



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL
- SINCE 1948 -

“Bringing hope
to children”

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**Serving Children
for 70 Years**

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EDITORIAL



Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2018, "remarkable" is the first word that comes to mind, especially as I consider Grain of Wheat's dynamic impact over the past 70 years. In honor of this great achievement, our

country directors, along with many friends joyously celebrated the 70th anniversary of God's absolute faithfulness to GWI over these many years! This was also my first full year as GWI's CEO. Because I wanted to meet each of the directors and staff in the various countries we serve, I was on the road most of the year. Even though this was a big challenge, understanding the scope and magnitude of Grain of Wheat's Gospel outreach, made the journey profoundly rewarding.

In 2018 alone, 1.2 million children heard the gospel in their own language, which for the majority, was the first time they had ever heard this Good News. Seeing the multitudes of impoverished kids with no hope for a better future, compels Grain of Wheat to follow God's call to go and give them lasting hope through faith in Jesus. Our goal is then to nurture them as ambassadors of hope to the world around them. This is why we exist, this is why we work, and this is why we want you, our partner in the Gospel, to share our joy as you read the remarkable stories of 2018 in this annual report.

Indeed, God is Good!

Rob Hondsmark
CEO

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



Dear Friends,

I replaced Fabien Bourgeois as the new president of the International board in October 2018, and I want to give him a very special thanks for all the years he loyally served Grain of

Wheat. A month later, I had the privilege of meeting most of the national directors, as we commemorated 70 years of God's rich blessings on Grain of Wheat's ministry.

From the start, Grain of Wheat's vision has been to reach children through the Gospel, with a special focus on underprivileged kids in high risk situations. This ministry is precious to God's heart, since Jesus himself declares in Matthew 18:5, "*Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*" We are, therefore, ambassadors of Christ's love to these children.

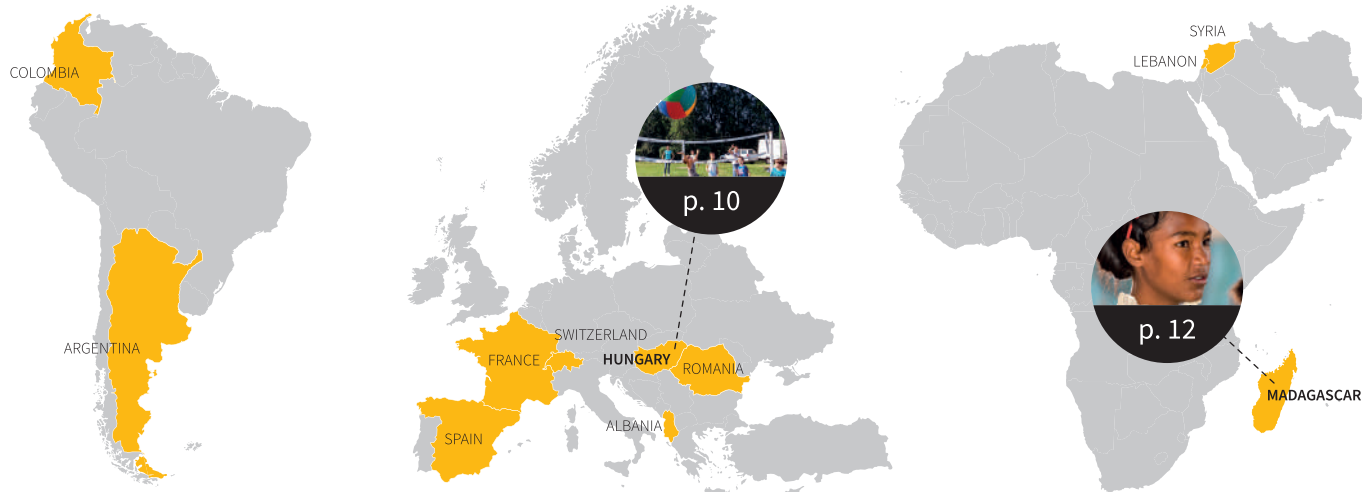
It is impossible to measure the impact of the seeds that has been sown in the hearts of countless children over the past 70 years. But just as we have seen in 2018, God has all along been deeply transforming families and reaching communities through Grain of Wheat's ministry.

A huge thank you to all who have supported this work through your prayer and generosity in 2018!

Eric Lecomte
International Board President

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

WHO WE ARE AND HOW IT ALL BEGAN



Grain of Wheat International empowers thousands of children in almost 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

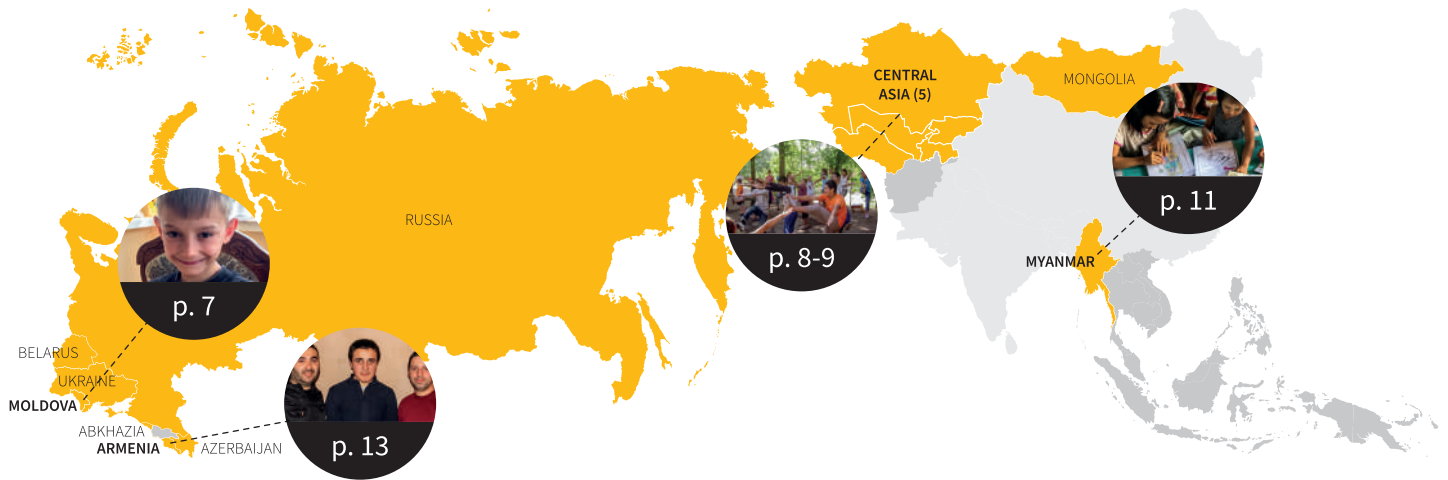
To understand the mission of GWI, we must go back to 1948 when a

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.

2019-2020 Strategy

GWI will intentionally model and cultivate a culture of unity and support among its volunteers and leaders, that results in **servicing children and their families with excellence.**

Strong partnerships with other Christian organizations and local churches will be built to increase our impact and ministry effectiveness.

Statistics



Number of Children reached

1,231,991



CLUBS

Nurture children's faith through weekly meetings

834
CLUBS

38,715
CHILDREN
ATTENDING



CAMPS

Encourage children as they discover the Word of God

535
CAMPS

40,650
CHILDREN
PRESENT



SPORTS

Practice Christ-like attitudes through sports

701,619
PARTICIPANTS &
SPECTATORS



ARTS

Experience the Gospel through drama and arts



TRAINING

Equip and empower leaders

6,411
LEADERS TRAINED

12,141
VOLUNTEERS



HUMANITARIAN AID

Provide relief in a holistic way

56,934
RECIPIENTS

MOLDOVA 

Grain of Wheat Moldova started its activities with GWI in 2007

No One Cared if He Lived or Died



From the time 7-year-old Stasik was born, all he's known is harsh abuse at the hands of his alcoholic parents.

By the age of 5, he was abandoned and left to fend for himself.

When he first visited our GW club, he was malnourished and had no warm clothes to wear in the biting cold of winter.

His only friends led him down the self-destructive path of stealing to survive, taking drugs, drinking alcohol, smoking and even sniffing glue. No one cared if he lived or died ... except Jesus.

Through the warm embrace of his club leaders, Stasik was drawn to Jesus. But when he learned that Jesus loved him so much, He died

on the cross to give him a new life, he wholeheartedly invited Him into his life.

Much to young Stasik's surprise, the Lord miraculously rescued him from a life of hopelessness.

He now lives with godly parents who are raising him with kindness and nurturing his faith.

Every Sunday, Stasik can be found in the front row at Sunday school, soaking in God's Word and learning to follow His ways, all because Jesus cared if he lived or died.

"Much to young Stasik's surprise, the Lord miraculously rescued him from a life of hopelessness"

CENTRAL ASIA

Grain of Wheat Central Asia started its activities with GWI in 1996

Challenges are God's Opportunities

Knowing how to share God's Truth with the Pamirian children who came to camp this year, was a big challenge. These and their families are Muslim.

For most, like 15-year-old Juma, this was the first time they had ever heard the name of Jesus. Juma loved all the counselors and they all loved him, but he was full of energy and always goofing around during the Bible lessons.

He didn't seem to take anything seriously, until we shared the Good News of Jesus one-on-one with him. He listened thoughtfully to the seeds of truth we sowed. He is now counting the days until next year's camp.

Another challenge was that the older children wouldn't sing during our worship time. We couldn't figure out if they were embarrassed, or just didn't want to sing about Jesus.



We turned to God in prayer and before long they were enthusiastically joining in.

This year, our frustration turned to awe, as we saw first-hand how challenges at camp are really opportunities to see God work in the hearts of kids who have never heard the name of Jesus.

*93% of the territory of the country
is occupied by mountains*



Skiing in the Name of Jesus

When Christians pray before a meal, they often say, *"In the Name of Jesus Christ we pray."* But because most of the children who come to our camp are Muslims, we let them pray in the way they've been taught in their own language.

Kamron, a young Muslim boy with cerebral palsy, had spent a whole summer with us learning to ski. Now it was winter and the time had come for him to try a real ski run.

As he began to ski down, fear literally paralyzed him and through tears, he shouted, *"I can't turn, I can't turn!"*, but with great difficulty, he finally made it to the bottom.

When we stood at the top of the run a second time, I saw a change in him. Instead of *"I can't"*, he began shouting in his native language, *"God, in Jesus' Name I'm doing another turn!"* After this, he fearlessly skied down over and over praying in the Name of Jesus.



... I saw a change in him. Instead of "I can't", he began shouting in his native language, "God, in Jesus' Name I'm doing another turn!"

HUNGARY 

Grain of Wheat Hungary started its activities with GWI in 1989

Is God Close?



"Even though I've always known about God and memorized many Bible stories, I've never felt close to Him. But at camp this year, God personally spoke to me and I spoke back to Him. As I grew closer to God, I felt special inside. Now I'm trying to spend time talking to the Lord every day!"

- Katia -

"This year I went to the Treasure Hunt camp for the very first time. It was so exciting to sleep all night at camp instead of going home every day. I had lots of time to play fun games with my new friends and we laughed so much when we went on hikes. This year, camp was extra meaningful to me, because I grew closer to God during our morning quiet times. I even saw God do miracles in my life that still bring tears to my eyes. During our prayer walk, I realized that I need to trust God more and if I ever panic, I can turn to Him for help like I do with my parents."

- Blanka -

*“ Jesus loved us very much,
He took on people's sins,
He has a heart of gold.*

- Enricó -

”

MYANMAR 

Grain of Wheat Myanmar started its activities with GWI in 2009

Contagious Love

Before Nay Naw Kyaw Chit came to our children's club she had never heard a Bible story. She was not only lonely, but without friends and filled with shame. At club, coloring and reading our kids magazines delighted her, but most of all she loved her new friends.

As she heard the Word of God and began to understand the Bible stories, she also started to pray. Now, all the club leaders rejoice as they see first-hand how God has transformed Nay Naw Kyaw Chit's life.

One of her leaders explains, *"We have seen over and over, that children who learn the Word of God at an early age, come to know and accept Jesus. Because of this, our focus at club is to teach Bible Stories and help kids learn how to apply it to their life."*



It's like honey to our heart to see children like Nay Naw Kyaw Chit blossom with a contagious love for the Lord that draws others to love Him too."

"... our focus at club is to teach Bible Stories and help kids learn how to apply it to their life."

MADAGASCAR 

Grain of Wheat Madagascar started its activities with GWI in 2003

A Life Changing Discovery



Thirteen-year-old Martine recently joined 13 other kids who live in an orphanage managed by a lovely Christian woman. Her priorities are to teach them social skills as well as how to rely on God through prayer. Because she wanted five of her kids to hear the Gospel, she brought them to our camp; Martine was one of them.

When she arrived and looked around, she was afraid because everything about camp was new and unfamiliar. She timidly told her camp leader, *"I don't know who I am, who I can hang out with or how to do anything here."*

A few days later, when the children were playing by the pool, a boy who didn't know how to swim, jumped in and was drowning. Everyone stood there paralyzed with fear, except Martine, who jumped in and saved him. *"I was amazed that I had done something others couldn't!"* beamed Martine.

When asked where she found the courage to jump in and rescue him, she said, *"I remembered how Jesus gave his life for me, so I did the same for my friend."* Through her new-found faith in Jesus, Martine now has confidence and knows who she is; a precious and dearly loved child of God.

"I remembered how Jesus gave his life for me, so I did the same for my friend."

ARMENIA 

Grain of Wheat Armenia started its activities with GWI in 1998

Born to Be a Camp Leader

Vahe was a toddler, when his grandmother worked as a cleaning lady at our camp. He couldn't be left at home alone, so she brought him along with her. This was the beginning of his unique love of camp. As Vahe grew older, he had his clothes packed as soon as school was out and headed to camp on his own. By age 13, he was ready to join our leadership team. His cheerful, capable and reliable spirit was infectious, so when Vahe didn't return the following year, everyone was really worried and wondered why.

Imagine our surprise, when we were buying camp supplies at the local grocery store and saw Vahe and his older brother working there! His usual cheerful face was downcast as he told us, *"My family is destitute and I have no choice but to help them."*

Then, God gave Vahe an idea. He asked his family if he could take time off work to help at camp and they



agreed, so did his boss! Again, Vahe packed up his camping gear, so he would be ready to go when summer rolled around again.

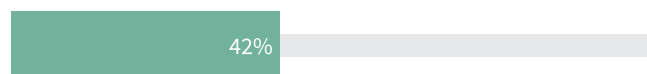
Vahe was born to serve the God he deeply loves and uniquely impacts every life he touches at camp!

"As Vahe grew older, he had his clothes packed as soon as school was out and headed to camp..."

GWFI FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - 2018

TOTAL REVENUES 2018
\$ 6,023,837 (CHF 5,891,557)

MINISTRY & OTHER REVENUES

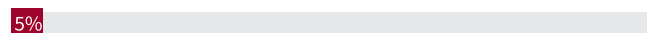


DONATIONS

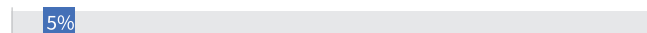


PROJECT CATEGORIES

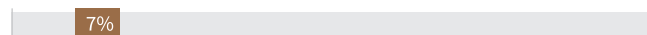
HUMANITARIAN AID



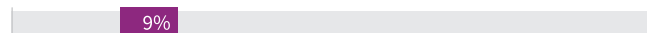
CREATIVE SUPPLIES



TRAINING



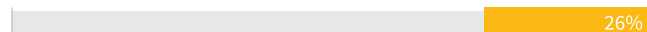
CLUBS



RETREAT CENTERS



CAMPS



Comments

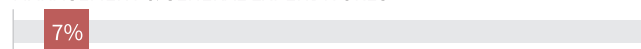
In this overview we show you how your donations were spent in 2018. We realize that donations are more than money. We know that sometimes donations come from people who really sacrifice to help the children we meet.

TOTAL EXPENSES 2018
\$ 6,075,843 (CHF 5,942,441)

FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS



MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENDITURES

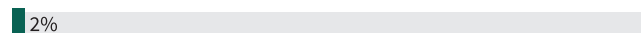


PROJECTS

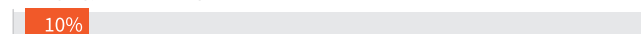


RESOURCES USED

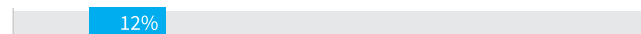
CENTRAL & SOUTH-EAST ASIA



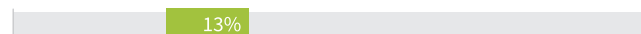
AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST



RUSSIA - CIS - CAUCASUS



SOUTH AMERICA



EUROPE



Only God knows your heart, but we are thankful for every franc, euro or dollar that is entrusted to us!
So again, thank you very much for your contribution in the past year and we hope that we can count on you again in our service to the children in poverty!

Partners

Alliance Presse

Association of Young Intercessors

AWANA

Barnabas Fund

Bible Mission

Biblica

Big Ministries

BRF

Central Asia Conference

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Children Matter

Christian Bikers

Christian Camping Intl.

Christian Men's Association

Climber CA for Alpinist

Equipping the Next Generation

Global Children's Forum

Good News to Children Mission

Guitar's Camp Ministries

Hope for Armenia

International Sport Coalition

Lausanne Movement

Licht im Osten

LSESD

Mission of Mercy

Near East Initiatives

Near East Organization

New Hope

New Life

One Hope

OCC-Samaritan's Purse

Operation Mobilization

Orda Funds

Reaching Europe's Children

RHEMA

Schools Without Walls

Scripture Union

Slavic Gospel Association

Torchbearers

UNICEF

World Alliance Association

World Vision

Yocontigo Association

Youth for Christ

Thanks

What would we do without YOU? Even as the kids we serve come from different and diverse nations, so do you, our supporters.

Your interest, your prayers and your financial support make more of a difference in the lives of untold kids than we can even put into words.

By standing with the world's children, you have enabled them to become messengers of Christ's hope to their corner of the world and beyond.

“

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

”



Grain of Wheat
INTERNATIONAL

- SINCE 1948 -

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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

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

