



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT.

**GROWING TOGETHER.**

ONE PERSON.  
ONE FAMILY.  
ONE COMMUNITY.



**OUR MISSION**

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

## Tree of Lives Family:

If I had to use one word to describe Tree of Lives this year, it would be **growth**. In almost every ministry area, we have seen the most marvelous and promising expansion, in ways material and spiritual. I'm reminded of the parable of the mustard seed in which God's transformative power brings forth a wealth of blessings from the smallest of things. And so it has been for us this year, every dollar we received from donors like you effecting a ten, twenty, even one-hundred-fold difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

You will read many stories of growth in these pages. To our Joy Village orphanage, we welcomed seven new children who now know the love, safety, and stability of a family. Our Holy Family Center Peer Mentors reached over 11,000 people at their World AIDS Day event on December 1 (more than double their number last year). The Scholars Program, which now includes children from our Joy Village as well as the Allamano School, covers educational costs for 145 students. Teacher George, a longtime partner with Tree of Lives, has excelled in his new role as mentor and manager of the Scholars. Participation in our pilgrimages is the highest it has been in many years. In January, we took a team of fourteen, many of whom were first-time pilgrims as well as medical professionals. In July, we had our first-ever Youth Trip and had the privilege of sharing our beloved Tree of Lives with five teenagers from our church, who fell in love with the beautiful people of Kenya. And this Christmas, Boxes of Love sold out for the first time. This is expansive generosity. This is faith that moves mountains.

Thank you for being part of our Tree of Lives family. As we look ahead to our 20th Anniversary next year, I couldn't be more encouraged or excited about what is to come. This work is truly anointed, and through your continued support, all is possible. As Matthew writes, "Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree..." Thank you again, my friends.

In Him,

Jim





## **CHANGING LIVES.** CHARITY PATIENT ASSISTANCE.

The Charity Patient Assistance program is used to provide financial assistance to patients seeking medical treatment who cannot afford to pay for it themselves. Tree of Lives works with Nazareth Hospital to identify patients with the most need and provide quality care and prescriptions to them.

**Meet Elijah**, a man in his 40s, who was raised as an orphan and is currently employed as a day laborer. About 10 years ago, a benign, yet extremely large, tumor began to grow around his shoulder and upper arm. It became so large that he was unable to move his arm properly or to work, and he was embarrassed by his condition. Thanks to Tree of Lives and the charity patient assistance program, he was able to have the tumor removed. Fully recovered, he is able to work again and has regained his quality of life.



## HONGERA MAMA JOYCE. HAPPY RETIREMENT!

It's hard to believe that we celebrated the retirement of our very first mama from the Joy Village this year. Joyce joined the Tree of Lives Joy Village team in 2011. She was a nurse at Nazareth Hospital and was asked to help start the Joy Village children's home. She served in House Peace and has raised many children during her tenure. She helped us create a loving and caring home for our kids and set the model for Joy Village.

When Joyce came to the Joy Village, she brought with her our first Joy Village child, Emmanuel. Emmanuel was an orphan, left at Nazareth Hospital, who Joyce had been raising since he was an infant. Now 12 years old, Emmanuel has grown up at Joy Village with Mama Joyce as the only mother he has ever known. Though his school fees and other expenses will continue to be paid by Tree of Lives, Emmanuel has settled in with Joyce in her new home outside Joy Village, so they can keep their family together.

We wish Mama Joyce a happy retirement! In Swahili we would say "Hongera," or here we'd say "Congratulations Mama Joyce!"

### JOY VILLAGE NEWS

Currently the Joy Village houses 59 kids. In 2023, we welcomed seven new children. Below are a couple of our new faces: James (7) and Alfred (2.5) were being cared for by their brother Frederick (14, not pictured) before coming to JV.





## **CHANGING LIVES.** MOTHER TO MOTHER PROGRAM.

Without intervention, there is an up to 45% chance that a HIV+ mother can transmit HIV to their child during periods of pregnancy, labor, delivery and breastfeeding. However, with small amounts of intervention, this rate can be reduced to below 5%. That is what our Mother-to-Mother program is designed to do. Over the past 10 years, our program has had a 0% transmission rate from HIV+ mothers to their children. 2023 continued this incredible record - all 42 babies born to HIV+ mothers in the program were HIV negative.

**Meet Elizabeth**, a 26 year old young mother from our Mother-to-Mother program. As part of this program, we were able to pay for her to have an elective cesarean section birth that helps prevent the transmission of HIV to the child. As a single mother and an orphan, Elizabeth has no one to help and therefore she could not afford an elective c-section on her own. As a result of this program, both mother and child are doing well.

# MAJOR DONORS

We are thankful for all our donors and supporters. The following donors were major contributors in the 2023 fiscal year. (\$1,000 and up)

Jackie Alcorn  
Kelly & Everett Alcorn  
Azelby Family Fund  
Monica Baker  
Roy Beskin  
Rob & Andrea Buck  
Tricia & Craig Campbell  
Amy & Brian Clements  
Carol Davis  
Jim Deacon  
Cara & Adam Estes  
Sandee Ferebee & Erik Van Strien  
Megan & Haywood Foard  
Jane Friddell  
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John & Nancy White  
Kip White  
Eunice & Winston Whitehurst  
LaRhonda Whitmire  
Andrea & Ross Wood  
Sheryl & Jim Wood  
Mary Pat Young

# CHURCH PARTNERS

Chapel on the Hill, Lake Geneva, WI  
First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, VA  
First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, IL

Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake, VA  
St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Acton, MA

# 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

<i>2023 Beginning Balance</i>	\$296,801
<b>Revenue</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$342,175</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administrative	16,649
Fundraising	3,549
Kenyan Based Grants	
<i>Nazareth Hospital Charity Fund for Needy Patients.....</i>	<i>43,296</i>
<i>Nazareth Hospital Pastoral Care &amp; Counseling.....</i>	<i>13,110</i>
<i>Nazareth Mother-to-Mother Program.....</i>	<i>10,375</i>
<i>Scholars Program.....</i>	<i>117,397</i>
<i>Women of Worth.....</i>	<i>13,040</i>
<i>Holy Family Center Youth Program.....</i>	<i>14,000</i>
<i>Holy Family Center Youth Program World AIDS Day.....</i>	<i>3,800</i>
<i>Holy Family Center Food Pack &amp; Infant Milk.....</i>	<i>12,000</i>
<i>Holy Family Center Patient Support.....</i>	<i>6,300</i>
<i>Holy Family Center Boxes of Love.....</i>	<i>6,500</i>
<i>Holy Family Center Staff Engagement.....</i>	<i>4,000</i>
<i>Allamano School.....</i>	<i>6,182</i>
<i>Allamano School Boxes of Love.....</i>	<i>6,500</i>
<i>Slum Child Foundation for Korogocho Children’s Support Program.....</i>	<i>6,000</i>
Joy Village	117,732
Joy Village Medical Devices	7,608
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$408,038</b>
<i>2023 Ending Balance</i>	<i>\$230,938</i>



## GROWING OUR NUMBERS. PILGRIMAGES THIS YEAR.

A pilgrimage to Kenya is the experience of a lifetime. Pilgrims have the opportunity to serve patients alongside Nazareth Hospital and Holy Family Center staff, spend time with the children at the Joy Village and the Allamano School, and experience the beautiful culture, landscape, and people of Kenya. This year we offered two trips.

In January, a group of fifteen visited, including several pediatricians and medical professionals. The doctors spent lots of time checking up on our Joy Village kids. They took heights and weights, checked medicines and reviewed the children's charts. They also spent time at Nazareth Hospital learning and sharing alongside the doctors and nurses there. Others on the team visited the schools where the kids attend, went on home visits with the Holy Family Center staff and encouraged the mamas at the Joy Village.

The second trip, in July, was a first for Tree of Lives. The pilgrimage was open to teenagers age sixteen and up. This gave us the opportunity to introduce a whole new generation to our partners in Kenya. The teens spent extra time with the peer mentors at the Holy Family Center, even completing a ropes course together. It was also a blessing to the Kenyan kids at the Allamano school, Joy Village and the peer mentors to have pilgrims their age that could relate to them. It was a blessing to bring new life and new energy to the Tree of Lives partners.

Consider joining us on a pilgrimage in 2024. Dates will be announced soon.

### 2023 PILGRIMS:

Ethan Barron  
Rachel Cropper  
Eden Crumbly  
Jen Delica

Mackenzie Farrell  
Sandee Ferebee  
Glen Green  
Arlie Johnston

Hunter Johnston  
Aaliyah Joseph  
Peggy Mackey  
Katharine Meyer

Vinitha Seevaratnam  
Anola Stage  
Laurie Talty  
Erik Van Strien

LaRhonda Whitmire  
Leslie Williams  
Anderson Willis  
Jim Wood  
Sheryl Wood



## WORLD AIDS DAY 2023. COMMUNITIES GROWING.

December 1 is International World AIDS Day. It is set aside for the global community to renew its commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat. For the last 20 years, Nazareth Hospital and the Holy Family Center have contributed toward the sustained efforts to control and manage HIV, making significant achievements in Kenya.

The theme for World AIDS Day this year was: "Let communities lead," underscoring the ongoing commitment to end the HIV epidemic and promote a healthier and more informed world.

Nazareth, as a community hospital, strives to connect people with person-centered health services, building trust and offering a conducive environment to meet the needs of patients. World AIDS Day was not just a celebration of the achievements of the hospital community, but also a call to action to enable and support surrounding communities in their leadership roles.

During World AIDS day, Nazareth ambassadors traveled to popular gathering spots including marketplaces, flower farms, boda boda (motorcycle) sheds, bus stops and even led a mobile road show from Nazareth to Limuru and eventually to Kiambu, a neighboring town. This creative outreach allowed them to reach 11,000 people on one day (more than double from last year) and 8,000 youth were targeted.

During this event, 15 Holy Family Center Peer Mentors participated. A total of 914 people were tested, of which eight were newly identified as HIV+ positive. Of those eight, five are already successfully linked to the Holy Family Center and three are on follow-up for care and treatment. Those with negative tests received messages on prevention and risk reduction measures.

What a way for the community to see the care from the Holy Center Peer Mentor team!



### SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN HIV/AIDS MANAGEMENT

**93% of affected individuals  
in Kenya are receiving antiretroviral  
treatment across  
3,000 health facilities.**



## SCHOLARS PROGRAM. GROWING EDUCATION.

The Scholars Program was created in 2008 to help further education for the children of the Allamano School and help with tuition for the Joy Village kids once they enter high school. Without this program, many students would pause their education. In 2022, Tree of Lives arranged for a Kenyan community-based organization to hire Teacher George (George Mbugwa Kimani) to supervise our Scholars Program.

The scholar program pays for tuition and other school-related supplies like school shoes, uniforms, bags, text books and stationery to kids in lower grades, upper grades, junior high and those in secondary schools. Young adults in colleges and universities are also provided with tuition, hostel fees and other budgeted costs.

At the end of 2023, there were 145 scholars enrolled in the program. Two students are in university, three in college, three are sitting for their Form Four (similar to high school) national exams and twelve sat for their grade eight national exam and are waiting to join secondary school. Fourteen students also sat for their grade six national exams and are waiting to join junior high in 2024. We are so proud of our Joy Village and Allamano School scholars!

Each quarter, Teacher George holds scholar meetings for the students and their parents. At these times, he goes over the progress of each student to ensure they are following all of the guidelines to keep their scholarships.





**FAMILIES HELPED DURING  
THE WINTER SEASON**

**200 HOLY FAMILY CENTER  
120 ALLAMANO SCHOOL**



**MONEY RAISED DURING THE  
BOXES OF LOVE SALE THIS  
YEAR. THIS MONEY WILL BE  
USED TO PURCHASE THE  
2024 BOXES OF LOVE.**

**\$18,367**



## **BOXES OF LOVE. GIVING A GIFT.**

We are thrilled that the Boxes of Love SOLD OUT this year. At Christmas time, Tree of Lives sells a box filled with handmade African crafts and collectibles and the proceeds from each sale enable us to provide much-needed provisions to families during the winter months in Kenya. Some of the items in this year's box were created by Peter Njoroge Kimani who has been a friend of Tree of Lives for many years. His wife Jane Maina is a counselor at the Holy Family Center, and she introduced us to the talented Peter. Interested in all types of birds, Peter hand carves and paints these wooden creations. For this year's Boxes of Love, Peter carved a one-of-a-kind bird ornament and a cheese spreader.

On December 18, gift packs were packaged by the Peer Mentors at the Holy Family Center (HFC) and distributed to 200 HFC families and children. Also in December, 120 Allamano School families received packages as well. Each family received a school bag, a water bottle, a toothbrush, 3 liters of cooking oil, 2kg wheat flour, 10kg maize flour, 2kg rice, 2kg Mung beans and a package of bar soap. This is enough to last for about a month. Read Esther's story on the next page to see what a difference these boxes make.



## CHANGING LIVES. BOXES OF LOVE.

**Meet Esther**, an 18-year-old mom. She is an orphan who lives on her own with her two children. Her father abandoned her after she was identified as HIV+ in 8th grade. He felt that she was not useful to the family and would only be an additional burden, like her mother who passed away from HIV. Through intensive mentorship and medical support through the Peer Mentor program at Holy Family Center, she was able to prevent passing HIV to her children. Currently, she is a casual laborer, which does not provide a stable income to support her family. She and her children received the supplies made possible by Boxes of Love and are so thankful for the help.



## **CHANGING LIVES.** CHARITY PATIENT ASSISTANCE.

The Charity Patient Assistance program is used to provide help to patients seeking medical treatment who cannot afford to pay for it themselves. Tree of Lives works with Nazareth Hospital to identify the patients with the most need and provide quality care and prescriptions. This program also provides food and formula to families that are identified.

**Meet Marta,** a mother with five children who came into Nazareth Hospital sick and starving. She is a clothes washer to earn money for her family but hasn't had any demand for work. When they arrived, the children were all dehydrated. The baby was very sick with an infection and the one-year-old couldn't walk due to malnutrition.

The hospital admitted them, fed them, gave them water and rest. The baby is out of danger and has been discharged to recover at home. This family will become part of the nutrition program at Holy Family Center to help them continue healing and allow the children to grow strong. We are blessed to be able to provide life-changing help for families like this though Tree of Lives.



# TREE OF LIVES

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

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