

2013 Annual Report

Dear Friends and Supporters of Coptic Orphans,

Contrary to custom, I'm going to start this year's letter with bad news: As of 2013, Coptic Orphans had impacted the lives of only 30,000 children, empowering them to achieve healthier, happier, more educated lives.

Why is that bad news? You and I both know the answer. Because thousands more children are hungry, are cold, are dying of untreated illnesses in Egypt.

If you're like me, that suffering haunts you. 30,000 is not enough. How can we heal more? Empower more? Educate more? Feed more?

You. You did so much in 2013. **Thank you**. Together, we're building the strength to reach thousands more children. Together, we're really striving to live by the Lord's command: "Bring justice to the fatherless; plead the widow's cause."

In 2013, you took Isaiah 1:17 to heart and you gave in countless ways. In your contributions, as sponsors and donors. In your hospitality, by opening your homes to our staff. Most importantly, in your prayers.

You gave so that Egypt's orphans might cease to be cold, cease to be hungry, cease to be starved for education and medical care and all those other things that Coptic Orphans strives to provide.

I was reminded of this when meeting Susanna, one of the children you have empowered through your support. When she lost father, she lost everything—even her home. Then, a Coptic Orphans Rep began visiting her family and supporting her education. When I met Susanna in 2013, incredibly, she was pursuing postgraduate studies. She said of her Rep: "He became like my second father."

Susanna's Rep comes, not surprisingly, from her own congregation. Which brings me to the most important good news. In 2013, the Church continued her centuries-old role of leading the way for orphans. Without the Church, there would *be* no Reps visiting the children. There would *be* no Coptic community to embrace the widow, the orphan.

So we cannot speak of reaching 30,000 children, as of 2013, without acknowledging that this has only been possible with the Church at the center of all things. Our gratitude to His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Their Graces the Bishops, and the Reverend Fathers cannot be measured.

One Body in Christ,

Mernin Kiad

Founder & Executive Director

About Coptic Orphans

When most people think of "orphans," they think of children in orphanages who have no family at all. In fact, many orphanages in Egypt are filled with children who have living family, only because their widowed mothers cannot afford to feed them. This is an injustice.

Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization that works through a grassroots volunteer network to unlock the God-given potential of fatherless children in their own homes and families. We equip them to break the cycle of poverty and become change-makers in their communities. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans has touched the lives of over 30,000 children in underserved villages and urban areas throughout Egypt, from Alexandria to Aswan.

The Top 10 Highlights of 2013

Coptic Orphans does nothing on its own. Behind the leadership of the Church, and with your generous support, we are making progress towards our shared vision of an Egypt where children thrive. Your prayers, donations, sponsorships, and volunteerism all contribute to making this vision real. This was especially evident in 2013. Together, we saw the following enormous steps forward:

- His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Patriarch of Alexandria, blesses us by meeting with hundreds of Coptic Orphans Reps and staff at St. Mark's Cathedral.
- Our flagship *Not Alone* program gains 1,707 children, meaning that even as others graduate out of our services, we add a total of 615 new participants.
- Work to prepare six students in the *Not Alone* program pays off when they pass tough exams and win scholarships to attend various prestigious universities in Egypt.
- Fifteen students are awarded Coptic Orphans' own iNPower scholarships, making it possible for them to access the better-taught, more expensive upper tier of Egypt's two-track public university system.
- We raise U\$\$250,000 to help rebuild churches that were attacked and burned; many of these churches are beloved to our children and Reps, who attend and grew up in them.
- Our Reps and staff in Egypt display unprecedented heroism during periods of unrest, leaving the safety of their homes to check on the welfare of the children despite mobs and criminals roaming the streets.
- After a two-year suspension due to civil unrest, we resume the *Valuable Girl Project* with eight partner NGOs, 16 local coordinators, and 163 Big Sister-Little Sister pairings.
- Twenty-nine mothers of our program participants get a chance at economic self-sufficiency and dignity through the second round of the B'edaya initiative, which provides interest-free loans for these female heads of household to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.
- In an event conducted by the Petra Institute for Children's Ministry of South Africa, our staff in Egypt receive an eye-opening, inspiring training in "Building Relationships with Children."
- Our collective efforts receive a powerful boost and increased legitimacy when the Egyptian government agrees to register Coptic Orphans as an international organization with full rights to operate within the motherland.



The Church Leads the Way for Orphans



The ministry of Coptic Orphans is a good and outstanding example of a ministry with specific characteristics: Administratively, it's excellent. Ten out of ten. From the practicality angle, and perceiving people's unique needs, ten out of ten ... it's a good management model I hope all our Church bodies can emulate and follow.

– His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Patriarch of Alexandria, March 31, 2013

Everything Coptic Orphans does is inspired and guided by the Church. So it was a blessing beyond all imagination last March when His Holiness Pope Tawadros II chose to meet with hundreds of Coptic Orphans' Church-based volunteers.

There at St. Mark's, amidst the holiest symbols of our faith, His Holiness said: "I am happy that I participated with you in a service that I respect very much, and that I served in and shepherded when I was a bishop in Behera, Damanhour, King Mariout [and] Marsa Matrough ... I have a personal relationship with all the servants."

His Holiness also said: "We're celebrating 25 years since the founding of Coptic Orphans-meaning, the silver jubilee-serving 30,000 children through the service of 400 volunteer [Reps] like yourselves."

Indeed, the volunteer Reps are Coptic Orphans' backbone. Without their one-to-one bond with each child, and constant vigilance over their health, safety, and education, there would *be* no Coptic Orphans. Their work is inextricably tied to the steadying and sacred presence of the Church in each parish where Coptic Orphans serves. It comes as no surprise that 23 Coptic Orphans Reps have gone on to become priests.

SERVING CHURCH AND CHILDREN

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, Patriarch of Alexandria, said of our work:

"We appreciate very much what you are doing... you are saving God's children."

Ever since Coptic Orphans was founded in 1988, this shared vision of "saving God's children" has reached all the way from the very pinnacle of the Church – the throne of the Patriarch – to the lowest, coldest, most despairing corners of Egypt.

Here is Coptic Orphans' work by the numbers:

church-based volunteer Reps visit children's homes as advocates and mentors

Coptic dioceses in Egypt include Coptic Orphans in their services

30,000 children empowered to break the cycle of poverty through education, health, housing, and other programs

90.5% of expenditures go to programs in Egypt

100% of children served are enrolled in school

With the Church leading the way for orphans, this, then, is our effort to obey the Word of God: "Bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. (Isaiah 1:17)

Risking Their Lives for the Kids

Coptic Orphans Reps are committed people. How could it be otherwise with servants of the Church who come recommended by their Bishop, and who spend their limited time and resources visiting and ministering to orphans? Yet, there are times their devotion reaches unanticipated levels. And, luckily for the children, their zeal proved the strongest in the darkest hours of 2013.

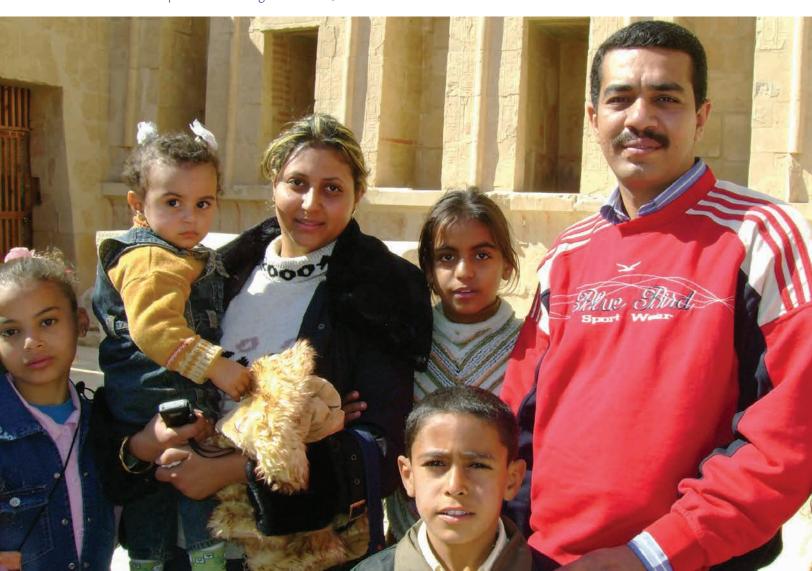
Darkness certainly fell on many Egyptian communities in much of last year. The shadows cast by rampaging anti-Christian mobs grew their deepest on August 14, when crowds angered at the ouster of Egyptian president and Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammad Morsi attacked 42 Coptic churches. Crosses were hurled down from the rooftops and ancient relics were charred to ashes. Human Rights Watch documented assaults of this type in the governorates of Minya, Assiut, Fayum, Giza, Suez, Sohag, Beni Suef, and North Sinai. These attacks also took an incalculable and still-unfolding human toll.

Throughout the period of unrest, many Reps defied fears and direct threats to continue their work with the children. In Diabiya, Beni Suef, Rep Saeed ignored his wounds from a previous mob attack to continue his visits to the orphans in his charge. Not far off, in Beni

Suef's El Fashn diocese, Salafists destroyed two minibuses being used to transport Christians to services. Rep Ayman, undeterred, subsequently drove from one household to the next, making sure the children could cope with the emotional aftermath of the terrorist incident.

The stories of Rep Saeed and Rep Ayman are not unique. Coptic Orphans staff heard these and many more in the dark days of August. What became clear in 2013 is this: The Reps' commitment to the children goes far beyond ordinary volunteerism. There is a heroic aspect to it, one that is inexplicable unless one looks at the roots of Coptic Orphans. Those roots are in the Church, which for millennia has nurtured a tradition of service and sacrifice.

Coptic Orphans and the children we serve are incredibly blessed. Only the Church, with its heroes such as St. George and St. Maurice, is capable of keeping such values alive and vibrant in the 21st century. We look forward to a new year when peace reigns and sacrifices are more seldom demanded. At the same time, it is comforting to know the caliber of the Reps, the volunteer leaders who are the bedrock of Coptic Orphans programs.



How We Use Education to Break the Cycle of Poverty

In 2013 we strengthened Coptic Orphans' core strategy: using education to break the cycle of poverty.

That focus didn't come at the cost of neglecting our other commitments. For example, we continued to be vigilant about our children's housing, health, and life skills. But we continued our strategy of focusing on education because it best equips youngsters to overcome life's challenges through their own efforts.

And therein lies the key: Coptic Orphans strives to be more than a simple dispenser of money that creates people who depend on charity. Our work is more about transformation. How can we help children grow strong enough to stand on their own? Logically, a child with a good education is better prepared to land a good job or start a successful business than one with no such advantage.

The facts support Coptic Orphans' strategy. Many academic studies have confirmed that education and life chances are firmly linked. The improvements start in the most basic trades: For example, one World Bank study found that farmers with a minimum of four years of primary education were able to boost their productivity by an average of nearly nine percent. Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn , in their book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, call education one of two keys to improving the lives of women and girls living in poverty in the developing world. (The other is microfinance - which we address via our B'edaya initiative.)

So how did we develop education as the key aspect of Coptic Orphans' work in 2013? By:

Giving five students in the Not Alone program proper preparation to compete
for scholarships to some of Egypt's most well-regarded and academically
demanding universities. This preparation included coaching in how to excel in
school, assistance with obtaining necessities whose lack would have hindered
the completion of schoolwork, and, where needed, financial support for indepth tutoring in key subjects such as English. Where necessary, we even paid

for students to take exams. In many cases, this intensive preparation was the culmination of years of hard work by Reps and staff, all of whom collaborated to get *Not Alone* participants on the right track in school. This labor paid off when five such students passed special LOTUS Scholarship exams in 2013, earning them the means to attend prestigious universities.

- Awarding 15 Not Alone participants Coptic Orphans' own iNPower scholarships. These new "in-house" scholarships are awarded to students whose performance in a rigorous screening process confirms that they have strong academic credentials and a deep devotion to the Church and community. These scholarships make it financially possible for these top-notch students to access the upper tier of Egypt's two-track public university system. The instructors, class sizes, and post-graduation job opportunities that come with attending the upper tier are all much better than in the almost-free, decrepit lower tier. iNPower scholarships play a critical role because of the upper tier's cost. Bright students may earn a slot in the top-tier programs through their own hard work (and encouragement from their mothers and Reps), only to confront a crushing burden of tuition. iNPower covers these costs, and even offers help with living expenses during the academic year.
- Continuing our work to ensure that every participant in *Not Alone* has access to decent education from the most basic levels on up. The foundation of this work is encouraging and standing watch over each child as he or she navigates pressures at home and in school. The Reps bear responsibility for keeping each child in classes, doing whatever it takes to meet their individual needs. In one case, this may take the form of help with homework; in another, it may involve financially empowering the family so the child doesn't have to drop out and go to work. This determined focus on education is paying off: 100 percent of *Not Alone* participants are enrolled in school. Moreover, in 2013 alone, 359 *Not Alone* participants graduated from high school.

98.3%

of all our kids move on to the next educational level.

Education is just one of the means by which, working together, we can help orphans overcome obstacles and secure a better future. But it may be the most important means, since it is certainly the most empowering. Through education, in 2013, we translated your generous support into the tools by which these children can achieve true economic self-sufficiency.

Not Alone Winners of 2013 LOTUS Scholarships

Mina Salieb, Qena

Maher Fayez Kamel, Banha

Abanoub Atef Hasballah, Luxor

Christina Adel Naguib, Beni Suef

Christine Nasr Zaref, Nagie Hamadi

Only 100 of these USAID-funded comprehensive scholarship packages are awarded each year. They offer students the opportunity to obtain undergraduate degrees from Egyptian private universities in fields of study that are important to Egypt's development.

Not Alone Program



Not Alone

What makes *Not Alone* our flagship program? Part of the answer lies in its long reach and vast scope. To date, the program has helped empower nearly 20,000 children all across Egypt, and nearly 10,000 were enrolled in 2013 alone. Walk into any Coptic community from Assiut to Alexandria, and the odds are good you'll meet families who have benefitted from *Not Alone*.

Another part of the answer lies in *Not Alone's* goal of raising children's academic achievement, building a well-rounded personality, and increasing their sense of volunteerism as future leaders of Egyptian society. By connecting fatherless children with these building blocks for a successful life, *Not Alone* helps empower them to break the cycle of poverty.

The bedrock of *Not Alone* is Church-based community leaders, known as "servants" in their own congregations. Over 400 of these leaders, known as *Not Alone* "Reps," serve as advocates and mentors to our children. The Reps come recommended by their own bishops and priests, and our staff in Egypt offers them regular trainings in how to support and protect the children. Of course, the Reps often have a huge amount to teach their peers and staff, not least about bravery. Many Reps put their lives on the line during 2013's civil unrest.

Day in and day out, year after year, each Rep builds a long-term relationship with the children they serve, connecting with each child through home visits, life-skills workshops, and community activities. Not surprisingly, the Reps are the pillars of Coptic Orphans' educational focus. They are skilled at translating this focus into daily activities, whether that be help with homework or assistance with securing in-depth tutoring.

Here are a few numbers that show the impact of *Not Alone* in 2013:

- Nearly 1,000 Not Alone participants exited the program along educational routes: 359 graduated from high school, 76 completed their studies at a secondary institute, another 176 graduated from university, and 360 went on to another form of higher education.
- Ninety-one children overcame an educational deficit to become literate through Not Alone's Rosetta six-month remedial reading initiative.
- Fifteen new students passed a stringent screening process to be awarded iNPower scholarships, Coptic Orphans' "in-house" grants aimed at allowing Not Alone's most academically successful participants to attend top-ranking public universities including Ain Shams, Cairo University, and Alexandria University.
- Six other Not Alone participants received iNPower scholarships which, through supporting in-depth tutoring, helped them qualify for external scholarships to Egypt's most prestigious private universities.

Valuable Girl Project & B'edaya

The *Valuable Girl Project* aims to promote the academic retention, education, and literacy tutorship of girls and young women in high-poverty areas of Egypt. To achieve these goals, the project supports young women in their efforts to stay in school and gain dignity at home, in the classroom, and in the community. The project's eight sites around Egypt use a model of one-on-one mentorship. Through it, young women in secondary school, the "Big Sisters," become role models for girls in primary school, the "Little Sisters." Local coordinators based in partner organizations oversee these mentorship programs.

The Valuable Girl Project has a unique twist, in that it serves both Muslim and Christian young women ages 7-22. The Big Sister-Little Sister relationships formed through the project offer a bridge to understanding among Christian and Muslim community members whose paths might otherwise never cross. In fact, one of the sentiments expressed by project participants is simply that they had no idea what the others' lives were about, much less that they could be "nice."

In this way, Coptic Orphans aims to do more than simply stand with disadvantaged girls as they attempt to break the cycle of poverty. Through the *Valuable Girl Project*, we boost young women's life chances - but just as importantly, we increase the overall level of Muslim-Christian

In 2013, here are some key impacts of the Valuable Girl Project:

tolerance and understanding in Egyptian society.

- Local coordinators organize 17 workshops that equip the Big-Little Sister pairs with life skills such as storytelling.
- In Beni Suef, the Better Life Association holds a party on Children's Day (Nov. 23) at which Little Sisters learn about children's rights and the importance of cultivating their own talents.
- Girls enrolled in the Sohag site are so excited about the Valuable Girl Project that some joke they hope never to finish elementary school so that they do not have to leave the project.

Valuable Girl Project Sites

Lower Egypt: El Amir Tadros Social Center, Port Said

Greater Cairo: Social Center, Madinat Al Salam, Cairo

Middle Egypt: Coptic Center for Training and

Development, Beni Suef

Office of Human Services of the Coptic Catholic Diocese, El Minya

Better Life for Training and Development, Beni Suef

Upper Egypt: Association of Love and Peace for

Development, Sohag

Egyptian Association for Development and Vocational

Training, Luxor

The Christian Peace Association, Qus

B'edaya

"With my own hands." That is the meaning of "B'edaya," and the program demonstrates what the hands of widowed mothers can accomplish if they have access to credit. As a microcredit initiative, B'edaya funds these women's income-generating projects from the ground up until they become self-sufficient. Donations cover all aspects of the loan process from beginning to end, and the money is reinvested over and over to help multiple families.

B'edaya coaches mothers of *Not Alone* participants in how to start a business. The mothers apply for an interest-free loan based on their entrepreneurial idea, which is assessed for its potential for success, its budget, and anticipated obstacles. Once a mother is selected and her

project is funded, she can use the profits to improve her family's quality of life. Each mother is also required to put aside 20% of her profits as savings.

Providing these women with a chance to start a business does more than change incomes - it changes attitudes. In one example of how passivity can become assertiveness and self-confidence, a Rep was talking with a B'edaya mother with a sick family member. Surprised to find out she'd purchased medicine for the stricken person, he said: "What do you mean you got the medicine? I could have gotten it for you!" She responded: "I make my own money now - I can do it myself."

Here are some of the impacts of B'edaya in 2013:

- 29 active small business projects were under way in fields ranging from beauty salons to animal husbandry.
- The loan repayment rate among the widows participating reached nearly 99 percent.

Funding Urgent Needs

One remarkable aspect of Coptic Orphans' 2013 work resulted in meeting the major needs of dozens of families and thousands of struggling Egyptian individuals. This was the Urgent Needs Fund.

Here's how it works, in brief:

- A Coptic Orphans Rep notes a child or family facing a particularly dire situation. Often the health of the families involved is at risk, and frequently the missing piece for their survival is related to housing. The Rep carefully assesses the kind of intervention that can truly make a difference for the family or individual in harm's way. Usually there are material improvements a roof that doesn't leak buckets of water, a door that is secure against criminals, a floor that is possible to keep clean and hygienic that can meet the urgent need.
- The Rep contacts Coptic Orphans staff with a description of the case.
 This information is filtered back up the chain of command until it reaches headquarters in the United States, where the description is posted online with a plea for a donor to offer support to the family in Egypt.
- Through the generosity of donors who see the online plea or hear about it
 through word of mouth, a donation is made that Coptic Orphans channels
 into meeting the urgent need. Sometimes these donations come with
 amazing swiftness (thank you!) and the suffering the Rep witnessed is
 alleviated quickly.

Here's an example of how one such urgent needs case was resolved through a donor's generosity:

Adel's father, who was working as a driver, died as a result of a heart attack. He left behind his wife and his four children. The family relies on a widow's pension of US\$8 and lived in a very old house built of mud bricks. Then, one day, the house fell down and they had no other place to go. This was incredibly hard on the family, leaving them feeling unsafe and without privacy. Adel's family needed a generous contributor to cover the costs of building a new house. The total cost was the equivalent of US\$870. Through the grace of God, a generous donor from Marietta, Georgia, in the United States, covered this need in December.

Through meeting these urgent needs, Coptic Orphans can partner with donors to come to the aid of those facing extreme challenges. Together, we are empowering families at risk to overcome the harsh circumstances that befall them, with dignity.



Empowering Young Women

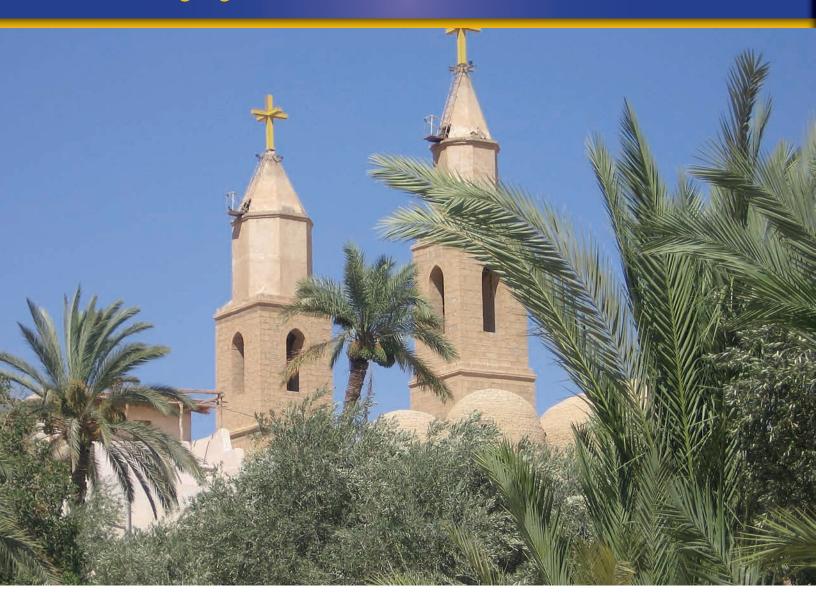
2013 was a year of progress for TAMKEEN, a USAID-funded project of Coptic Orphans that works to connect young Egyptian women with civic life in their own communities.

TAMKEEN, whose name means "empowerment" in Arabic, involves 15- to 23-year-old women in activities carried out by community development organizations. These activities range from discussion seminars to youth parliaments. Many of the activities expose participants to the value of volunteerism. One key objective is to nurture new and often unheard voices, especially in remote villages.

TAMKEEN works primarily through training and making micro-grants to partner community development associations. In 2013, 41 community development associations were active in TAMKEEN: 11 in Assiut, 18 in Minya, and 12 in Sohag. Key among 2013's successes was completing the organizational skills trainings of selected associations.

In the areas in which TAMKEEN is operating, poverty is rampant, and young women are at a particular disadvantage. Coptic Orphans will continue to work through TAMKEEN and our valued local partners, the community development associations, to ensure that these young women and their communities are equipped with the skills to tackle their challenges through the democratic process.

A Year of Coming Together to Rebuild Churches and Restore Communities



Truth be told, 2013 was a difficult year. The Coptic community in Egypt faced its most savage assaults in centuries, and in many cases, justice for the victims remains elusive.

Yet, amidst the mob attacks and the church burnings, Copts never gave up. When 42 Coptic churches were damaged or destroyed, the response was not despair, but faith. In Minya, Assiut, Fayum, Giza, Suez, Sohag, Beni Suef, and North Sinai, the reply to violence was, and continues to be, calls for forgiveness, not revenge.

On this, as on the issue of caring for the widow and orphan, the Church has led the way. Underpinning the call for forgiveness is a wider shared belief that the future of Egypt depends on cultivating tolerance, from the level of communities all the way up to the national stage.

In service to that goal, Coptic Orphans has promoted the rebuilding of the churches, which play a central and symbolic role in community coexistence. In each village where rebuilding is being undertaken, the simple physical presence of the churches bears witness to the possibility that Egypt's religious communities can live together side-by-side. For these reconstruction efforts, Coptic Orphans collected and distributed US\$250,000 in 2013. Not only that, but a high priority was placed on sustaining tolerance-promoting initiatives such as the *Valuable Girl Project*.

In this, we are grateful. Not only for the continued donations and prayers that are sustaining people and sacred places in the motherland, but also for these donors' faith. Had they lost hope in a Coptic presence in the land where our religion was born, the donations would not have come in. Instead, Copts in Egypt and overseas would have quietly turned their backs.

So in the end, 2013 bore witness to solidarity. It is a solidarity that exists among a people whose central pillar, the Church, is never truly shaken by adversity. On the contrary, the Coptic faith - as has been shown countless times in history, and most recently in 2013 - is made stronger by adversity.

And so, together, we go forward, with gratitude and hope.

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

Coptic Orphans' Use of Income in 2013



4% Management & General

5% Fundraising

Statements of Activities

Years Ended December 31, 2012 and 2013

Audit report 2012 prepared by Burdette Smith & Bish LLC.

		2013		2012	
		Total		Total	
Support and Revenue					
Private and Cash Contribution	\$	8,285,710	\$	6,672,571	
Grant income	\$	-	\$	10,884	
In-Kind Contribution	\$	16,565	\$	27,616	
Interest income and investment income / Other Income	\$	189,417	\$	82,666	
Total support and revenue	\$	8,491,691	\$	6,793,737	
Expenses					
Programs					
Child Development Program	\$	4,401,105	\$	4,038,996	
Community Development Program	\$	663,326	\$	421,533	
Total Programs	\$	5,064,431	\$	4,460,529	
Support					
Management and Administration	\$	357,061	\$	343,169	
Fundraising	\$	389,158	\$	272,221	
Total Support	\$	746,220	\$	615,390	
Total Expenses	\$	5,810,651	\$	5,075,919	
Net income	\$	2,681,041	\$	1,717,818	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	6,377,151	\$	4,794,430	
Temporarily Restricted*	\$	826,111	\$	997,309	
Foreign currency valuation	\$	(113,701)	\$	15,351	
Net assets end of year ¹	\$	9,770,601	\$	7,524,908	

For each dollar you donate, we use only 5 cents for fundraising and 4 cents for management and general expenses. As part of our commitment to accountability, 91 cents goes directly to serving the children in Egypt.

Audited Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

^{*} Most of our "temporarily restricted assets" are related to a USAID grant to serve our children in Egypt.

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

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