



ON THE WORLD STAGE



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

The year 2022 came with immeasurable blessings for Egypt's children, and for us. I can't help but look back with gratitude at all you have accomplished for the children over the decades as Coptic Orphans completes its 34th year of operation.

By God's grace, the story of the Copts made it to the world stage during the United Nations General Assembly meeting on minority rights. We used this rare opportunity to highlight the remarkable story of the Copts—a story of resilience, perseverance, and resolve despite a history of persecution.

This resolve is why, as always, you went above and beyond for Egypt's fatherless. Over 4,600 children who might have otherwise fallen through the cracks came into our care. Thanks to your unwavering support, these children now have the benefit of Reps' visits, quality education, and one-on-one mentorship.

Even as our brothers and sisters in Egypt face unrelenting instability while the Egyptian pound devalues to record lows, you gave critical monetary support for thousands of widowed mothers.

Coptic youth from all around the world served Egypt's children in need while connecting with their Coptic roots in our homeland. These incredible young adults—our future Coptic generation—stepped up in more ways than one. Their passion and dedication to Egypt brings me great optimism for the future of the Copts inside and outside Egypt.

I pray you and your family are well and that God's hand is as present in your everyday life as it is in ours. Thank you for making it possible for Coptic Orphans to touch thousands of lives over the years.

One Body in Christ,
Nermien Riad
Founder and Executive Director



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Who We Are

When people think of Coptic Orphans, they might think of us as a typical charity giving handouts to the needy. They would have been right when we first started 34 years ago. But today, we are proud to be an award-winning international Christian development organization. We unlock the God-given potential of Egypt's most vulnerable through the power of education. As a result, widowed mothers and their children get the tools they need to escape from poverty while breaking the stigma attached to fatherless families in Egypt.

We don't stop there. Our holistic model also transforms children's mindsets from thinking of themselves as inferior to seeing themselves as salt and light in their communities. Our success is the result of your trust, prayers, and confidence in our demonstrated ability to break the vicious cycle of poverty for vulnerable children. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans' programs have reached over 75,000 children throughout Egypt and thousands of Diaspora Coptic communities around the globe.



Top Highlights of 2022

75,000

Children reached across hundreds of villages in Egypt in our 34 years of operation

4,690

Additional children enrolled in our programs where they can now access critical services and relief for urgent needs

656

Students successfully passed their thanawiyah amma (high school final exams) and graduated high school against all odds

578

Urgent housing and medical requests fulfilled to ensure immediate needs are covered

226

University students received laptops from our generous donors, placing them on equal standing with their peers in virtual learning

132

Major media outlets covered our work in Egypt including *Egyptian Streets*, *The Egyptian Gazette*, *Al-Hurra TV*, *Al-Watan News*, *Al-Ahram*, and more

124

Coptic young adults from six countries went to Egypt to teach English and connect with their Coptic roots

194

Sponsors from around the world traveled to Egypt to visit their sponsored children

41

New staff members joined the Coptic Orphans family to better serve Egypt's children

2022 Highlights

The Not Alone Program



Education is a Superpower

Ten years ago, Om Yousif lost her husband and two of her five children in a car accident. The grief consumed her, bringing her to tears for hours at a time. Her children hated seeing their mother cry each night.

Without the father's income, the family suffered financially and the eldest son, Yousif, started working at an appliance repair shop for a meager allowance. At nine years old Yousif became his family's primary source of income. When food competed with school, school fell off the list of priorities.

In 2016, Om Yousif and her children joined the *Not Alone Program*, where they received a monthly stipend as well as psychological and emotional support from their volunteer Rep, Akmal. Eventually, Yousif did not need to work anymore and he started pouring his energy into his studies. Today, thanks to *Not Alone* and Akmal's incredible dedication, Yousif is headed to the Faculty of Engineering at a prestigious university!

"We felt like our lives were over when Baba died," Yousif told us.

"But Coptic Orphans showed us there is more to life."

Our students are graduating at a higher rate than the national average. Students in *Not Alone* graduate high school at a rate of 84%, compared to the national rate of 75.4% for the average student in Egypt. What makes Coptic Orphans unique is that we strive toward the development of all parts of the child, including character, physical and mental health, as well as service-orientation by nurturing the child's spirit. We work closely with Church servants, our field staff in Egypt, and the Clergy.

Not Alone continues to change the lives of Egypt's fatherless by making it possible for them to stay in school and succeed long-term. Your support has mobilized our network of **732** Reps to impact **7,931** families in **800** villages. By breaking the cycle of poverty, a new generation of change-makers like Yousif will continue new traditions of success and prosperity, strengthening their communities for years to come.

The Valuable Girl Project



Girls Bridging Communities



The *Valuable Girl Project* is a revolutionary program that empowers girls and young women in multiple project sites across Egypt.

Many of these communities have limited expectations for women beyond marriage and children. That's why we stepped in—because we know what these girls can accomplish with the right tools.

The Project pairs up “Big Sisters” in university with primary school “Little Sisters.” Big Sisters mentor and tutor their Little Sisters, which leads to improved academic performance for Little Sisters. In return, Big Sisters get a stipend—often their first instance of financial independence—and greater self-confidence. In each two-year Project cycle, we unlock the girls' leadership skills and defy the idea that women's education is unimportant.

After participating in *Valuable Girl*, girls report a remarkable transformation in positive behavior and self-image. Their grades improve and they are motivated to improve their communities. The Project is especially unique because it brings Christians and Muslims together to challenge negative perceptions about the other. For many of these girls and young women, it is the first time they have ever befriended a person of a different faith.

A father of a Little Sister told his local Project leader: “My daughter goes to an Islamic school. She had never interacted with Christians before joining the *Valuable Girl Project*. **Her Christian Big Sister not only helped her study for her classes, she also had a remarkable impact on her socially and psychologically.** The Project should expand to be implemented in public schools as well so more can benefit.”

By creating a culture of mutual love and trust, we become the salt and light of the Earth as Jesus commands us. We currently collaborate with 20 Community Development Associations to expand our reach and impact. Over the past 20 years of its operation, the *Valuable Girl Project* has transformed more than 15,000 girls and young women in 184 project sites across Egypt.

The Coptic Story on the World Stage

UNITED NATIONS



“ For the past 30 years since the UN’s declaration, we have been leading efforts for equality and unity between all Egypt’s people.”

The room quieted in preparation for the civil society representative’s turn to speak. Nermien Riad addressed the attendees on the world stage of the United Nations:

“Mr. President, distinguished delegates and representatives, thank you for inviting me to speak. My name is Nermien Riad, and I am a proud Coptic-American.”

The story of our Coptic roots had reached an unprecedented height: the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. Member states and dignified representatives listened closely to the exceptional narrative.

“Who are the Copts?” Nermien continued. “The Coptic people are an indigenous people of Egypt descending from the pharaohs. Persecuted for millennia at the hands of emperors to caliphs, we have endured and flourished. We suffered as a people, but we were never defeated.

“We held on to hope and have not only become model citizens of our homeland, but have also spread our wings around the world, with the Coptic community now stretching from Japan to California; from Sweden to South Africa.



“Coptic Orphans is an example of that flourishing. For the past thirty years since the UN's declaration, we have been leading efforts for equality and unity between all Egypt's people.”

At the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on minority rights in September, the world watched as our Founder and Executive Director shared the importance of minorities' engagement in their countries' progress and promoting peaceful coexistence. We used this opportunity not only to highlight our programs, but primarily to bring attention to the plight of Copts in Egypt.

Our vision is a peaceful, prosperous Egypt where children thrive and a vibrant, engaged Diaspora. The story of the Copts, in past centuries up until today, is a powerful story to tell. The Copts have shaped Egypt itself, and Coptic Orphans is committed to sharing that story on the world stage.

Coptic Orphans was invited to speak at the General Assembly because we hold consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). This is the highest status granted by the United Nations to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). With this status, we are able to participate in the UN's work and share our resources and expertise in development with other representatives.

With this distinction under our belt, we placed a heavy focus this year on expanding and promoting our work to international media. We are thrilled to say this was a successful endeavor. We earned **184** pieces of press coverage and **17** pieces of video and TV coverage in 2022, which is greater than the past 17 years of our press coverage combined.

Noteworthy press outlets covered meetings with Minister of Immigration Ambassador Soha Gendy, Head of the Central Administration for Public Education Dr. Randa Shaheem, and a pivotal financial partnership with Banque du Caire CEO Mr. Tarek Fayed.

DISCOVER . SERVE . UNITE



It is impossible to forget what we were doing the moment we heard the news on February 15, 2015. The world watched in horror as ISIS violently martyred 21 men on Libya’s shores on video.

These men were our brothers, our uncles, our fathers. They were our cousins and neighbors. For Copts watching the martyrdom unfold, we felt a sense of victory and pride rather than fear. Praise God for their refusal to betray our faith even while facing death!

Their death was neither the first nor last Coptic martyrdom in modern history, yet their martyrdom was extraordinary because it reached every corner of the Earth. The very method ISIS used to showcase their actions—broadcasting live video—only aided the Coptic cause. The 21 martyrs brought our story and history to the forefront of international media in a way we have never seen before.

This year Coptic Orphans launched our newest project: the revolutionary program *The 21*, named as a tribute to the 21 martyrs of Libya who embody the fortitude, faith, and courage that is the Coptic victory and pride. For the first time ever, we offered a freely-gifted heritage trip to Coptic young adults with a spirit of service who wanted to dig deeper into their Coptic roots. *The 21* gives every young Coptic adult between the ages of 18 - 23 who lives outside Egypt the opportunity to serve in Egypt. We believe that young adults of the Diaspora can best learn about their heritage and faith through the power of service.

Fellows teach English to children in remote villages of

Upper Egypt during the three-week trip. *The 21* also has an added emphasis on historical sites that are central to the Coptic Orthodox faith including the Hanging Church, the Monastery of St. Mary (Deir Dronka), and the church of Al-Our where the 21 martyrs' bodies are laid to rest.

107 Coptic young adults from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates attended *The 21* in June and July of 2022. Before traveling to Egypt, fellows attended a mandatory workshop with presentations by experts on Coptic identity, history, and theology to prepare them for their expedition.

The 21 served **1,981** children and visited **1,150** families at **16** service locations in Beni Suef, Minya, and Assiut.

After returning from *The 21*, a whopping 92% strongly agreed that they intend to take their children to Egypt in the future. The percentage of fellows who agreed that they felt more connected with the Copts in Egypt soared from 45% before the trip to 89% upon returning.

When asked if they had a strong sense of belonging to a global Coptic family, fellows' positive responses jumped from 53% before the trip to 74% after. The survey results show that these phenomenal young adults came back with a new fire in their hearts for Egypt. They returned to their home countries ready to give back to their local churches with a renewed spirit of service. *The 21* will lead future generations of Copts to share our rich history and faith for years to come as one body in Christ.

Fellows' Testimonials

"I am certain that if I could do it again, I would do it a million times over."

Jasika Shaker, United States

"I knew my Coptic identity was important. but I always focused on my identity in Christ much more heavily. This trip has made me realize that it is extremely crucial for me and especially the youth born outside Egypt to connect intimately with their origins and give back to those who shape their mother, the Church."

Father David Mahrous, Australia

"I feel closer to my Lord on this trip as I witness Him and His love in each of the kids."

Julie-Marina George, Australia

"Some might have the impression that *The 21* program is just foreign youth going to serve poor kids in Egypt. But all of this is false. It's about going to learn from the most beautiful children of God and being touched by God through their love. We came with nothing to offer and left with our hearts full. We understood what it means to be loved, because the kids loved us like Christ does."

Rachel Andraos, Canada

Testimonials & Events



Coptic Orphans makes wonderful contributions. Its goals and programs are in complete harmony with the priorities of the State both in development and in strengthening the engagement of Egyptians abroad and their belonging to their motherland.

Minister Soha Gendy
Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs



“ I will always be grateful to you. I try to pay back by providing free medical exams for the poor. ”

Dr. Antonious, former *Not Alone* participant

“ *Not Alone* is one of a kind. It lifts a big burden from the Church as it responds to our local families' urgent needs. ”

Father Philobos Saad, Egypt



I value your true and sincere service to the poor and needy families here and abroad in Egypt. May the Lord Jesus bless you and reward you hundredfold here and in heaven with health, strength, peace, success, and happiness.

Father Augustinos Hanna, United States



A special thank you to our friends and supporters who joined us for one of our in-person events!



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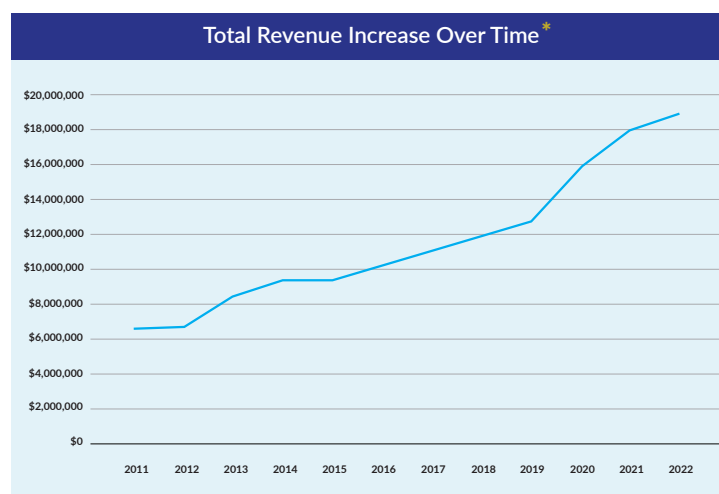
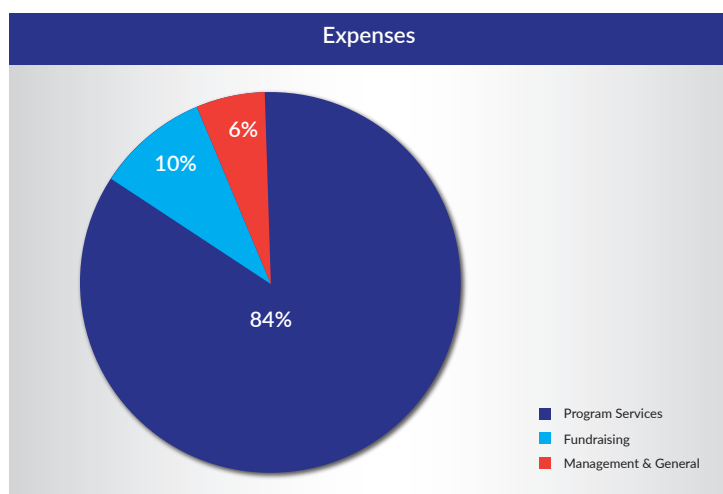


Statement of Activities

For the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Revenue and Support		
Contributions	\$ 18,377,311	\$ 17,435,534
Net Investment and Other Income	574,949	533,788
Total Revenue and Support	18,952,260	17,969,322
Expenses		
Program Services		
Child Development	11,902,080	10,753,540
Community Development	1,404,605	393,013
Total Program Services	13,306,685	11,146,553
Support Services		
Management and General	991,504	953,744
Fundraising	1,541,900	1,490,722
Total Support Services	2,533,404	2,444,466
Total Expenses	15,840,089	13,591,019
Non-Operating Income		
Net unrealized and realized gain (loss) on investments	(9,236,597)	5,324,067
Change on foreign currency valuation and other gains	(885,263)	103,352
Total Non-Operating Income	(10,121,860)	5,427,419
Net Assets		
Change in Net Assets	(7,009,689)	9,805,722
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	49,475,710	39,669,988
Net Assets End of Year	\$ 42,466,021	\$ 49,475,710

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



Out of every dollar spent, 84 cents went to programs servicing the children in Egypt. Only 6 cents went to management and administration, while 10 cents were used for fundraising.

While Coptic Orphans' revenue has shown tremendous growth, we have never lost focus on maintaining responsible stewardship over the resources entrusted to us. Our financial accountability and reporting processes have been praised consistently over the years.

* Per IRS Form 990



*"Learn to do good; Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor; Defend
the fatherless, Plead for the widow."*

Isaiah 1:17

*From all of us at Coptic Orphans,
we thank you very much.
May God bless you!*



www.copticorphans.org

United States

EIN: 54 1637257

P.O. Box 2881
Merrifield, VA 22116
Phone: 703-641-8910

Canada

Tax ID: 879517712RR0001

P.O. Box 52033
Laval, QC H7P 5S1
Phone: 450-736-0975

Australia

ABN: 27 138 388 851

P.O. Box 5
Liverpool NSW 1871
Phone: 02-9787-9777

United Kingdom

Charity No.: 113307

7 The Willows
Parbrook, Billingshurst, RH9 14WL
Phone: 079-036-18999

Egypt

Registration No.: 92/2013

224 Almoltaka Alaraby District,
El-Nasr Rd, El-Nozha, Cairo 11775
Phone: 02-2638-9227
Mobile: 0120-224-8666