— MATTHEW 13:44

**H**er face plump, delicately soft and shaded like toasted cocoa, Grace Pendo danced in a pale turquoise dress and a pair of oversized Converse one Sunday morning at Naomi’s Village. The dancers surrounding her were confident and beautifully adorned too, but Grace stood out because of her young age. Barely 3 and just a few months removed from the baby room, she was keeping pace brilliantly with 4-year-olds. Sound, color, movement, gross and fine motor skills, social/ emotional interactions, impulse control – these features of her healthy development were all on display. We marveled at Grace’s progress, realizing again what is possible when babies and toddlers are well nurtured, continuing to receive necessary inputs and to avoid adverse childhood experiences that produce toxic stress.



The meaning of her name (Grace) seems terrifically prophetic now. She shouldn't be this far ahead in life, considering her rough start as an abandoned baby. But it's her middle name Pendo, meaning love in Swahili, that truly captures her essence. Grace Pendo has been loved consistently and unconditionally, first for 2 years in our baby room, and then by two Naomi's Village mothers, Christine and Gladys. She shares her Naomi's Village days and nights with two sweet "sisters", Stella and Tekla. The attachment Grace enjoys because of our intentional caregiving model has provided her the safety, provisions, and heartfelt love she has needed to blossom.

Grace started attending LEAP Preschool on Naomi's Village's campus during the 2020 pandemic, even though she hadn't turned 3 yet. LEAP Director Mary remarked about how fast Grace progressed in less than a year, noting she led songs in front of her peers, showed remarkable command of language and numbers, and was ready for the 4-year-old class by year's end.

Research shows early childhood intervention programs that include child directed play, lots of reading, excellent nutrition, and engaged parents lead to better outcomes for kids who come from backgrounds of lack. Naomi's Village and LEAP Preschool have been hitting these important points on all cylinders and getting amazing results in the process. We expect that Grace's trajectory can and will continue to be the norm for hundreds of local Rift Valley children. God has given us both the charge to do this and the programs to be successful. Grace's story, while emblematic of His ongoing redemption, should not be the only one we share with you in the years to come.

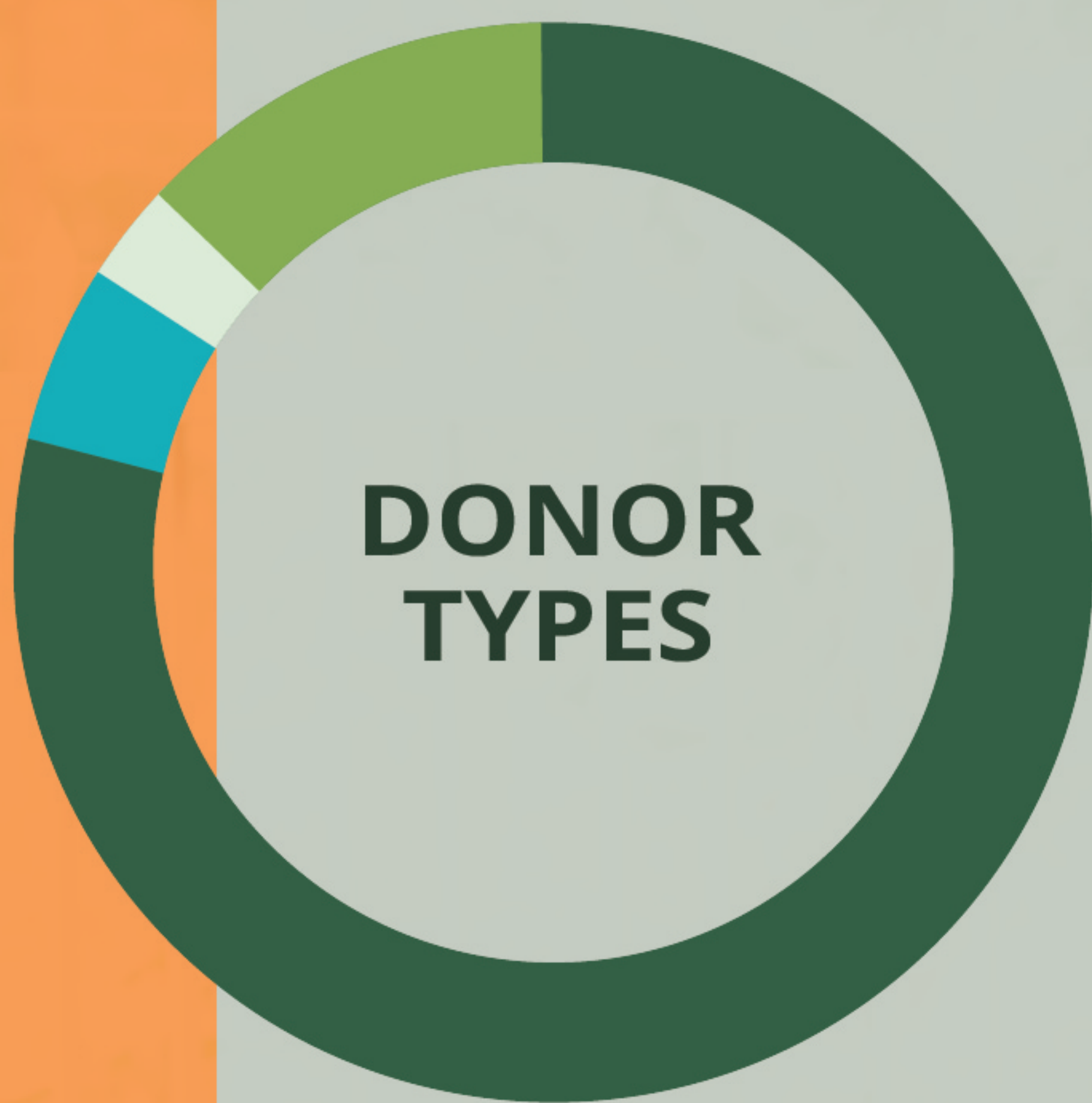
**By Bob Mendonsa —**



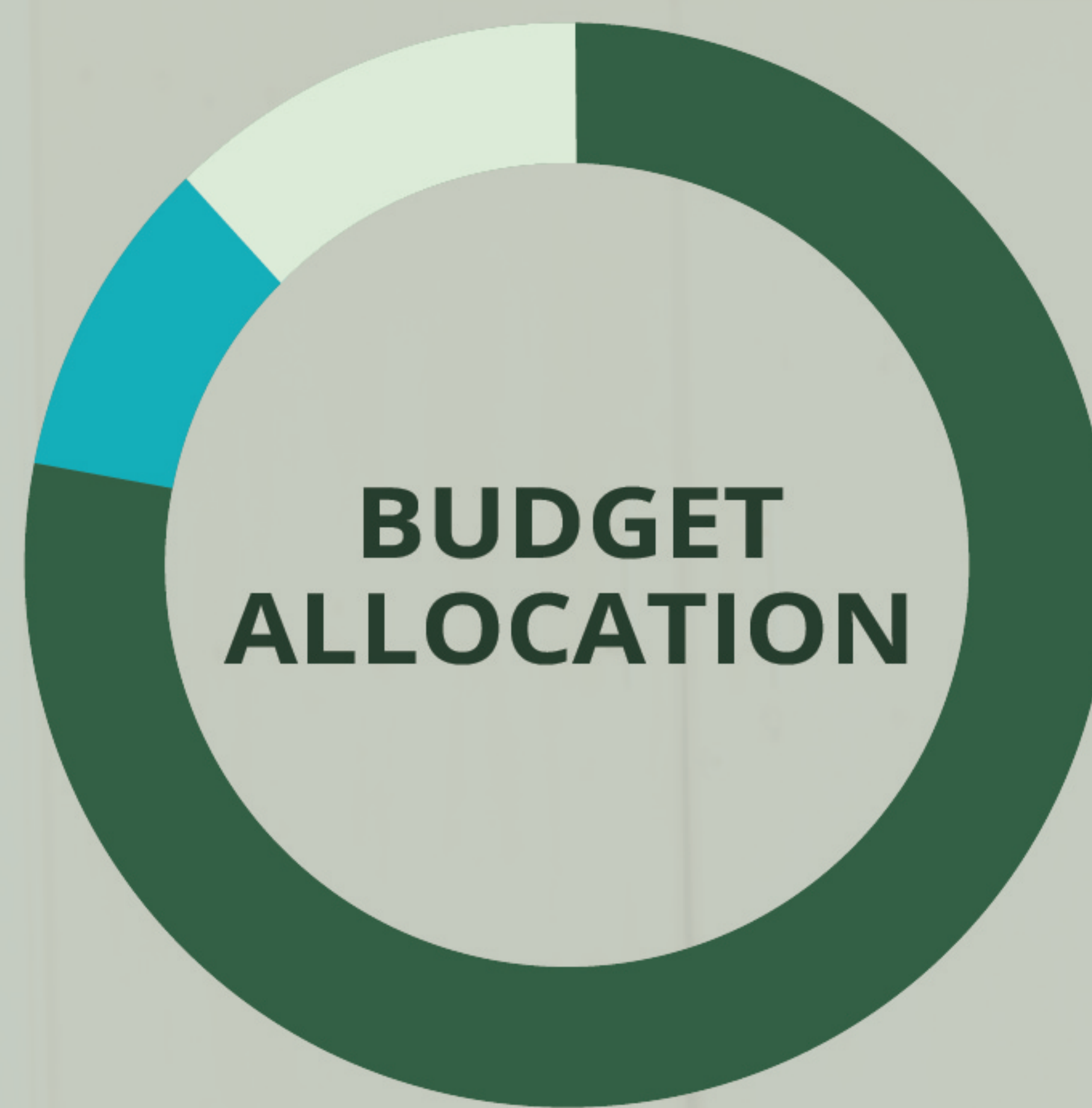




Naomi's Village seeks to be transparent concerning all financial resources. We are grateful for your support in 2020 and the years to come.



- Individual – 80%
- Foundation – 5%
- Church – 2%
- Corporate – 13%



- Programs – 83%
- Operations – 7%
- Fundraising – 10%

**87¢**

of every dollar given goes toward

**KENYAN MINISTRY**





As part of the COVID-19 relief efforts for our community, Naomi's Village worked with the community to farm about 5 acres at Cornerstone. The beans, cabbages, potatoes, and other vegetables helped feed hungry families as the pandemic's effects made it difficult to find work. Plus, most of those who are tending the garden are parents of our community-based students!



\$99,242.35

RAISED



CORPORATE PARTNERS

THANK YOU





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# QUESTIONS

Don't hesitate  
to reach out to our staff at :

[hope@naomisvillage.org](mailto:hope@naomisvillage.org) —

