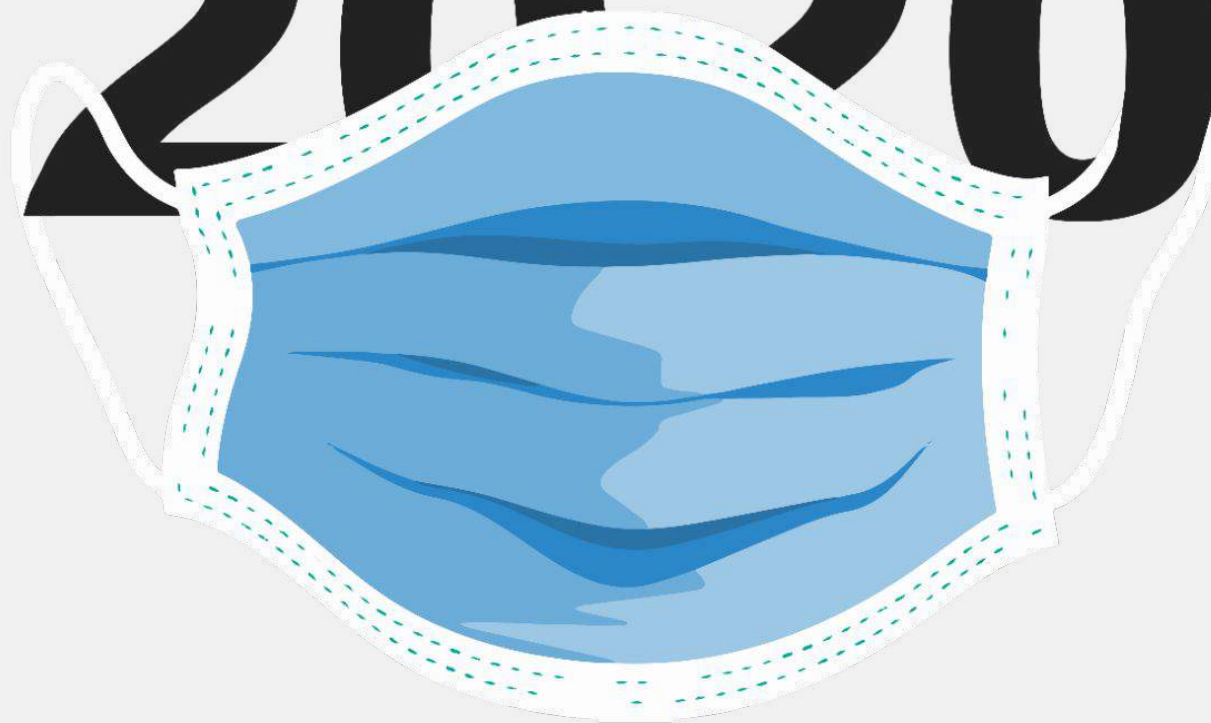


**ANNUAL REVIEW**

**2020**



♥ BethanyKids

# SPREADING LOVE

*The year 2020 made us all aware of how quickly a virus can spread and affect so many lives in a short period of time. Travel ground to a halt. Our new Executive Director, Peter Lublink, started with us as the pandemic began and had to adjust quickly to our changing world. Thankfully, he and our team in North America and Africa have been able to safely continue much of our work serving the children and their families in Africa. With travel bans, medical experts from other countries were unable to fly to Africa. However, several years ago, BethanyKids began to help with the training of African surgeons to become pediatric surgeons.*

*Through this effort, our local surgeons were able to continue performing transformative surgery to children in six countries in 2020.*

*Your financial and prayerful support have been greatly appreciated over this difficult year. On behalf of the International Board, I would encourage you to continue this support as we move forward toward a new year of hope in Christ Jesus.*



*Yours,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristofer A. Riseling". The script is fluid and cursive.

**Kristofer A. Riseling**

*International Board Chair, BethanyKids*

# THRIVING IN A PANDEMIC

*We've all learned, or had the opportunity to learn, a great deal during this pandemic - about ourselves, about what's important in life, and perhaps about the things we miss.*

*One of the biggest lessons for me was realizing just how incredible the BethanyKids team truly is. Honestly. From how they have welcomed me as one of their own; to the resilience shown during this international crisis; to their deep sense of conviction towards serving others - I am in awe.*

*I have seen for myself the transformative love in action and the unrelenting desire to serve others in Jesus' name.*

*For those of you who have continued to support the work of BethanyKids, know that you are supporting an international staff of people who really do take seriously the call to love their neighbours as themselves. I hope in reading this brief report you see that for yourself.*



Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Peter Lublink', written in a cursive style.

**Peter Lublink**, BA (Hons), PGCE, MTS, MA  
Executive Director, BethanyKids

# WHAT'S INSIDE

Every year we gather together some of the highlights and key moments into an annual report. We hope what follows will be an encouragement to all who read it.

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# THE PANDEMIC

***By the end of 2020 more than 1.8 million around the world died of COVID-19. That death toll sits on top of the millions of displaced people; closed businesses; and people unable to get access to healthcare.***

*No matter how you look at it, 2020 was a difficult year. Yet in the midst of one of the worst pandemics in 100 years, the BethanyKids team proved what they were made of.*

*Across the continent of Africa our surgeons and program staff continued to provide care amidst dangerous and uncertain conditions. A great example outside the surgical theatre of that resilience was our assistive technology team who early in the pandemic began creating face shields to keep our staff safe.*

*Everyone chipped in and did their utmost because of the shared fundamental belief that the children we serve, matter.*

*Despite reduced surgical volumes due to hospital shutdowns, in many ways we saw the need for our support grow as more families were out of work and could not afford the life-saving surgeries their child needed. BethanyKids rose to the occasion to ensure children and families were supported.*



# VOICES AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

It's been said that during the pandemic we were in the same storm but not the same boat. Many of our teams serve in low-resource settings and yet despite the amplified challenges of the pandemic they worked tirelessly to transform the lives of thousands of children. When asked about the experience, here are some of their thoughts.

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*"We had some staff get COVID-19 and were admitted, including the nurse in charge of our ward. Due to the increase in transportation costs food items also had their prices increased."*

----- Dr. Situma, BethanyKids Uganda

"In the middle of this crisis we will continue to fight... giving the optimal care for children who need treatment."

Dr. Frehun, BethanyKids Ethiopia -----

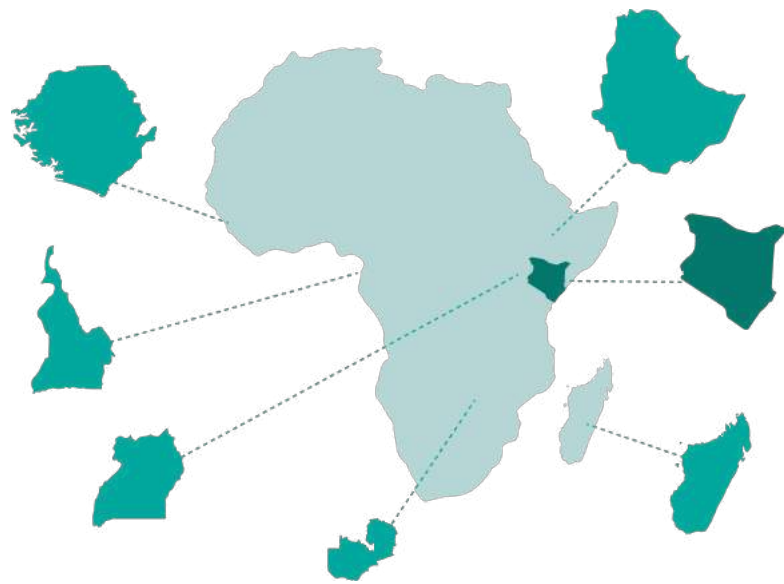


"Mbingo Baptist Hospital, like most places in the world, was affected by COVID-19. Although the hospital decided to slow down surgical cases, we did not turn away any patient that absolutely needed it."

----- Dr. Ngock, BethanyKids Cameroon

# STAYING TRUE TO MISSION

Our goal has always been bringing healing and transformation to as many children as possible. So, despite the pandemic, we officially began supporting work in our 6th country and set in motion a plan for 2021 to begin working in our 7th. This continuous and rapid growth is thanks to the ongoing training of new pediatric surgeons at our first hospital in Kenya.



**“GO INTO ALL THE  
WORLD AND  
PREACH THE  
GOSPEL...”**

- Jesus (Mark 15:16)

As of 2021 we will be providing compassionate, transformative and Jesus-centred pediatric care in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.





## ***How We Grow***

*We continue to grow because of choices made over a decade ago.*

*One of the beautiful things about the model of BethanyKids is that it begins with the training of pediatric surgeons from across a continent.*

*As those surgeons complete their training they are able to bring a heightened level of skill as well as a missional approach to surgery. Every country in which we have launched new work happened because of a surgeon trained by our team.*

*In 2020 we celebrated with Dr. Alain Jules (featured above with his son) as he completed his training with us in Kenya and went on to complete the appropriate examinations before returning to his home country of Rwanda.*

*When asked what was different about BethanyKids, he answered simply, "compassion." From Dr. Jules' experience with us he has seen first-hand that providing quality care is about more than quality of medical practice; but is also a deep, pervasive and underlying sense of compassion towards all we meet.*

*Every child we serve is served with compassion.*



# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers don't tell a full picture, but they do help remind us of the scale of our work when every single number represents a life transformed. Every number is a child who has a second chance at life and a family supported amidst crisis. That's over 2,600 second chances in 2020.



## **2,602 SURGERIES**

We made surgeries possible for children living in 6 different countries across Africa in 2020.



## **2,901 MOBILE CLINIC VISITS**

Thousands of children across Kenya were visited by the expert medical staff of our mobile clinic.



## **624 NEW WHEELCHAIRS**

We provided hundreds of wheelchairs to children who needed them to play, go to school and participate in their communities.

# SPOTLIGHT

***There are thousands of beautiful success stories; what is incredible about Billy's is how he has devoted so much of his life to giving back to others.***

*Billy was born with spina bifida and knows firsthand what it means to live with a disability. He even attended Joytown School before BethanyKids started providing an extensive pediatric rehabilitation program there.*

*His experience growing up was not easy, with more surgeries before his first birthday than most of us have in a lifetime. Yet with the help of BethanyKids, Billy has been able to get access to those surgeries as well as the medical assistance he requires to stay healthy.*

*Seven years ago Billy started working for BethanyKids as a full-time employee and has described it as a true privilege. His medical needs can be taken care of and he is also able to help families during some of their most difficult days. For him, it's one way to give back to others. He chose to work at a computer as close to the main entrance as possible so that he can be present in the lives of the parents and children who visit our centre.*

*In his own words, "I am a part of an investment that was made a few years back, and now... I am an investment that is giving back."*



## Billy Ng'ang'a

Database Manager, BethanyKids Kenya

*Billy is a valued member of the BethanyKids staff in Kenya and is responsible for managing our database.*



*Use this QR code to see a video of Billy sharing his story in his own words.*





# AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

***A reminder of the power of prayer combined with the power of the faithfulness of God's people around the world in serving others.***

*Zainabu already had two surgeries and was using a gastrostomy tube in order to get food.*

*You can imagine the stress and the worry this was placing on her mother. And like all of us in stressful times she could have sought out advice from friends, family or even horoscopes. But instead, she knew she needed to pray for God's help.*

*After the final surgery the mother shared, "I thought my child would die when she was in the ICU but I kept on asking God to protect my child. And God has been faithful to answer my prayers." God has been faithful in working through the hands of these surgeons and as a result Baby Zainabu is growing and feeding well.*

*We are thankful for our supporters around the world who have been an answer to prayer for someone on the other side of the planet.*

*(The photo on the left is from a separate surgery to that of Zainabu's. The photo depicts Dr. Frehun working with BethanyKids in Ethiopia.)*



# FINANCES

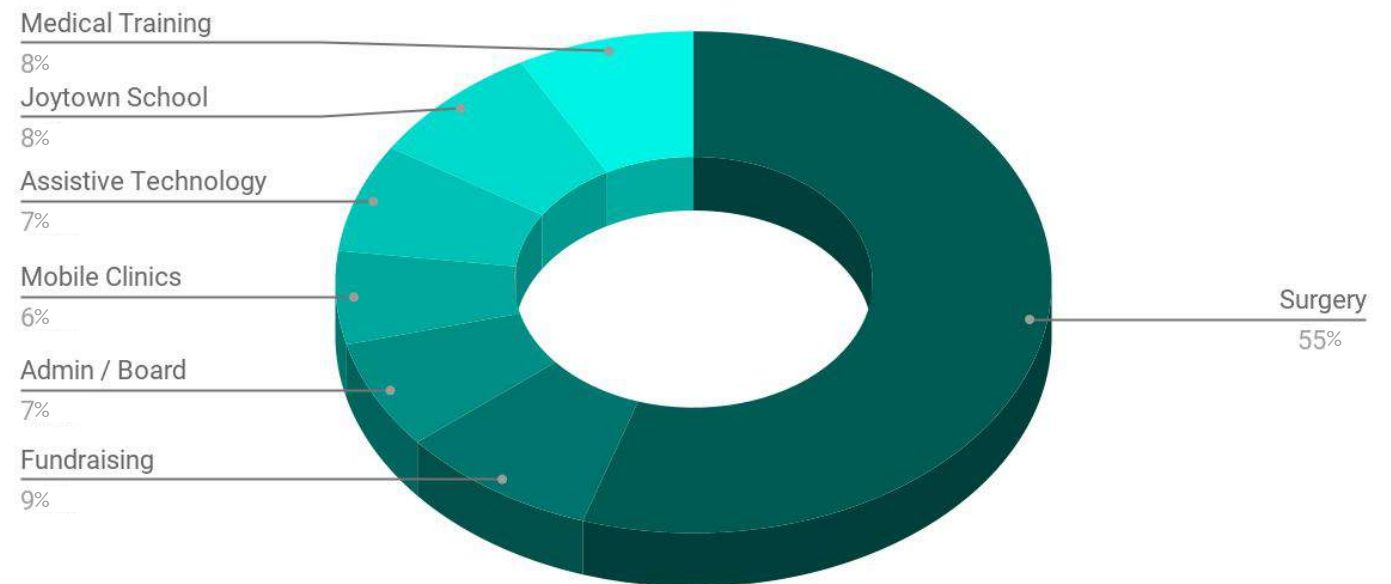
BethanyKids takes seriously the need to carefully steward the resources we have been given.

Our model puts people first instead of program or infrastructure - the result is a resilient and sustainable model of human development. That resilience very much paid off as we faced a medical and financial crisis in 2020.

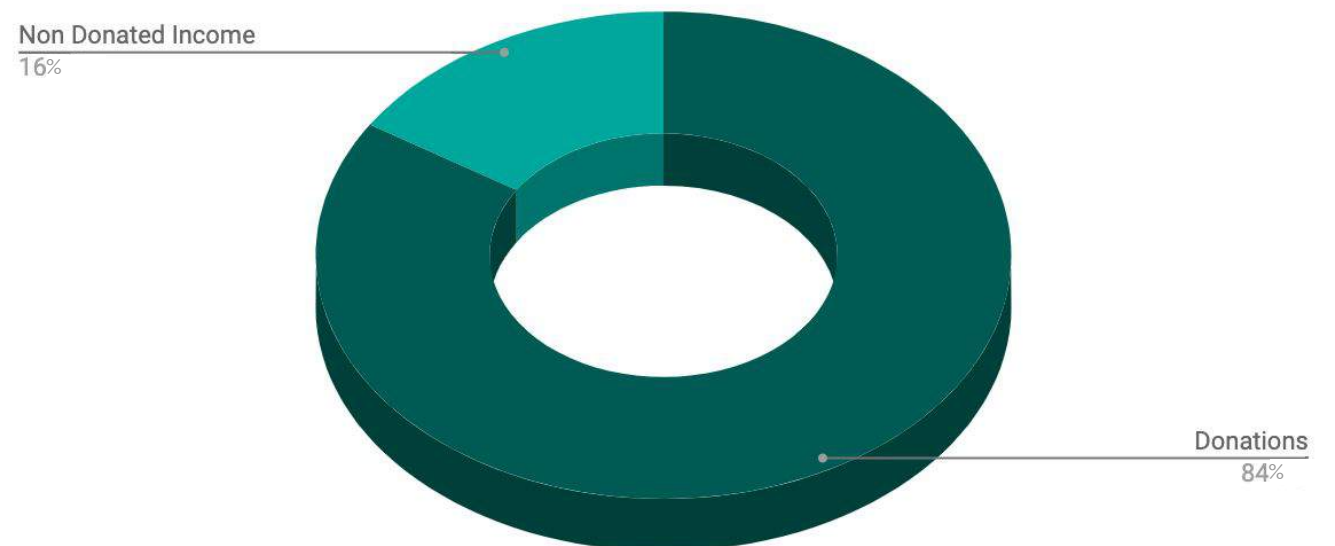
We are proud of what we have accomplished together during a hard year and look forward to what is to come in the future.

For additional information on our finances please email: [peter@bethanykids.org](mailto:peter@bethanykids.org)

## Total Expenses: \$1,043,312



## Total Income: \$1,312,900



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since BethanyKids is made up of separate legal entities working together in the USA, Canada and the UK, we have three national Boards. In addition, we have an International Board made up of representatives from the three national Boards.

## CANADA

*Kris Riseling, Board Chair*  
*Bob Kallonen, MBA*  
*Dan Poenaru, MD, PhD*  
*'Deola Sanwoolo, M.Sc.*  
*Brendan Browne, PhD*  
*Marjory Kerr, PhD*  
*Kerri Regan, M.Ed*  
*Yohan Mahimwala, MBA*



**BethanyKids**  
International Board

## USA

*Mike Delorenzo, Board Chair*  
*Jim Taubitz, MS*  
*Cynthia M. Gregg, MD*  
*Fred Rescorla, MD*  
*Justus Mwiti Marete, MPA*

## UK

*Peter Smith, Board Chair*  
*Ivan Stewart, MD*  
*David Killingray, PhD*





## Jesus-Centred

*BethanyKids exists because of a fundamental belief that we are all created in God's image and that those who choose to follow Him do so by loving others.*

*We love as we have been loved.*

*We seek to embody the Gospel in all we do and to centre every decision we make on Jesus.*

*Our goal is that when children and their families receive care from us they are moved by the level of compassion, kindness, grace and most importantly, love that they experience.*

*From the social worker, to the surgeons, to the chaplains themselves our mandate is that all those we serve experience the Gospel lived out in the actions of our staff.*

*The result of this commitment to love is that every year we see lives transformed; people who now are actively following Jesus because of their interactions with the staff at our facilities.*

*We don't just train surgeons, we train missionary surgeons with a deep love and heart to live the Gospel out in their home country.*

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)*



# VISION

*Children in Africa with disabling impairments due to medical conditions achieve optimal physical, social and spiritual quality of life through action guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

# MISSION

*BethanyKids is a compassionate Christian mission transforming the lives of African children with surgical conditions and disabilities through pediatric surgery, rehabilitation, public education, spiritual ministry and training health professionals.*

