

Raising Future Leaders with Dignity & Love



Coptic Orphans

2016 Annual Report

Dear Friends and Supporters of Coptic Orphans,

When was the last time you heard good news from Egypt?

With the latest attacks on our mother church and the country's continuing struggle, it's hard not to slip into anguish, or worse, apathy. Yet in times like these, what echoes in my ears are the words of St. Paul to the Philippians:

"Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things."

It's easy to focus on the negative because it's usually uglier and louder. It takes more effort to seek out the small, quiet victories, like a child who can finally fall asleep under a new roof, or the newfound dignity of a fatherless youth who sits confidently among his classmates because he has access to the same academic opportunities they have, or a widow who recognizes her strength and self-worth as she provides a better life for her family.

So today I have something to tell you, something incredibly admirable and worthy of praise: that 2016 was a year overflowing with blessings, success, and God's touch in every aspect of our work. From the 1,157 children newly enrolled in the *Not Alone* program, to the 103 students who received scholarships to pursue higher education, to the 215 university graduates who overcame insurmountable odds to achieve great success. I want to thank God, and thank you, our partners in the service, for all of the good news that we got to witness throughout the year.

I invite you to think of such things as you read Nashed's story of perseverance that continues to pour forth with abundance.

Nashed grew up under the sting and strain of poverty after losing his father at three months old. Thanks to the incredible generosity of sponsors and donors like you, Nashed was empowered to enroll and graduate from medical school. Today, Dr. Nashed is able to pay forward your generosity by treating the poor in his village for free.

Proud as we are of the thousands of fatherless children whose lives you've helped improve through quality education, we're equally proud that 2016 was a groundbreaking year for the mothers of the B'deya microfinance initiative. These widows, who suffered heavy emotional and financial blows when their husbands passed, are now empowered to bind and provide for their families with dignity.

And speaking of dignity, this report highlights the philosophy and measures we at Coptic Orphans take to recapture the dignity and self-possession that many of the children we serve had lost to poverty. The world is not fair to some, but people can be. The very heart of our service is committed to fighting the injustices against the fatherless and the widows as God commanded us in Isaiah. We are blessed that your hearts are likewise moved to join our cause, as One Body in Christ.

Working in one accord, shepherded by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, the guidance of Their Graces the Bishops, and the Reverend Fathers, and supported by the love and prayers of our partnership with you, we will continue to bring more and more good news out of Egypt.

One body in Christ
Nermien Riad
Founder and Executive Director

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 unlocks 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 45,000 children throughout Egypt and thousands of Coptic communities globally.

Board of Directors

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The Top 10 Highlights of 2016

1

103 *Not Alone* participants earn scholarships to help them qualify for and attend public and private universities in Egypt such as the American University in Cairo and the British University. From the recipients, **9** are awarded the prestigious LOTUS scholarship.

2

Nearly **30%** of the youths in Coptic Orphans' *Not Alone* program score over 85% on their Thanaweya Amma (high school final exams) despite coming from the most poverty-stricken villages and overcoming challenges that most students never have to face.

3

1,157 new participants are added to the *Not Alone* program.

4

At the largest Coptic Orphans training conference ever held, **433** volunteer Reps (including 5 adults who were formerly participants in the *Not Alone* program) receive in-depth training in the latest techniques in educational psychology — specifically, on effective communication with the families they serve.

5

127 children welcome their sponsors, who have traveled from the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, and the Gulf region, for a personal visit at their home in Egypt.

6

48 volunteers travel to Egypt to serve in the first Serve to Learn Health Education trip established in partnership with the Coptic Medical Association of North America (CMANA).

7

In celebrations across Egypt, **42** widows receive microloans through the B'edeya microfinance initiative to start or continue their small businesses.

8

Coptic Orphans launches the Future Leaders Scholarship, awarding it to **15** exceptional Thanaweya Amma graduates who demonstrate advanced academic skills, leadership potential, and a service mindset.

9

215 *Not Alone* participants graduate from universities, equipped with advanced skills and academic degrees as they enter the workforce.

10

5 Reps from the Coptic Orphans family are ordained priests over their local churches and continue to support the work they started with the children.



Education is key to ensuring a child's dignity

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

A Child's Dignity

"Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:4-5

While we may be naturally compelled to protect and defend children, we are also called by God to revere and restore them to their rightful place as they are revered in heaven. God's words remind us of why we serve our children in Egypt, spending time, effort, resources, vigilant prayers, and unshakable love to set them on a path of reclaiming their dignity as children, their rights as citizens, and their agency as the future leaders of Egypt.

Thanks to our generous donors' support, Coptic Orphans is able to champion each child's dignity and success in their school, their family, and their community. Furthermore, the access to quality education that we provide is just one part of a holistic approach to transforming fatherless children's lives from being marginalized and neglected to becoming leaders and contributors in their communities.

Our faith proclaims that every child is created in the image of God; therefore, we value our children and teach them to value themselves. We value their feelings, desires, and choices. Our *Not Alone* program is not designed to give handouts. Rather, the program aims to build relationships with each child, to help them discover their value as children of God entrusted with talents and strengths to share with others. We invest in their emotional, mental, and spiritual development. We continuously train mothers, volunteer Reps, and staff on how to treat children with love, understanding, and respect so that they grow up healthy and confident.

When a child is enrolled in our program, they are not recipients or beneficiaries. They are our partners, committed to working hard in return for resources and opportunities. We go visit them at their homes as equals. Volunteer Reps are trained to listen, engage, and play with their children during home visits so that they feel loved, valued, and heard.

We grant our participants freedom of choice. We don't force them to follow a certain path in their lives. Rather, we give them facts and train them to process information, think positively, weigh options, overcome obstacles, and come up with plans a, b, and c. It's a long-term process that costs time, effort, and patience, but we believe our children are well worth it.

The Coptic Orphans sponsorship program further reinforces these measures that ensure child dignity. The one-to-one relationship between a child and their sponsor is kept respectful and personal by the rule that each child has no more than one sponsor. Furthermore, the sponsor must visit the child in their home, affirming the child's importance and equality to the sponsor.

Because everything Coptic Orphans does is aimed at preserving and promoting the child's dignity, all of our communications also mirror this commitment. In the field and worldwide, Coptic Orphans does not use photos to show the children's needs, but rather to celebrate the extent of God's blessing through their triumphs. Therefore, showing the joy, talents, and resilience of Egyptian children is essential to breaking down false barriers of pity and stigmatization. Portraying children positively, rather than casting them in the dark, promotes their dignity.

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 family is the day when, through God's grace, they no longer need us. There is no greater joy than to see a participant graduate from our program and blaze their own trail to success armed with the education and skills they received from the program.

We ask for your prayers that we may continue to chart the course that God set for us: to love His children — the greatest in the kingdom — and serve them as we would serve the King Himself.



At the Church's invitation, Coptic Orphans is blessed to offer services to fatherless children in 55 dioceses in Egypt and "Bring justice to the orphan, plead the widow's cause." (Isaiah 1:17)

Come and See

When the disciples wanted to learn more about Christ, His mission, His teachings, and the way He would transform them, they followed His soft command, “Come and see.” It’s a simple, yet life-changing invitation to leave one’s daily life and follow the Lord in service and humility. Serve to Learn takes the Lord’s powerful invitation as its core premise: come to Egypt and see for yourself ancient faith, simple living, and incomparable kindness through daily service and love.

Since 2002, Serve to Learn has given over 300 youths a way to devote their energy and spirit of volunteerism to the children of Upper Egypt. Hosted by bishops for three weeks, volunteers stay in remote villages along the Nile, teaching children, visiting widows and serving the local community. Many of those who have experienced it say it’s a life-changing journey.

Up until 2015, Serve to Learn volunteers focused on instilling in the children a love for education by engaging them in daily English classes and character-building lessons. Then, through the grace of God, and a passionate volunteer who saw the need for health education among these poor communities, Coptic Orphans partnered with the dynamic Coptic Medical Association of North America (CMANA), to launch the first Serve to Learn Health Education trip. Instead of teaching English, volunteers held classes that taught children the importance of personal hygiene, good nutrition, exercise, wound care, disease prevention, mental health, life-saving measures, and women’s health. The volunteers also visited homes, where they met their students’ mothers to reinforce the lessons of health awareness within the household and the community at large.

By the grace of God, the response was incredible. One volunteer said that after teaching a lesson about Hepatitis C prevention, a girl whose mother had the disease asked the volunteer to accompany her to a nearby town to get tested. Another volunteer noticed that several of her students came to class having brushed their teeth after the lesson on dental hygiene. Yet another volunteer was deeply moved by the profound discussions his high school students had during a lesson on mental health and the stigmas that surround it.

As for the volunteers, there is much to be said about the bonds they form with the children over the course of the program. Many of them return to Egypt year after year to see their old students and the villages they’ve come to call a second home. Volunteers from Canada to Australia consider villagers in Barsha to be family, while some from Indiana and New Jersey have said that only in Matay do they taste and see the presence of God. This shows how, over a decade, Serve to Learn has provided a concrete way for young Copts to become actively engaged with their heritage, and for non-Copts to discover the treasure of the Coptic Church in the land of its birth.

“

We grew and learned to be better because of the love the kids showed to us. Serve to Learn showed me the true meaning of “let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.” — Mary Attalla, Canada

We visited the home of one of my students who is normally very shy and quiet in class. When we arrived, she was sitting with her mother who is blind and very old. Her mother was so touched by our visit that she kept saying it’s like Jesus visited her. Her faith and trust in God were so strong and visible to us. She kept saying thank God. It was clear that she was thanking God for every condition, even though her son died and the only person left to take care of her was her daughter. We asked her to pray and her prayer was ten minutes of purity, I felt chills down my spine. They have very little, but they were very rich in their faith and trust in God. I really didn’t know what to expect when I signed up for Serve to Learn. I had the greatest time I ever had. I thought three weeks would be a long time, but now I wish I could relive those three weeks again. — Kirolos Ibrahim, United States

The other volunteers become your family, and your heart will break when you leave. Words cannot describe how amazing it was. — Verena Faltas, United States ”

At the close of each Serve to Learn trip, we have been blessed to be invited to meet with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, who always commends the volunteers on their hard work and encourages them to continue serving their brothers and sisters in Egypt.

The potential of Serve to Learn is still unfolding, and we’re blessed and excited to see where the program goes next and what it will accomplish in the lives it touches. Thanks to God’s present hand, the partnership with CMANA, our wonderful Serve to Learn volunteers, the hospitality of the hosting bishops, and the constant encouragement of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, we’ve seen the power of this service and its effect on those who heed Christ’s call. Come and see, serve and learn.

Not Alone Children Are Future Leaders

In the far-flung village of Ehwa, Nashed was just three months old when his father passed. Struggling to care for Nashed and his brother, their mother took on seamstress work to earn an income. "Like fishermen's work," she would say, "some days you return from the sea empty-handed." Then, one day, the winds changed. The local priest in Ehwa, a small village outside of Beni Suef, contacted a Coptic Orphans Rep to enroll the family in the *Not Alone* program.

The Rep, Mr. William, began to visit the family regularly, spending quality time with the boys, and providing for their day-to-day needs with their *Not Alone* stipend. To them he was a godsend, his mother says, a voice of counsel and wisdom in their home, and his visit became a joyous occasion. Through the mother's love and hard work, and Coptic Orphans helping to ease the financial burdens placed on the family, their home's warm, supportive, and nurturing environment was strengthened. Nashed began to feel like his father was alive again.

As the boys grew, school costs became more demanding. At one point, Nashed needed to take extra tutoring courses to strengthen his academic standing that would cost LE10,000. Nashed's family managed to borrow half from a friend, while Mr. William provided the other half thanks to generous Coptic Orphans donors. From that point, Nashed felt like no obstacle would stand in the way of his dreams. He graduated high school with top marks and decided to enroll in medical school. With Mr. William, *Not Alone*, and the entire Coptic Orphans family, including you, dear sponsors, standing behind him with support, love, and prayers, today he is Dr. Nashed.

Youths like Nashed can often see their dreams suffocate under the weight of poverty, and a lack of funding that deny them their basic right to education. And yet there's such a fiery determination

in these children to break through all of the barriers. We continue to see this fire and high academic potential in our *Not Alone* participants, of whom 63 students scored above 90% in their Thanaweya Amma exams in 2016. Similarly, in the same year we had 400 students from impoverished villages pursue education beyond high school, as well as 215 university students graduating from college, signaling that *Not Alone* participants don't want to merely pass school, but thrive in it. They just need a push.

With the support of our generous donors, 2016 was a year we were able to make one such big push forward by launching the Future Leaders Scholarship. It is a competitive scholarship offered by Coptic Orphans to provide its most promising Thanaweya Amma graduates with the support they need to enable them to reach higher, pursue their undergraduate degrees, develop their leadership potential, and become a source of inspiration to others within the program. By the grace of God, the Future Leaders Scholarship was awarded to 15 inaugural recipients who demonstrated advanced academic skills, leadership potential, and a service mindset.

As if that joyous news wasn't enough, God continued to bless our *Not Alone* participants as 103 of our students had their hard work and academic excellence rewarded with 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.

All across Egypt, fatherless children dream of going to school and pursuing careers. 2016 was the year we watched over a hundred lives change for the better through scholarship opportunities made possible with your support, love, and prayers.

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 distinctive characteristics of the *Not Alone* program.

Unique to the program's approach are the unsung heroes of *Not Alone*, the Church-based volunteer Reps like Mr. William. Each day, they tackle real challenges, and fight against injustices that threaten to strip the *Not Alone* children of their dignity and basic rights. That is why Coptic Orphans invests in training Reps to solve many of the internal issues they observe in the families they serve. By God's grace, 2016 had the largest-ever training conference, where 433 Reps received in-depth training in the latest techniques in educational psychology — specifically on self-image and effective communication with the families they serve.

2016 Highlights of *Not Alone's* Impact:

686 participants marked educational milestones: 454 graduated from 12th grade, 41 graduated with an associate degree, and 215 graduated from university.

23 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.

9 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.

15 participants were awarded the first Future Leaders Scholarships.

10 participants won scholarships to government universities.



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. Each Rep has an average of 25 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. It's this sense of volunteerism that we are blessed to see in participants like Nashed.

Today, Dr. Nashed is a leader and fixture in his community. While his medical profession has elevated him in rank and respect, he works in the village clinic and has his own practice where he offers free medical exams to the poor. Dr. Nashed believes that it's his duty to care for others in need just as God took care of him by sending Coptic Orphans in his hour of need.

We are proud of Dr. Nashed's accomplishments, both academically and professionally, but we are moved most by how he remembers the struggles he faced, and how he is paying forward his success by helping others stand with dignity.

Despite all of the blessings of the past year, there is much work still ahead of us. Just in 2016, *Not Alone* enrolled 1,157 new participants who need our care, commitment, and prayers! We continue to be thankful for and humbled by our partnership with you. This partnership not only has helped us develop *Not Alone* into the transformational program it is today, but also allows us to reach out to more children and families in need.

With God's grace and your support, we are able to sow generations of future leaders like Dr. Nashed, who in turn become the harvest of Ehwa, fruitful and abiding in God's glory.



“ *I started my first project two years ago with a B'edaya loan... Back then, I was so shy and afraid to take the risk, but the Coptic Orphans representative encouraged me to overcome my fears, improve my marketing, and establish a strong network of clients. From the income I generated, I was able to pay back my first loan, and renovate my kitchen, bathroom, and living room. For the first time, I feel proud of myself.* — **Nahed, B'edaya participant** ”

B'edaya Gives Widows a Reason to Smile

2016 marked a year of celebrating the truly inspiring mothers of the B'edaya microfinance initiative, and witnessing God reward their faith, perseverance, and hard work. These mothers are heroes to all of us, and by God's grace, we're blessed to provide them with both microloans and coaching in entrepreneurial skills to develop their inborn determination, ingenuity, and business-savvy.

Imagine the insurmountable barriers a poor, uneducated widow rooted in the conservative traditions of Upper Egypt must face. How she dresses, who she talks to and what she says, where she goes — all of these are subject to scrutiny and control by her community. Frequently, she can't even leave the house to work, even if her children are malnourished. She is forced to accept a fate of destitution in the name of honor. But where is the honor in helplessness and handouts?

B'edaya (which translates as “with my own hands”) was designed to counter these hostile conditions that most disadvantaged widows in Egypt face, particularly those in remote villages. The small loans are tailored to give a widow the opportunity to generate income, have control over her own life, and be an example of resilience and a source of pride for her family.

In 2016, several of the mothers were receiving B'edaya loans for a second time, after running and expanding their income-generating projects. The projects ranged from raising and selling cattle and selling livestock feed, to running an ironing service and styling hair.

B'edaya in 2016 provided an opportunity for the mothers to take part in basic financial training, network, and share their experiences and hard-earned wisdom with other participants.

B'edaya microloans are offered at 0% interest for 26 months, with the first six months considered a grace period for repayment, followed by six equal installments spaced four months apart. The loans disbursed to each recipient vary in size according to the amount requested and assessment by the B'edaya selection committee. Along with their loans, these entrepreneurial mothers receive support through quarterly home visits by Coptic Orphans staff and volunteers, who monitor the progress of the projects and provide regular coaching.

Today, B'edaya mothers run businesses of every kind in their own communities. B'edaya shows what women can do when set on the path of self-sufficiency — not dependence on charity.

Better still, B'edaya's impact is more than material. The key outcome is the widows' frequently expressed sense of increased self-worth and dignity.

Thanks to the generous support from donors all over the world, in 2016 the Coptic Orphans family moved closer to the goal of empowering Egypt's women through microfinance!

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

Strength Through Sisterhood

Young girls who are told that boys are a blessing and girls are a blight, grow into women who believe that only men deserve to study, to work, and to choose their path and partner in life. Sadly, this mindset passes from mothers to daughters. But who breaks the cycle? And what happens when they do?

The Valuable Girl Project was established to empower girls to see their worth and reclaim their basic rights through education and civic engagement. Since 2002, this Big Sister-Little Sister mentorship project has provided young women with access to education and tutoring, leadership workshops, and a community of mutual respect.

Salma, a 21-year-old from Assiut, was transformed through the guidance and nurturing of the Valuable Girl Project. When Salma finished high school with exam scores that allowed her to apply to law school, a dream she had harbored since childhood, she was heartbroken when her father decided that she would stay home so the family could afford putting her brothers through school.

With no other options, Salma withdrew her application and stayed home while her friends enrolled and left for college. She became psychologically distressed, caging herself indoors, and not speaking.

When Salma first heard about the Valuable Girl Project, her mother encouraged her to go to raise her spirits, and have a small income from the stipend the Big Sisters receive. At first, Salma was withdrawn, but as the sessions went on, she listened as the girls spoke of a woman's place in society, her value and rights. Salma started to express her own opinions, building a relationship of sisterhood with the others.

Step by step, Salma came out of her depression and regained her



self-confidence. She wanted to show her Little Sister that girls can grow into women worthy of having dreams and achieving them. She started saving her stipend as a Big Sister and researching financial aid options. Salma was going to law school.

Soon, Salma's mentorship experience helped her pass an interview with a childcare facility. She continued to save her stipend and her paycheck from this new job. Thanks to the grace of God, Salma was accepted to law school and began classes in September!

"Girls aren't helpless anymore," she says. "I will learn and teach others."

We thank God for girls like Salma, and pray for her success and for the Valuable Girl Project to continue to change minds and hearts so that Egypt's girls grow into strong women.

When Women Unite

There's no denying the influence women can have on their community when they are united and active. This is what the Tamkeen project is all about: equipping young women ages 15-23 with the skills and tools to affect change in their local communities, tackling issues that target and marginalize women, from sexual harassment and FGM, to illiteracy and a lack of civic engagement.

Funded by USAID, Tamkeen works with community development associations in particularly disadvantaged villages in Egypt to increase women's engagement in their communities. Often in projects where the aim is to change mindsets and outlooks, it can take years to see the results of the seeds planted. Thankfully, 2016 showed us the fruits through the village of Al Amodain and its tenacious young women.

After 20 young women in the village of Al Amodain received civic education training through Tamkeen, they believed that they could solve one of their community's biggest problems.

The village lacked a post office. As it happens, the mail is a lifeline for the community members — it's the means by which they can get their government pension, transfer money, and receive letters. Without a postal facility in their own village, they had to go to the post office in Atsa, 5 km away. Atsa's post office was often crowded and prone to fights breaking out. The villagers were forced to go to an even more distant post office just to avoid potential conflict.

The Tamkeen girls took the initiative to raise people's awareness about their rights. They also addressed the local government officials, advocating for a post office in Al Amodain. It took many meetings with the officials, but in the end, they approved the construction of a post office. The girls and the local authorities took on the cost of building the new facility, and they raised LE100,000!

When, in the end, the new post office opened in February 2016, it was proof to the entire village that despite the obstacles society places in their path, girls can make history as much as men can!

Urgent Needs

"Save for a rainy day" is a wise saying that any person, especially any parent, lives by. We've all had those hard times: medical emergency, unemployment, a burst pipe in the basement, or just a bad day when misfortune rained on us. Thankfully, we had something saved to help us along, and God provides. But what about those who have been sitting in storm after storm without a penny to save?

2016 was a reminder that each of us can be a harbor of support and hope for a whole family. Many generous Coptic Orphans donors chose to address an urgent need, saving a family from a collapsing house, or helping a child get the heart surgery they desperately needed. Cases like these are especially devastating to our brothers and sisters in Egypt when a crisis demands a lump sum of money that goes beyond what an average family enrolled in the *Not Alone* program can afford.

This is where, in partnership with you, Coptic Orphans steps in to meet an urgent need. First, one of our Reps notices a family facing a particular situation that can range from difficult to dire. Often, these crises endanger the health of the children and others in the household each day they go unaddressed. The Rep carefully assesses what intervention can truly make a difference for the family, and calculates the material costs that can meet the urgent need. They contact Coptic

Orphans staff with a description of the case, which is vetted for its urgency and the effectiveness of the proposed solution. After the case is assessed and the names of the family members are changed to ensure confidentiality, it is shared online with our sponsors and donors.

Then, through the generosity of partners like you, a donation is made that we channel into meeting the urgent need. All donors receive a report documenting what's been done in concrete terms, often with photos. Whether the need was a new front door to keep a family safe, a costly but critical medical procedure, or school tuition that becomes life-changing for a youth with aspirations, every urgent needs case reaffirms our faith as Christians and that we walk through life as 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."

This past year, it's been truly heartening to see our donors respond with generous aid and swift prayers for those suffering. Through meeting these urgent needs, Coptic Orphans and its partners are empowering families at risk to overcome the harsh circumstances that befall them. Together, we are shielding our brothers and sisters out of the storm with dignity and ensuring their right to thrive.



Mina's Story

In the developed world, it's hard to imagine the challenges that most Egyptians face every day. Mina's story is a reminder of how much our brothers and sisters in Christ rely on God and their own resilience to overcome huge obstacles, and of how incredible the impact of your generosity can be when you help meet their urgent needs.

When Mina's father passed away from a sudden heart attack, his mother was suddenly left to care for her six children. Uneducated and desperate to feed her family, she took a job as a cleaning lady. Aside from worrying about her children's future prospects, her immediate concern was Mina's health. You see, Mina had a blood condition that he took daily medicine for. The only issue was that the medicine had to be kept refrigerated at all times in order to be effective. Even though Mina was enrolled in the *Not Alone* program, which met his educational needs, buying a fridge seemed like a long-shot dream. When summer arrived, Mina's mother began to panic as she came home from work to find that food and her son's costly medicine had spoiled in the heat. As this continued to happen through the summer, Mina's health began to worsen because of the lack of effective medication. It was then that Mina's Coptic Orphans Rep submitted the case as an urgent need, estimating that a new fridge would cost \$475. Thanks to the timely contribution of one donor, the family was able to buy a refrigerator. Today, Mina's mother continues to praise and thank God for the fridge that secured her son's health and her family's well-being.

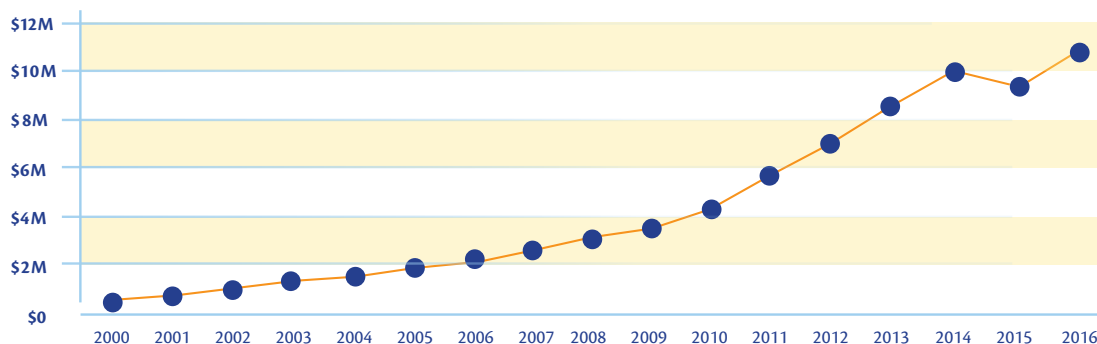
*Names and images in this report have been changed to protect the privacy and dignity of the children.

Statements of Activities Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

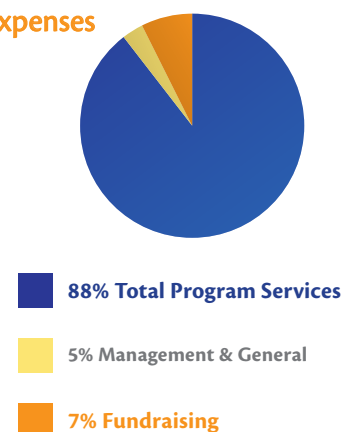
Audit reports for 2015 and 2016 prepared by UHY LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

	2016			2015		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted *	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$ 9,576,091	\$ 514,659	\$ 10,090,750	\$ 8,376,124	\$ 213,986	\$ 8,590,110
Grant income	\$ 18,866		\$ 18,866	\$ 565,932		\$ 565,932
Interest income and Investment income	\$ 582,383		\$ 582,383	\$ 87,846		\$ 87,846
Other income	\$ 1,310		\$ 1,310	\$ 11,266		\$ 11,266
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 652,737	\$ (652,737)	\$ -	\$ 630,938	\$ (630,938)	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 10,831,387	\$ (138,078)	\$ 10,693,309	\$ 9,672,106	\$ (416,952)	\$ 9,255,154
EXPENSES:						
Program services:						
Child Development Program	\$ 5,046,109		\$ 5,046,109	\$ 5,483,092		\$ 5,483,092
Community development Program	\$ 339,644		\$ 339,644	\$ 627,697		\$ 627,697
Total Program Services	\$ 5,385,753		\$ 5,385,753	\$ 6,110,789		\$ 6,110,789
Supporting services						
Management and general	\$ 537,212		\$ 537,212	\$ 262,501		\$ 262,501
Fundraising	\$ 790,827		\$ 790,827	\$ 641,671		\$ 641,671
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,713,792	\$ -	\$ 6,713,792	\$ 7,014,961	\$ -	\$ 7,014,961
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 4,117,595	\$ (138,078)	\$ 3,979,517	\$ 2,657,145	\$ (416,952)	\$ 2,240,193
Change in currency valuation	\$ (783,431)		\$ (783,431)	\$ (343,077)		\$ (343,077)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 3,334,164	\$ (138,078)	\$ 3,196,086	\$ 2,314,068	\$ (416,952)	\$ 1,897,116
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 13,352,263	\$ 652,737	\$ 14,005,000	\$ 11,102,715	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,172,404
Prior Period adjustment	\$ -		\$ -	\$ (64,520)		\$ (64,520)
Beginning of year, as restated	\$ 13,352,263	\$ 652,737	\$ 14,005,000	\$ 11,038,195	\$ 1,069,689	\$ 12,107,884
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 16,686,427¹	\$ 514,659	\$ 17,201,086	\$ 13,352,263	\$ 652,737	\$ 14,005,000

Coptic Orphans Contribution Chart



Expenses



Key Financial Information

Audited Financial Statements are public and available upon request.

For every dollar you donate, we use only 7 cents for fundraising and 5 cents for management and administration. As part of our commitment to accountability, 88 cents goes directly to serving the children in Egypt.

* 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**.

Sponsor a Child Today



His Holiness Pope Tawadros II meets with Coptic Orphans Executive Director Nermien Riad to discuss and bless the service to the children.

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