



Coptic Orphans

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF HEROES

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends and Supporters of Coptic Orphans,

2018 was a year of joy as we celebrated our 30th Anniversary and humbly praised God for 30 incredible years of partnering with you to serve God’s children in Egypt. Through God’s Grace and your love and support, we have together transformed the lives of 45,000 children! Over this past year, I met hundreds of you at our four 30th Anniversary Galas in the U.S. and Canada. Many of you answered the call at our galas, and you sponsored 130 new children as well as contributed \$200,000 to the cause! Thank you.

This 30th Anniversary is a testament to our children who never cease to amaze us. At our Galas we honored three of these heroes—Martina, Amira, and Hanan—our *Not Alone* program participants who came from Egypt to receive our Leading by Example Award. Let me tell you about just one of them. Hanan lost her father at seven, and then she joined our flagship *Not Alone* program. Through the love and encouragement of her volunteer Rep, she has reached the pinnacle of academic success as an architecture student at the University of Minya. On the cusp of a promising career, she is fulfilling a life-long dream to become an architect.

At our Los Angeles Gala, Hanan took center stage and addressed the whole ballroom to tell her story. I was filled with an incredible sense of pride for her success, her strength of character, and her spirit of volunteerism. My pride was compounded a thousand-fold when our audience gave her a prolonged standing ovation. The work we started all those years ago has culminated in Hanan as well as in thousands of other children who initially couldn’t read but went on to graduate from top universities in Egypt. I encourage you to share in the joy of their success because you had a major role in raising a generation of changemakers, a generation of doctors, pharmacists, engineers, priests, and professors.

Last year was like no other in our long history where we witnessed success and growth in every area of our organization. This report highlights our accomplishments in 2018, and it also gives us a chance to reflect back upon a thirty-year journey that has been filled with God’s Grace. My thanks to everyone who has sown so much together with us in God’s field.

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4**

One Body in Christ,
Nermien Riad
Founder & Executive Director



“Because I have been given so much, and because I believe in this program, I plan on being a Coptic Orphans volunteer Rep in the future.”

Hanan,
Leading by Example Award Recipient
30th Anniversary Gala, 2018
Los Angeles, CA

“I’m happy to send this message to congratulate Coptic Orphans on its 30th Anniversary and recognize its exceptional service all throughout Egypt. I am impressed at how your service has reached the remotest and poorest parts of Egypt. You have educated thousands of young children orphaned from their families. I offer my appreciation to everyone who has worked and served not only in Egypt but in all Coptic Orphans offices worldwide.

Thirty years gives you a lot of legitimacy and goodwill in our entire community. From success to success, may God continue to bless your efforts and your service.”

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II

ABOUT COPTIC ORPHANS: Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization that has transformed the lives of over 45,000 children in Egypt through the power of education since 1988. Coptic Orphans works through grassroots partners and volunteer networks to strengthen local communities for sustainable impact. By connecting the Coptic diaspora with Egypt, we leverage professional expertise and global resources for the benefit of the homeland.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| USA | CANADA | AUSTRALIA |
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| Rania Petro | Hani Sharobim | Ben Morcos |
| Nermien Riad | | Basem Morris |
| Dr. Robie Samanta Roy | | |
| Raouf Youssef | | |

ADVISORY BOARD: Julie Meawad & Andrew Whitworth

41

of our specially-trained church-based volunteer Reps have been called to the priesthood



COPTIC ORPHANS AND THE CHURCH

58

bishops throughout Egypt partner with Coptic Orphans. They nominate our volunteer Reps and play an essential role in our work.



ONE HERO'S JOURNEY

"You are smart. You are important. You are loved." These words from our volunteer Rep had a profound impact on Yustina, one of our *Not Alone* program participants in Upper Egypt. Yustina was devastated when her father passed away unexpectedly. Her father was more than just a caretaker. He was her confidant and friend, someone who encouraged her dream of becoming a pharmacist. The family took another blow soon after when her younger brother was diagnosed with cancer. While her mother and brother were away for his treatment, Yustina's extended family discouraged her from staying in school.

This situation changed when Yustina entered the *Not Alone* program and was paired with her volunteer Rep, Hanaa. Hanaa sprang into action, assuring the family that we would cover the cost of her education. She arranged for improvements in Yustina's housing, including the addition of an indoor bathroom. Over the years Hanaa met with Yustina regularly to guide her in her studies toward her ultimate goal. Cherished messages of love and support in her sponsor's letters bolstered Yustina's self-confidence. Yustina participated in *Not Alone* workshops that instilled leadership skills and a desire to give of herself to others. Scoring an impressive 97.6% on her *Thanawiya 'Amma* exam, Yustina was accepted to pharmacy school!

Thanks to her sponsor's generosity and devotion, Yustina is close to becoming a pharmacist, achieving the dream she shared with her father long ago. Yustina is just one of many heroes who accomplishes great things because they know that they are smart, they are important, and they are loved.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



OUR FUTURE LEADERS

As of last year, 40 of the *Not Alone* program's best and brightest students have received our in-house Future Leaders Scholarship. As part of this scholarship, these distinguished students receive the same leadership training as our church-based volunteer Reps as well as 14,000EGP per year to help cover tuition, housing, and other educational expenses. Your generosity makes these scholarships possible so our students can achieve the impossible.



432

participants took the *Thanawiya 'Amma* high school exam



306

participants graduated from universities



500

volunteer Reps mentored children



310

life-skills workshops for participants and their mothers



700

Not Alone program sites in towns and villages throughout Egypt



Last year thousands of children advanced in their studies and are following their dreams because of sponsors like you and volunteer Reps like Magdy.

10,376 HEROES

Through Coptic Orphans' flagship *Not Alone* program, you impacted a record number of children last year who experienced the transformative power of God's love. You helped create legions of heroes, heroes like Boutros, who went from the bottom of his class in elementary school to earning a scholarship at the American University in Cairo. Heroes like Maryam, a mother who holds weekly meetings for women in her neighborhood where she shares the self-empowerment skills she learns in *Not Alone* program workshops. You helped train and inspire heroes like Bishoy, one of the hundreds of volunteer Reps who address the children's emotional, academic, and spiritual needs. By giving the children the tools they need to succeed, they achieve great deeds such as graduating from high school at a rate three times higher than that of their peers in Egypt. By supporting Reps like Bishoy and mothers like Maryam, you're ensuring that 10,376 children throughout Egypt are thriving and succeeding in heroic fashion.



1,600 GIRLS EMPOWERED

The Valuable Girl Program unleashes the leadership potential of girls and young women through the power of education. The two-year program empowers girls and young women to break the cycles of poverty and marginalization by addressing critical issues such as early marriage, gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and pervasive inequality. Coptic Orphans partners with local Community Development Associations that implement the program. We conduct life-skills and social justice workshops, and we bring together Christian and Muslim girls in a Big Sister/Little Sister mentorship model. The Valuable Girl Program stresses the liberating power of education and promotes community development everywhere. By building bridges of friendship, trust, and understanding, participants are tearing down walls of social isolation and sectarianism in their polarized communities. Valuable Girl Program Big and Little sisters develop higher self-esteem, become aware of their rights, and they are more likely to stay in school. They come to appreciate their self-worth and that of their neighbor, and they become advocates for one another as well as for women everywhere.



HEROES FOR EACH OTHER

Girls and young women in Egypt, especially those in high-poverty areas, are vulnerable to exploitation, sexism, violence, exclusion from education and therefore economic prosperity and personal autonomy. Little girls like Zeynab come to the Valuable Girl Program feeling alone and helpless and come away from the experience confident and self-assured. Before meeting her Big Sister, Marian, Zeynab was introverted and didn't join in group activities. She also struggled in school and couldn't afford private tutoring. During the two-year program, Marian was committed to helping Zeynab improve in school. Through her mentoring, Marian filled Zeynab with positive messages; told her she had the power to shape her future; and she stressed the importance of service to the community.



As they grew closer, Zeynab opened up about her personal problems. Her teacher was physically abusive, and Marian encouraged Zeynab to stand up for herself and report it to the principal. Despite being ignored at first, Zeynab didn't stop her appeals for justice. The principal finally responded and put an end to the abuse. Zeynab improved in school and developed an unwavering trust in Marian. Marian and the

Valuable Girl Program taught Zeynab the important lesson that girls and women are just as valuable as boys and men. Why the Valuable Girl Program? Because girls like Zeynab with mentors like Marian say things such as, "I had no self-confidence and distrusted people. But you [Marian] made me love myself. I also used to think I could never be friends with a Christian. Now, I love Marian like a sister."

*"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future."
Proverbs 31:25*

Coptic Orphans partners with 16 local Community Development Associations in Qena, Assiut, and Cairo to implement the program. Our combined efforts paired with the participants' hard work and commitment to each other produces tangible results. Because of their dedication to self-improvement, our Valuable Girls:

- Improved their academic performance by 56%
- Showed a 39% increase in peace-building skills
- Strengthened leadership skills by 37%
- Exhibited better school attendance by 80%

While the above outcomes are indeed impressive, they are short to mid-term results. Like a Doum Palm seed that takes years to mature, the most significant impact is yet to come. These empowered women will teach their daughters to respect themselves, transferring these values to the next generation and beyond. Likewise, they will raise their children to respect their neighbors regardless of their faith and gender. The future holds the promise of great change, and it's closer than we think.



128 mentoring sessions per month



352 hours of mentoring for each girl



55% improvement in girls' self-esteem



13,000 participants since 2002



16 Valuable Girl Program sites in Qena, Assiut, and Cairo



Your donations last year helped Egyptian girls learn to trust in themselves and chart a path to success.



37

overseas volunteers



74

Serve to Learn trips with repeat volunteers since 2002



8

Serve to Learn sites in Upper Egypt



17

years of volunteers serving the children



"Remember those who have no one to remember them."
H.H. Pope Shenouda, III

Thank you for your passion for serving the children last year. By doing so, you strengthened the Body of Christ not just in Egypt, but worldwide.

THE GREATEST KIDS ON EARTH

"It's about getting to really know the children, laughing with them, having fun, learning to let go and be a kid again. Despite all their hardships in life, they loved openly, not just me, but God. I grew to love them as well. I really wanted to go back to their homes and hang out and play with them. I feel blessed to have had that experience. One of many, many memories I'll treasure. Thank you, God."

Mary, USA

"I came here with the intention of helping these kids, and in so many ways they were actually helping and teaching me far more than anything I could have done for them."

Robert, United Kingdom

"The kids will touch your heart. Each one's got such an incredible story, and each one has such an incredible heart."

Peter, Australia

"Although it's only three weeks, the students appreciate it so much, and they love it. And we love it. It's just wonderful. Life-changing."

Mary, Canada

"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me." Mark 9:37

"Every night I would walk into their one-bedroom home that 6-8 people were sharing, sit on the floor in front of their bed and drink the soda that they bought specifically for me (but likely couldn't afford). I learned from these kids how to be a true Copt, through their faith and strong belief in God, even in the face of economic difficulties as well as their having fractured families."

Nicole, USA

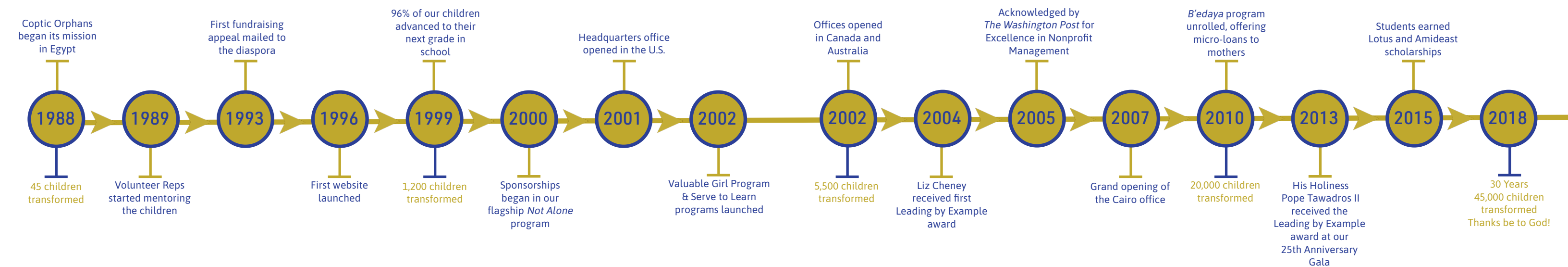
837 LIVES ENRICHED

Thirty-seven volunteers from around the globe traveled to Egypt in 2018 and spent a life-changing three weeks teaching, encouraging, inspiring, and laughing with 837 of the most amazing children on earth. Coptic Orphans hosted three Serve to Learn trips where volunteers, mostly Coptic youth from the diaspora, served rural communities in Upper Egypt. During the day, Serve to Learn volunteers taught English, and in the evenings they visited the children and their families in their homes. They served as caring role models for the children and had their love reciprocated beyond measure. Serve to Learn gives all members of the Coptic Orphans family—the children, their mothers, supporters, Reps, clergy, and staff—a chance to meet, know one another, and bond together. As the diaspora expands and the Coptic church at home faces greater challenges, Serve to Learn plays a critical role in preserving and strengthening the ties that bind us, reminding us that we are indeed One Body in Christ in His service.



30 YEARS OF SOWING

TOGETHER IN GOD'S FIELD





30 YEARS 4 CELEBRATIONS

Toronto. Washington, DC. Weehawken, NJ. Los Angeles, CA. Our amazing supporters and friends came together in these cities last year for our four 30th Anniversary Galas where we celebrated God's abundant Grace, decades of ceaseless work, and the ultimate triumph of our heroes: the children. We gathered to honor them and their victories, and we were honored in turn when some of our best students attended the galas and shared their powerful stories with us. We were also honored by very special supporters of our cause: Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Dr. Nermin Samir, and H.E. Ambassador Lamia Mekhemar. Together we celebrated just as we have served...with gratitude, love, and joy.



"The work we have done together, to me, is the epitome of the meaning of 'One Body in Christ.' For we are taking each member of the Body and administering to each other's needs. Throughout my time at Coptic Orphans, I have come to the realization that it's not the children who benefit the most, but rather it is us. I have heard countless testimonies that the children's strength of faith and complete trust in Christ has strengthened the sponsors themselves. It is they who encourage us. One Body in Christ, indeed."

Nermien Riad
Founder & Executive Director, Coptic Orphans



"God is good. He loves each one of us in His unique way. He is able to transform any pain or sorrow into joy and happiness. We must rearrange our priorities. We should care for others, work for their happiness and love each other just as God loves us."

Dr. Nermin Samir, 2018 Leading by Example Award winner and mother of Maggie who was martyred in the 2016 El Botrosya attack in Cairo



"Through Coptic Orphans' commitment to Egypt, over 45,000 children have now become future leaders. I look forward to welcoming them as part of a thriving and prosperous Egypt, and I could not be more proud of Egypt's future and the contributions of its Coptic Egyptian Diaspora."

H.E. Ambassador Lamia Mekhemar
Consul General of Egypt in Los Angeles



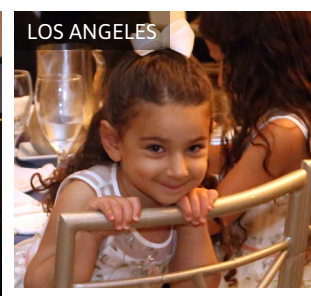
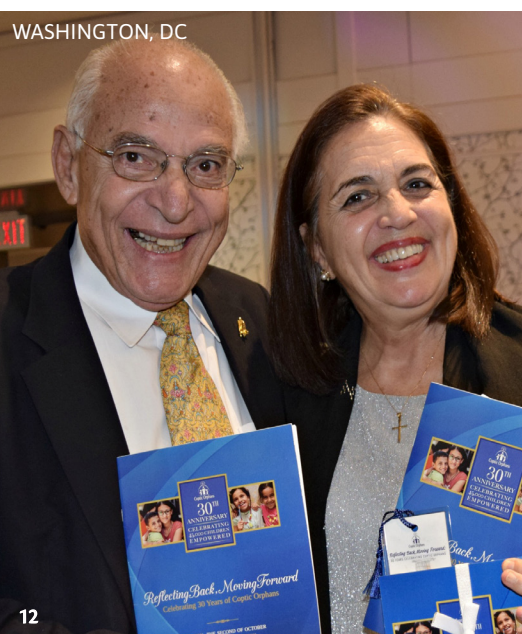
"What the Coptic community represents is this idea of a sacred space of conscience which flows out of a principle that every person deserves dignity and therefore, rights."

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska) and 2015 Leading by Example Award winner



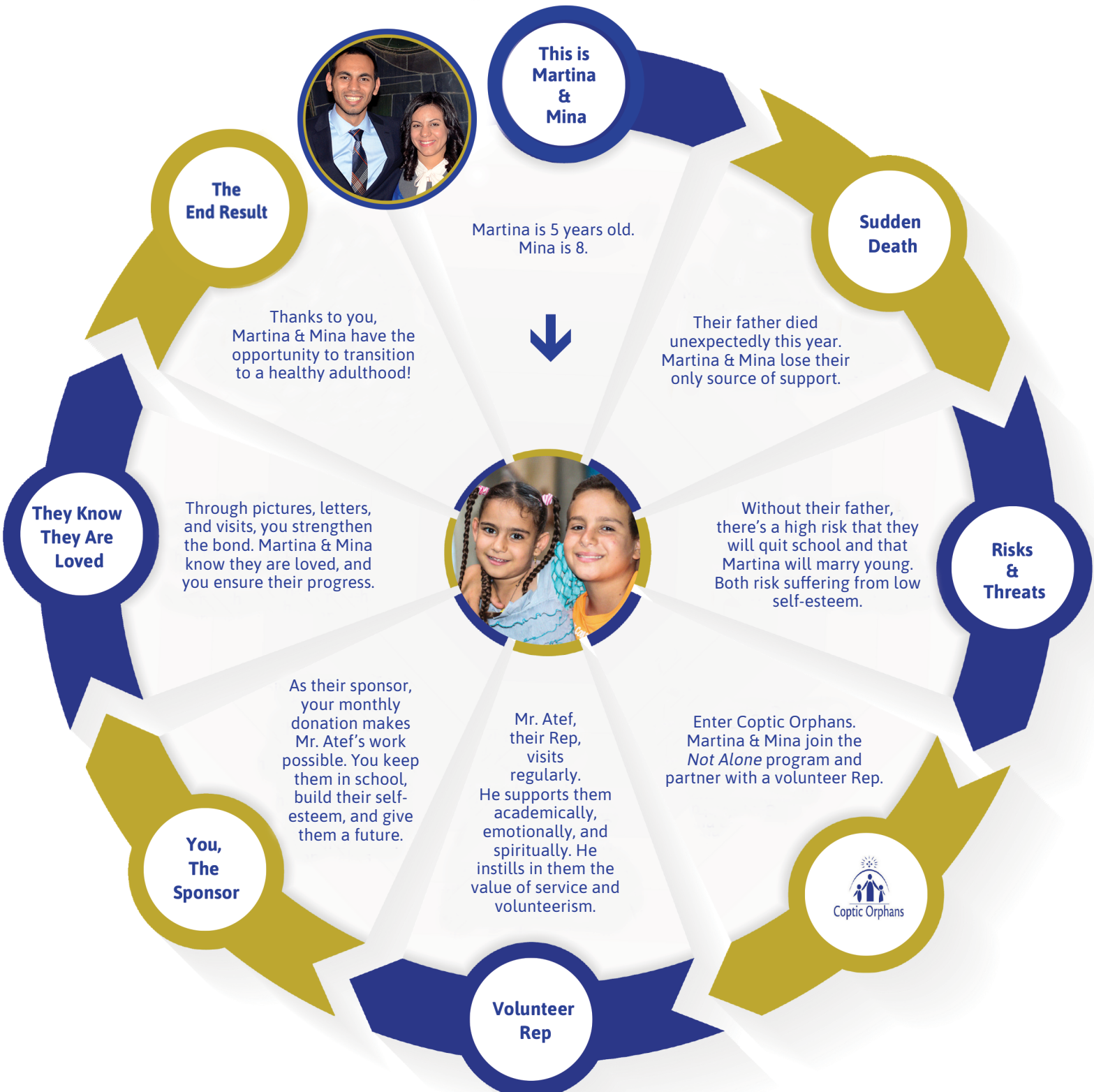
"Coptic Orphans is like no other organization I've ever worked with. We have decades of experience and hundreds of volunteers entrenched throughout Egypt that make us uniquely positioned as an ideal partner and catalyst for development in Egypt."

Raouf Youssef
Chairman of the Board, Coptic Orphans



HEROES MAKING HEROES

HOW SPONSORSHIP WORKS



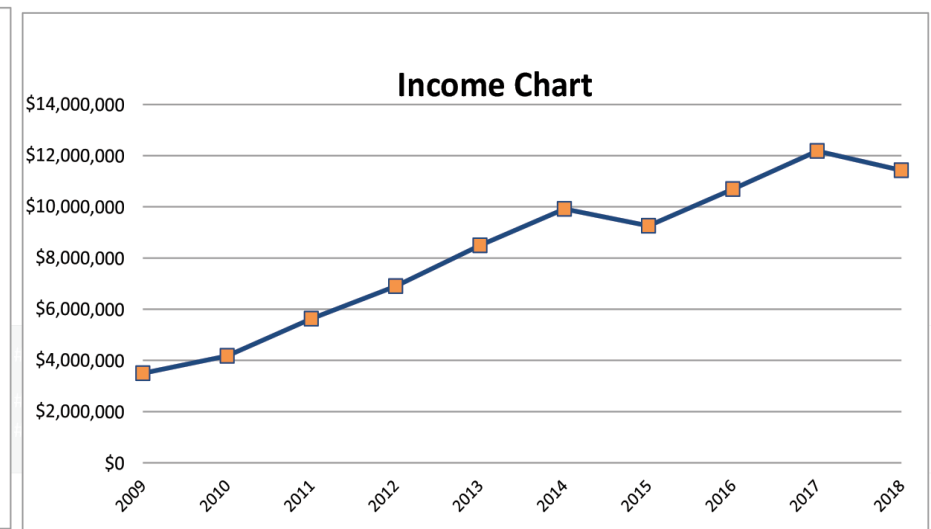
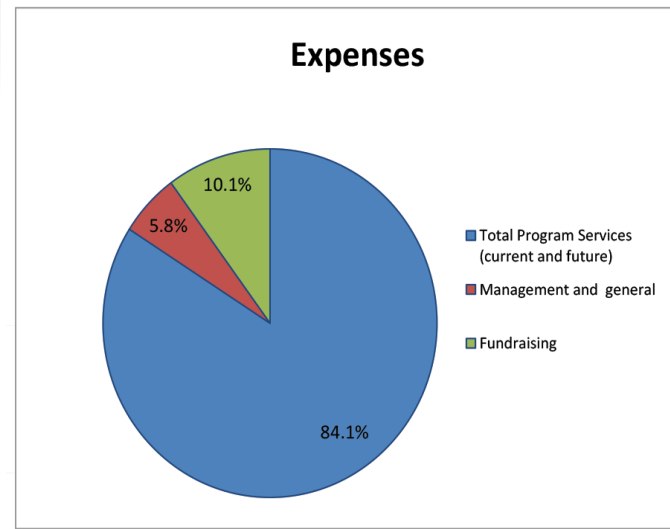
"In Coptic Orphans we get more than money can buy. There is someone who cares and visits us on a regular basis. Also, we attend workshops where there is always a useful subject being discussed. With this, we can face anything."
Samar M. - *Not Alone* program participant

Statements of Funds Activities

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018			2017		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE						
Contributions	\$ 11,097,832	\$ 731,302	\$ 11,829,134	\$ 10,316,740	\$ 611,002	\$ 10,927,742
Net Investment Income	\$ (404,283)		\$ (404,283)	\$ 1,249,289		\$ 1,249,289
Other income	\$ 1,397		\$ 1,397	\$ 3,996		\$ 3,996
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 470,195	\$ (470,195)	\$ -	\$ 435,896	\$ (435,896)	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 11,165,141	\$ 261,107	\$ 11,426,248	\$ 12,005,921	\$ 175,106	\$ 12,181,027
EXPENSES						
Program Services						
Child Development Programs	\$ 6,221,587		\$ 6,221,587	\$ 5,822,168		\$ 5,822,168
Community Development Programs	\$ 370,131		\$ 370,131	\$ 66,940		\$ 66,940
<i>Total Program Services</i>	<i>\$ 6,591,718</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 6,591,718</i>	<i>\$ 5,889,108</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 5,889,108</i>
Support Services						
Management and General	\$ 667,231		\$ 667,231	\$ 694,671		\$ 694,671
Fundraising	\$ 1,155,514		\$ 1,155,514	\$ 869,057		\$ 869,057
<i>Total Support Services</i>	<i>\$ 1,822,745</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 1,822,745</i>	<i>\$ 1,563,728</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 1,563,728</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,414,463	\$ -	\$ 8,414,463	\$ 7,452,836	\$ -	\$ 7,452,836
NET ASSETS						
Current Year Change in Net Assets	\$ 2,750,678	\$ 261,107	\$ 3,011,785	\$ 4,553,085	\$ 175,106	\$ 4,728,191
Change in currency valuation	\$ (457,120)		\$ (457,120)	\$ 353,730		\$ 353,730
<i>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</i>	<i>\$ 2,293,558</i>	<i>\$ 261,107</i>	<i>\$ 2,554,665</i>	<i>\$ 4,906,815</i>	<i>\$ 175,106</i>	<i>\$ 5,081,921</i>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 21,593,242	\$ 689,765	\$ 22,283,007	\$ 16,686,427	\$ 514,659	\$ 17,201,086
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR¹	\$ 23,886,800	\$ 950,872	\$ 24,837,672	\$ 21,593,242	\$ 689,765	\$ 22,283,007

Audited by UHY, LLP Certified Public Accountants



Key Financial Information

Audited Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

For every dollar you donate, we use only 10.1 cents for fundraising and 5.8 cents for management and administration. As part of our commitment to accountability, 84.1 cents goes directly to serving the children in Egypt.

¹Because Coptic Orphans places the highest value in serving the children despite any crisis that might strike Egypt or the countries of the Coptic diaspora, we maintain a nearly 12-month reserve of operating expenses (listed under "Net Assets"). This ensures we will be there for the children no matter what.



This year, Charity Navigator - North America's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit financial effectiveness and accountability - gave Coptic Orphans its highest four-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency for the eighth year in a row.



Also this year, Guidestar - the top reporting agency for the nonprofit sector - awarded Coptic Orphans its Platinum Seal of Transparency for 2018.



***For 30 years you have been the children's heroes!
From all of us at Coptic Orphans, thank you and God Bless you!***

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