

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**PREEMPTIVE
LOVE** COALITION

Photo credit: Esther Havens





When it seemed like the world was on fire, you showed up and chose to love anyway.

When thousands ran for their lives during the battle for Fallujah, you were there with food and water, inside the active combat zone.

When Iraqi forces marched toward Mosul while ISIS tightened its grip, you were there every step of the way—the first to reach just-liberated families.

When bombs rained down on Aleppo, you met people in their most desperate moment, providing hot meals and shelter.

In 2016, you helped reach more than 200,000 people across Syria and Iraq. You delivered more than 9.6 million meals and seven million liters of water to those who need it most.

You empowered women—women who have lost husbands, women who have taken in orphans, women who have fled violence in Syria and Iraq. You helped them start new businesses, so they can provide for their families and start building a new life in the aftermath of war.

When it seemed like the world was on fire, you showed up and chose to love anyway.

Thank you for standing with children and families on the frontlines.

With you,

Jeremy Courtney
CEO/President

In 2016, you served
205,260 people.





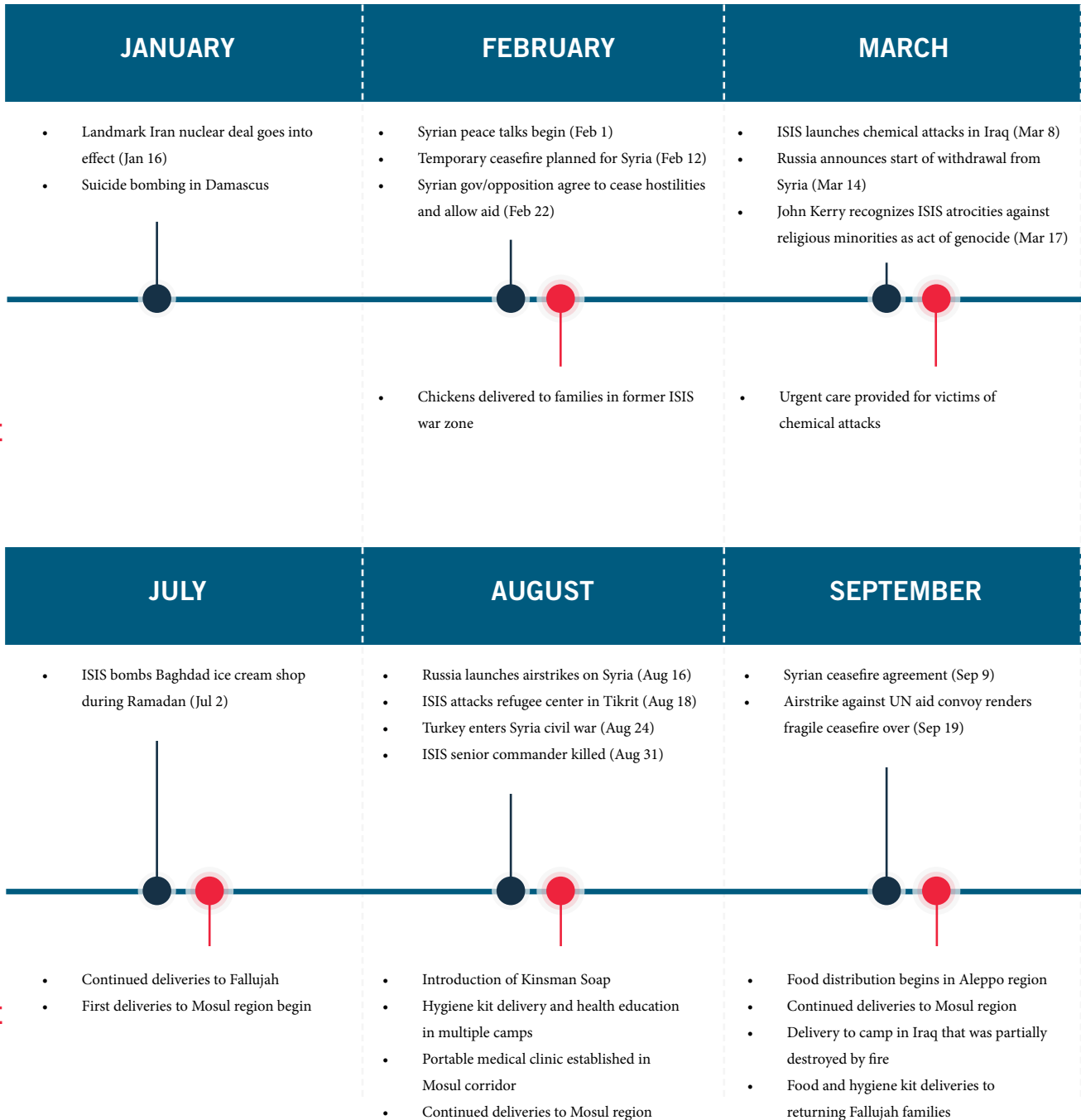
First in. Last to Leave.

2016 was the year we began providing emergency relief in a way that cemented our commitment to being the first into conflict zones with food, water, and medical care. We watched so many areas where civilians were forced to live without the basic necessities for survival. We made a promise to ourselves that no matter what it took... we would be there as soon as our trucks could get into the territory and bring whatever was needed to save lives.

Sometimes, as you will see, this meant our own lives were in danger. But 2016 showed us that being there is the first step in unmaking violence. Being there is how we demonstrate that love remakes the world.

This timeline on the following page shows major historical events of 2016 and what we were doing in those same moments. We want to live on the frontlines where we can help the most. We want to stay there long after the media has moved on and help rebuild what violence has taken from our friends in Iraq and Syria. Thank you for being there with us.







APRIL

- Syrian parliamentary elections (Apr 13)
- Obama sends troops to Syria (Apr 25)
- Airstrike on Syrian hospital (Apr 28)



- Introduction of Sisterhood Soap

MAY

- ISIS bombing in Baghdad (May 11)
- Strikes against ISIS in Fallujah (May 30)



- Women's health education training at displacement camp in Iraq

JUNE

- Fallujah returns to Iraqi control (June 18)
- Fallujah aid team bombed (Jun 28)



- Food deliveries for Fallujah families
- Food distribution at a center that included ISIS detainees
- Chickens and water deliveries to underserved camp in northern Iraq

OCTOBER

- Battle for Mosul begins (Oct 19)
- Russia and Syria agree to eight-hour humanitarian pause in Aleppo for evacuation of civilians (Oct 20)
- ISIS sleeper cell attacks Kirkuk, Iraq (Oct 21)



- Continued deliveries to Mosul region

NOVEMBER

- Iraqi forces enter Mosul for first time in two years (Nov 1)
- ISIS kidnaps 300 civilians from Tal Afar (Nov 8)
- ISIS attacks Shiite pilgrims, at least 80 killed (Nov 24)
- First U.S. casualty in Syria (Nov 24)



- Continued deliveries to Mosul region
- Opened the Dream City clinic to meet the needs of refugees
- Broke ground on school in Sinjar region of Iraq
- Launched emergency kitchen in Syria to deliver hot meals and sleeping bags

DECEMBER

- ISIS retakes city of Palmyra, Syria (Dec 11)
- All of Aleppo returns to Syrian government control (Dec 13)
- Third attempt at Syria ceasefire announced (Dec 28)



- Continued deliveries to Mosul region
- Continued serving hot meals in Syrian emergency kitchen



In 2016, more than 9.3 million people were driven from their homes due to conflict.

They were forced into high-density camps where food and water are scarce, and employment opportunities are hard to find. Refugees lose not only their homes, identities, and livelihoods—but also their sense of purpose.

The year started with a ceasefire in Syria, but within months, airstrikes plunged innocent civilians back into the fifth year of civil war.

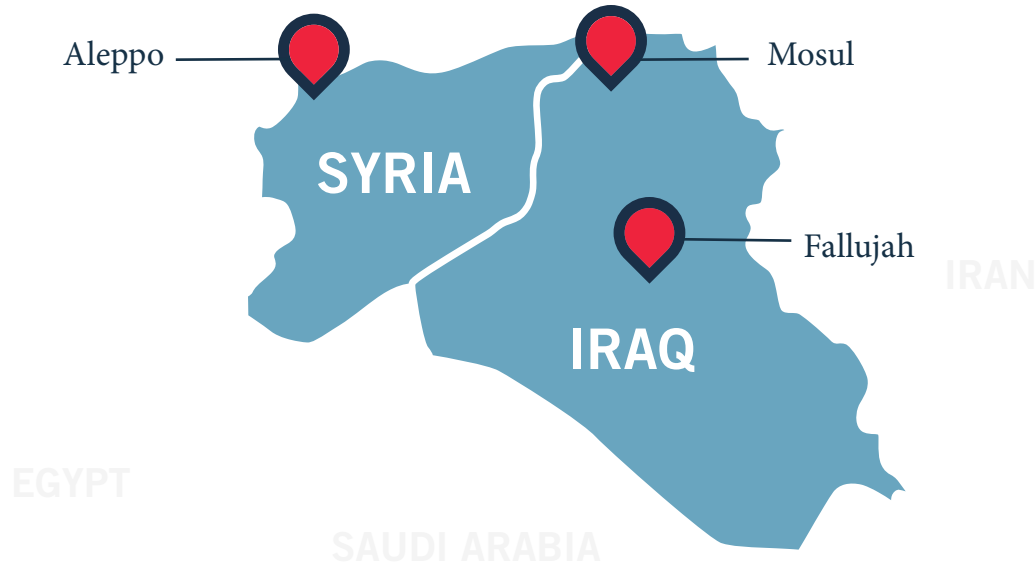
In Iraq, the fight with ISIS crippled much of the country as families were oppressed and vital infrastructure was destroyed. Extremists left roads, bridges, and utilities in a trail of rubble as they were forced out by the Iraqi government.

2016 was a heartbreaking year. While a lot of the world looked away, you stood with an open heart and said yes. Yes to love. Yes to peace. Thank you for standing with us—and with the people of Iraq and Syria—as we unmade violence together.



You said yes to serving more than
9.6 million meals
to those who lost everything.





Syria



2,650 month-long food packs
to feed 42,510 people



562,500 total meals, including
those served at a hot meal
kitchen near Aleppo

Iraq



21,430 month-long food
packs to feed 128,580 people



9,075,600 total meals (food
packs and ready-to-eat meals)



7,622,250 liters of water



12,800 hygiene kits



You said yes to 49,000 people in the active militarized zone during the battle for Fallujah, Iraq.

It was a long two years for families in Fallujah who fell under ISIS control in 2014. In May 2016, Iraqi forces took the fight to the militants. We were the first to respond as families braved ISIS snipers and bombs to flee.

You allowed us to be one of the largest providers of food for 7,800 families fleeing the battle. You helped us deliver:



4,082,400 meals



1,584,000 liters of water



4,000 hygiene kits



Meet Malak

We introduced you to Malak when we told you about some of the children who were fleeing Fallujah. Malak's parents were both killed when a mortar hit their car as they were trying to escape the ISIS-occupied territory. She and the remaining members of her family arrived at a camp in the desert outside Fallujah, along with 90,000 other people trying to find a place to be safe. They had nothing. She carried the weight of war on her shoulders.

She broke the hearts of millions who met her through that video. Malak became every child from Fallujah. She won our hearts—and yours. She inspires our pursuit of a more beautiful world to this day.



[View Malak's story](#)







You said yes to 140,200 people up and down the Mosul corridor in Iraq.

Two days after ISIS was ousted from villages outside Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, you enabled us to be there with our first food delivery. Your love continued to push forward with more deliveries, as Iraqi forces pressed closer to Mosul, traveling through streets lined with the rubble of villages pounded to dust. These aid deliveries took us to the frontlines where we saw mass graves, civilians being herded like animals, and other atrocities. You pushed through the chaos and desperation to bring much-needed relief to those who had been starving and oppressed for the past two years. Thank you for loving across enemy lines and going where others would not go.

This is what your love looked like for people in the Mosul corridor:



23,370 families served



140,220 individuals served



13,870 month-long food packs



4,993,200 meals served



4,500,000 liters of water provided



5,200 hygiene kits



You said yes to providing 562,500 meals for families from war-torn Aleppo, Syria.

Before war arrived, Aleppo was the largest city in Syria, a vital commercial center. Then bombs began to fall and Aleppo became the place where teachers dug through rubble looking for students to save, where 5-year-olds sat covered in blood in ambulances, where 10-year-olds said, “The whole world is broken.”

That is when you rushed forward with food and other supplies to unbreak the world for our friends suffering the wounds of war. You chose to stand with them in love, when all around them was hate and fear.

This is how your love showed up on the frontlines in Aleppo:



2,650 food and hygiene packs, providing 397,500 meals



165,000 hot meals from our emergency kitchen



2,000 sleeping bags





Love anyway: pushing past fear and anger

In June, 2016, two trucks carrying 100,000 pounds of food headed to one of the neediest, most underserved camps in all of Fallujah. After a few hours on heavily rutted roads, the trucks became stuck. Despite hours trying to free them, they would not budge.

As night fell, our team had a decision to make: stay with the trucks to protect the food or head back? They decided to split up. Two team members, Sadiq and the driver of the first truck, stayed back with a small group to protect the food supply, while Ihsan and the rest of the team made their way back to Baghdad.

Trapped at a checkpoint

While Sadiq and the driver hid from ISIS, the rest of our field team was held at a checkpoint. A strict curfew had been imposed.

While waiting, Ihsan heard rapid gunfire in the distance. The area was on lockdown as fighting intensified. He and the rest of our team passed much of the night outside and unprotected on a concrete slab a short distance from the checkpoint. Security forces not only wouldn't let them pass through the checkpoint; they also wouldn't allow them to take shelter.

Just after dawn, there was an earsplitting explosion. An airstrike hit just a few feet from our convoy. Then a second airstrike. Across the road came another round of explosions. Ihsan called us on the phone and we heard him scream, "God help us—they are bombing us now!"

Then the phone went dead.

Trapped by ISIS

After parting ways, our team staying with the trucks settled in for the night. Some time later, Sadiq began hearing gunfire and saw flashes of rockets in the distance. The shots got closer and closer. The same militants who were supposedly defeated days earlier in Fallujah were now sweeping across the southern Fallujah corridor—a convoy of 450 ISIS vehicles, spreading out.

Sadiq and a driver were forced to climb down from the trucks and into a nearby ditch and pull sand over themselves as ISIS began passing by. He counted about 80 vehicles with fighters bearing small arms. In the middle of the night, he messaged us:

"They are right here next to me..."

All we could do was wait, powerless. It was the longest night of our lives.



Read more details of that terrifying night and how our team made it out—and kept showing up.

The aftermath of emotional storms

Sadiq and Ihsan made it back home unharmed, but not untouched by the events of that night. Despite their experiences working in conflict zones where people want to hurt you and want to see you suffer, they both continue to show just how dedicated they are to the idea that preemptive love unmakes violence.

Ihsan rejected fear

“It was like the whole sky was shouting.”

That is how our friend and colleague, Ihsan, described the most terrifying night of his life when the airstrikes hit while waiting near a checkpoint, after trying to get aid into Fallujah.

While he survived, it was not without emotional cost. He sat on the bathroom floor of his hotel in Baghdad later that night, stunned, and silently picking debris out of his skin that was lodged there from the airstrike blast.

Would he be able to go back to Fallujah after being bombed by airstrikes? Yes. Despite everything, Ihsan chose to go anyway, to welcome the first returnees home. When asked if he was nervous, he replied quietly, “Yes, but I want to see them go home.”

Ihsan keeps showing up. And so does your love.

Sadiq chose love

For most of us, ISIS is a faceless horde spreading across the Middle East and beyond. But for Sadiq, it is more personal. And not just because he had a close call with ISIS while guarding a stranded food convoy.

During the battle for Fallujah, we made a decision to bring emergency relief to detainees in an overcrowded Iraqi prison. Many were innocent civilians, caught under a widely cast veil of suspicion. But not all of them. There among the prisoners was a man Sadiq recognized—a man who played a part in the filmed execution of an Iraqi security officer.

That slain officer was Sadiq’s friend. Sadiq witnessed his murder on YouTube. “You killed my friend,” said Sadiq to the man. “But I’ve come here to feed you.”

Despite everything he’s been through, Sadiq went into the desert to feed his friend’s murderer. And he isn’t stopping. “It’s what I do. It’s what I will keep doing. Our moral obligation is to keep serving.”

Sadiq chose to love anyway. And so do you.



Pictured: Sadiq



Read more about Ihsan's story



Read more about Sadiq's story





Not all peacemaking happens in the midst of bombs and bullets.

The frontlines are where we live—all of us—not just “over there” in the Middle East. Data from the Pew Research Center shows that 62% of Americans—almost two in three—do not know a single Muslim person.

So we gathered 20 Christian leaders and visited a mosque in Denver. Like the rest of the country, most of the group had never set foot in a mosque.

After the visit, everyone walked out changed. The imam in charge of the mosque welcomed us with open arms. He made sure no question was off limits, not even the hard ones about violence and martyrdom and the treatment of women. We even talked about where Islam and Christianity overlap.

And we were asked hard questions back. Why are all Muslims pressured to renounce acts of violence they have had no part in committing when Christians do not feel compelled to speak for their entire community? Why are Muslims who commit violent acts called “terrorists,” while non-Muslims are often labeled “troubled”? Why the double standard?

Sometimes peace begins with a handshake, a phone call, or a shared meal. Twenty Christian leaders left that Denver mosque knowing our Muslim neighbors better—and determined to continue reaching across the space between us until it’s filled with nothing but welcome and peace.

You said yes to launching 33 new businesses benefitting 165 people.

In 2016, we launched refugee-made Sisterhood Soap and Kinsman Soap, alongside other means of empowering displaced families, such as agriculture, candlemaking, knitting, and more.

But well beyond the numbers... you created a system of empowerment that will last for generations to come.









Empowerment happens when refugees are given the opportunity to move from surviving to thriving, by partnering with someone who believes in them.

By ensuring our refugee friends have the skills and tools they need to create lives that are sustainable, empowerment has a generational impact. So today a family will have bread and beans because you helped them secure food and water. But eventually momentum builds: they can pay rent, put their kids back in school, and return home. Once home, they can help their neighbors and communities thrive. They can build up the local economy and dream of a future without the taint of fear.

They can do all these things because they're not simply receiving a handout. They are leveraging your hand up to make a better tomorrow for their families. They are multiplying your investment for a better future that extends way beyond their front door. Their children will remember that, in a time of war, you responded with love instead of indifference. These children will understand what hope is, and how there is comfort in peace. By empowering one person, you are not simply fixing one family's problems; you are helping bring restoration and redemption not only to them, but their entire community. And as this empowerment spreads across towns and villages, you see the exponential impact rise to fill in the borders of a whole country. Simply put... *you are remaking the world.*

Meet the Sisterhood of soapmakers

In 2016, we launched Sisterhood Soap, together with a collective of women soapmakers.

You first met them when they were walking through the desert with nothing, having left everything behind to flee to safety. They were pregnant, sick, and grieving because some of their parents, siblings, and children had been killed. The air was thick with blowing dirt. Everyone was hungry, thirsty, desperate. You were there, waiting to welcome them. Waiting with comfort. And now they say, “Things are getting better. We can provide for our families.”





From homeless to hopeful... this refugee dad creates a new life with three simple ingredients.

Meet Faris. Father. Brother. Empowered soapmaker.

Faris lost his home when his community was destroyed by ISIS. His family of 14 fled, and set up tents in an abandoned hotel with other families who had no place to go and no food to eat. Faris, the family protector and provider, stood displaced in the vast Iraqi landscape, his homeland mountains in the far distance and his uncertain future before him. But he was not alone on this new path, because you were there. You stood next to him in that giant, open space and committed to stay beside him for the time it took for him and his family to feel safe. And now he says, “Sometimes, I forget I’m a refugee.”



[View Faris' story](#)





You delivered chickens to create jobs.

We've shared inspiring stories of job creation, but not all empowerment is about traditional jobs. Sometimes, it's about family or community traditions. In agricultural communities, life and work are sometimes the same thing.

In two communities in northern Iraq, your generosity provided the means for families to raise egg-laying chickens again. Chickens provide not only a protein source, but also a means of income—families sell the eggs and breeding stock.

You said yes to allowing our friends to choose their own path to a sustainable future.



You created a space for doctors to conduct 2,296 patient visits.

It was called “Dream City,” a housing development that carried so much promise in its name. But then ISIS came, the economy of Iraq declined, and construction stopped. The unfinished buildings became refuge for 500 displaced families at first. But as the conflict continued, the population swelled to 8,000, overwhelming the government’s ability to provide services.

When so many displaced families are compressed into such a small area, it’s easy for a health crisis to arise: rashes, scabies, and lice spread quickly. Everyday illnesses and chronic health problems—diabetes, kidney disease, high blood pressure—can get out of hand because of a lack of access to proper treatment.

You were not afraid to try something new. You said yes when we wanted to start a clinic. You said yes to 2,296 patients who needed someone to stand beside them when they were sick and unable to stand for themselves.







You helped 22 students continue their education in health and medicine.

When war said no to 22 refugee students who were driven from their homes and unable to continue their studies, you said yes to their future. You empowered these young people to participate in a health training program that not only furthered their education, but also served the health needs of nearby villages, advancing the overall health of Iraq.

As part of their studies, students distributed hygiene kits and educated more than 1,300 families on disease prevention.

In addition, each hygiene kit contained multiple bars of soap made by displaced families as part of our job creation program.

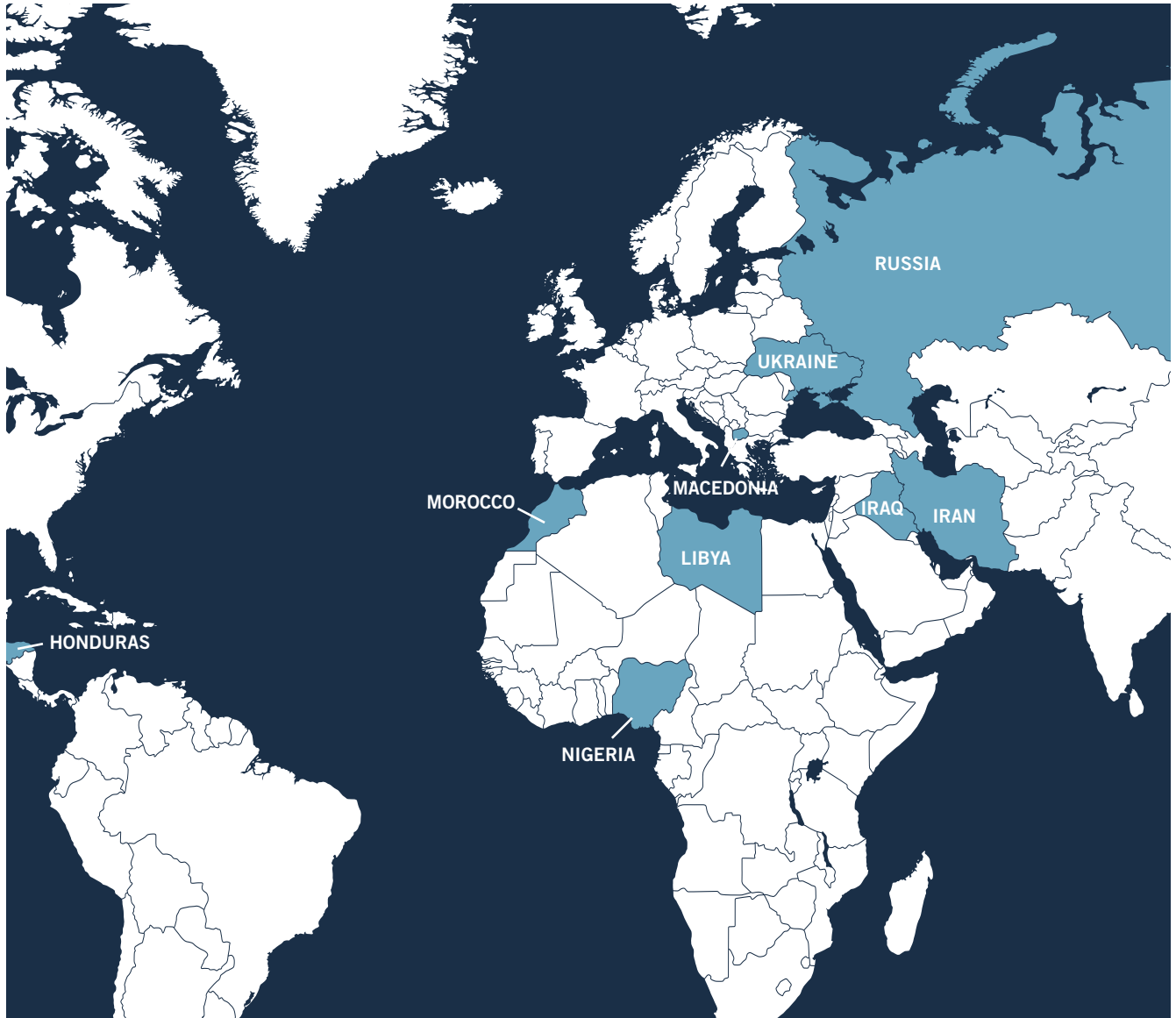
Your love is made manifest in so many beautiful ways.



MEDICAL CARE



You provided 455 lifesaving heart surgeries
to children in 9 countries.



These are a few of the precious faces that got more chances to smile, thanks to your lifesaving generosity.

[Read about Awad](#) who got bumped off the waiting list, but then got a second chance when you said yes to providing more heart surgeries for children in conflict zones!





Read more about Awad's story



Board of Directors

- Preston Fischer, Chairman
- David Statham, Director
- Clint Brown, Director
- Chris Bonfield, Director
- Peter Flowers, Director
- Justin Blount, General Counsel and Secretary
- Jeremy Courtney, Director

*In the final weeks of 2016, donors like you gave \$6 million in response to the crisis in Syria—more than we raised the previous 11 months combined. While this amount could not be spent by year's end, we were able to triple our budget for 2017 and commit to an even longer-term response. We spent all the money raised in 2016 serving 2 million people the following year—providing emergency relief, creating jobs, and waging peace.

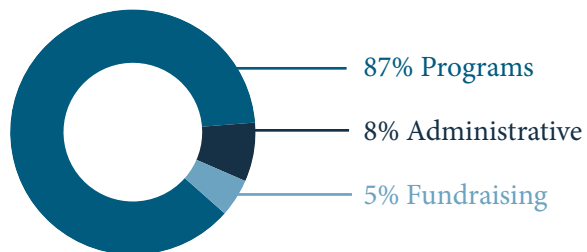
Statements of Activities

	2016
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:	
Contributions	\$9,719,694
Gifts in kind	\$33,120
Merchandise sales	\$280,969
Interest income	\$87,890
Other revenue	\$105,152
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$10,226,825
EXPENSES:	
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$3,281,822
SUPPORTING EXPENSES	
Management and general	\$301,239
Fund-raising	\$205,663
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,788,724
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$6,438,101*
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,973,568
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$9,411,669

Statements of Financial Position

	2016
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$6,010,746
Investments	\$3,200,052
Accounts receivable	\$283,274
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$53,167
Property and equipment-net	\$35,708
TOTAL ASSETS	\$9,582,947
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$171,278
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted:	
Undesignated	\$6,573,399
Board designated	\$750,000
Equity in property and equipment	\$35,708
	\$7,359,107
Temporarily restricted-Aleppo	\$2,052,562
	\$9,411,669
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$9,582,947

Statements of Activities Overview



Letter from Chairman

Over the past year the world has seen upheaval, instability, and conflict in droves. We have observed it through news reports, in conversations around the workplace, and experienced it in our relationships.

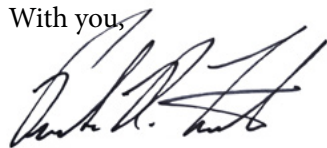
When the world is saturated by conflict, it is easy to become distracted from what matters in life. Our values become diluted by the need to be right, our compassion weakened by a desire for immediate justice, and our patience exasperated by voices that demand immediate action.

In the midst of such conflict and distraction, your love has remained. You have shown that in the middle of a world filled with great pain and suffering, love must remain. In fact, because of you, love is spreading to families in real and tangible ways that were previously unknown.

I'm incredibly proud of the Preemptive Love Coalition family and the work you enabled, encouraged, and sustained around the globe. Because of you, not only does love remain but it is growing and being received by countless families who have never seen such a thing.

It's a noble task to be known for one's love for another. Thanks to you—that is exactly what is happening in the world.

With you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Preston Fischer', written in a cursive style.

Preston Fischer
Chairman



Photo credit: Esther Havens

Thank you for making the world a better place in 2016.

Thank you for believing in and sharing your love with the most vulnerable, and often forgotten, people in Syria and Iraq. Because of you, they know they are not alone—they are valuable and loved. Because of your partnership, we've been able to show up on the front lines when crisis hits.

Together, we can continue showing up until the wounds of war or destruction are mended and families can flourish. Thank you for boldly waging peace with us, moving us closer to the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

Photo credit: Esther Havens

