



LAHASH INTERNATIONAL

2016 Annual Report



OUR VISION is that all children in Africa know Jesus and thrive as they are loved by a flourishing global church.



Everything Sad is Coming Untrue

Above:

At a Bible Camp in Tanzania, Dan Holcomb spent time connecting with many of Lahash's sponsored kids.

Opposite:

Sponsorship at Grace & Healing Ministry helped Emanuel find a path from a chaotic and unstable childhood to academic success in the Stand With Students program.

We see tremendous suffering in the region of East Africa. War, disease, and corruption continue to plague these nations. There are millions of orphaned and vulnerable children. Many of their stories are unbearably sad.

But throughout this past year we also saw incredible bursts of hope! Nearly 400 children received loving care from our ministry partners. Sixty children decided to put their trust in Christ during our Bible Camps. Hungry bodies were fed. Eager minds attended school. Tender hearts were nurtured. Even the staff members of our ministry partners were empowered with training, prayer, and support.

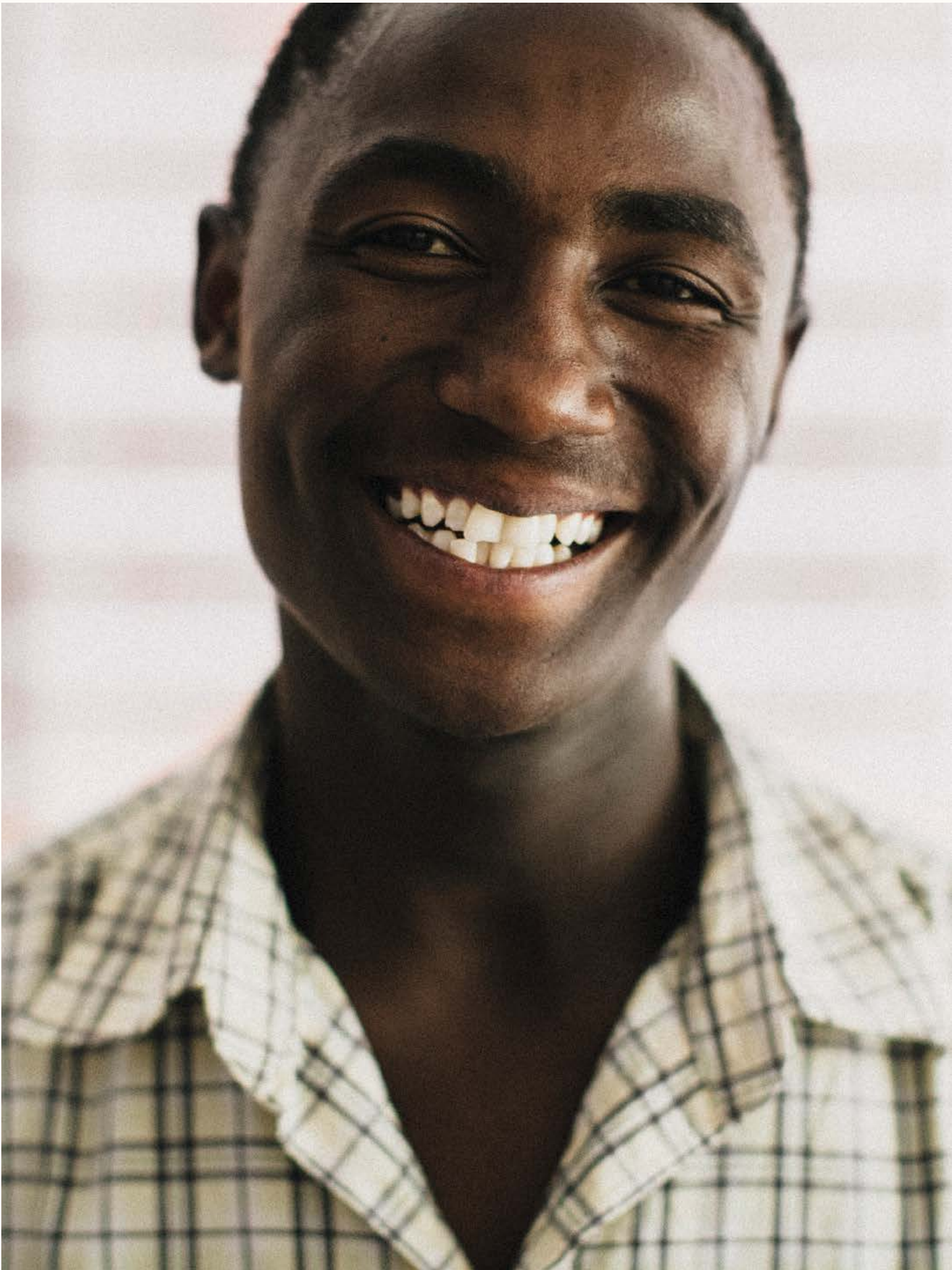
J.R.R. Tolkien penned a beautiful line in his book *The Return of the King*. A number of unexpected twists caused the character Sam to exclaim to his friend Gandalf, **“Is everything sad going to come untrue?”**

Yes. This is a fundamental reality; a truth of our human story. Everything sad is coming untrue. Bit by bit God is fixing what is broken, correcting mistakes, bandaging wounds, restoring hope, and rewriting stories. The process is ongoing in this life. And when Jesus returns, this miraculous work will be completed and all things made new.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Lahash. We are deeply grateful. Together, we've had the joyful opportunity to see sad things beginning to come untrue. By God's grace, we have all played a role in this process. Let's anticipate and participate wholeheartedly as God brings forth good things all around us in the year ahead.

Daniel Holcomb

Daniel Holcomb
Lahash Executive Director



SPONSORSHIP

Connecting vulnerable children with caring sponsors is our primary ministry focus, and helps to meet the children’s spiritual, physical, educational, and emotional needs.



CHILDREN
CARED FOR

370

BIBLE
CAMP

110

KIDS ATTENDED
BIBLE CAMP

PARTNER
LOCATIONS

KENYA
RWANDA

TANZANIA
UGANDA

IMPACT

Lahash added a **new ministry partnership** with a church in Rwanda which brought **50 new children** into the Sponsorship Program. Following the 1994 genocide, this ministry was founded by a local pastor who wanted to see relationships restored in his fragile homeland. 20 years later, the ministry serves a new generation of children struggling with poverty, disease, and lack of education. At our other partner locations, **Bible Camps were an exciting high point!** See some of the worship, teaching, and fun in “Bible Camp Blessings” at lahash.org/video.

STAND WITH STUDENTS

Ensuring consistent academic progress for every child, and offering a rigorous mentorship program to prepare promising scholars for higher education opportunities.



NUMBER OF
STUDENTS

21

MENTORS
TRAINED

ELEVEN

AREAS OF
STUDY

ACCOUNTING
CONSTRUCTION
HUMAN RESOURCES
INFORMATION TECH

MECHANICS
PROCUREMENT
SOCIAL ADMIN
TEACHING

IMPACT

The Higher Education Program **more than doubled in size** in students and mentors, and the **funding sources for the program expanded**. The Higher Education scholars are now pouring back into the programs where they began as sponsored kids. They are helping to facilitate events like the Day of Prayer and the Christmas Gift Distribution, and are mentoring younger kids to pursue higher education goals of their own. To learn more about what’s going on with this program, visit lahash.org/standwithstudents.

SERVANT TEAMS

Developing diverse missional leaders through a gap-year experience that combines in-depth training with hands-on service among vulnerable people in Portland and in East Africa.

FUNDS
RAISED

\$24,106

MINISTRY
LOCATIONS

PORTLAND, OR
DODOMA, TZ

TEAM

FOUR

MANDEE CAMPOS
YEVETTE GARCIA
SAMSON MAKAU
TAYLOR MASSIE



IMPACT

In January, **Mandee Campos** joined the **Lahash** staff as Servant Teams Coordinator under Director Clark Blakeman. As the training of the new Servant Team progressed, so did the cancer that led to Clark's passing in December. Clark is deeply missed, and his vast background in community development, mentorship, and mission-focused discipleship has indelibly shaped the program. **Mandee is now the Director**, and looks forward to building on this strong foundation. Find the video and more information at lahash.org/servant-teams.

RICE & BEANS MONTH

Increasing food security, decreasing hunger, and supporting sustainable food projects by eating a month of simple meals and donating the saved money.

FUNDS
RAISED

\$15,113

MEALS

4,680 MEALS FOR
KIDS WITH HIV

PROJECTS

42 KITCHEN GARDENS DEVELOPED
8 RAINWATER TANKS BUILT
1 PLOT OF FARMLAND PURCHASED



IMPACT

Rice & Beans Month continues to grow in participation, funds, and impact. Drip irrigation enabled **Nipe Tumaini** to increase their crop sizes and yields. They harvested beans, leafy greens, onions, tomatoes, maize, and several varieties of fruit. At **Path of Hope**, the kitchen gardens expanded, and plans were made to develop a newly purchased field so that widows with no land of their own can grow food for their families. To see more, view "Dripping With Promise" and "Gardens of Hope" at lahash.org/video.

I Want To Be A Role Model

This hard-working Stand With Students scholar has more in mind than his own dreams

In East Africa, firstborn children carry the weight of responsibility to help their parents as well as younger siblings. For Michael Gere, that weight got even heavier when his father died. His mother struggled to earn money, and Michael’s studies suffered as matters of survival took precedence.

Grace & Healing Ministry connected Michael with a Lahash sponsor while he was still in elementary school. “They helped me a lot,” he says of his sponsors. “They have been like water in the desert... I have nothing to pay them, but the Heavenly Father, he will bless them for what they have been doing for me.”

Michael excelled in his studies and set his sights on higher education and a teaching career. Through the Stand With Students mentorship program, his understanding of scripture grew, and he mentored a younger student and volunteered at Grace & Healing Ministry. He has been well prepared to pursue a degree and contribute to ongoing growth and change in his community.

“Because I am the firstborn, I want to be a role model for my family,” he says with conviction. “I want to be the one to get a degree, because in my family history there is no one who studied up to university. When I complete my studies, I will help my family and other people who need to study.” He sees sponsorship and Stand With Students making a difference not only for him,



God is good. He remembered me. Now I have a lot of hope for my future.

but for his whole family.

Michael is acutely aware of the weight he carries, but now he knows he doesn’t bear it alone. “I want to appreciate the people who have helped Stand With Students... I didn’t ever think that one day I could go to higher education because of (my) hard life. But our God is good. He remembered me. And he has helped me. Now I have a lot of hope for my future. I’m on my way.”

Remembering Clark Blakeman

(1962-2016)



Clark Blakeman’s official title at Lahash was Director of Servant Teams, but his wide range of gifts and strengths enriched our entire ministry in countless ways. Clark drew on wisdom, experience, and a deep connection with God in all that he did, including the development of our mentorship curriculum for Stand With Students, and setting Servant Teams on solid ground. Clark devoted his life to loving well. He is profoundly missed here in Portland and by those whose lives he touched across East Africa. We are thankful for his influence every day as we faithfully carry on the work he left behind.

WHERE WE WORK



- 1. ADJUMANI
- 2. KAMPALA
- 3. MAI MAHIU
- 4. SHINYANGA
- 5. DODOMA
- 6. KIGALI

REVENUE

\$528,477

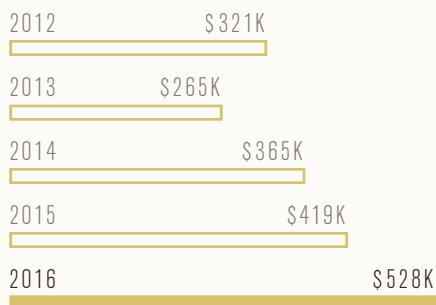
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|---------------------------|-----------|
| SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM | \$91,192 |
| CHRISTMAS GIFTS | \$38,552 |
| RICE & BEANS MONTH | \$15,113 |
| STAND WITH STUDENTS | \$32,898 |
| EAST AFRICA STAFF | \$20,740 |
| OFFICE RENOVATION | \$55,868 |
| SERVANT TEAMS | \$24,106 |
| TRAVEL PROGRAM | \$32,645 |
| STAFF SUPPORT | \$193,525 |
| OTHER | \$23,838 |

EXPENSES

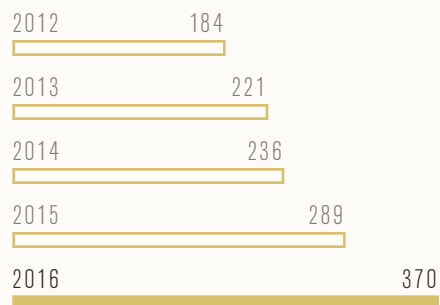
\$529,551

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| PARTNER GRANTS | \$184,637 |
| SERVANT TEAMS | \$9,583 |
| STAFF SALARIES | \$171,920 |
| TRAVEL TO EAST AFRICA | \$36,899 |
| OFFICE RENOVATION | \$51,867 |
| OVERHEAD | \$73,795 |
| OTHER | \$850 |

DONATION HISTORY



CHILDREN IN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



Thank You For Partnering With Us

We are grateful for your involvement on this journey of ministry and grateful to God for his grace as we serve the poor and proclaim good news! Each donation is considered a holy gift and is stewarded with integrity. For more details, visit lahash.org/financials or contact our Finance Team at finance@lahash.org. To support the ongoing work of Lahash International you can donate online at lahash.org/give



In recognition of our efforts, Lahash has received the Gold rating from the non-profit listing service GuideStar. We are working to register with other ratings and accountability services as well.



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LAHASH.ORG



Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."