



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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# letter from the president

Dear Friends of Compassion First,

We feel particularly encouraged to send along this report to you. While our growth on all reportable fronts remains modest and, more important to us, stable, there has been an internal growth with our staff and work this year that has been astounding. And with a sincere belief that the hand of God is on our work, it feels like a set-up for the years to come.

Winda Winowatan, our Indonesian Executive Director, and I were in Jayapura, Papua late last year. We were there for several purposes that include preliminary discussions toward future police trainings as well as gaining a better understanding of this place that so many of the girls in our care have been trafficked to and rescued from. It was over a dinner that the head of the PPA (the investigative unit protecting women and children) told us that ***since our inception in North Sulawesi six years ago, the incidents of minor girls getting trafficked to Jayapura brothels has been reduced by 50%.*** While her number wasn't a scientific one, rather, a line-of-site estimate, it was a meaningful one to us. We were making an impact. We were changing this impossible-to-change landscape.

I was so grateful for this news, mostly for the sake of our staff, because the day-to-day realities of this very difficult work, like so many things, can sometimes feel a little "one step forward, two steps back." This gave our people a chance to look back on the work and see miles of progress; to understand that there are so many who they know and love who are living productive lives of their own agency; but to also know that there are countless numbers of girls who have since not been trafficked to these familiar places due to their work.

And about our staff. I've often said, "If you could just meet the amazing people that work for Compassion First, who provide care, those on the front lines,

your life would be forever changed.” They are truly amazing. We love them and are so proud of them. On behalf of those whose livelihoods are made possible by your support, we offer this report. At that, we can’t wait to send out the next one. 2017 holds a number of exciting things for us as we endeavor to open a new shelter in East Java, expand our partnerships in Bali, continue police training in all areas of invitation, and continue to grow in our core competencies of care.

***We are asking for your participation as we close out a \$250,000 capital campaign toward the opening of our new shelter in East Java.*** We have not done a campaign like this since we opened in North Sulawesi six years ago and we have been so encouraged by the support that has come in. At the writing of this letter, we have about ***\$25,000 left to go.*** Once in, we will begin our early hiring process and embark, in earnest, on a property search for a new shelter. Once our doors our open, ***we will need \$25,000/month for the ongoing operation and staffing.***

These are exciting days for us. We are growing and we’re so glad you are a part of it.

Together for the Sake of Others,



Mike Mercer  
President and Founder of Compassion First

# our mission

Compassion First exists to provide long-term, hope-filled solutions for survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation.

## INDONESIA



# our work

## NORTH SULAWESI

### *Sarah's House*

We partner with each survivor as she progresses through our comprehensive aftercare program. Compassion First's primary aftercare facility is Sarah's House; a loving and joy-filled home environment. ***Sarah's House is an all-in-one, 24-hour, secure facility where meaningful, trauma-specific therapeutic care from qualified Indonesian and expatriate staff is made available.*** CF is also a licensed education provider; survivors not only have the opportunity to re-engage their education but are able to pursue graduation and progress to higher education opportunities.



EAST JAVA

## Cemetery Outreach

The cemetery community that we support in East Java, Indonesia holds some of the most beautiful and precious women and children in the world. Some of them are victims of abuse, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. Some are disabled, orphaned, ill, or widowed. But all of their situations are informed by severe poverty. With little hope and limited options, women here turn to what they see as their only choice, selling themselves for sex. We rent two buildings near the community that are a safe haven for women and children. **A full children's program with classes, tutoring, and martial arts training is offered, along with a child sponsorship program providing education and case-managed care. Weekly business, sewing, and cooking skill classes are provided for the mothers to assist them in making money through their own small businesses.** For the first time, these families are dreaming of a new and hopeful future!

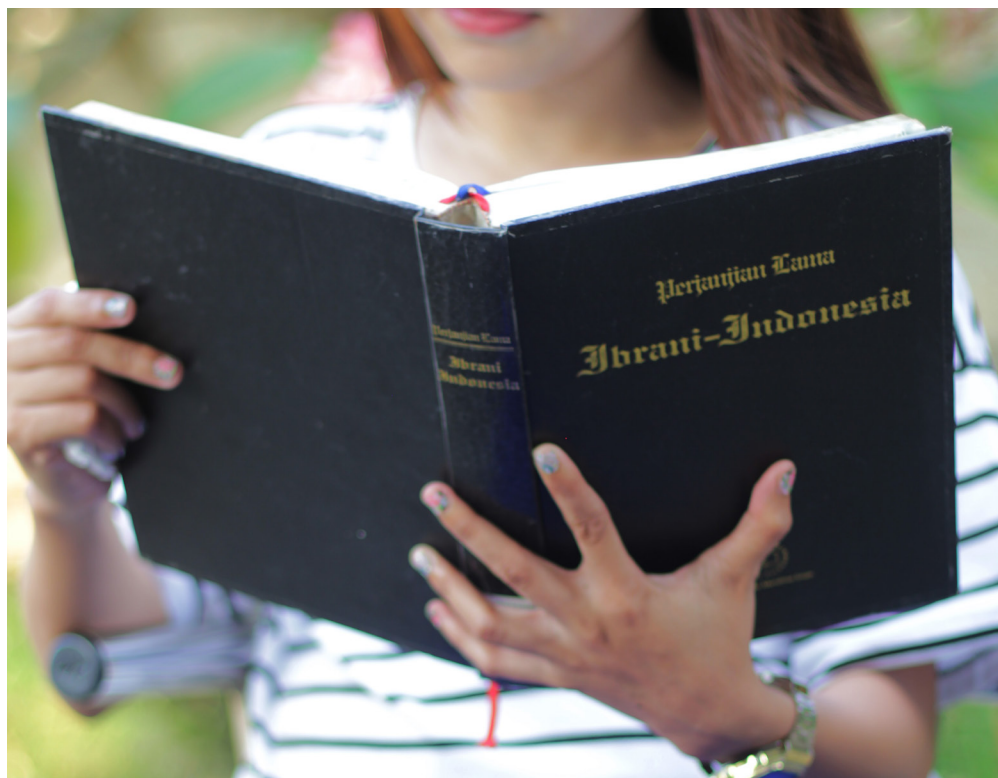
## Site for a New Shelter

Our work in the cemetery has granted us tremendous relationship with local authorities; so much so, that **we have gained an invitation to open a full aftercare center for child survivors of sex trafficking in this region.**



# 2016 highlights

*sarah's house*



One **resident enrolled at a local Bible college** not far from the shelter. She is living in the dorms and is in the process of making a healthy transition back into the community. She continues to be a role model and leader among the other girls in the house.

We were involved in five rescue cases this year that ultimately brought **seven children out of captivity and into safety!** Three of the girls entered our shelter, and the others were able to return home with case-managed care.

**37 Indonesian staff were supported.** This includes teachers, counselors, house moms, administrators, security, and our first Indonesian Development Director!

**Sarah's House is currently full.** Our staff is excited and ready to expand to a second shelter next year in to order rescue and care for more girls.



**28 children have been sponsored!** All school-age sponsored children were provided with tuition, bikes, and books. Many of them began attending school for the first time.

A group of six women have been taking sewing classes at the centers and **started a business together selling their clothing online.**

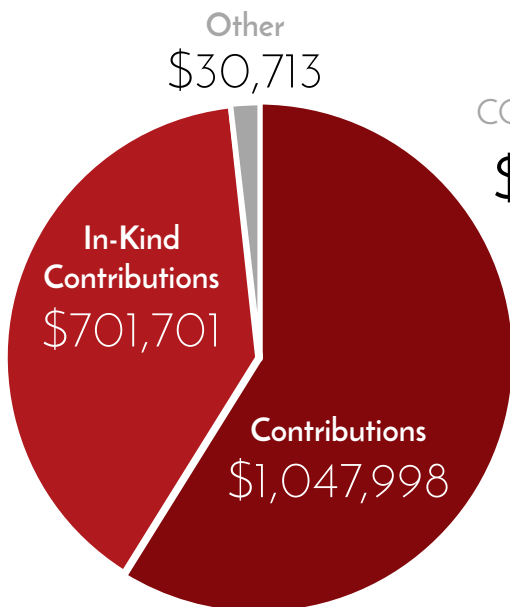
Music classes have been offered to the teenagers, which quickly turned into a favorite activity. **The teens started a band** and have been playing at community gatherings.

Five children competed in an **international martial arts competition** in Jakarta.

A few boys researched hydroponics and built a **functioning garden growing fruits and vegetables** that are being used in the women and children's cooking classes.

# 2016 financials

## revenues



TOTAL 2016  
CONTRIBUTIONS:  
**\$1,780,412**

## expenses

