



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

“Bringing hope
to children”

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Challenges

SUMMARY

Editorial	3
Who We Are and How it All Began	4-5
GWl Around the World – 2022	6
Eastern Europe – Hungary	7
Eastern Europe – Romania	8
CIS/Caucasus – Belarus	9
CIS/Caucasus – Ukraine	10
CIS/Caucasus – Moldova	11
CIS/Caucasus – Armenia	12
Central Asia	13
GWl Financial Overview 2022	14
Thanks & Partners	15
Impressum & Contacts	16





Dear Grain of Wheat Friends,

Over the course of 2022, we experienced the reality of Jesus' words to us, *"In this world we will have trouble, distress and suffering."* But in the midst of this, we have taken to heart His encouragement to, *"Be confident, undaunted and filled with joy, because His victory is sure and abiding"* (Taken from John 16:33 AMP).

With the Covid pandemic came the loss of experienced volunteers and our various projects came to a halt for two years. But as we persevered, the Lord gave us new and innovative ways to share the Gospel through online projects and activities. Truly, we were filled with joy as an even greater number of children and their families heard the Good News and were nurtured in their faith.

Now, our ministries based in Kiev, Moscow, and Minsk, as well as Romania and Moldova have been hit hard by the trauma of war between Russia and Ukraine. To support our ministry teams in Moldova and Romania amidst this utter destruction has been difficult. But as they embraced Jesus' words and carried on with confidence in Him, He opened a door that has allowed them to reach thousands of hopeless refugee children whose lives have been turned upside down by the war. Today, untold numbers of these children have turned to faith in Jesus as their Savior and the true hope of their life.

Whether you prayed, donated, or came alongside us in another way, we are so very grateful and honored to serve the children of the nations as partners with you!

Rob Hondsmark
CEO

A white ink signature of Rob Hondsmark, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.



Dear Friends,

For several years, we have organized mountaineering camps.

The first thing the guide always teaches the campers is how to tie a strong knot in the rope, because their lives depend on it.

The second thing they learn is to trust the guide whether he/she is leading them from the front on a glacier walk or from below while they are climbing.

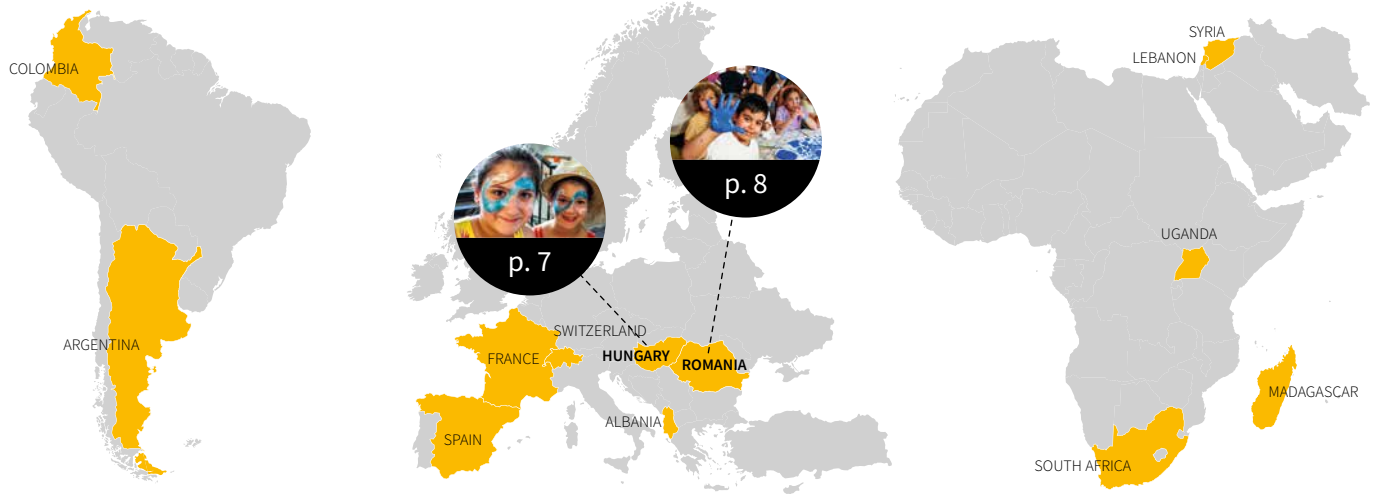
In the evening, we share what we experienced that day and look for ways we can apply it to Jesus. The campers are also given the opportunity to invite Jesus into their life and put their trust in Him to guide their steps.

This ministry as a mountaineering guide for children and teens requires much care and perseverance, but the reward of leading them to Jesus makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully come alongside us with support!

Eric Lecomte
International Board Chairman

A white ink signature of Eric Lecomte, featuring a large, stylized 'E' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.



Grain of Wheat International empowers thousands of children in 25 countries through a variety of programs uniquely designed to meet their specific needs.

Vision

We see each child becoming an **ambassador of hope** through Jesus Christ.

Mission

Encourage needy children with the message of God's love, develop their potential and equip them to

become **agents of transformation** within their community.

Strategy

- **Connect with children year-round** through camps, events and weekly clubs.
- **Equip and nurture children's growth morally, socially and spiritually** through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Train leaders** in partnership with local churches.

How it all Began

To understand the mission of GWI, we must go back to 1948 when a

Swiss businessman, Jean André, visited Germany after World War II. His heart was broken at the sight of so many homeless children wandering the streets.

In response, he brought a group of 120 German orphans to Switzerland for the summer.

They were well fed, cared for and learned how deeply God loved and valued them.

This first group of children returned to their homeland refreshed and better equipped to become all God intended.



Values

GWI's message and actions are centered on God's love for all children among the nations without distinction of any kind.

Our values and our teachings are based solely on the Holy Bible.

Every child is given the opportunity to accept God's saving grace through Jesus Christ.

Context

In most of the countries GWI serves, children are deeply scarred by war, poverty, addiction, divorce, violence and poor education.

In some cases, parents move elsewhere to find work leaving their children to fend for themselves.

GWI also cares for children in stable countries such as France, Spain, Switzerland, etc.

Activities

Our activities are enjoyed in a peaceful environment and designed to nurture each child spiritually, emotionally and physically.

This atmosphere of Christ-like love, fosters healthy relationships and opens children to faith in God.

2018-2023 Strategy

Our strategy for the past five years, has been to work in a more professional and innovative way in the countries we serve. In some countries, we see this already taking place, in others we need to grow.

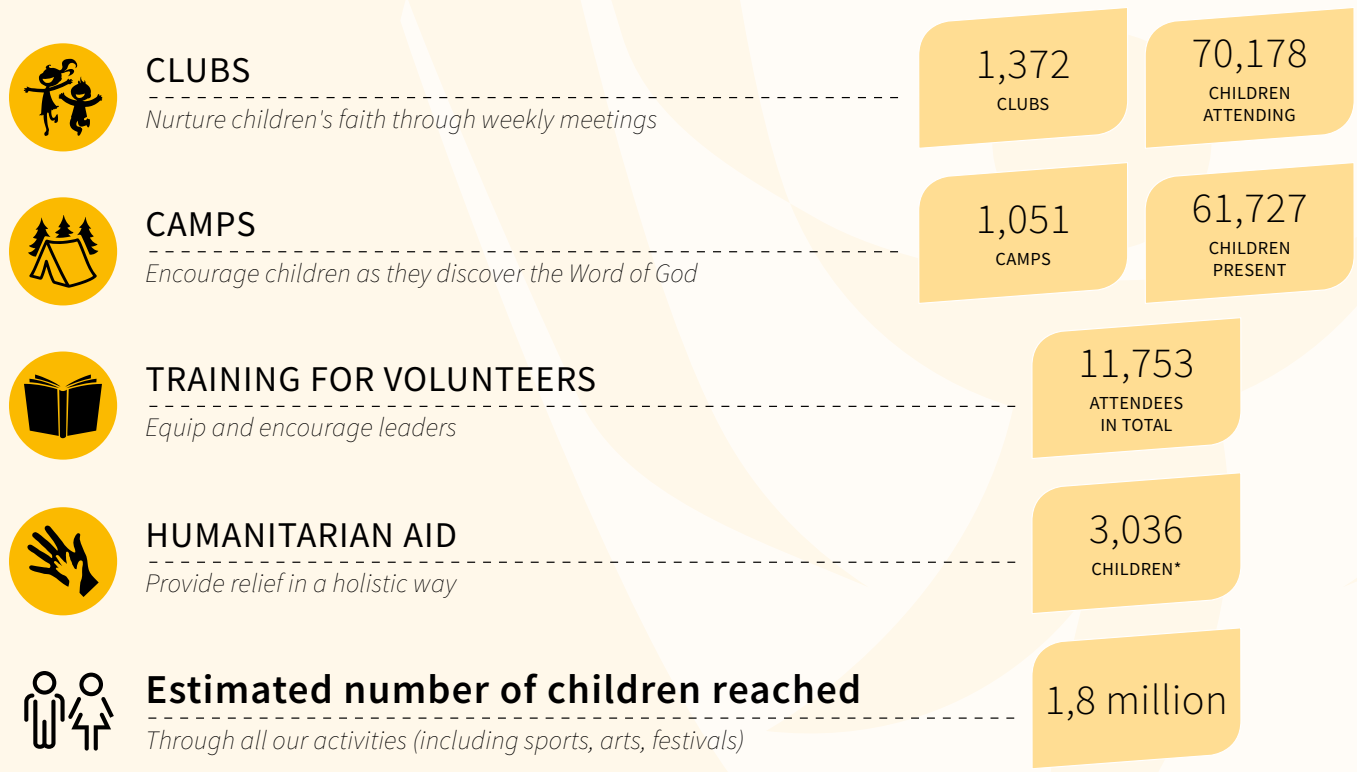
By training volunteers, developing new educational strategies and building partnerships with various Christian organizations, our desire is to **help children become active disciples in families, churches and communities.**

Overview of Activities Worldwide and Number of Children reached

It remains difficult to show true statistics of how many children we actually reach every year. We have to deal with countries where it is dangerous to keep names of children or put activities on paper. We also do not receive statistics from every country that we work in, and it is impossible to know how many children have been reached through Internet or social media. This last part has been growing since Covid-19.

As Grain of Wheat, we want to focus more on discipleship for children (quality) than on evangelism (quantity) even though that will always be part of what we do.

Nevertheless, we want to give an overview of the activities we did worldwide and the number of children that we know we reached through our activities.



* excluding refugees from Ukraine.

HUNGARY



Grain of Wheat Hungary started its activities with GWI in 1989

Children's Ministry Awareness



In Hungary, traditional families and strong Biblical values have been the norm. But this is no longer the case, as only 15% of Hungarians go to church regularly and broken families are on the rise. This, in combination with the impact of the digital world on youth, has led to unprecedented loneliness, anxiety, depression, and relational issues.

Through the vision God has given us, we believe that as we come alongside these children, God by His power and love will heal their traumas and fears.

To speak toward this, we hold events that address the emotional issues youth are facing. Because we believe

in the learning by doing method, we create life-like situations so they can learn how to apply and practice what they're learning.

Dani*, age 11 shared, *"I always thought that if I was the best at something I would be more valuable. But I learned that I am valuable to God, no matter what others think."*

A young mom remarked, *"The messages were not only healing for the children, but taught us how to give our children emotional security. We were all blessed by the eternal values of the Father's love we so clearly saw, and pray that your message of hope and healing will reach the many who need it the most!"*

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

“ I always thought that if I was the best at something I would be more valuable. But I learned that I am valuable to God, no matter what others think ”



ROMANIA



Grain of Wheat Romania started its activities with GWI in 1990

Poverty and Education

It's almost hard to believe this is true, but if a child in rural Romania attends school, they will barely be able to read a simple text of 60 words by the end of 7th grade and may not even understand what they've just read. Even after high school, they aren't able to pass the test for a diploma and university is out of the question.

How can this be? One, the government has no interest in supporting them, and two, no qualified teachers will work at schools that often have broken desks, no running water, no heat during the winter and rarely have access to the "free" state-provided school materials. **To say these kids have no self-esteem and feel their life is of no value is an understatement.**

“ *... our greatest reward is when we see the faces of children beam as they discover how deeply loved and valued they are by the Lord Jesus...* ”



Because we are wholeheartedly committed to helping them get a good education, we have partnered with various ministries in order to reach a greater number of students with the support and basic school supplies they need.

Now, our greatest reward is when we see the faces of children beam as they discover how deeply loved and valued they are by the Lord Jesus, all because they can read and understand God's Word for themselves.

BELARUS



Grain of Wheat Belarus started its activities with GWI in 1991

God delights in Children



Alina*, age 10, is from a large gypsy family. Because her family wanders from place to place, she was 9 years old before they lived in an area long enough for her to finish 1st grade.

We met Alina when she came to our summer camp with a friend. She loved it so much, and really wanted to come back. But when we invited her again, she looked at her mother and said, *"I would really like to go, but it wouldn't be fair for me to go again, if my brothers and sisters can't come too."* So, her 6-year-old brother came along too.

On the second day of camp, Alina told her leader, *"The night before I came here, I read Bible stories to my younger siblings when I was putting them to bed. We sang a couple of songs together, then I prayed with them, and we all went to sleep."*

Then, she surprised us at our final meeting by gathering her friends together to entertain us with a gospel song they had learned at camp. Alina added: *"We sing this song at home now too!"*

“ *She surprised us at our final meeting by gathering her friends together to entertain us with a gospel song they had learned at camp* ”

To see the joy of the Lord in the heart of this young girl who has only finished 1st grade, as she draws other children around her to follow Jesus and rejoice in Him, is an incredible sight to see!

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

UKRAINE



Grain of Wheat Ukraine started its activities with GWI in 2000

Perseverance



Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Grain of Wheat has been actively helping refugees like Irina*. She and her retired parents lived in Mariupol, located just 37 miles from the Russian border. But on February 24, this all changed as their city began to be wiped off the face of the earth by the Russians.

Irina remembers, "Soon our electricity, water, and gas were turned off and we found ourselves cooking over a wood fire and melting snow for water. One day, my parents and I were out buying bread when cluster bombs began bombarding us.

We took shelter in the basement of a nearby building and found out seven days later that our house was gone. We were left with nothing but the clothes on our back, in physical pain, hungry, cold, and filled with fear. In our desperation, we prayed that God would provide a way of escape. As we fled, we learned that Grain of Wheat had a refugee camp in Alexandria, an area of central Ukraine.

After a long journey, we were so very grateful to the camp director, who warmly welcomed us, got us settled into a home, and helped us with much needed supplies. But what we treasure the most, is belonging to a loving church where the Lord has replaced our fear with great rejoicing!"

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

“ *As we fled, we learned that Grain of Wheat had a refugee camp in Alexandria, an area of central Ukraine* **”**

MOLDOVA



Grain of Wheat Moldova started its activities with GWI in 2007

Beyond Generations



Did you know that in Moldova, it's common for parents to migrate to another country in search of a job, and leave their children with an elderly grandparent? As a result, this phenomenon has left a generation of traumatized children who feel abandoned and suffer from a lack of love and attention.

It is our hearts' passion to come alongside children like this and lead them to their heavenly Father, who will never leave or forsake them. Because of this, our church has partnered with Grain of Wheat International for the past seven years, to organize children's camps and clubs.

One example is the Syrov children, whose mother had left them to go to work in another country. Now they lived with their alcoholic grandmother who had no interest in caring for these four children. Her first response when they asked if they could come to our kid's club was, *"Absolutely not"*. But as we helped her with groceries, encouragement, and prayer, she softened and allowed them to come not only to club, but also to church!

When 18-year-old Tatyana* gave her life to Jesus and was baptized, our joy was inexpressible. Now she actively blesses our church through song and her special gift of poetry.

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

“ *But as we helped her with groceries, encouragement, and prayer, she softened and allowed them to come not only to club, but also to church* ”

ARMENIA



Grain of Wheat Armenia started its activities with GWI in 1998

Trauma



It was in 2020 that Armenia's war with Azerbaijan took the life of Miriam's* husband. Suddenly, she found herself living in desperation with no hope or means of providing for herself or her three children.

When our local Grain of Wheat team learned of this, they came alongside her little family with the support and care they needed. But their grief and pain were so great, that at first, it was very difficult to know how to reach their hearts with the hope of Christ's love and comfort.

As we continued our visits, we brought them the food and supplies they needed, along with much prayer and meaningful conversation. In time, we began to see God at work comforting this little family, drawing them to faith in Him as their Savior and becoming

committed worshipers at their local church. Not only that, but her children had the opportunity to come to our summer camp where they had boundless fun and found the true and lasting joy of Jesus.

Now, Miriam and her children are living proof of God's promise that for all who trust in Him, *"His plans for us are plans for good and not for disaster, to give us a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

"Now, Miriam and her children are living proof of God's promise [that] for all who trust in Him..."

CENTRAL ASIA 

Grain of Wheat started its activities in Central Asia in 1994

Changed by God's Love

The only life young Tilo* has ever known is being raised by a father who followed in his father's footsteps as a gang member. By age 9, both Tilo's father and grandfather had been killed in a gang fight leaving him to fend for himself on the street.

“ *The more Tilo experienced the love of Jesus and learned about the Lord's ways, the more he began to change* ”

The only thing his father left him was how to be a tough guy who used violence to solve any issues he faced. Tilo was now following in his father's footsteps. But all of this was about to change when he was invited to our summer camp.

At first, he wouldn't listen to anyone, got into fights, and swore at the counselors. We responded by loving him and helping him learn healthy ways of interacting with others.

The more Tilo experienced the love of Jesus and learned about the Lord's ways, the more he began to change.



He seldom swore, and violence was replaced with respect for others. By the end of camp, his tears flowed as we said goodbye.

A few weeks later, Tilo's camp counselor visited him and couldn't believe his eyes when he saw Tilo playing peacefully with the other kids. As he gave his counselor a big hug he exclaimed, *"God's love has changed me, and I'm now humble and obedient."* All because he has decided to follow in His Father God's footsteps.

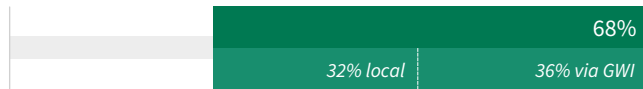
** Name changed for privacy reasons.*

TOTAL REVENUES 2022
 USD 6,577,357 (CHF 6,281,376)

MINISTRY & OTHER REVENUES

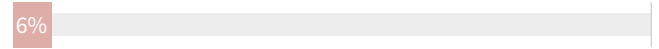


DONATIONS

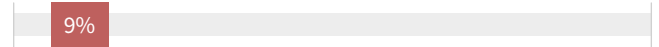


TOTAL EXPENSES 2022
 USD 5,729,478 (CHF 5,471,657)

FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS



MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENDITURES

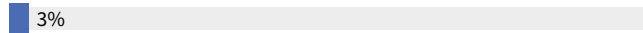


PROJECTS

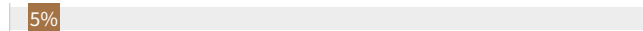


PROJECT CATEGORIES

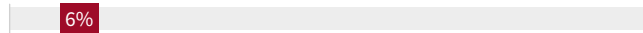
CREATIVE SUPPLIES



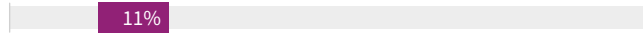
TRAINING



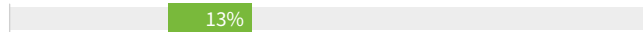
HUMANITARIAN AID



CLUBS



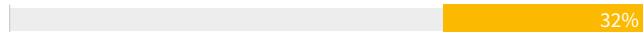
SCHOOL



RETREAT CENTERS

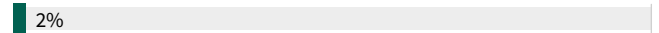


CAMPS

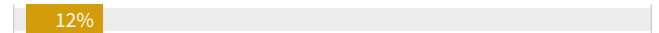


RESOURCES USED

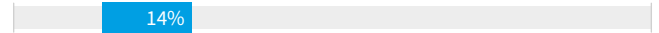
CENTRAL & SOUTHEAST ASIA



SOUTH AMERICA



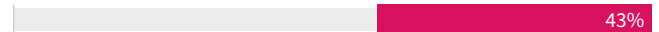
RUSSIA - CIS - CAUCASUS



AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST



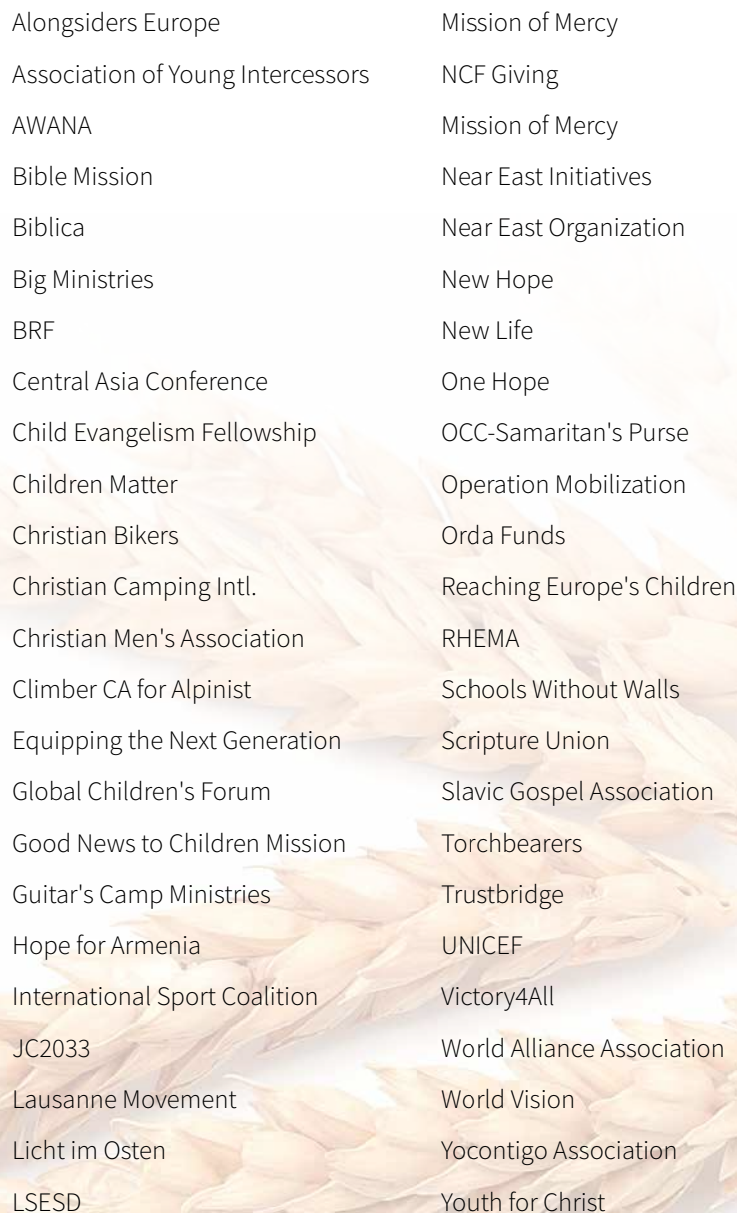
EUROPE



Comments

Whether you are new to supporting GWI or have been helping us over the years, we never take your partnership for granted! Because of this, we strive to be the best stewards of the funds you have entrusted to us, by making every effort to keep our overhead costs as low as possible.

Partners



Alongsiders Europe	Mission of Mercy
Association of Young Intercessors	NCF Giving
AWANA	Mission of Mercy
Bible Mission	Near East Initiatives
Biblica	Near East Organization
Big Ministries	New Hope
BRF	New Life
Central Asia Conference	One Hope
Child Evangelism Fellowship	OCC-Samaritan's Purse
Children Matter	Operation Mobilization
Christian Bikers	Orda Funds
Christian Camping Intl.	Reaching Europe's Children
Christian Men's Association	RHEMA
Climber CA for Alpinist	Schools Without Walls
Equipping the Next Generation	Scripture Union
Global Children's Forum	Slavic Gospel Association
Good News to Children Mission	Torchbearers
Guitar's Camp Ministries	Trustbridge
Hope for Armenia	UNICEF
International Sport Coalition	Victory4All
JC2033	World Alliance Association
Lausanne Movement	World Vision
Licht im Osten	Yocontigo Association
LSESD	Youth for Christ

Thanks

In almost all our publications we show to be thankful to all our donors and supporters. We realize that you are God's given potential to this ministry!

And we realize that only together we can reach all these kids with hope and the love of Jesus as we did in the past year.

So again, we thank you for your ongoing prayers and support!

“
*From the Bottom
of Our Heart,
the Grain of Wheat
Team Thanks You!*
”



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

Writing:

Rob Hondsmark
Katharina Kubli
Eric Lecomte
Jean-Pascal Richir
Nancy Sands
Elma van de Wijngaard

Graphic design:
Maracudja.ch

International Board

Eric Lecomte, *Chairman*
Clément Friderici
Luc-André Neuenschwander
Frans Koopmans

**Grain of Wheat
International
(Headquarters)**

Chemin des Trois-Rois 5bis
1005 Lausanne, Switzerland
info@grainofwheat.org

US Board

Rebecca Khan, *Chairwoman*
Pam Deaton
Nancy Hansen
Rob Hondsmark
Anne Louise Portwood
Charlotte Schuyt

**Grain of Wheat
International (USA)**

P.O. Box 1125
Wheaton, IL 60187 USA
info@grainofwheat.org

Do you dream of seeing children become messengers of Christ's hope across the world? You can make it happen through your prayers and by your donations.

Donations: www.grainofwheat.org/donate or

IBAN: CH72 0900 0000 1748 7675 5

... or send your cheque made out to Grain of Wheat International to the address in your country.

