Producing Hope

2025 Compassion First Annual Report



Compassion First

"...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Romans 5:3-4

Letter FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm convinced that you cannot combat hope. You can certainly try, but there is too much behind it; too many experiences, lessons, wins and losses, and perseverance. Whether it resides in the heart and mind of the misguided or the well-informed, when someone has hope, they will often find their way to the next necessary place.

The New Testament describes this consistently from three unique authors: faith and faithfulness produce endurance, perseverance, promise, maturity, and HOPE. The book of James specifically calls out a crown of life that suggests that hope is actually an eternal matter - in other words, there is no ceiling to it.

Ahead of this report, we've found ourselves full of hope. We can see where God has remained beside us as we have persevered, and we have experienced the elation of breakthrough on multiple fronts - occasions that only yield more hope. Indeed, it has been a year full of hope with so many great stories, continued areas of stability and growth, and a sincere desire to do more flowing from all of our operations.

In 2025, we began the Hope Report with *"hopes"* that it would bring our supporters closer to our field and our field closer to our supporters. The Hope Report is a weekly email including three updates from our work, news from the broader faith-based relief and development world, and other contributions that cross over with our sector and life in general. We are encouraged that it has been so well received. We can only believe that, in the years to come, it will remain a documentation of God's goodness and continued hope as we share together the growing work of Compassion First.

As a US staff, we stand in the middle. It is our donors on one side and our frontline workers and those who we serve on the other who carry the day. What we see from each direction continues to bring us life and encouragement, and it is our privilege to serve you in this way.





As you look through the pages of this report, they are presented with sincere gratitude. We are all amazed to be a part of such wonderful work, such an incredible team, and such a generous family of supporters. What a gift!

At that, I submit this annual report with the sincere hope that it is an encouragement to you.



Your friend,

Mike Mercer
President / CEO
Compassion First

The Hope REPORT



Friend,

I'm excited to share with you about a new communication tool we are adding to keep you more informed: **The Hope Report**. This email will hit your inbox on a semi-regular basis on Tuesdays. (*By semi-regular we mean - sometimes weekly and never less than monthly, depending on what is going on.*)

The Hope Report will always include three points from one of several buckets of information informed by our work. In addition to our desire for a way to share more "breaking news" type updates from our work, there are also times that we desire to share materials, information and resources, not necessarily specific to our work but, nonetheless, important, such as updates on charitable giving and pending tax legislation, stories of generosity, staff devotionals and blogs, and broader education on the Christian Relief and Development world. This will be our new venue for things as such.

Your friend,

Mike

HOPE IN YOUR INBOX

In July, we announced the Hope Report, our weekly(ish) newsletter. If you don't receive these, but want to, **scan the QR below** code to sign up. On these pages, you will find some Hope Report highlights from 2025.



FREE MICRO TRAINING ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Have you ever wondered - with so many Christians in the world trying to address issues of poverty, is what we're doing actually helping people? Our friends at the Chalmers Center have been helping God's people rethink poverty and respond with practical, biblical principles so that all are restored to flourishing since 1999. Check out this free online micro-training to discover how a potluck approach to poverty alleviation can lead to lasting change.



TALITHA COFFEE PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

We're thrilled to announce our new partnership with Talitha Coffee Roasters, an incredible company on a mission to make a difference in the lives of survivors of trafficking. You can **scan the QR code** to join Talitha Coffee's subscription service to support Compassion First while enjoying delicious coffee delivered to your door!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: CELEBRATING TWO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Our community development team celebrated two remarkable young people, one from the Marigold Community and one from the Rose Community. Both students are the first in their families to graduate from high school!



Coco graduated and is taking his next big step into college! He will be studying Culinary Arts. Please pray that Coco flourishes in this new chapter.



Kayla also graduated and is now working at a local cosmetic shop near her home. Please pray for Kayla as she discovers her gifts and finds joy in her vocation.

The Hope REPORT CONTINUED



LEGAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

Legal advocacy is a core part of how we care for survivors. When girls in our care are called to testify against their traffickers, we not only fund their legal team but also walk closely with them in preparation. Throughout the entire process, we provide security and protection to ensure their safety.

We have successfully advocated for closed courts, which means a girl does not have to face her trafficker in the same room. Our team helps her anticipate what she may experience, gently working through the triggers that can surface in both mind and body. Even with minimal documentation, our clinical staff lead mock trials to build confidence, encouraging each girl to be steady and brave as she gives her testimony.

Right now, four girls in our care are preparing to testify. Each case is complex and depends on the cooperation of local police. We are deeply grateful for the strong relationships we hold with both police and government officials.

Please join us in praying for these four girls as they take this courageous step, and for the staff who will faithfully walk beside them.

SARAH'S HOUSE RESIDENT REINTEGRATES HOME



We are celebrating a beautiful milestone as one of the young women at Sarah's House has completed her residential program and is returning home to her family. The journey was not easy, but she persevered, and we could not be more proud!

When home is safe, returning is a powerful step in a survivor's healing process. It restores a sense of belonging in her family and community and gives her the chance to carry new strength and support into this next season of life.

This reintegration also opens space in our shelter to welcome the next girl who needs the safety and care that Sarah's House provides.

20 YEAR REFLECTION ON HURRICANE KATRINA & CF'S BEGINNING



You may know, or maybe this is news, that Compassion First's story began as a disaster relief response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. You may have even been part of it yourself. As we mark twenty years since that storm, Mike reflects on our beginnings…

It is hard to believe two decades have passed since Katrina devastated the Southern seaboard. Just last week marked the anniversary. Our first deployment to Mississippi did not come until two weeks after the storm had passed, already late by most measures.

By then, hundreds of groups had rushed to respond with good intentions. American closets were emptied of clothes not worn in years, only to end up in big-box parking lots where they soon became landfills…

Scan the QR code to read Mike's full reflection.

WHAT WE DO

Prevention

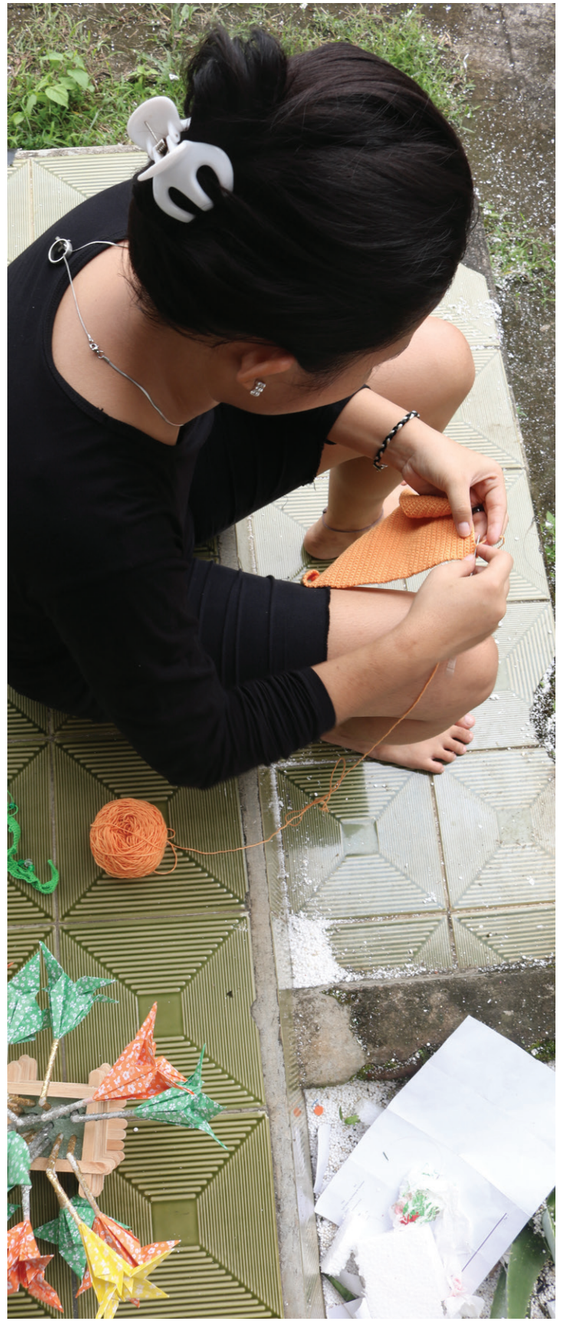
We prevent trafficking by supporting children and families who are extremely vulnerable to exploitation in some of Indonesia's poorest communities. Our holistic approach to community development includes several drop-in centers, educational scholarships, entrepreneurial opportunities, and community events.

Survivor Care

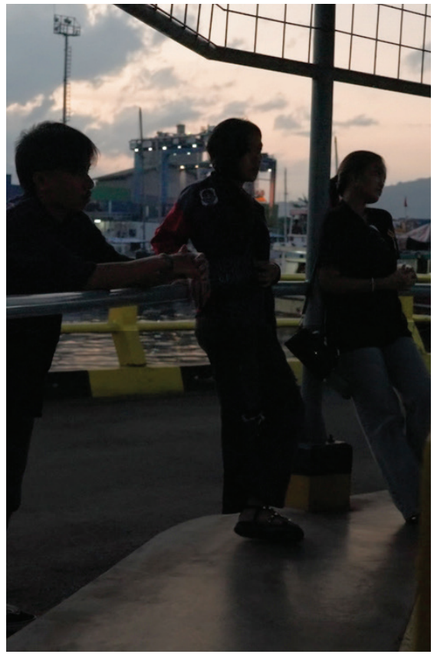
We provide personalized, trauma-informed care for girls who have been rescued from trafficking in secure 24-7 residential homes and through community-based care for those who have safe homes to return to.

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. Additionally, Compassion First works alongside port authorities to conduct transit monitoring, intercepting potential victims before they are trafficked.







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.

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 one airport, plus trafficking prevention through community development work in Palm Village.



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, Promise House, 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. We are also serving survivors in this region through community-based care.

Bali

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

Letter FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COMPASSION FIRST INDONESIA

As I reflect on this past year, once again I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I see God's faithfulness over Compassion First. Throughout 2025, we experienced His provision in so many ways. He guided us with clarity, opened doors we could not open ourselves, answered prayers in ways that strengthened our faith, and sustained us with joy even in the midst of challenges. Through every season, He has continued to grow us as an organization.

Our theme is Producing Hope. And when I think about it, I realize that hope is really what we do every day.

We see hope in the survivors and families we care for.

We see hope in communities through our community development work.

We see hope even for people we have not met yet, the ones we believe God will bring to us in the future.

But hope is not only for them. It is for all of us - our staff, volunteers, families, church partners, government friends, the companies that support us, and especially for you.

Your support is not just funding activities. You are part of producing hope. Because of you, someone feels seen. Someone feels safe. Someone believes tomorrow can be better.

This Annual Report is not simply a summary of activities, but a a testimony. A testimony of answered prayers, of doors opened, of resilience strengthened, and of hope produced together.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. We could not do this without you.



God bless you! Tuhan Yesus memberkati!

With love,

Winda Winowatan
President of Compassion First Indonesia

People Served in 2025

Partnered education scholarships in vulnerable communities

47

Transit Monitoring intercepts

49

Girls served in aftercare

33

Prevention

We prevent trafficking by supporting children and families who are extremely vulnerable to exploitation in some of Indonesia's poorest communities. Our holistic approach to community development includes several drop-in centers, educational scholarships, entrepreneurial opportunities, and community events.

IN 2025, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ROUTINELY SERVED...

over 100 children in three communities. Palm Village celebrated its second year, with kids eager to gather for English classes, games, and homework help. The Marigold and Rose Communities saw the development of a futsal (soccer) and sports ministry this year. The kids love it, and often invite their friends to come and join!

Throughout the year, we saw the community members share their talents and skills with one another. From community-led cooking classes to our college students sharing computer skills, journal-making, and bouquet-making, many had the opportunity to contribute. Our entrepreneur program saw more teens return to participate in journal making. We also had opportunities to join boutiques, conferences, and local events to sell journals

The year was also filled with toddler and kid classes, the annual play festival, traditional dances and exercise, tutoring, and our annual community-wide Thanksgiving celebration that showcased all these community talents and inspired us all!



RATNA'S COURAGE

Two years ago, Ratna was diagnosed with bone and pulmonary tuberculosis, an illness that left her unable to move from the neck down. After months of intensive treatment, surgery, and rehabilitation, she courageously began learning to move again.

Throughout the process, the biggest battle she had to face was fear: Fear of trying to sit up, standing, and learning how to walk again after everything her body had been through. But she also saw how people celebrated every point of progress she made, that every tiny step mattered. She kept fighting because she knew she wasn't alone. Her mom never left her side, always caring for her with so much love.

Ratna lost nearly a year of school, but in her words, "God is good". Within just three months, she managed to catch up on everything she had missed with the support of her teachers and friends.

Before all of this, Ratna thought of herself as the quiet girl who would probably be forgotten. Now she knows she has so many people who care and want to see her thrive. Today, Ratna is thriving. She loves school, and soon will join her school team in a city-level choir competition.

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.

2025 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH...

in our residential car. Promise House opened in East Java, creating space to serve more residents and providing an environment where healing and personal growth can continue. In North Sulawesi, Sarah's House 2* reopened, allowing girls to reintegrate into their communities while continuing their education under CF's umbrella of care. This reopening also created additional space in Sarah's House, enabling newly rescued girls to receive timely care and support.

We continued to strengthen pathways toward independence through expanded vocational training opportunities. Girls in residential care now have access to training in barista skills, makeup and nail artistry, cooking, hair styling, and more. These programs equip them with practical skills and increase their opportunities to secure stable employment as they reintegrate into their families and communities.

Our staff across all three locations deepened their engagement with families through coaching and relationship-building. This approach helps families better utilize resources within their own communities and prepares them to receive their daughters with greater understanding and support upon reintegration.

***Sarah's House 2** is a transitional home providing a semi-independent living space for girls who are close to completing the full aftercare program. This home also opens up space in Sarah's House sooner, allowing us to serve more girls.*



MELODY'S RESILIENCE

When Melody joined the CF program, she was two years behind in school and struggled to focus on her studies. With tremendous support from our teachers and staff and a lot of hard work, she was able to catch up and pass the National Final Exam for Elementary School.

Transitioning to junior high school brought new challenges, including being the oldest student in her class and struggling to keep up with coursework. Many times, she felt the desire to give up. Despite these moments of discouragement, Melody persevered through consistent encouragement from staff and family, ultimately completing junior high school.

As her confidence grew, Melody learned to recognize her strengths and stand strong on her own. She went on to vocational high school, where she excelled—finishing first in her class and representing her school in inter-school activities. She also completed a makeup artist course with excellent grades and began building her skills through practicing on the girls and staff at Sarah's House.

Now reintegrated back home with her family, Melody is focused on two things: continuing her studies in vocational high school and starting her makeup business on weekends and school holidays. She hopes to save her earnings to help her parents start a home-based food business. Melody has become a cheerful, strong young woman whose journey reflects resilience and growth.

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. Additionally, Compassion First works alongside port authorities to conduct transit monitoring, intercepting potential victims before they are trafficked.

IN 2025, OUR COLLABORATION...

with government partners continued to strengthen and bear meaningful fruit. We successfully established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, marking a significant milestone in our partnership. At both national and local levels, we further deepened our relationships with government institutions and law enforcement—especially the newly established Directorate of Crimes Against Women and Children and Human Trafficking, now active in 11 provinces.

Team members across various regions were invited to speak and provide training at numerous government-hosted events, reflecting growing trust in our expertise and contributions. Our role as Secretary of the National Network of Anti-Human Trafficking has further elevated our engagement, enabling closer coordination and more direct communication with key stakeholders.

We remain committed to working hand in hand with government partners to advance prevention and protection for vulnerable communities.



TRANSIT MONITORING AT THE AIRPORT

Our perseverance in building partnerships with the government required time, patience, and many meetings, but in the end, it resulted in real and measurable impact. One clear example is our transit monitoring work at an international airport, which required close coordination and formal approval from airport authorities before it could begin. The process was not immediate, but once permission was granted, the impact was significant. Within just a few months, we were able to intercept more than 40 potential victims.

This collaboration has also strengthened prevention efforts by encouraging more active involvement from law enforcement and the wider community. For us, working hand in hand with the government is essential to building effective protection systems and stopping trafficking in our country.

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED WITH CF *produced hope* IN YOUR LIFE?

Don & Diana Grossarth

CF DONORS & ADVOCATES



"Being involved in CF has produced hope in our lives in so many ways. Hope is realizing you can personally influence positive change in our modern world; hope that only Jesus can author. Hope is being a part of an organization that makes a difference in so many families' lives - spiritually and economically. Hope continues as we share with other believers the effect CF can make when we all work together. We find hope by supporting and advocating for this life changing work. Finally, hope is confirmed when we see these children smile or witness a mother's new found optimism for the future. Lead by Jesus Christ, CF is an organization that brings hope to the hopeless."

Todd & Susannah Fennell

CF DONORS & ADVOCATES



"Hope is not wishful thinking. It is seeing God restore a life filled with shame and darkness into a life, overflowing with joy, worth, and light. It is proof that God is in the restoration business. It has strengthened my belief that hope is compassion in action."

Rachel Taylor

LEAD PASTOR, LAKEPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH



"Lakepoint Community Church is honored to partner with Compassion First to bring light into dark places. Their work is not just compassionate, but it's strategic, sacrificial, and fruitful. They're giving hope to people in real need, strengthening communities, and partnering with local leaders to bring lasting change. Seeing the way CF serves with integrity and genuine love reminds us that Christ's love, expressed through His people, continues to transform lives in powerful ways around the world. Their ministry is a clear picture of Christ's compassion in action."

EVENT *Highlight*



2025 PASTORS RETREAT

CANNON BEACH, FEBRUARY

Compassion First hosted a special group of friends for a few days at Cannon Beach, Oregon. Pastors and spouses joined for some sand, fun and relaxation together.

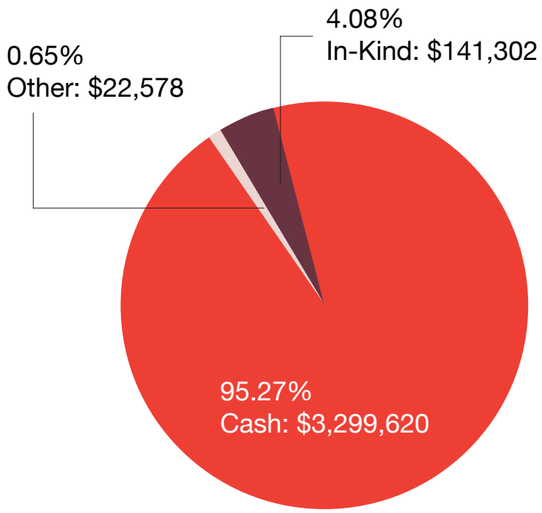
One pastor shared what he enjoyed the most about the coast retreat:

"The team, location, hospitality, content, time together - all were such a gift. We also made some great connections with people we didn't previously know."

FINANCIALS

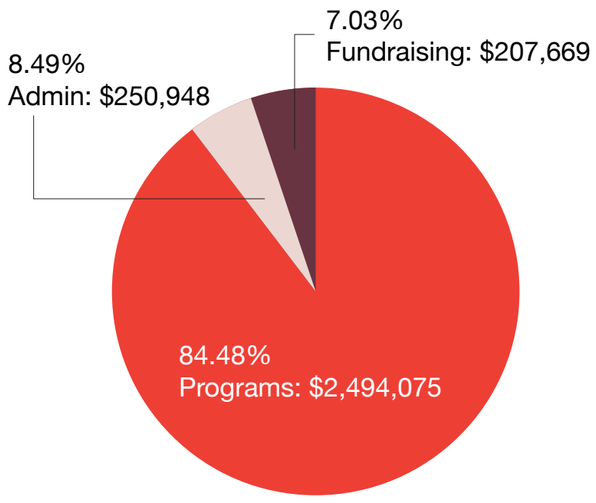
INCOME

$3,463,500



EXPENSES

$2,952,692



Prayer Requests

Please pray for our East Java team as we move toward opening a new survivor care shelter in that region. This will require finding and leasing a new property, hiring and training staff and enough resources to operate until Jesus comes back!

Please pray for smooth transitions as Sarah's House continues to intake new girls, as well as reintegrate others back home.

Please pray for our transit monitors as they stand guard at airports and ferry ports, intercepting children before they are taken away to be trafficked on another island. Please pray for their safety and for the interception of many more children.

Projected 2026 Expansions

Open a New Shelter in East Java

Hire a National Director of Survivor Care

Begin Construction on Expansion of Sarah's House in North Sulawesi

Compassion First

1500 NW 167th Place
Beaverton, OR 97006



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.

compassionfirst.org

inquire@compassionfirst.org | 503.207.1320