

A photograph of a smiling man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, standing behind three young boys. The boy on the left is wearing a black shirt, the boy in the middle is wearing a yellow shirt, and the boy on the right is wearing a red and blue shirt. They are all smiling at the camera against a light-colored, textured wall.

Serve to Learn: Good News from Egypt!



Coptic Orphans

2015 Annual Report

Dear Friends and Supporters of Coptic Orphans,

I'm excited to share with you that 2015 was another year of blessings for the Coptic Orphans family.

We are thankful to God, and we're humbled by the progress the children made through their own bravery and intelligence. And we are grateful to you for taking to heart Isaiah's words: "Bring justice to the orphan; plead the widow's cause."

In 2015, your love, prayers, and support made it possible for thousands of fatherless children in Egypt to receive a quality education — the most important tool they'll have for succeeding in life.

Together, as One Body in Christ, we made education a vital part of the web of support we're weaving around thousands of kids in our *Not Alone* program. These are the Coptic children who might otherwise fall through the cracks, ignored and alone. Through God's grace, and thanks to you, they received consistent love and one-on-one mentoring that nurtures their talents and their spirit of volunteerism.

Your support, and the hard work of Coptic Orphans' hundreds of Church-based volunteers, kept paying off in 2015. For the third year in a row, several of our participants were selected to receive the very prestigious LOTUS scholarship to attend some of Egypt's finest universities.

Those scholarships are only one aspect of the academic achievements I'd like to share with you in this report. Beyond them, there are more scholarships, university degrees, and other measures of success.

But before delving into those successes, I'd like to shine a light on this report's focus: Serve to Learn, through which young diaspora Copts benefit Egypt's communities by volunteering in the motherland.

About Coptic Orphans

When most people think of "orphans," they think of children in orphanages who have no family members at all. In fact, many orphanages in Egypt are filled with children who have living family members, only because their widowed mothers cannot afford to feed them. This is an injustice. Coptic Orphans is a unique award-winning international Christian development organization that keeps children with their families and out of orphanages. We unlock the God-given potential of the most vulnerable children in Egypt through the power of education. 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. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans has reached over 40,000 children throughout Egypt and thousands of Coptic communities globally.

This unique program, in which volunteers teach English skills and a love of learning to Egyptian children, ties the youth more strongly to their Church and their cultural heritage.

What became clear in 2015 was the richness of the relationships formed during Serve to Learn. One quote in particular, from His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, sums up the program's impact:

"You won't find anything more beautiful than this... Through serving the children, especially in the areas of those in need and the most vulnerable, you will see Christ directly."

His Holiness' words remind me that the web of support and love we're building around the children is so strong, it can transform our lives, too. Thank God, we can't touch the children's lives without being touched by theirs.

For all of God's blessings, for the guidance and support of His Holiness, Their Graces the Bishops, and the Reverend Fathers, and for our partnership with you, we are grateful beyond words.

Thank you for making it possible for Coptic Orphans to touch the lives of over 40,000 children so far. And we're only getting started!

One body in Christ
Nermien Riad
Founder and Executive Director

Board of Directors

US

Andrew Abdalla
Nermien Riad
Dr. Ashraf Rofail
Raouf Youssef

Canada

Mark G. Nakhla

Australia

Debbie Armanious
Rhonda Farag
Ben Morcos

UK

Basem Morris
Randa Shafieg
Andrew Whiteworth

Advisory Board

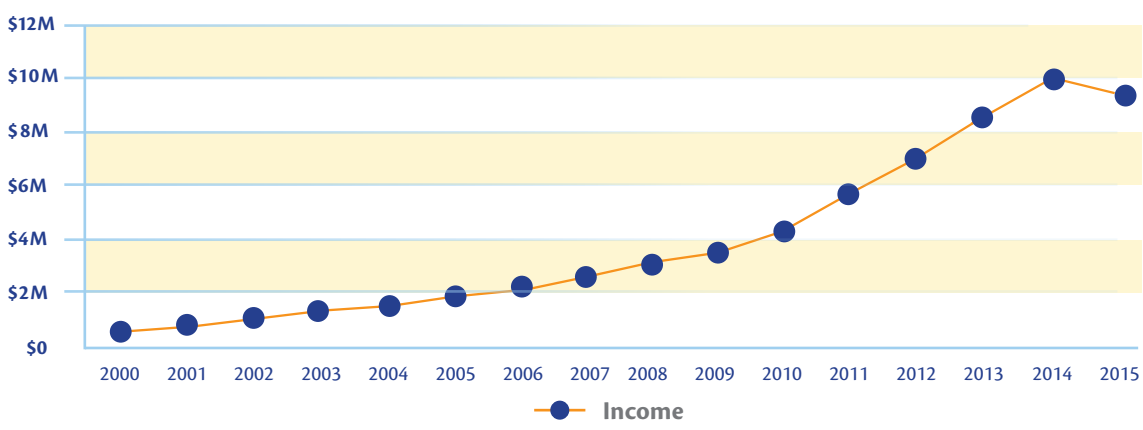
Julie Meawad
Dr. Robie Samanta Roy

Statements of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

Audit reports for 2014 and 2015 prepared by
SQUIRE, LEMKIN + COMPANY LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

	2015			2014		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$ 8,376,124	\$ 213,986 *	\$ 8,590,110	\$ 8,507,138	\$ 187,749	\$ 8,694,887
Grant income	\$ 565,932		\$ 565,932	\$ -	\$ 667,798	\$ 667,798
Interest income and Investment income	\$ 87,846		\$ 87,846	\$ 554,555		\$ 554,555
Other income	\$ 11,266		\$ 11,266	\$ 907		\$ 907
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 630,938	\$ (630,938)	\$ -	\$ 611,968	\$ (611,968)	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 9,672,106	\$ (416,952)	\$ 9,255,154	\$ 9,674,568	\$ 243,579	\$ 9,918,147
EXPENSES:						
Program services:						
Child Development Program	\$ 5,483,092		\$ 5,483,092	\$ 5,616,813		\$ 5,616,813
Community Development Program	\$ 627,697		\$ 627,697	\$ 756,832		\$ 756,832
Total Program Services	\$ 6,110,789		\$ 6,110,789	\$ 6,373,645		\$ 6,373,645
Supporting services						
Management and general	\$ 262,501		\$ 262,501	\$ 287,010		\$ 287,010
Fundraising	\$ 641,671		\$ 641,671	\$ 665,937		\$ 665,937
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,014,961	\$ -	\$ 7,014,961	\$ 7,326,592	\$ -	\$ 7,326,592
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 2,657,145	\$ (416,952)	\$ 2,240,193	\$ 2,347,976	\$ 243,579	\$ 2,591,555
Change in currency valuation	\$ (343,077)		\$ (343,077)	\$ (241,083)		\$ (241,083)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 2,314,068	\$ (416,952)	\$ 1,897,116	\$ 2,106,893	\$ 243,579	\$ 2,350,472
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 11,102,715	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,172,404	\$ 8,931,302	\$ 826,110	\$ 9,757,412
Prior Period adjustment	\$ (64,520)		\$ (64,520)			
Beginning of year, as restated	\$ 11,038,195	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,107,884	\$ 8,931,302	\$ 826,110	\$ 9,757,412
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR ¹	\$ 13,352,263	\$ 652,737	\$ 14,005,000	\$ 11,038,195	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,107,884

Coptic Orphans Contribution Chart



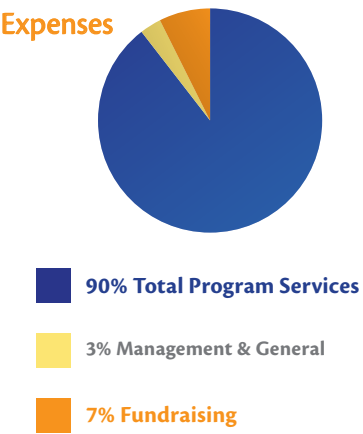
Audited Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

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

¹ Because 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 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 – again gave Coptic Orphans its highest four-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to **accountability** and **transparency**.



Key Financial Information

For every dollar you donate, we use only 7 cents for fundraising and 3 cents for management and administration. As part of our commitment to accountability, 90 cents goes directly to serving the children in Egypt.



In houses whose roofs are crumbling from age, children lie sleepless, fearing the intrusion of snakes and rain. Other children wait anxiously to be treated for a sudden medical emergency. Cases like these are familiar to our staff in Egypt — they learn about them day by day.

But our Church-based volunteer Reps in the poorest villages don't report these cases because they're discouraged. They have a different mindset. Rather than a challenge, they see an opportunity to show that we're all together as One Body in Christ.

2015 was a reminder that each of us can make a huge difference in the life of a whole family. Many generous Coptic Orphans donors chose to make an impact through the Urgent Needs Fund, supporting badly needed home repairs, education, and medical treatment — needs that suddenly far outstripped the ordinary budget for a family in Coptic Orphans' *Not Alone* program.

In 2015 alone, almost 80 generous people collaborated with the fund, empowering nearly 170 families to deal with life's most difficult challenges!

Here's how it works: One of our Reps notices a family facing a particularly dire situation. Often, the health of the children is at risk, and frequently, the missing piece for survival is housing or medical care. Other times, there is an educational need that could mean the difference between a child's success or failure in life.

The Rep carefully assesses what intervention can truly make a difference for the family in harm's way. Usually there are material improvements —

a roof that doesn't leak buckets of water, a door that keeps out criminals, a floor that is clean and hygienic — that can meet the urgent need. Or an operation can save a child's life, or help with tuition can bring a life-changing career within a young person's reach.

The Rep contacts Coptic Orphans staff with a description of the case, which is vetted for its urgency and the effectiveness of the proposed solution. If the case passes muster, it is posted online with a plea for a donor to support the family in Egypt.

Next, through the generosity of donors who see the case online, or hear about it through word of mouth, a donation is made that we channel into meeting the urgent need. All donors receive a report documenting the "before" and "after." It shows what's been done in concrete terms, often with photos. Sometimes the donations come with amazing swiftness, and the suffering is alleviated quickly. That's always a cause for prayer and joy for the family, the Reps, and our staff!

Niveen's Story

In a modest home in Sohag, the owner, a widow named Niveen, steps carefully on her threadbare carpet. It's soaked dark with water. Only reluctantly, she'll explain to visitors that her roof leaks icy rain in the wintertime. The water ruins the rugs, it reeks, and it keeps her two children awake at night.

Since her husband passed away, Niveen has had trouble feeding her kids. She's supported through the Church's beneficence, but it's hard to make ends meet. Her biggest goal right now, besides fixing the roof, is to buy blankets to protect her children from the winter chill.

It's important to Coptic Orphans to go the extra mile. Through the generous support of a special donor, Niveen now has a repaired roof that doesn't leak rain in the winter. In addition, her children are protected from the cold by blankets.

Both changes in Niveen's life came about by God's grace, via the Urgent Needs Fund — because of people like you who take to heart the vision of One Body in Christ. For as it says in Corinthians, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

- 1 Nearly 33% of the youths in Coptic Orphans' *Not Alone* program, who come from some of Egypt's most poverty-stricken villages, score over 85% on their thanawiyah amma (high school final exams).
- 2 69 *Not Alone* participants earn scholarships to help them qualify for and attend public and private universities in Egypt, including top-notch leaders in higher education such as the American University in Cairo and the British University.
- 3 1,200 new participants are added to *Not Alone*, 19 of whom are the orphaned children of the Libya martyrs.
- 4 At the largest training conference held, 450 volunteer Reps receive in-depth training in the latest techniques in educational psychology — specifically, on effective communication with the families they serve.
- 5 120 children welcome their sponsors, who have traveled from the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, and the Gulf region, for a personal visit in Egypt.
- 6 His Holiness Pope Tawadros II blesses 24 Serve to Learn volunteers with a special meeting at St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo, encouraging the youth of the Coptic Diaspora to come serve in Egypt.
- 7 At the organization's first-ever Gala in Cairo, Coptic Orphans presents Eng. Hossam El Kabbany, chairman of the Al Orman Charity Association, with the Leading by Example award for his tireless work to improve the lives of Egypt's most vulnerable citizens.
- 8 Coptic Orphans launches the first annual kids' competition in Sydney to engage children in the diaspora with their rich Egyptian heritage.
- 9 Coptic Orphan receives grants from International Christian Concern and Greenwood Early Education Centers, the former to support widowed mothers, the latter for human resource development.
- 10 Founder and executive director Nermien Riad speaks at the Compassion Global Advocacy Conference in Capetown, South Africa addressing the importance of the Church in the Middle East in working with children.



We love our kids. Let's keep educating Egypt's brilliant children!

Serve to Learn: Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism

All of us in the Coptic Orphans family have contributed in some way to giving back to Egypt, whether in time, treasure, or talent. Making sure there are opportunities for young Copts to carry on this tradition has always been enormously challenging — and rewarding.

So when, in the late 1990s, many youths began asking Coptic Orphans “How can I help?” we knew we had to figure out a way to connect their energy and spirit of volunteerism with Egypt’s children.

As always, we wanted to meet real needs, not provide charity or “feel-good” busy work. So we began by consulting with the people most familiar with the children’s lives: our volunteer Reps. From them, we learned that the most valuable thing diaspora youth could do for kids in Egypt was to teach them English.

With the Reps’ wisdom as a guide, and after a lot of prayer and reflection, in 2002 Coptic Orphans launched Serve to Learn.

Today, Serve to Learn follows a time-tested path: Volunteers are given the opportunity to spend three weeks in Egypt, teaching English and instilling a love of learning in children in a rural village. But back in the day, without years of experience to draw on, both the program and the participants were pioneers! Three adventurous volunteers made the 2002 trip—a mom and two daughters from the United States.

By God’s grace, the program’s first year was a success, and upon returning, Monica, one of the three, said: “I was so impressed with how happy they [the kids] were regardless of their circumstances. It taught me a powerful lesson.” She and the other volunteers also

remarked on the deep and loving relationships they formed with the kids. These were sentiments that would be echoed by the hundreds of volunteers who would later make the Serve to Learn journey.

The next year, six volunteers made trip; the year after that, ten. We’re blessed and grateful that, year by year, the numbers continue to grow!

Over time, the program’s goals have increased as much as the number of volunteers. At first, Serve to Learn was only seen as a bridge. Egypt had a need, and the diaspora had volunteers. All Coptic Orphans did was bring the volunteers to the children of a village, and let the villagers take it from there.

But by 2008, we began thinking of Serve to Learn as something bigger. Seeing what other diasporas were doing to link their youth to their homelands, it struck Coptic Orphans founder and executive director Nermien Riad that the program could be the perfect mechanism for keeping young Copts engaged with Egypt.

From then on, Serve to Learn had an additional goal. Besides aiming to provide a transformational experience for both the children and volunteers — one in which both sides learned valuable lessons and formed strong relationships — the program also targeted having the volunteers return home feeling connected with their ancestral motherland.

Together with you, our Coptic Orphans family, we were to trying to make a change.

B’edaya

The last thing anyone in Egypt expects a widow to do is start a business. Tradition dictates that they should resign themselves to living on handouts.

Yet many widows are reluctant to accept this fate. One of these is Susan, who participates in the B’edaya microfinance initiative for mothers of children in the *Not Alone* program. As she puts it, “I knew I had to do something productive.”

Susan, though mourning her husband’s passing, had to support her 8-year-old daughter. It wasn’t going to be easy, there in her poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Minya.

Nevertheless, she scraped together her savings, borrowed bits from family and friends, and turned her front room into a dry goods store. Boosted by a B’edaya loan, Susan got her business running.

Today, neighbors buy her goods, helping to put bread on her family’s table. It’s impossible to overestimate the pride she takes in this achievement, and the depth of her drive to overcome huge obstacles.

It’s for people like Susan that B’edaya, founded in 2010 with a generous gift from a single donor, exists. Through it, widows apply for interest-free loans to fund business ideas. The goal is to put families on the road to self-sufficiency. In B’edaya’s most recent round, launched in 2014, LE91,000 was loaned, with a maximum sum of LE4,000.

Thirty mothers in Sohag, Minya, Alexandria, Monofiya, and Cairo used these loans to build businesses in 2015. Their repayment rate was an amazing 99%, allowing capital to be reinvested in other start-ups.

Tamkeen

In 2015, in some of Egypt’s toughest locations, the Tamkeen project tackled the challenges facing young women.

These efforts built on the first phase of Tamkeen, a USAID-funded project, during which community development associations equipped young women with the skills to tackle everything from sexual harassment to illiteracy.

Coptic Orphans organized 2015 Tamkeen sites in Minya, Assiut, and Sohag — home to 760 of Egypt’s poorest 1,000 villages. There, young women are particularly disadvantaged and blocked from civic engagement.

Yet, there is huge potential to make change through the associations in these young women’s villages, which work with over 3,000 young women.

In 2015, these associations continued partnering with Coptic Orphans to achieve Tamkeen’s three goals: Creating an enabling environment for female school-aged youth to participate in their

“ *B’edaya has had a big impact on my life; it makes me feel that I’m not a burden on my kids, and I’m able to manage my household finances and prepare for my daughter’s marriage — Shereen, B’edaya participant* ”



Today, B’edaya mothers run everything from feed stores to photography studios. Better still, B’edaya’s impact is more than material. The key outcome is the widows’ frequently expressed sense of increased self-worth.

So in 2015, thanks to generous support from donors all over the world, the Coptic Orphans family moved closer to the goal of empowering Egypt’s women through microfinance!

local communities, improving the communication capacities of local associations for networking and media engagement, and increasing the civic engagement of female youth ages 15-23.

Tamkeen’s 2015 work focused on building capacity. Through workshops and other training, Tamkeen coordinators and consultants empowered partner associations to boost girls’ civic engagement.

For example, we trained associations in Dairout Al Sheirf, Dairout, Manfalout, Alkousia, and Bani Shoukr. These June trainings covered financial and project management, administration, measuring results, advocacy, and networking.

2015 saw Tamkeen give a powerful boost to the associations’ ability to involve young women in community issues that have a real impact on all Egyptians’ health and lives!



In a special meeting with Serve to Learn 2015 volunteers, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II encouraged more diaspora youth to come serve in Egypt.



Valuable Girl Project

“Can we do anything to make sure the Valuable Girl Project continues?” a group of mothers asked the project’s staff in 2015.

The mothers, whose daughters were taking part in the project’s Big Sister-Little Sister mentoring in Sohag, said they’d seen remarkable changes in their girls. They wanted to help keep those changes going.

For Egypt, which doesn’t have (to put it politely) the strongest traditions of women’s empowerment or civil society, this was something striking. The mothers’ offer to help also highlighted something that we don’t talk about much — the wider effects of the Valuable Girl Project.

Most of what we focus on is the project’s core: Meeting young women’s needs for education and skills, nurturing their sense of self-worth, encouraging them to steer clear of harmful traditions such as FGM and early marriage, and offering them safe spaces to interact in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

But the project’s benefits radiate outwards beyond the girls, and no one feels them more strongly than mothers.

For example, we regularly survey participants, who range in age from 7 to 22. Nearly all report that their lives have changed because of the project, citing a greater belief in their own sense of responsibility, discipline, punctuality, self-confidence, and study skills.

What mother doesn’t want her daughter to become more responsible, confident, self-disciplined, and studious? It’s traits like these that the mothers in Sohag said they were noticing in their daughters.

But as important as these personal traits and skills are, the project also has tangible benefits for each family’s bottom line. That’s important, and gets at the heart of why the project was started.

The story is this: The more Coptic Orphans staff got engaged with the orphans’ families, the more they began to see a really striking trend. Mothers were dying — denying themselves medical care — because they felt valueless and were using what little money they had to meet their children’s needs.

But of course, a healthy child requires a healthy mother. Stopping this destructive cycle seemed desperately important, so in 2002, the Valuable Girl Project was founded. Then as now, it was funded by a special pool of donors, separate from *Not Alone* and other programs.

Since that time, the project has been working towards its main goals: educating girls and unlocking their leadership skills, so that they understand their own worth. The project also involves young Christians and Muslims, in order to build mutual respect in Egyptian communities. We’re taking the lead in working with the entire community, because in doing so, we believe, Christians become the true salt of the Earth.

“*Mothers of Valuable Girl Project participants can see their daughters grow in maturity, confidence, and skills.*”

In 2015, in Port Said, Matay, Armant, Sohag and Luxor, 142 Little Sisters and 142 Big Sisters met twice a week. The older sister mentored the younger one in schoolwork and life skills; the coordinators taught them the value of teamwork, creativity, planning, and accepting others. Many times, as usual, the Big-Little Sister relationships were Christian-Muslim, offering an important bridge between people whose paths might not otherwise cross.

In terms of the project’s material benefits, the Valuable Girl Project educates and advocates for young women as they navigate red tape in Egypt, where too often, poverty, discrimination, and other obstacles prevent “our” girls from obtaining a government identity card. By the end of their first year of participating in the project, nearly 30% more “Big Sisters” have such cards — the key to unlocking significant rights and services.

In other words, mothers of Valuable Girl Project participants can see their daughters grow in maturity, confidence, and skills, while making progress in securing their rights and resources.

That’s a combination of benefits that’s hard to come by in Egyptian society, and one we’re excited to provide, with your generous support, through the Valuable Girl Project. By God’s grace, 2015 was a great year, and we look forward to many more!

And it was working. The more we looked at Serve to Learn in this light, the more we recognized the ripple effect of the volunteers’ trips. Volunteers returned and brought friends. One volunteer even brought an entire class from the University of Maryland to serve in Egypt, along with their professor.

Small wonder that as of 2015, 227 people had made the Serve to Learn journey!

In addition, the background of Serve to Learn volunteers has become very diverse. To date, volunteers have hailed from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Kuwait, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Yet, Serve to Learn’s increasing momentum has been confirmed by more than just numbers of participants. It was especially exciting that Pope Tawadros II invited Serve to Learn participants to special meetings in both 2014 and 2015, where His Holiness offered his encouragement.

In addition, at Coptic Orphans’ 25th Anniversary Gala, His Holiness said:

“The youth... go and serve the children in need; you won’t find anything more beautiful than this... Through serving the children, especially in the areas of those in need and the vulnerable, you will see Christ directly.”

Coptic Orphans is so grateful for His Holiness’ words, and for the way that Their Graces the Bishops have hosted Serve to Learn in their dioceses. It’s important that Coptic Orphans’ work be centered on God and the teachings of the Church. The continued involvement and support of the Church confirm that we are keeping this as our compass.

On a deeper level, it has been striking that on every Serve to Learn trip, several volunteers have had the Coptic cross tattooed on their wrist. It has become a big part of each trip. In essence, getting the Coptic cross means: “I’m going to stand with you — I’m going to share in the challenges facing the Coptic community.”

The cross tattoos symbolize how Serve to Learn is creating an indelible commitment to the future of the Copts and Egypt. For over a decade, the program has provided a concrete way for young Copts to become actively engaged with their heritage. Serve to Learn is a real answer to their question, “How can I help?”

We are grateful beyond words to everyone — from the bishops to the children, from the volunteers to the donors to the field staff — who has been a part of making it a success.

“*We went to visit one of the 21 martyrs’ wives and she has a 4-year-old daughter. We asked her to talk about him and very happily she was talking about the kind of person he was and how she still feels his presence. The most amazing thing she shared was that sometimes she feels weak and when she does, she talks to him, telling him she needs support because she doesn’t want to complain against God. Never mind all the difficulties that she is going through. She just didn’t want to complain against God. That made me wonder what I have been doing my whole life.* — **Magy Mekhail, TX**

I loved the entire service aspect of the program because I was able to directly help some of these families instead of just sending money and clothes their way. Living with them and being in such direct contact leaves such a lasting impact. I wouldn’t change this experience for the world! It’s safe to say this has been the happiest three weeks of my entire life. I can’t thank you enough for this incredible opportunity. I am forever changed because of it. — **Crestin Andrews, IN**

2015 Serve to Learn: Blessings, Love & Gratitude

2015 was the year Serve to Learn served our children in ways as diverse as the volunteers themselves.

In Manfalout, Assiut volunteers focused on the children’s artistic expression, turning a class into an art studio with supplies and support from a California artist. The children were thrilled to showcase their hidden talents and were rewarded with an art show to display their work. Over in Tema, Sohag Serve To Learn volunteers organized a sexual harassment workshop for all the local girls once they realized it was a recurring problem that no one voiced. By the end of the workshop, many girls shared their personal stories and felt empowered to report future abuse. Thanks to the grace of God, we’re still seeing the positive effect of the workshop ripple through the village long after the program.

But as much as the volunteers gave in service, they received in hospitality and kindness. In Barsha, Mallawy the local community embraced the volunteers almost immediately, inviting them to their weddings, baptisms, and festivals. Meanwhile in Matay, Minya, when they weren’t chasing goats in the fields or tasting sa’aedy honey, volunteers got the chance to serve the widows and children of the 21 Coptic Martyrs.

One volunteer said that when she spoke to the 4-year-old daughter of one martyr, she saw the faith and sacrifice that sustained the Coptic Church through the ages. When the volunteers met with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II at the end of the program, he thanked them for their hard work and encouraged all the volunteers to return to serve in Egypt.

Happily, one volunteer who is studying pre-med was so touched by the experience that she is organizing a medical-themed Serve to Learn. God willing it will come to fruition so we can tell you all about it next year!

2015 was a record-breaking year for the Coptic Orphans family: A total of 69 of our hard-working young men and women were awarded scholarships!

Most striking are the achievements of eight youths in *Not Alone*, the program through which our generous donors and sponsors provide thousands of fatherless children with love, prayers, and support. With the encouragement of their sponsors, the nurturing of their mothers, and the mentoring of Church-based volunteer Reps, these young people beat incredible odds to win highly sought-after LOTUS scholarships. These scholarships enable them to attend some of Egypt’s best private universities, including the British University and the American University in Cairo.

By God’s grace, their success marks the third consecutive year that Coptic Orphans participants — a tiny drop in Egypt’s ocean of students — have been awarded 10% or more of the entire year’s worth of LOTUS scholarships granted nationwide.

But in 2015, the success of our young people wasn’t limited to scholarships. Nearly 33% of our youths who took the thanawiyah amma final exam scored 85% and up, and almost 20% scored 90% or higher!

What lies behind these achievements, which are all the more meaningful given that Coptic Orphans serves children from some of Egypt’s poorest communities? Indisputably, the scholarship winners’ own intelligence, courage, and determination are the decisive factors. But along with those, another key factor in determining their success is the unique approach taken by the *Not Alone* program.

2015 Highlights of Not Alone’s Impact:

- 611 participants marked educational milestones: 419 graduated from 12th grade, 41 graduated with an associate degree, and 151 graduated from university.
- 37 participants received iNPower scholarships, our “in-house” grants aimed at allowing Not Alone’s highest academic achievers to attend higher-tier universities including Ain Shams, Cairo University, and Alexandria University.
- 8 participants were selected to receive the acclaimed LOTUS scholarship awarded by the U.S. Government to only 50 students in all of Egypt each year.
- 13 participants earned in-house scholarships to study English.
- 11 participants won scholarships to government universities.

Thanks to our generous donors’ support, *Not Alone* is able to champion each child’s dignity and success in school. Furthermore, the access to quality education that we provide is just one part of a holistic approach to transforming the fatherless child’s life. Because housing, health care, and life skills are essential to academic success, *Not Alone* also tackles these issues. At the

“ We felt like our lives were over when our father died. But Coptic Orphans showed us there is more to life. — Michael, speaking for himself and his younger brothers ”

end of the day, staff, sponsors, and Reps unite to ensure that no obstacle stands between a child and their studies, so that they’re in the best position possible to succeed in school and later in life.

This is what makes Coptic Orphans different. Our goal is not to perpetuate the cycle of poverty by fostering dependence on handouts, but rather to equip kids with the education they need to take advantage of every opportunity.

Here’s how it works: On the front line of *Not Alone* are the Reps. Each day, they tackle illiteracy, truancy, trauma, poverty, and early marriage, spending their limited time and resources ministering to orphans.

Every Rep comes recommended by their bishop. Through basic training, staff guidance, and quarterly workshops in vital skills, they develop loving mentoring relationships with their diocese’s *Not Alone* children. There are over 450 Reps, each with an average of 20 such relationships.

These relationships blossom during regular face-to-face home visits with the child. Through them, the Rep learns the challenges facing the child, as well as their God-given talents. Based on each child’s unique situation, the Rep creates a plan, with measurable goals, for the child’s development. The plan prioritizes building a well-rounded character, including a vibrant spirit of volunteerism.

For example, if a lack of basic necessities such as food is hindering the child’s academic progress, the Rep makes sure those reach the family. If, on the other hand, illiteracy is the obstacle, the Rep connects the child with tutoring to learn to read. The Rep includes the family in deciding how money is spent to meet their needs, and transfers skills to the mothers through coaching and special workshops.



“ I like that you give us the power to finish school and not to have to worry about having enough resources. — Mariam, who scored 95% on her thanawiyah amma ”

Above all, Coptic Orphans works toward the independence of the child and family. While it is a privilege and a blessing to stand with them as they overcome their challenges, the absolute best thing for the Coptic Orphans family is the day when, through God’s grace, they no longer need us.

With you, as One Body in Christ, the children continue making progress and reaching higher levels of academic excellence!

*Names and images in this report have been changed to protect the privacy and dignity of the children.

“ I’m proud to be part of Coptic Orphans — it changed my life. I call my Rep ‘Baba’ — Mina, software developer

My Coptic Orphans Rep always told me, ‘Pray, and God will be with you and you will succeed.’ Now I’m studying civil engineering, and I love it. I love math. — Veronika

I was born into a poor family. Coptic Orphans actually changed me a lot. Without it, I’m not sure I could be the person I am today. — Girgis, graphic design entrepreneur ”

Not Alone Children Excel in Education

2015 was a record-breaking year for the Coptic Orphans family: A total of 69 of our hard-working young men and women were awarded scholarships!

Most striking are the achievements of eight youths in *Not Alone*, the program through which our generous donors and sponsors provide thousands of fatherless children with love, prayers, and support. With the encouragement of their sponsors, the nurturing of their mothers, and the mentoring of Church-based volunteer Reps, these young people beat incredible odds to win highly sought-after LOTUS scholarships. These scholarships enable them to attend some of Egypt’s best private universities, including the British University and the American University in Cairo.

By God’s grace, their success marks the third consecutive year that Coptic Orphans participants — a tiny drop in Egypt’s ocean of students — have been awarded 10% or more of the entire year’s worth of LOTUS scholarships granted nationwide.

But in 2015, the success of our young people wasn’t limited to scholarships. Nearly 33% of our youths who took the thanawiyah amma final exam scored 85% and up, and almost 20% scored 90% or higher!

What lies behind these achievements, which are all the more meaningful given that Coptic Orphans serves children from some of Egypt’s poorest communities? Indisputably, the scholarship winners’ own intelligence, courage, and determination are the decisive factors. But along with those, another key factor in determining their success is the unique approach taken by the *Not Alone* program.

2015 Highlights of Not Alone’s Impact:

- 611** participants marked educational milestones: 419 graduated from 12th grade, 41 graduated with an associate degree, and 151 graduated from university.
- 37** participants received iNPower scholarships, our “in-house” grants aimed at allowing *Not Alone*’s highest academic achievers to attend higher-tier universities including Ain Shams, Cairo University, and Alexandria University.
- 8** participants were selected to receive the acclaimed LOTUS scholarship awarded by the U.S. Government to only 50 students in all of Egypt each year.
- 13** participants earned in-house scholarships to study English.
- 11** participants won scholarships to government universities.

Thanks to our generous donors’ support, *Not Alone* is able to champion each child’s dignity and success in school. Furthermore, the access to quality education that we provide is just one part of a holistic approach to transforming the fatherless child’s life. Because housing, health care, and life skills are essential to academic success, *Not Alone* also tackles these issues. At the

“ We felt like our lives were over when our father died. But Coptic Orphans showed us there is more to life. — Michael, speaking for himself and his younger brothers ”

end of the day, staff, sponsors, and Reps unite to ensure that no obstacle stands between a child and their studies, so that they’re in the best position possible to succeed in school and later in life.

This is what makes Coptic Orphans different. Our goal is not to perpetuate the cycle of poverty by fostering dependence on handouts, but rather to equip kids with the education they need to take advantage of every opportunity.

Here’s how it works: On the front line of *Not Alone* are the Reps. Each day, they tackle illiteracy, truancy, trauma, poverty, and early marriage, spending their limited time and resources ministering to orphans.

Every Rep comes recommended by their bishop. Through basic training, staff guidance, and quarterly workshops in vital skills, they develop loving mentoring relationships with their diocese’s *Not Alone* children. There are over 450 Reps, each with an average of 20 such relationships.

These relationships blossom during regular face-to-face home visits with the child. Through them, the Rep learns the challenges facing the child, as well as their God-given talents. Based on each child’s unique situation, the Rep creates a plan, with measurable goals, for the child’s development. The plan prioritizes building a well-rounded character, including a vibrant spirit of volunteerism.

For example, if a lack of basic necessities such as food is hindering the child’s academic progress, the Rep makes sure those reach the family. If, on the other hand, illiteracy is the obstacle, the Rep connects the child with tutoring to learn to read. The Rep includes the family in deciding how money is spent to meet their needs, and transfers skills to the mothers through coaching and special workshops.



“ I like that you give us the power to finish school and not to have to worry about having enough resources. — Mariam, who scored 95% on her thanawiyah amma ”

Above all, Coptic Orphans works toward the independence of the child and family. While it is a privilege and a blessing to stand with them as they overcome their challenges, the absolute best thing for the Coptic Orphans family is the day when, through God’s grace, they no longer need us.

With you, as One Body in Christ, the children continue making progress and reaching higher levels of academic excellence!

*Names and images in this report have been changed to protect the privacy and dignity of the children.

“ I’m proud to be part of Coptic Orphans — it changed my life. I call my Rep ‘Baba’ — Mina, software developer

My Coptic Orphans Rep always told me, ‘Pray, and God will be with you and you will succeed.’ Now I’m studying civil engineering, and I love it. I love math. — Veronika

I was born into a poor family. Coptic Orphans actually changed me a lot. Without it, I’m not sure I could be the person I am today. — Girgis, graphic design entrepreneur ”



Valuable Girl Project

“Can we do anything to make sure the Valuable Girl Project continues?” a group of mothers asked the project’s staff in 2015.

The mothers, whose daughters were taking part in the project’s Big Sister-Little Sister mentoring in Sohag, said they’d seen remarkable changes in their girls. They wanted to help keep those changes going.

For Egypt, which doesn’t have (to put it politely) the strongest traditions of women’s empowerment or civil society, this was something striking. The mothers’ offer to help also highlighted something that we don’t talk about much — the wider effects of the Valuable Girl Project.

Most of what we focus on is the project’s core: Meeting young women’s needs for education and skills, nurturing their sense of self-worth, encouraging them to steer clear of harmful traditions such as FGM and early marriage, and offering them safe spaces to interact in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

But the project’s benefits radiate outwards beyond the girls, and no one feels them more strongly than mothers.

For example, we regularly survey participants, who range in age from 7 to 22. Nearly all report that their lives have changed because of the project, citing a greater belief in their own sense of responsibility, discipline, punctuality, self-confidence, and study skills.

What mother doesn’t want her daughter to become more responsible, confident, self-disciplined, and studious? It’s traits like these that the mothers in Sohag said they were noticing in their daughters.

But as important as these personal traits and skills are, the project also has tangible benefits for each family’s bottom line. That’s important, and gets at the heart of why the project was started.

The story is this: The more Coptic Orphans staff got engaged with the orphans’ families, the more they began to see a really striking trend. Mothers were dying — denying themselves medical care — because they felt valueless and were using what little money they had to meet their children’s needs.

But of course, a healthy child requires a healthy mother. Stopping this destructive cycle seemed desperately important, so in 2002, the Valuable Girl Project was founded. Then as now, it was funded by a special pool of donors, separate from *Not Alone* and other programs.

Since that time, the project has been working towards its main goals: educating girls and unlocking their leadership skills, so that they understand their own worth. The project also involves young Christians and Muslims, in order to build mutual respect in Egyptian communities. We’re taking the lead in working with the entire community, because in doing so, we believe, Christians become the true salt of the Earth.

“*Mothers of Valuable Girl Project participants can see their daughters grow in maturity, confidence, and skills.*”

In 2015, in Port Said, Matay, Armant, Sohag and Luxor, 142 Little Sisters and 142 Big Sisters met twice a week. The older sister mentored the younger one in schoolwork and life skills; the coordinators taught them the value of teamwork, creativity, planning, and accepting others. Many times, as usual, the Big-Little Sister relationships were Christian-Muslim, offering an important bridge between people whose paths might not otherwise cross.

In terms of the project’s material benefits, the Valuable Girl Project educates and advocates for young women as they navigate red tape in Egypt, where too often, poverty, discrimination, and other obstacles prevent “our” girls from obtaining a government identity card. By the end of their first year of participating in the project, nearly 30% more “Big Sisters” have such cards — the key to unlocking significant rights and services.

In other words, mothers of Valuable Girl Project participants can see their daughters grow in maturity, confidence, and skills, while making progress in securing their rights and resources.

That’s a combination of benefits that’s hard to come by in Egyptian society, and one we’re excited to provide, with your generous support, through the Valuable Girl Project. By God’s grace, 2015 was a great year, and we look forward to many more!

And it was working. The more we looked at Serve to Learn in this light, the more we recognized the ripple effect of the volunteers’ trips. Volunteers returned and brought friends. One volunteer even brought an entire class from the University of Maryland to serve in Egypt, along with their professor.

Small wonder that as of 2015, 227 people had made the Serve to Learn journey!

In addition, the background of Serve to Learn volunteers has become very diverse. To date, volunteers have hailed from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Kuwait, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Yet, Serve to Learn’s increasing momentum has been confirmed by more than just numbers of participants. It was especially exciting that Pope Tawadros II invited Serve to Learn participants to special meetings in both 2014 and 2015, where His Holiness offered his encouragement.

In addition, at Coptic Orphans’ 25th Anniversary Gala, His Holiness said:

“The youth... go and serve the children in need; you won’t find anything more beautiful than this... Through serving the children, especially in the areas of those in need and the vulnerable, you will see Christ directly.”

Coptic Orphans is so grateful for His Holiness’ words, and for the way that Their Graces the Bishops have hosted Serve to Learn in their dioceses. It’s important that Coptic Orphans’ work be centered on God and the teachings of the Church. The continued involvement and support of the Church confirm that we are keeping this as our compass.

On a deeper level, it has been striking that on every Serve to Learn trip, several volunteers have had the Coptic cross tattooed on their wrist. It has become a big part of each trip. In essence, getting the Coptic cross means: “I’m going to stand with you — I’m going to share in the challenges facing the Coptic community.”

The cross tattoos symbolize how Serve to Learn is creating an indelible commitment to the future of the Copts and Egypt. For over a decade, the program has provided a concrete way for young Copts to become actively engaged with their heritage. Serve to Learn is a real answer to their question, “How can I help?”

We are grateful beyond words to everyone — from the bishops to the children, from the volunteers to the donors to the field staff — who has been a part of making it a success.

“*We went to visit one of the 21 martyrs’ wives and she has a 4-year-old daughter. We asked her to talk about him and very happily she was talking about the kind of person he was and how she still feels his presence. The most amazing thing she shared was that sometimes she feels weak and when she does, she talks to him, telling him she needs support because she doesn’t want to complain against God. Never mind all the difficulties that she is going through. She just didn’t want to complain against God. That made me wonder what I have been doing my whole life.* — **Magy Mekhail, TX**

I loved the entire service aspect of the program because I was able to directly help some of these families instead of just sending money and clothes their way. Living with them and being in such direct contact leaves such a lasting impact. I wouldn’t change this experience for the world! It’s safe to say this has been the happiest three weeks of my entire life. I can’t thank you enough for this incredible opportunity. I am forever changed because of it. — **Crestin Andrews, IN**

2015 Serve to Learn: Blessings, Love & Gratitude

2015 was the year Serve to Learn served our children in ways as diverse as the volunteers themselves.

In Manfalout, Assiut volunteers focused on the children’s artistic expression, turning a class into an art studio with supplies and support from a California artist. The children were thrilled to showcase their hidden talents and were rewarded with an art show to display their work. Over in Tema, Sohag Serve To Learn volunteers organized a sexual harassment workshop for all the local girls once they realized it was a recurring problem that no one voiced. By the end of the workshop, many girls shared their personal stories and felt empowered to report future abuse. Thanks to the grace of God, we’re still seeing the positive effect of the workshop ripple through the village long after the program.

But as much as the volunteers gave in service, they received in hospitality and kindness. In Barsha, Mallawy the local community embraced the volunteers almost immediately, inviting them to their weddings, baptisms, and festivals. Meanwhile in Matay, Minya, when they weren’t chasing goats in the fields or tasting sa’aedy honey, volunteers got the chance to serve the widows and children of the 21 Coptic Martyrs.

One volunteer said that when she spoke to the 4-year-old daughter of one martyr, she saw the faith and sacrifice that sustained the Coptic Church through the ages. When the volunteers met with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II at the end of the program, he thanked them for their hard work and encouraged all the volunteers to return to serve in Egypt.

Happily, one volunteer who is studying pre-med was so touched by the experience that she is organizing a medical-themed Serve to Learn. God willing it will come to fruition so we can tell you all about it next year!

Serve to Learn: Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism

All of us in the Coptic Orphans family have contributed in some way to giving back to Egypt, whether in time, treasure, or talent. Making sure there are opportunities for young Copts to carry on this tradition has always been enormously challenging — and rewarding.

So when, in the late 1990s, many youths began asking Coptic Orphans “How can I help?” we knew we had to figure out a way to connect their energy and spirit of volunteerism with Egypt’s children.

As always, we wanted to meet real needs, not provide charity or “feel-good” busy work. So we began by consulting with the people most familiar with the children’s lives: our volunteer Reps. From them, we learned that the most valuable thing diaspora youth could do for kids in Egypt was to teach them English.

With the Reps’ wisdom as a guide, and after a lot of prayer and reflection, in 2002 Coptic Orphans launched Serve to Learn.

Today, Serve to Learn follows a time-tested path: Volunteers are given the opportunity to spend three weeks in Egypt, teaching English and instilling a love of learning in children in a rural village. But back in the day, without years of experience to draw on, both the program and the participants were pioneers! Three adventurous volunteers made the 2002 trip—a mom and two daughters from the United States.

By God’s grace, the program’s first year was a success, and upon returning, Monica, one of the three, said: “I was so impressed with how happy they [the kids] were regardless of their circumstances. It taught me a powerful lesson.” She and the other volunteers also

remarked on the deep and loving relationships they formed with the kids. These were sentiments that would be echoed by the hundreds of volunteers who would later make the Serve to Learn journey.

The next year, six volunteers made trip; the year after that, ten. We’re blessed and grateful that, year by year, the numbers continue to grow!

Over time, the program’s goals have increased as much as the number of volunteers. At first, Serve to Learn was only seen as a bridge. Egypt had a need, and the diaspora had volunteers. All Coptic Orphans did was bring the volunteers to the children of a village, and let the villagers take it from there.

But by 2008, we began thinking of Serve to Learn as something bigger. Seeing what other diasporas were doing to link their youth to their homelands, it struck Coptic Orphans founder and executive director Nermien Riad that the program could be the perfect mechanism for keeping young Copts engaged with Egypt.

From then on, Serve to Learn had an additional goal. Besides aiming to provide a transformational experience for both the children and volunteers — one in which both sides learned valuable lessons and formed strong relationships — the program also targeted having the volunteers return home feeling connected with their ancestral motherland.

Together with you, our Coptic Orphans family, we were to trying to make a change.

B’edaya

The last thing anyone in Egypt expects a widow to do is start a business. Tradition dictates that they should resign themselves to living on handouts.

Yet many widows are reluctant to accept this fate. One of these is Susan, who participates in the B’edaya microfinance initiative for mothers of children in the *Not Alone* program. As she puts it, “I knew I had to do something productive.”

Susan, though mourning her husband’s passing, had to support her 8-year-old daughter. It wasn’t going to be easy, there in her poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Minya.

Nevertheless, she scraped together her savings, borrowed bits from family and friends, and turned her front room into a dry goods store. Boosted by a B’edaya loan, Susan got her business running.

Today, neighbors buy her goods, helping to put bread on her family’s table. It’s impossible to overestimate the pride she takes in this achievement, and the depth of her drive to overcome huge obstacles.

It’s for people like Susan that B’edaya, founded in 2010 with a generous gift from a single donor, exists. Through it, widows apply for interest-free loans to fund business ideas. The goal is to put families on the road to self-sufficiency. In B’edaya’s most recent round, launched in 2014, LE91,000 was loaned, with a maximum sum of LE4,000.

Thirty mothers in Sohag, Minya, Alexandria, Monofiya, and Cairo used these loans to build businesses in 2015. Their repayment rate was an amazing 99%, allowing capital to be reinvested in other start-ups.

B’edaya has had a big impact on my life; it makes me feel that I’m not a burden on my kids, and I’m able to manage my household finances and prepare for my daughter’s marriage — Shereen, B’edaya participant



Today, B’edaya mothers run everything from feed stores to photography studios. Better still, B’edaya’s impact is more than material. The key outcome is the widows’ frequently expressed sense of increased self-worth.

So in 2015, thanks to generous support from donors all over the world, the Coptic Orphans family moved closer to the goal of empowering Egypt’s women through microfinance!

Tamkeen

In 2015, in some of Egypt’s toughest locations, the Tamkeen project tackled the challenges facing young women.

These efforts built on the first phase of Tamkeen, a USAID-funded project, during which community development associations equipped young women with the skills to tackle everything from sexual harassment to illiteracy.

Coptic Orphans organized 2015 Tamkeen sites in Minya, Assiut, and Sohag — home to 760 of Egypt’s poorest 1,000 villages. There, young women are particularly disadvantaged and blocked from civic engagement.

Yet, there is huge potential to make change through the associations in these young women’s villages, which work with over 3,000 young women.

In 2015, these associations continued partnering with Coptic Orphans to achieve Tamkeen’s three goals: Creating an enabling environment for female school-aged youth to participate in their

local communities, improving the communication capacities of local associations for networking and media engagement, and increasing the civic engagement of female youth ages 15-23.

Tamkeen’s 2015 work focused on building capacity. Through workshops and other training, Tamkeen coordinators and consultants empowered partner associations to boost girls’ civic engagement.

For example, we trained associations in Dairout Al Sheirf, Dairout, Manfalout, Alkousia, and Bani Shoukr. These June trainings covered financial and project management, administration, measuring results, advocacy, and networking.

2015 saw Tamkeen give a powerful boost to the associations’ ability to involve young women in community issues that have a real impact on all Egyptians’ health and lives!

In a special meeting with Serve to Learn 2015 volunteers, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II encouraged more diaspora youth to come serve in Egypt.



a roof that doesn't leak buckets of water, a door that keeps out criminals, a floor that is clean and hygienic — that can meet the urgent need. Or an operation can save a child's life, or help with tuition can bring a life-changing career within a young person's reach.

The Rep contacts Coptic Orphans staff with a description of the case, which is vetted for its urgency and the effectiveness of the proposed solution. If the case passes muster, it is posted online with a plea for a donor to support the family in Egypt.

Next, through the generosity of donors who see the case online, or hear about it through word of mouth, a donation is made that we channel into meeting the urgent need. All donors receive a report documenting the “before” and “after.” It shows what's been done in concrete terms, often with photos. Sometimes the donations come with amazing swiftness, and the suffering is alleviated quickly. That's always a cause for prayer and joy for the family, the Reps, and our staff!

In houses whose roofs are crumbling from age, children lie sleepless, fearing the intrusion of snakes and rain. Other children wait anxiously to be treated for a sudden medical emergency. Cases like these are familiar to our staff in Egypt — they learn about them day by day.

But our Church-based volunteer Reps in the poorest villages don't report these cases because they're discouraged. They have a different mindset. Rather than a challenge, they see an opportunity to show that we're all together as One Body in Christ.

2015 was a reminder that each of us can make a huge difference in the life of a whole family. Many generous Coptic Orphans donors chose to make an impact through the Urgent Needs Fund, supporting badly needed home repairs, education, and medical treatment — needs that suddenly far outstripped the ordinary budget for a family in Coptic Orphans' *Not Alone* program.

In 2015 alone, almost 80 generous people collaborated with the fund, empowering nearly 170 families to deal with life's most difficult challenges!

Here's how it works: One of our Reps notices a family facing a particularly dire situation. Often, the health of the children is at risk, and frequently, the missing piece for survival is housing or medical care. Other times, there is an educational need that could mean the difference between a child's success or failure in life.

The Rep carefully assesses what intervention can truly make a difference for the family in harm's way. Usually there are material improvements —

Niveen's Story

In a modest home in Sohag, the owner, a widow named Niveen, steps carefully on her threadbare carpet. It's soaked dark with water. Only reluctantly, she'll explain to visitors that her roof leaks icy rain in the wintertime. The water ruins the rugs, it reeks, and it keeps her two children awake at night.

Since her husband passed away, Niveen has had trouble feeding her kids. She's supported through the Church's beneficence, but it's hard to make ends meet. Her biggest goal right now, besides fixing the roof, is to buy blankets to protect her children from the winter chill.

It's important to Coptic Orphans to go the extra mile. Through the generous support of a special donor, Niveen now has a repaired roof that doesn't leak rain in the winter. In addition, her children are protected from the cold by blankets.

Both changes in Niveen's life came about by God's grace, via the Urgent Needs Fund — because of people like you who take to heart the vision of One Body in Christ. For as it says in Corinthians, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

- 1 Nearly 33% of the youths in Coptic Orphans' *Not Alone* program, who come from some of Egypt's most poverty-stricken villages, score over 85% on their thanawiyah amma (high school final exams).
- 2 69 *Not Alone* participants earn scholarships to help them qualify for and attend public and private universities in Egypt, including top-notch leaders in higher education such as the American University in Cairo and the British University.
- 3 1,200 new participants are added to *Not Alone*, 19 of whom are the orphaned children of the Libya martyrs.
- 4 At the largest training conference held, 450 volunteer Reps receive in-depth training in the latest techniques in educational psychology — specifically, on effective communication with the families they serve.
- 5 120 children welcome their sponsors, who have traveled from the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, and the Gulf region, for a personal visit in Egypt.
- 6 His Holiness Pope Tawadros II blesses 24 Serve to Learn volunteers with a special meeting at St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo, encouraging the youth of the Coptic Diaspora to come serve in Egypt.
- 7 At the organization's first-ever Gala in Cairo, Coptic Orphans presents Eng. Hossam El Kabbany, chairman of the Al Orman Charity Association, with the Leading by Example award for his tireless work to improve the lives of Egypt's most vulnerable citizens.
- 8 Coptic Orphans launches the first annual kids' competition in Sydney to engage children in the diaspora with their rich Egyptian heritage.
- 9 Coptic Orphan receives grants from International Christian Concern and Greenwood Early Education Centers, the former to support widowed mothers, the latter for human resource development.
- 10 Founder and executive director Nermien Riad speaks at the Compassion Global Advocacy Conference in Capetown, South Africa addressing the importance of the Church in the Middle East in working with children.



We love our kids. Let's keep educating Egypt's brilliant children!

Dear Friends and Supporters of Coptic Orphans,

I'm excited to share with you that 2015 was another year of blessings for the Coptic Orphans family.

We are thankful to God, and we're humbled by the progress the children made through their own bravery and intelligence. And we are grateful to you for taking to heart Isaiah's words: "Bring justice to the orphan; plead the widow's cause."

In 2015, your love, prayers, and support made it possible for thousands of fatherless children in Egypt to receive a quality education — the most important tool they'll have for succeeding in life.

Together, as One Body in Christ, we made education a vital part of the web of support we're weaving around thousands of kids in our *Not Alone* program. These are the Coptic children who might otherwise fall through the cracks, ignored and alone. Through God's grace, and thanks to you, they received consistent love and one-on-one mentoring that nurtures their talents and their spirit of volunteerism.

Your support, and the hard work of Coptic Orphans' hundreds of Church-based volunteers, kept paying off in 2015. For the third year in a row, several of our participants were selected to receive the very prestigious LOTUS scholarship to attend some of Egypt's finest universities.

Those scholarships are only one aspect of the academic achievements I'd like to share with you in this report. Beyond them, there are more scholarships, university degrees, and other measures of success.

But before delving into those successes, I'd like to shine a light on this report's focus: Serve to Learn, through which young diaspora Copts benefit Egypt's communities by volunteering in the motherland.

About Coptic Orphans

When most people think of "orphans," they think of children in orphanages who have no family members at all. In fact, many orphanages in Egypt are filled with children who have living family members, only because their widowed mothers cannot afford to feed them. This is an injustice. Coptic Orphans is a unique award-winning international Christian development organization that keeps children with their families and out of orphanages. We unlock the God-given potential of the most vulnerable children in Egypt through the power of education. 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. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans has reached over 40,000 children throughout Egypt and thousands of Coptic communities globally.

This unique program, in which volunteers teach English skills and a love of learning to Egyptian children, ties the youth more strongly to their Church and their cultural heritage.

What became clear in 2015 was the richness of the relationships formed during Serve to Learn. One quote in particular, from His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, sums up the program's impact:

"You won't find anything more beautiful than this... Through serving the children, especially in the areas of those in need and the most vulnerable, you will see Christ directly."

His Holiness' words remind me that the web of support and love we're building around the children is so strong, it can transform our lives, too. Thank God, we can't touch the children's lives without being touched by theirs.

For all of God's blessings, for the guidance and support of His Holiness, Their Graces the Bishops, and the Reverend Fathers, and for our partnership with you, we are grateful beyond words.

Thank you for making it possible for Coptic Orphans to touch the lives of over 40,000 children so far. And we're only getting started!

Peace and grace,

Nermien Riad

Founder & Executive Director

Board of Directors

US

Andrew Abdalla
Nermien Riad
Dr. Ashraf Rofail
Raouf Youssef

Canada

Mark G. Nakhla

Australia

Debbie Armanious
Rhonda Farag
Ben Morcos

UK

Basem Morris
Randa Shafieg
Andrew Whiteworth

Advisory Board

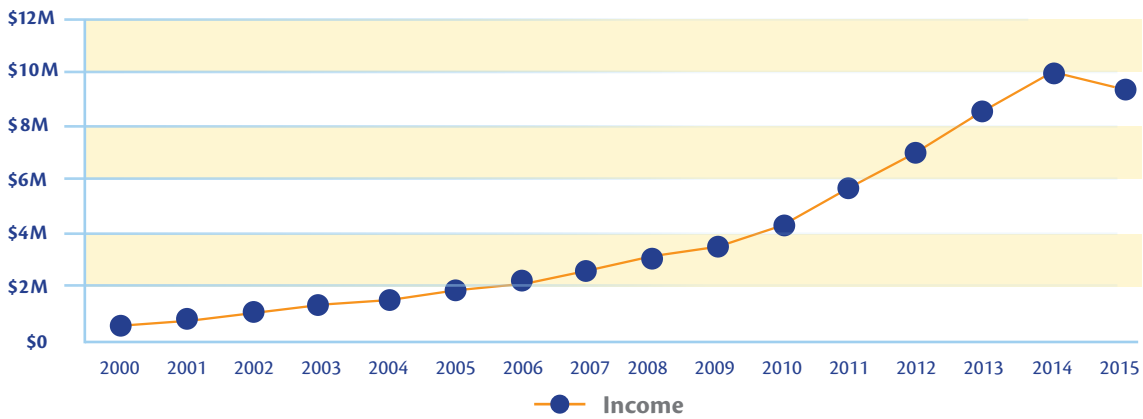
Julie Meawad
Dr. Robie Samanta Roy

Statements of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

Audit reports for 2014 and 2015 prepared by
SQUIRE, LEMKIN + COMPANY LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

	2015			2014		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$ 8,376,124	\$ 213,986 *	\$ 8,590,110	\$ 8,507,138	\$ 187,749	\$ 8,694,887
Grant income	\$ 565,932		\$ 565,932	\$ -	\$ 667,798	\$ 667,798
Interest income and Investment income	\$ 87,846		\$ 87,846	\$ 554,555		\$ 554,555
Other income	\$ 11,266		\$ 11,266	\$ 907		\$ 907
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 630,938	\$ (630,938)	\$ -	\$ 611,968	\$ (611,968)	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 9,672,106	\$ (416,952)	\$ 9,255,154	\$ 9,674,568	\$ 243,579	\$ 9,918,147
EXPENSES:						
Program services:						
Child Development Program	\$ 5,483,092		\$ 5,483,092	\$ 5,616,813		\$ 5,616,813
Community Development Program	\$ 627,697		\$ 627,697	\$ 756,832		\$ 756,832
Total Program Services	\$ 6,110,789		\$ 6,110,789	\$ 6,373,645		\$ 6,373,645
Supporting services						
Management and general	\$ 262,501		\$ 262,501	\$ 287,010		\$ 287,010
Fundraising	\$ 641,671		\$ 641,671	\$ 665,937		\$ 665,937
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,014,961	\$ -	\$ 7,014,961	\$ 7,326,592	\$ -	\$ 7,326,592
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 2,657,145	\$ (416,952)	\$ 2,240,193	\$ 2,347,976	\$ 243,579	\$ 2,591,555
Change in currency valuation	\$ (343,077)		\$ (343,077)	\$ (241,083)		\$ (241,083)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 2,314,068	\$ (416,952)	\$ 1,897,116	\$ 2,106,893	\$ 243,579	\$ 2,350,472
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 11,102,715	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,172,404	\$ 8,931,302	\$ 826,110	\$ 9,757,412
Prior Period adjustment	\$ (64,520)		\$ (64,520)			
Beginning of year, as restated	\$ 11,038,195	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,107,884	\$ 8,931,302	\$ 826,110	\$ 9,757,412
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR ¹	\$ 13,352,263	\$ 652,737	\$ 14,005,000	\$ 11,038,195	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,107,884

Coptic Orphans Contribution Chart



Audited Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

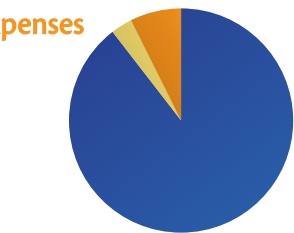
* Most of our "temporarily restricted assets" are related to a USAID grant to serve our children in Egypt.

¹ Because 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 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 – again gave Coptic Orphans its highest four-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to **accountability** and **transparency**.

Expenses



- 90% Total Program Services
- 3% Management & General
- 7% Fundraising

Key Financial Information

For every dollar you donate, we use only 7 cents for fundraising and 3 cents for management and administration. As part of our commitment to accountability, 90 cents goes directly to serving the children in Egypt.

Sponsor a Child Today

The Coptic Orphans family is celebrating over a decade of Serve to Learn, and we are blessed and grateful for the guidance and support of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II going as far back as 2005, when this photo was taken with our volunteers!



United States | EIN: 54-1637257

P.O. Box 2881

Merrifield, VA 22116

703-641-8910

Australia | ABN: 27 138 388 851

P.O. Box 469

Belmore, NSW 2192

02-9787-9777

Canada | Tax ID: 879517712RR0001

P.O. Box 52033

Laval, QC H7P 5S1

450-736-0975

United Kingdom | Charity No.: 1133307

*Use United States Address

0203-372-4475

Egypt

3 Rafik Salah El-Din St.

Heliopolis, Cairo

02-2638-9227



Coptic Orphans

WWW.COPTICORPHANS.ORG

