

REPORT

2023

Shining in the Darkness



VENTURE

IN 2023

*YOU HELPED BRING RELIEF TO
REFUGEES FLEEING VIOLENCE.*

*YOU ROSE UP TO JOIN IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.*

*YOU BECAME A VOICE FOR THOSE
LIVING UNDER THE BURDEN OF
OPPRESSION AND EXTREME POVERTY.*

*YOU BROUGHT THE
HOPE OF THE GOSPEL
TO UNSAFE, UNREACHED, AND
UNDER-RESOURCED AREAS.*

*YOU DARED TO RISK,
TO SACRIFICE,
TO CHASE THE UNSEEN—
ALL FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.*

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
WILLINGNESS TO VENTURE*



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Responding to Disaster in Nepal

When an earthquake shook Nepal, our partners responded with courage, creativity, and resolve.

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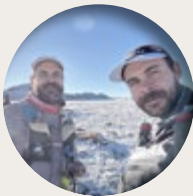
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IN CLOSING

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TOUGH PLACES

Some of the greatest injustices happen where people are least reached by the hope of the Gospel.

That's where you'll find us.

WHERE WE VENTURE

- ☒ Unreached
Fewer than 2% of those within our target area have received the message of the Gospel.
 - ☒ Under-Resourced
Less than 1% of all Christian-giving is directed toward the areas we target.
 - ☒ Unsafe
High rates of some of the world's greatest injustices happen in these areas.
- ☒ REFUGEE CRISIS

☒ EXTREME POVERTY

☒ HUMAN TRAFFICKING

☒ PERSECUTION

THE WHOLE GOSPEL

Over the two decades we've spent working in some of the toughest places in the world, two things are abundantly clear: the Gospel can never be separated from the work of caring for the poor, and we'll never see the end of systemic injustice until the human heart changes. That's why we're combatting the world's greatest injustices while planting churches and making disciples. They are inseparable, forming the intersection where societal change begins in the unsafe, unreached, and under-resourced areas we serve.



Shining in the Darkness

Born into darkness, Jesus announced His mission: *"I came to start a fire."* (Luke 12:49) Burning brightly across the world for thousands of years, this fiery light undeniably burns every day in unimaginably dark places.

Sometimes, this fire sparks with the timely delivery of meals to a village devastated by natural disaster, and villagers hear about a God who loves them; sometimes, it's when a girl born into a lower caste, orphaned by violence, is given a safe home where she's disciplined in the way of Jesus, receives counseling, and learns vocational skills to dream beyond societal barriers, escaping a likely future in the sex trade; sometimes, it's with a "motorcycle pastor" who fervently prays into the night for the salvation of a village witch doctor he met on his latest mountaintop journey; or sometimes, it begins with building a playground on the outskirts of a warzone so children can heal from traumas through play and hear about the love of Jesus.

Everywhere the light of the Gospel breaks out, hearts change, mindsets renew, and communities begin to resemble the Kingdom.

Our entire history at Venture has proven that the Gospel shines brightest in the darkest places. 2023 was yet another reminder. Though our partners saw incredible darkness, they never stopped wielding the light—nor will they. While you could have grown fatigued (in both compassion and generosity) by the news of ongoing war, earthquakes, surging violence, hunger, and human trafficking, you didn't. For that, we say our sincerest thank you. And as we look ahead to the ongoing work we'll venture toward, we hold to the promise found throughout scripture: *"Darkness cannot overcome the light."*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'RSkoog'.

Ryan Skoog
PRESIDENT



YEAR IN REVIEW

Your impact in some of the
world's toughest places.

YEAR IN REVIEW



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New Countries

INTRODUCED TO VENTURE'S PROGRAMS



4,000+

Churches Planted

IN UNREACHED AREAS



10.7M

Meals Distributed

TO THOSE IN NEED



12,266

Kits Distributed

FOR FEMININE HYGIENE CARE



1,276

Children Educated

THROUGH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



6,458

Counseled

ON THE DANGERS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



362

Farmers Supported

THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FARMING



516

Rescued

FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING



4,227

Trained

AS CHURCH PLANTERS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Food & Farming

We partner with local leaders to provide nutrient-rich meals to displaced people groups, while also investing in farmers to grow wealth and create opportunity for future generations.

Rescue & Safety

Our local partners identify and intercept women and children vulnerable to trafficking at borders, and provide holistic care—including counseling, safe housing, and pathways to employment.

Education & Development

We help fund educational programs, leadership training centers, and schools while focusing on holistic development that includes building playgrounds for those in conflict zones.

Women's Health & Wholeness

Our local partners help to provide health, safety, and vocational training to women vulnerable to systemic exploitation, sexual abuse and predation, creating new opportunities to heal and invest in meaningful, marketable work.

Church Planting & Discipleship

Our local partners courageously share the Gospel, engaging in multiplicative disciple making and church planting amongst unreached people groups.

STORIES *of* HOPE





REFUGEE CARE

FOOD SECURITY

THE DANGERS OF DELIVERY

Delivering meals is dangerous. Routes are often patrolled by the army and monitored at checkpoints. There is a constant risk of extortion, confiscation, or arrest. Sometimes, our partners deliver meals under the protective cover of night, navigating through areas where they risk being shot if discovered. They walk through jungles littered with landmines where one wrong step could lead to tragedy. There are no hospitals to turn to if something goes wrong, yet they continue to press on to deliver the life-saving meals you generously provide.

They are fully aware of the dangers but are fueled by courage and conviction because they know what happens if the food never arrives.

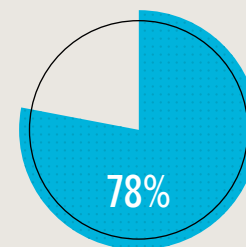


© YOUR IMPACT

We are grateful for our selfless, extraordinary community that continues to provide these life-saving meals and the heroes who journey into danger to deliver them.



GOING TO THE GREATEST NEEDS



■ Out of the 10.7 million meals you helped provide in 2023, 8.35 million meals went to those fleeing war violence.



"Without the support of Venture, our community, especially the children, would be at risk of hunger and suffering. The situation where we deliver food is very bad. 100% closed. Our team was fine with God's help. The cost is high. There is danger. Everything we do is right for our children."

-VENTURE PARTNER

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are fields and some small structures. In the middle ground, there is a dense forest. In the background, there are mountains with smoke rising from the hills, suggesting a conflict zone. The sky is clear and blue.

REFUGEE CARE

HOW THE CHURCH BECAME A REFUGE

In early April of 2023, 10,000 people in Myanmar (Burma) fled to Thailand for safety. The junta had bombed their villages and burned their homes. The people took only what they could carry. They traversed the jungle, mountains, and rivers to escape the dangers of warfare.

When 20 of these families made their way across the border, Venture partners were there to greet them.



The families who fled immediately found refuge in our partner's church. Despite their fear of the unknown, hope was provided. The church became so much more to those who entered, revealing the beauty of Jesus to them in ways they desperately needed.



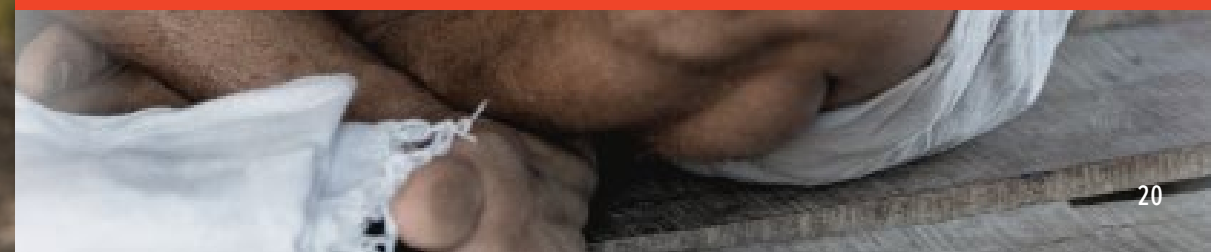
“*God is always in this and wants to show us how much He loves us, even in the bad situations.*”

-VENTURE PARTNER



🎯 YOUR IMPACT

Your generosity helped our partners provide food and safety—building housing for families who chose to stay. It also helped cover the medical expenses of a mother who safely gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby shortly after her arrival.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESCUE & SAFETY

CHURCH PLANTING & DISCIPLESHIP

BRICK BY BRICK

Eight years ago, "Kailali" was a human trafficking truck stop in Nepal, with droves of trucks lining up along the dusty village road. It was a place where parents sold their children and where girls felt forced to sell themselves, believing they had no other choice if they wanted to eat and survive.

But what once was, no longer is.



A Kailali home before development

Today, Kailali looks dramatically different.

Fueled by passion, strategic vision, and the hope of the gospel, Venture partners have worked tirelessly to see this small community transformed—physically and spiritually. Homes have been built, and the infrastructure necessary for holistic thriving has been laid.



A Kailali home in development

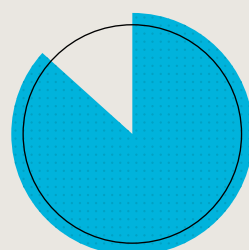




"I can't believe God would choose to build His church here. This place has turned into heaven."

-RAMA BADI, COMMUNITY LEADER

CREATING A NEW NORMAL



90% → 0%

- 90% of girls were at risk of being trafficked. Trafficking is now nearly nonexistent.



WATCH THE KAILALI STORY



YOUR IMPACT

Your generosity has paved the way in shifting the shared mindsets of the Kailali village. Whereas 90% of the girls were once at risk of being trafficked, trafficking is nearly nonexistent now. As the whole gospel has taken root, the entire community—young and old, men and women—is protecting their children and supporting one another.




RESPONDING TO DISASTER IN NEPAL

FOOD & FARMING

WOMEN'S HEALTH & WHOLENESS

RESCUE & SAFETY

CHURCH PLANTING & DISCIPLESHIP



On November 3, 2023, a violent earthquake destroyed villages in Western Nepal. Tragically, lives were lost. Food became scarce. The Venture community responded with urgency and resilience.

◎ YOUR IMPACT

Uplifted by your generosity, Venture partners acted swiftly—delivering life-saving meals, providing temporary shelter and medical supplies, and distributing warm blankets and clothes. Thanks to this immediate response, lives were saved.

Our partners, with your ongoing support, continue to bring hope and relief to the affected communities, sharing the love of Jesus, and praying for those who have yet to hear the Good News.



BADI RICE

Just before the earthquake, Hannah—a Venture partner—felt led by God to plant rice on a newly acquired plot of land. Her rice crop flourished while neighboring fields unexpectedly suffered from disease. When the earthquake struck, Hannah was the only one in the area with rice. She felt she knew why her rice was spared.

Hannah immediately started to harvest the rice to distribute to villages desperate for food. Yet, a perplexing challenge emerged – people from these villages were from higher castes. They usually do not accept help from the Badi people. Undeterred, Hannah knew the rice was a lifeline the people couldn't afford to reject. To break societal barriers, she boldly labeled each bag of rice as "Badi Rice." This act was not just about providing rice and meeting a need; it was a powerful statement, challenging prejudices and discrimination.

But just before the rice could be delivered, someone snuck onto the property under the cover of night and set fire to the rice, destroying all the excess that was to be used for relief.

Hannah awoke to a pile of ash where the bags of rice once were. Instead of despair consuming her, she faced this injustice with defiance. "Nobody can stop us," Hannah told us.

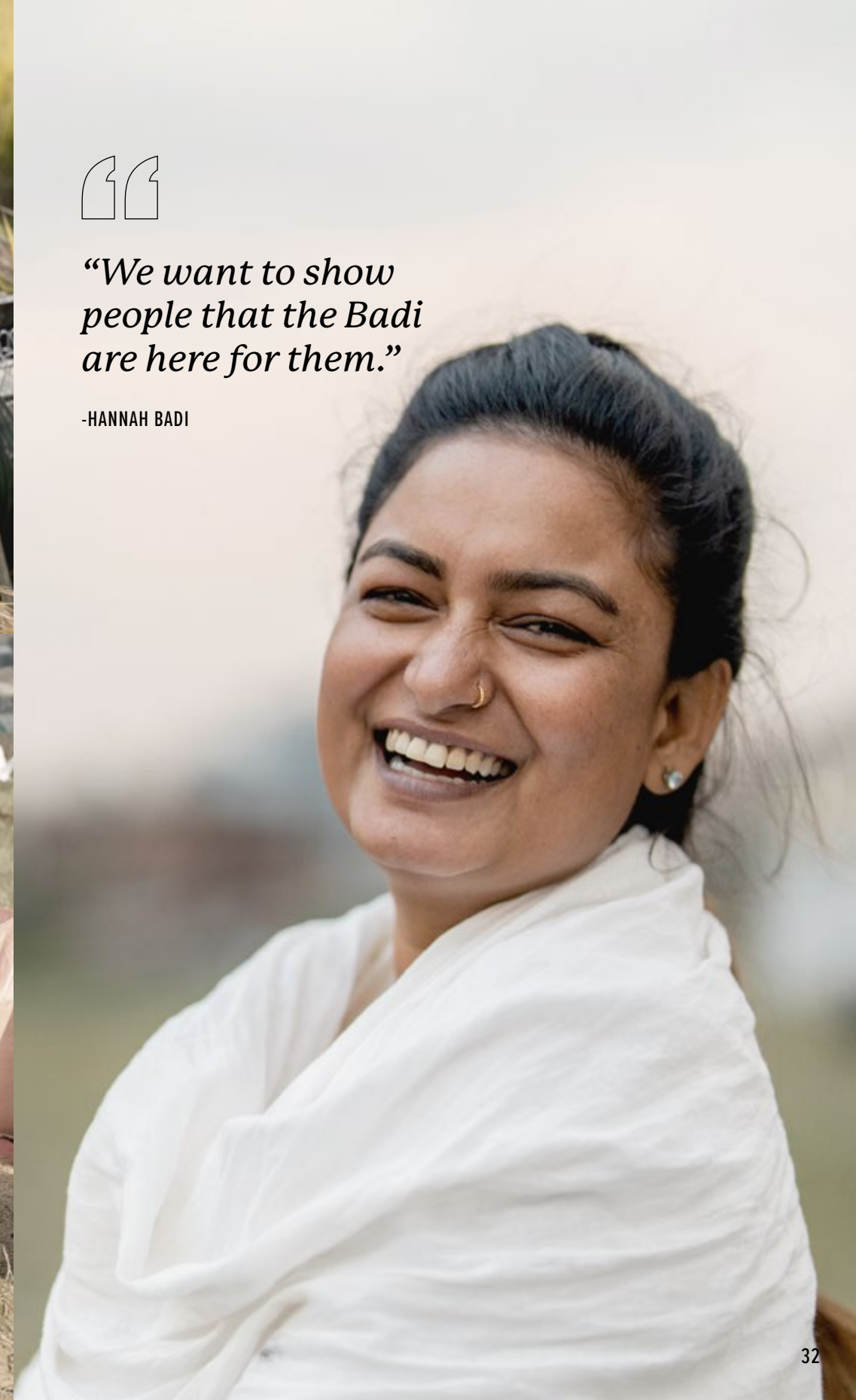


READ THE FULL STORY



"We want to show people that the Badi are here for them."

-HANNAH BADI



MILES

RUNNING TO BRING FREEDOM

The White Brothers

Brothers Andrew and Eric White felt compelled to do something about human trafficking. That's why they started their own initiative with Venture, choosing to run 100k (62.1 miles) over Pikes Peak.

Through this feat, they raised \$16,600 to help fund a border patrol station, which can rescue over 100 women and children every year.

We are so grateful to the White brothers for their kindness and sacrifice to help set people free from human trafficking.

FEATURED MOVEMENTS

30 for Freedom

A movement of everyday people choosing to move from comfortable to less comfortable in hopes of ending sex trafficking in our lifetime.



Fathers for the Fatherless

A movement of men engaging in courageous action on behalf of the fatherless—raising funds and awareness for children displaced by violence in Myanmar.



Run for HER

A community of women running and walking to raise funds and awareness for young women trapped in cycles of poverty and abuse.



Twin Cities Marathon

Runners from around the country come together to take part in what is recognized as *The Most Beautiful Urban Marathon in America*, while raising funds for Venture's anti-trafficking initiatives.



YOUR IMPACT IN 2023

\$953,000

FACILITATED RAISING

3,046

PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS

40

EVENTS & CHALLENGES

57,380

MILES LOGGED ON VENTURE MILES APP

BUILDING THROUGH LOCAL CHURCHES

From the very beginning of our story, we've sought to partner with local churches in their efforts to engage their congregations in the Great Commission. Year over year, we've seen churches responding in faith to meet urgent needs and plant churches in the world's toughest places.

2023 was another year of courageous response, as 67 churches partnered with us. We are grateful for our amazing church partners and their leaders who champion these efforts.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

\$1.08M

FUNDED BY CHURCHES

67

PARTNERING CHURCHES



"I can't believe we get to help rescue girls and plant churches, and we don't have to choose"

- CULLEN ALLEN -
REACH CHURCH, DES MOINES, IA



VENTURE.ORG/CHURCHES

DOING GOOD IS GOOD BUSINESS

In 2020, Venture launched *Business for Good*, a strategic initiative designed to help businesses build generosity into their products and services while transforming the world through their work.

This year, 24 businesses actively participated in this program, funding critical refugee care and anti-trafficking programs. We are grateful for the work of these creative, Kingdom-minded business leaders who are shining a light in the darkness.

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

\$314,862

FUNDED BY BUSINESSES

24

PARTNERING BUSINESSES



"Partnering with Venture and the incredible work their partners are doing has inspired our leadership, motivated our entire team, and increased loyalty with our customers. On top of that, we have seen tremendous growth since our partnership began."

- ANGELICA YOUNG -
SUPPORTIVE LIVING SOLUTIONS



MYBUSINESSFORGOOD.COM



TOUGH PLACES

Will you match the tenacity of our international partners?



[VENTURE.ORG/DONATE](https://venture.org/donate)

IMPACT YOU CAN TRUST:

TOP 1%

We are ranked in the top 1% of charities in the nation for fiscal accountability.



FULL IMPACT

100% of your donations go straight to Venture programs. Every dollar equals one *full* dollar, every time.

100%
Promise

GIVE MONTHLY

Where it's Needed Most

Addressing long-standing, systemic challenges in tough places requires a long-haul vision and a steady resolve. Giving on an ongoing basis allows our partners to meet needs as they present themselves and see lasting change take place.

\$50/mo CONSIDER PARTNERING TODAY

GIVE A ONE-TIME GIFT

Fund a Specific Program

The tough places where our partners are serving present a wide range of needs. Inevitably, some of these needs will move you more profoundly than others. But wherever you give, 100% of the funds will go straight to the program of your choice.

- \$100** > CAN RESCUE & COUNSEL 3-5 WOMEN FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT THE BORDER OF NEPAL & INDIA
- \$600** > PROVIDES 100 WOMEN WITH HEALTH EDUCATION & FEMININE HYGIENE KITS
- \$3600** > PROVIDES A SAFE HOME AND EDUCATION FOR A GIRL FOR ONE YEAR
- \$4500** > PROVIDES NUTRIENT-RICH MEALS TO A VILLAGE FOR ONE YEAR

BALANCE SHEET

CURRENT ASSETS

Total Cash	3,939,481
Total Other Current Assets	49,801
Accounts Receivable	158,475
Inventory in Transit to Donee	157,553
Total Current Assets	4,305,311

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	16,933
Software	242,711
Computers	5,398
Vehicles	61,254
Accumulated Depreciation	(133,640)
Total Fixed Assets	192,656

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Technology Assets	16,500
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,514,467

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	21,811
Accrued Wages	17,456
Accrued Vacation/Sick	31,174
Notes Payable	-
Promises to Give	157,553
Total Current Liabilities	227,994

EQUITY

Without Donor Restrictions	1,042,554
With Donor Restrictions	3,243,918
Total Equity	4,286,473
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$4,514,467

Statement of Cash Flows and Reconciliation is available upon request.

INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

Revenue	5,160,920
In Kind Revenue	2,470,913
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,631,833

EXPENSES

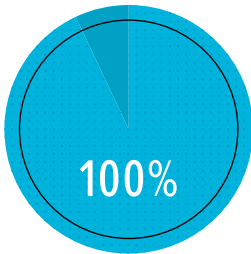
Salaries & Benefits	971,347
Professional & Admin	559,323
Travel	87,539
Technology	105,214
Marketing & Comms	208,464
Occupancy, Vehicles, & Depr.	63,913
Program Expenses	2,505,927
In Kind Expenses	2,470,913
Total Expenses	6,972,640

NET INCOME	\$659,193
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PROGRAM TO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

WE RUN LEAN

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS	92% – \$6,413,318
ADMINISTRATIVE & FUNDRAISING*	8% – \$559,323



*100% of all Administrative Costs are covered by Basecamp

GOVERNING BOARD

- Brad Ahlm** | Board Treasurer
President & Owner, Conductive Containers Inc.
- Terry Boyton**
President, Yonder Travel Insurance
- Paul Hurckman**
Executive Director, Venture
- Andrea Lathrop, D Min**
Staff Development, Oaks Church
- Terry Lijewski**
President, Centrav
- Seth Nielsen**
Attorney, Legacy Law LLC
- Ryan Skoog**
Co-Founder & President, Venture
- Tim Skoog** | Board Chair
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- John Draz**
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- Brad Godwin**
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- Christina Kee**
Executive Pastor of Ministries, Oaks Church
- Austin Kertesz**
CEO, Pro Acoustics LLC



WE EXIST TO BRING JUSTICE TO THE UNREACHED.

VENTURE.ORG

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Venture is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization registered with the federal government and the state of Minnesota (EIN 41-1720155).