



Compassion First

EVERYDAY LOVE IS

Extraordinary



2024

An annual report by Compassion First





Compassion First

For the One

Providing end-to-end, personalized care
for those rescued from or at risk of
sex trafficking in Indonesia.



Letter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm specifically thankful for the audience that receives this necessary report each year. For all that it provides in terms of stories or metrics, there is a transcendent narrative that tells the Biblical story of loving your neighbor, even when you've never met them.

This is a profound story, one in which many would reach across the world with their hard-earned resources to affect the lives of those who may otherwise be unknown and, in so many cases, forgotten.

A report as such will always struggle to tell the underlying complexities, the long-suffering, the faithfulness of those dedicated to the work, and the impact that doesn't have direct outputs attached, such as:

- The multiple months of showing up at meetings to gain permissions for a new Transit Monitoring operation
- The hours of counseling without breakthrough until one happens
- The miles and days of windshield time to accommodate a family visit only to take the same road in the other direction the next day

These are the outputs that go unmeasured but are the pounding of the sand that gains the result. These are the faithful people of Compassion First, who you underwrite every month. It's the hard-scrabble work of making a way.

We're mindful of the fact that you are vital to everything we do - to our very ability to "keep showing up." We do because you do! And it's not just the 9-5 that someone provides when they're punching the clock. It's braces on the teeth of their children and those same children going to college. It's the full implication of the sacred exchange that we have through the employment of those who carry out the task.



I sincerely hope that the report in these pages is personal to you as well—not only that it would shine adequate light on this important work that you are a part of, but that it would also bring life to you, personally.

And, just to say it again, we are so grateful for you. In our world, you carry the day.



God bless you,

Mike Mercer
President / CEO

WHERE WE WORK

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world and includes more than 17,000 islands. It is also one of the largest child sex tourism destinations in the world. We are one of only a few anti-trafficking organizations operating within the country.

West Java

West Java is home to the megacity and capital of Indonesia, Jakarta. We are building government relationships to facilitate the sustainable reduction of trafficking in this region. Our second residential home for survivors is also in West Java.

East Java

Our child and family sponsorship programs support vulnerable children and families in the Marigold and Rose communities in East Java, where the risk of trafficking is high.

A map of Indonesia with the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Bali highlighted in red. A red line connects the text for North Sulawesi to the island of Sulawesi, and another red line connects the text for Bali to the island of Bali.

North Sulawesi

Our work began in North Sulawesi in 2010 with 24/7 residential survivor care. Today, the region is home to Sarah's House, our flagship survivor care home, and Sarah's House 2, a transitional home supporting girls as they prepare to reintegrate into society independently. Our work has since expanded to include transit monitoring at three key ferry ports and trafficking prevention through community development work in Palm Village.

Bali

Bali is an international child sex tourism destination. We partner with other organizations in Bali to support law enforcement, caregivers, and partnered rescues.

WHAT WE DO

Prevention

Through community development and transit monitoring,
we stop trafficking before it can start.

Survivor Care

We provide personalized, trauma-informed care for girls
who have been rescued from trafficking in secure 24/7
residential homes and through community-based care for those
who have safe homes to return to.

Government Collaboration

We provide support and resources to help local law enforcement
carry out rescues and partner with government agencies by
providing training and resources to help prevent and respond
to trafficking throughout the provinces of Indonesia.



Letter

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COMPASSION FIRST INDONESIA

As I read back through our 2024 goals, I became overwhelmed with gratitude, reflecting on God's unwavering faithfulness throughout the year. At the beginning of 2024, we declared that we would experience more of God's faithfulness as we continued our beautiful work as faithful servants.

Each day, we grow in our faithfulness to the calling we are privileged to carry out, remaining steadfast in our loyalty to God, His purpose, our families, and every individual He has placed in our lives.

Each challenge we encounter becomes a testament to His blessings and provision. It is an honor to serve Him by serving His people with diligence, and we witness His guiding hand in every step of our journey. From personal and collective growth to the countless answered prayers, the evidence of His unwavering faithfulness is undeniable.

This letter highlights some of the wins of 2024 and acknowledges the challenges we have faced. We celebrate both as evidence of God's faithfulness. As we experience God's faithfulness in all that we do in Indonesia, we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. Together, we are all part of God's mission to transform the world. Through our



shared efforts, we are making a difference by serving those He has entrusted to us.

Thank you very much. God bless you.
Tuhan Yesus memberkati!

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winda Winowatan'.

Winda Winowatan
President of Compassion First Indonesia

People served in 2024

Partnered education scholarships
in the cemeteries

43

Transit monitoring intercepts

11

Girls served in aftercare

25

TOGETHER, OUR COMPASSION IS CREATING SOLUTIONS

Prevention

Through community development and transit monitoring, we stop trafficking before it can start.

IN 2024, WE SERVED...

over 100 children in three communities—Marigold, Rose, and the newly established Palm Village. Our community centers remain vibrant with tutoring, educational classes for kids, teen and parent programs, and specialized skill development in music, English, Taekwondo, and more. This year, we introduced “Play with a Purpose,” a therapeutic play program helping up to 30 children process emotions safely through play. Palm Village now has a weekly class with 20 active children participating.

Our entrepreneurship program is expanding, with teens and young adults advancing in their careers—one securing a full-time job, another enrolling in college for computer engineering, and two scholarship recipients graduating high school. One teen has even joined as part-time staff, helping train new members. We’ve also expanded production into the Rose community. Meanwhile, our Transit Monitoring team continues its work in the ports, and we’ve secured full authority to begin airport operations in 2025!



RAFAEL'S STORY

Rafael has been part of our community center since childhood, joining teen classes and activities alongside his two younger sisters. Through our Entrepreneurship Program, he learned valuable skills like budgeting, time management, and communication. His dream of studying computer programming came true when he was accepted into college! Now, he gives back by teaching younger kids computer skills. In 2024, when his sibling faced a health crisis, he supported his family with his time and his earnings from journal-making. Rafael has become a mentor and role model, demonstrating resilience in pursuing his dreams and helping others. We are incredibly proud of him and cheering him on!

Survivor Care

We provide personalized, trauma-informed care for girls who have been rescued from trafficking in secure 24/7 residential homes and through community-based care for those who have safe homes to return to.

2024 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH...

new experiences, and incredible progress for Compassion First's Survivor Care program. With two fully operating shelters in North Sulawesi and West Java, we successfully served 20 girls through residential care and five girls through community-based care, implementing Individual Care Plans (ICP) for each girl. Residents have improved in setting goals, embracing trauma counseling, communicating with their families, resolving conflicts with their peers, and growing their self-confidence. Education remains a priority, with three girls graduating high school—two moving on to college—and others advancing in their studies. Vocational training has also expanded, offering courses in barista skills, early education, cosmetology, cooking, horticulture, maritime education, and more. We also supported four CF alumni to pursue university studies in Post-Graduate Theological Studies, Bible College, Medical School, and Accounting. We are so proud of the residents in CF Survivor Care and all their progress this year, along with our amazing staff that continues this work day after day with love, compassion, and dedication, helping each young woman recognize her worth and potential.



EVELYN'S STORY

Evelyn, a bright and ambitious senior in high school, was on track to graduate with top honors despite challenges at home. However, after meeting a “nice man” online, her world suddenly turned upside down after she was trafficked. In the midst of a very traumatic situation, she managed to coordinate and secure her own rescue. With the support of a friend at school, she contacted the local Women’s Empowerment office, reported her case, and was referred to CF. Though staying in a residential home for a year or two wasn’t part of her original plan, she knew it was the safest option and allowed her to continue her education while preparing for college. For nine months, she pushed through emotional rollercoasters, challenging counseling sessions, testimonies with police, and fear of rejection. Through it all, she displayed incredible resilience, learned new skills, and excelled in her studies. Then, to her delight, she earned a scholarship to a top ten prestigious university. Today, she continues to heal, pursue her dreams, and inspire others with the determination and character she courageously exhibits.

Government Collaboration

We provide support and resources to help local law enforcement carry out rescues and partner with government agencies by providing training and resources to help prevent and respond to trafficking throughout the provinces of Indonesia.

THE INDONESIAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO REACH OUT...

to Compassion First for official training of local, provincial, and national staff on existing child protection laws, trafficking laws, victim identification, victim sensitivity, and best practices on shelter operations and care for survivors. These training events are provided for and attended by all departments involved with government organized regional anti-trafficking task forces and are fully operated by CF leadership and professionals.

SWAKELOLAS

The government of Indonesia has a program called “Swakelola” - a collaboration between the Indonesia government and NGOs to improve the quality of public services. The Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection chose CF from among many NGOs to collaborate with them on Swakelola work in 2024, including two anti-trafficking training events - one in East Java and another in Bali.

While most Swakelola events result in an invitation for CF to set up specific operations in a region, the East Java Swakelola event was met by overwhelming support with multi-lateral requests for CF to expand our work in that region. There were 38 in attendance including officers, professionals, and government employees from the following departments: regional and city police, Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, Dept. of Social Affairs, Dept. of Labor, Regional Development Planning Agency, Public Health Office, Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency, and other NGOs. We additionally hosted pastor gatherings in conjunction with the Swakelola, building out further partnered support for our work.



WE ARE transformed WHEN WE HELP TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Melissa Reimers

COMPASSION FIRST ADVOCATE AND VOLUNTEER



I've been consistently impressed by the work of Compassion First (CF). I've personally witnessed their dedication to both caring for young women who have survived sex trafficking, and to educating children who live in vulnerable communities so that the cycle can be broken. Every interaction I've had with the CF team has been marked by transparency, honesty, and genuine care. Knowing that my support goes towards a ministry that is making a real difference throughout Indonesia, while upholding the highest standards of integrity, gives me complete confidence in their mission.

Kristen Rankin

COMPASSION FIRST ADVOCATE AND VOLUNTEER



Joy in the Darkness? When God led me to Compassion First's efforts years ago, I never expected to experience actual joy in the midst of such a dark issue. But God has brought such blessings to my life while serving alongside CF. The incredible CF staff that I've been honored to know are full of conviction, deep compassion, and it seems unending determination and willingness to serve. My faith in God is encouraged immensely every time I am near them. There is only one explanation as to how such a small organization is making such a big impact in the lives of many...and that is GOD. CF embodies the call to help each "ONE" of God's children in need. CF's personalized survivor care and prevention efforts are not only proving successful but are clearly rooted in God's favor over their work. I am more blessed to be part of this journey with CF. '...So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.' Romans 13:12b.

Pastor Greg Schaub

GATEWAY FOURSQUARE CHURCH



“For the one.” This is why Gateway Church partners with the incredible CF team. Compassion First does exactly what their name is. In practical, tangible, life-saving ways, CF is making a redemptive difference for the kingdom. Each young girl rescued changes the trajectory of a life, a family, a nation. Witnessing the challenging work firsthand in Indonesia was inspiring, motivating, heartbreaking, and unforgettable!



Lantern Walk for Freedom

LIFE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, APRIL 2024

“Though I could not help hands-on with trafficking prevention, it was awesome that I could play a role. I appreciated the list of names they gave us of girls to pray for. I was able to have an impact thousands of miles away through the simple act of praying!”

Jasmine McLeMore BA in Media & Communications

“The Compassion First Lantern Walk was a truly moving experience. Walking alongside my peers, we united to raise awareness about the devastating issue of human sex trafficking. It was a blessing to show our community that this issue matters to us.”

Abbi Dyer BA in Media & Communications

EVERYDAY LOVE IS *Extraordinary*

FILMED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LAMPSTAND PRODUCTIONS, FALL 2024

In October 2024, Compassion First Director Traci Espeseth partnered with our friends at Lampstand Productions to visit several of our locations across Indonesia. Together, they filmed six short videos to help tell the story of our work through the voices of those closest to it.

Our hope was to create a visual way to help others see what God is doing through Compassion First. We set out to capture what we have long tried to describe in words: the daily faithfulness, courage, and compassion that define our mission.

Over the course of two weeks, the team spent time with staff, survivors, and community members. By filming seemingly ordinary moments, we witnessed how everyday love is transforming lives and communities. These stories reflect the heart of our work and our belief that everyday love is extraordinary.

We are committed to ethical storytelling. Every person featured in these films chose to share their story. We walked with each one throughout the process to ensure safety, dignity, and care.

Whether you have supported Compassion First for years or are just beginning to learn about us, we invite you to see how ordinary, everyday love is changing a nation.



SHOWING THE CF STORY

Below are six short films that share the story of Compassion First through the voices of those closest to the work. Scan the QR codes to watch the videos.

CF Identity Film



This short film captures the heart of our work and the values that guide us.

SURVIVOR CARE

CF Survivor Care



This video is a snippet of daily life inside our residential homes for child survivors of sex trafficking. From school and counseling to shared meals and moments of joy, discover how consistent care is creating space for hope and healing.

Vanessa's Story



One young woman shares her story of hardship and hope in her own words. Vanessa's story reflects the strength, trust, and growth made possible through long-term care and consistent support.

PREVENTION

CF Community Development



This video introduces you to communities where the risk of trafficking is high. Discover how a consistent, caring presence and community-based support can prevent vulnerable children from being trafficked. These everyday efforts build trust, restore hope, and help protect families from exploitation.

Bu Apri's Story



A mother from one of the communities we serve in East Java shares her family's story and how, through steady support and a place to belong, they are overcoming obstacles.

GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

CF Government Collaboration



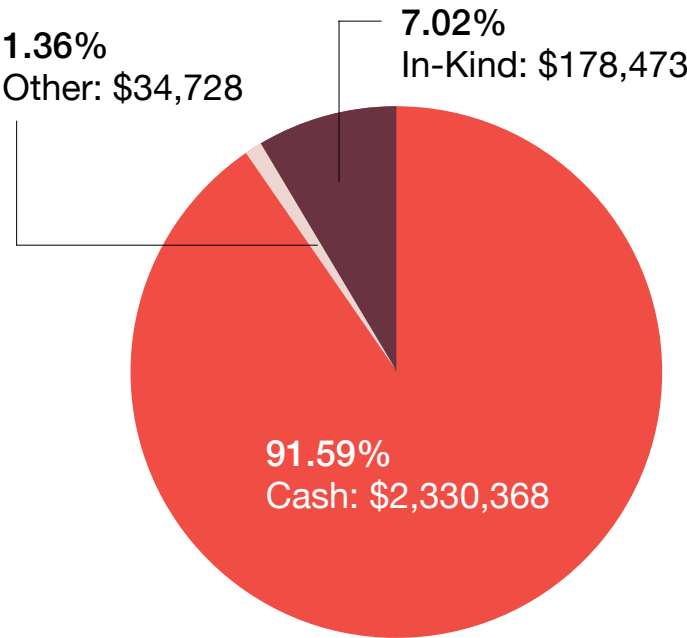
This video offers a glimpse into how we partner with Indonesian law enforcement and government agencies across the country. Learn how collaboration can create safer systems and better outcomes for the most vulnerable.



FINANCIALS

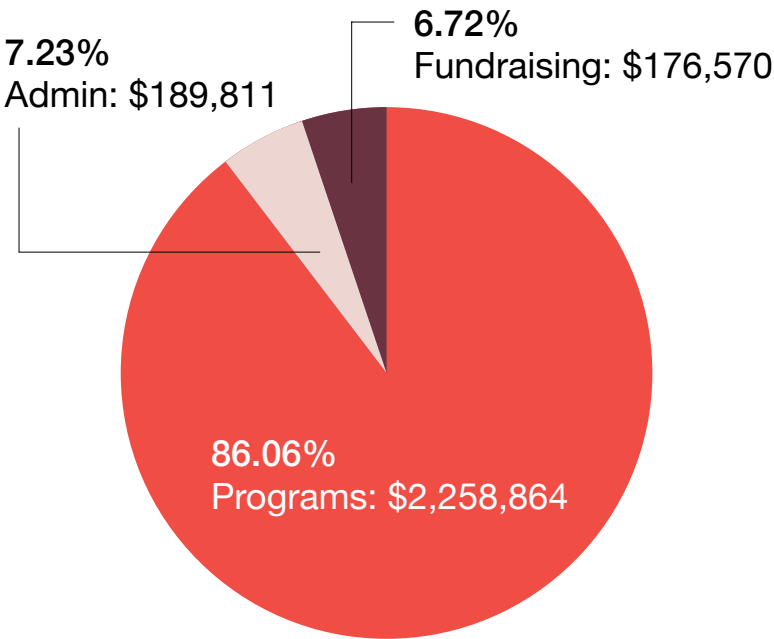
INCOME

\$2,543,569



EXPENSES

\$2,625,245



Prayer Requests

Please pray for our team as we carefully design a discipleship program for the communities and survivors we serve.

Please pray for the right people to fill several open crucial roles across all of our operations in Indonesia.

Please pray for health, strength, peace, provision, and joy in abundance for all field staff and their families this year.

Projected 2025 Expansions

Transit monitoring in a regional airport

Capacity expansion of Sarah's House

Opening of Sarah's House 2 (Transition Home)

Capacity expansion of our West Java Home

Opening an official drop-in center in Palm Village



Compassion First

Compassion First is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,
dedicated to providing end-to-end, personalized care for those
rescued from or at risk of sex trafficking and exploitation in Indonesia.

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