

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



DISASTER RELIEF | MEDICAL CARE | HUNGER RELIEF  
CLEAN WATER | COVID-19 RESPONSE

 **OPERATION  
BLESSING**





Dear Faithful Friends,

I’m so thankful that over the past year you have been there to partner with Operation Blessing as we faced fresh challenges, discovered unique opportunities, and encountered new people in desperate need. During fiscal year 2021, with the generous help of our donors, we continued overcoming the new struggles created by COVID-19 around the world while still maintaining our core humanitarian programs to break the chains of poverty.

The compassion of our partners offered life-changing surgeries in under-served areas to help so many people in need. Clean water, hunger relief, and medical care were provided to remote villages full of vulnerable people. In the U.S., friends like you helped give extra food to families affected by COVID-19. Because of the faithfulness of our partners, Operation Blessing delivered vital relief following natural disasters, including a record-breaking hurricane season in the Gulf Coast of the U.S., an earthquake in Indonesia, and typhoons in Asia.

With your support, we can continue focusing on our four foundational pillars of humanitarian need: clean water, hunger relief, medical care, and disaster relief. At the same time, you make it possible for us to remain nimble as we respond to other needs as they arise, including surges of COVID-19 and humanitarian crises around the world.

As I reflect on all that has been accomplished in the past year and look forward to the coming year, I’m so grateful to God for the overwhelming kindness and faithfulness of our partners. Thank you for being a vital part of the Operation Blessing community. May God richly bless you and your family in return for how you are selflessly blessing those in need.

Yours in Christ,

Gordon Robertson  
President, Operation Blessing

MISSION STATEMENT

*For more than 40 years, the faithful support of Operation Blessing partners has been demonstrating God’s love by alleviating human suffering for millions of people in more than 90 countries and territories, including the U.S. Through our core programs of hunger relief, clean water, medical care, and disaster relief, you can be confident that you are helping meet the most desperate needs of the poor and hurting around the world.*

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# GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

**GEORGIA:** Struggling families were blessed with nutritious food through Operation Blessing partner Warehouse of Hope. “The food from Operation Blessing means everything to this community,” Warehouse of Hope Ministry Director Emma Finger said.



**VIRGINIA:** Volunteer college students packed supply kits for children in low-income areas.



**HAITI:** Operation Blessing’s International Disaster Relief Team arrives in Haiti with relief supplies after a powerful earthquake struck.



**PERU:** After struggling to provide for her family in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Operation Blessing supporters gave Loyda in Peru a great way to earn a living—sewing masks!

**LOUISIANA:** After Hurricane Delta, friends like you sent Operation Blessing to help disaster victims with much-needed relief supplies.



**HONDURAS:** Seven-year-old Andy was suffering from an inguinal hernia that required surgery. Then, Operation Blessing’s faithful friends helped him get the care he needed!



**UKRAINE:** Thanks to the kindness and love of donors, Operation Blessing’s Life-Changing Surgeries program helped little Timothy get the surgery he needed!



**CAMBODIA:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, many hardworking people in Cambodia lost their jobs and their incomes. In response, Operation Blessing supporters sent food and relief to get them through the tough times!



**INDONESIA:** Operation Blessing supporters sent humanitarian relief in the wake of a devastating earthquake.



**KENYA:** Operation Blessing staff demonstrated the proper use of water filters to people receiving these powerful health-sustaining tools.



**NIGERIA:** Villagers celebrate a new water well in their community provided by Operation Blessing supporters.





## U.S. DISASTER RELIEF

### OPERATION BLESSING PARTNERS REACH OUT TO THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Natural disasters are a sad fact of life. On average, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters inflict more than \$120 billion\* in damage in the United States every single year. But their impact goes far beyond the economic cost. These tragic events often leave survivors devastated and wondering where to turn for help.

Fortunately, Operation Blessing’s generous family of supporters and volunteers stands ready to respond whenever and wherever disasters strike. Among the first responders, Operation Blessing’s U.S. Disaster Relief Team delivers food, water, and relief supplies in the critical days following a disaster. Soon after, Operation Blessing volunteers begin helping beleaguered victims start picking up the pieces while showing them they are not alone and not forgotten.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has made responding to disasters even more challenging, your support has continued to give hope to those faced with rebuilding after storms and floods.

*\*Source: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2020-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical>*



“People are hurting, they have a lot of damaged stuff, and it’s just like, am I going to be Jesus to the world today? So I decided I needed to get out here and do my part.”

– Bret Treadway,  
Operation Blessing volunteer

## FY21 STATS

U.S. DISASTERS RESPONDED TO:

# 18



“IN A PERIOD OF TIME WROUGHT WITH SO MANY CHALLENGES BROUGHT ON BY EITHER THE ONGOING PANDEMIC, A STORM, A HURRICANE, OR EARTHQUAKES, IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS HAVE ENABLED US TO MEET SO MANY NEEDS IN RAPID FASHION. THIS WORK IS NOT ONLY A BLESSING TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE OUR AID AND HELP, BUT IT IS A BLESSING TO BE A PART OF THIS LARGER TEAM WHICH GOD HAS ASSEMBLED TO SERVE OTHERS IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS.”

– Anthony Lloyd, Senior Director, Operation Blessing U.S. Disaster Relief







## THE MIRACLE HOUSE

FLORIDA – Denis and Kathy’s story of their miracle house started years ago. In 2018, the couple moved to Panama City Beach in Florida. After Denis suffered multiple heart attacks, his doctors had suggested that the salt air would be good for his health. Just three months after their move, Hurricane Michael turned their dream into a nightmare.

Hurricane Michael slammed into the Florida Panhandle as a Category 5 storm. It made history as one of the most powerful hurricanes ever to make landfall in the United States. Communities all along the coast were left in ruins by the strong winds, torrential rain, and relentless storm surge.

“Hurricane Michael came out of nowhere,” Denis recalled. “In just a few short days, it was upon us. We left. We weren’t going to take a chance with a storm that size.”

When they returned to their home after the storm, what they found looked encouraging—or so they thought. “It was a couple of months later that the walls started getting really soft,” Denis said. “That’s when we knew we had a problem.”

Unbeknownst to Denis and Kathy, the storm had permeated their house with water. Soon, mold began to grow. “The house just started disintegrating around us,” Kathy remembered. “Big pieces of sheet rock actually caved in, and when it caved in we saw that it was black inside the wall.”

Denis and Kathy were forced to move into their garage. While they received some money from their insurance company to help with repairs, it wasn’t nearly enough to cover the catastrophic damage their home had suffered.



With Denis’s health issues and without the resources to pay for all of the needed repairs, Denis and Kathy grew desperate.

Time stretched on without a solution. “I asked God to please help us,” Kathy said. “Please tell us what to do; show us which way to go.”

Then God sent Operation Blessing partners like you as an answer to their prayers! “We got a call from Operation Blessing, and they told us that they wanted to rebuild our house,” Kathy said. “We just couldn’t believe it. I could hardly talk I was so excited!”

Thanks to Operation Blessing supporters like you, work soon began on Denis and Kathy’s home. The generosity and compassion of friends like you help disaster survivors and their communities rebuild, even long after the storm has come and gone.

When the house had been taken down to the studs, the Operation Blessing team treated for mold before rebuilding with brand-new sheet rock, ceilings, trim, flooring, window framing, cabinets, and more. Denis said, “They built the whole thing back up. Everything that you see, they did.”

After two years of living between their garage and a camper in their backyard, Kathy and Denis finally came home again. “I pray that God will open heaven and pour out His blessings on Operation Blessing. I just pray that God will bless you like He’s blessed us,” Kathy exclaimed. “Just come look at my house because it’s a miracle house.”







## INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF

When natural disasters strike poor and developing nations, the lack of infrastructure and resources can multiply the damage and human suffering many times over. That's why it's critical to send help and relief as quickly as possible to disaster victims. Every year, Operation Blessing supporters do exactly that.

During Operation Blessing's fiscal year 2021, friends like you made it possible for Operation Blessing to respond to the devastating explosion in Lebanon, floods in Kenya, Hurricane Eta in Honduras, an earthquake in Indonesia, and many other international catastrophes.

When Operation Blessing partners like you answer the call to help those facing devastating natural disasters and humanitarian crises, you are showing the love of God in a tangible way to these precious people.



### FY21 STATS

NUMBER OF DISASTERS RESPONDED TO:

21

### TYPES OF DISASTERS IN 2021:

- earthquake
- typhoon
- flood
- fire
- hurricane
- refugee crisis
- man-made explosion famine

### NATIONS:

- Croatia
- Philippines
- Japan
- Indonesia
- India
- Ukraine
- Mexico
- Armenia
- Lebanon
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Fiji
- Myanmar
- South Africa
- Costa Rica
- Greece
- Albania
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Senegal



COVID-19 RESPONSE

PROVIDING RELIEF  
IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

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The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread illness, death, and economic destruction across the globe for more than a year. Often, it has been poor and vulnerable populations who have been the most affected by this 21st century plague. With support from friends like you, Operation Blessing has worked tirelessly to respond to COVID-19 with powerful relief efforts tailored to the specific needs of those we're blessed to serve.

In the United States, Operation Blessing's coronavirus relief efforts focused on providing groceries and supplies to those who lost jobs or were struggling to put food on the table during the pandemic. Across Latin America, Operation Blessing helped struggling people get back to work through innovative microenterprise programs that provided jobs and businesses to supply the income needed to feed families. In Haiti, Operation Blessing staff generated and distributed chlorine to help slow the spread of the virus. In Kenya, Operation Blessing supporters sent masks, soap, latex gloves, and more to help protect local law enforcement. These are just a few of the ways and places that the faithfulness of Operation Blessing partners has helped fight COVID-19.



FY21 STATS

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH COVID RESPONSE

19

.....

HANDWASHING STATIONS

75+

.....

CHLORINE GENERATION/DELIVERY

10,000 GALLONS+





# GRATITUDE AROUND THE WORLD

“My daughter got much better after being nebulized. And the syrup that we received in the health center helped her to not feel feverish. She is healthy now. Thank you so much for the help!”

– Priscilla, Peru



“I was moved by the news because I knew that now I was going to drink clean water, and I no longer had to drink dirty water. ‘Lord, thank you very much,’ I said.”

– Yoselin, Honduras



“When I saw all the food that you gave us, I praised God and thanked Him for providing for my family. I also thanked Him for you for being kind enough to bring us help.”

– Nempaso, Kenya



“You have been Jesus’ face right here, and I know, because He’s allowed me to witness it firsthand. It fed my family when we didn’t have anything.”

– Tim, Texas

“I am excited to access the water to use. It is safe and clean for my family.”

– Len, Cambodia







## CLEAN WATER FOR THE THIRSTY

### THE POWER TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), by 2025 half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas, and right now there are 785 million people who lack even basic drinking water service.\* While these are sobering statistics, Operation Blessing friends like you are helping bring clean water to many in need around the world.

The most obvious consequence of not having clean water is the waterborne illnesses contaminated water can transmit. But for those facing life without easy access to clean water, the repercussions reach into nearly every facet of life. Few things have the power to transform the health and economic outlook of a community like the gift of clean water and sanitation.

#### OPERATION BLESSING'S WASH PROGRAM

Thanks to the generous support of our partners, Operation Blessing's WASH programs (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) expand access to reliable clean water and improve hygiene and sanitation practices and facilities in communities around the world.

*\*Source: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>*



#### MARIO FROM MEXICO

Every day, Mario and his family had to walk more than an hour to get water. "I get tired, and the road is dangerous," he told Operation Blessing staff. When they got the water home they had to boil it to make it safer to drink. But when Operation Blessing installed a new rainwater harvesting and chlorination system in Mario's community of Montebello, Mexico, Mario's life changed for the better! "I am very happy now that I don't have to go and look for water," he said. "We now have it at home. Thank you, Operation Blessing!"



## 8 WAYS CLEAN WATER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

- PREVENT** waterborne illness
- IMPROVE** hygiene and sanitation
- SAVE** time and energy
- PRODUCE** nutritious food
- SUPPORT** education and learning
- UPLIFT** communities
- OFFER** dignity
- BOOST** earning potential for struggling parents

WATER PROJECTS COMPLETED (FY21):

10







## HUNGER RELIEF FILLS EMPTY STOMACHS

### FEEDING STRUGGLING AMERICANS

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With many Americans facing reduced incomes and lost jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for U.S. hunger relief has been significant. Across the United States, Operation Blessing's network of food distribution partners saw Americans lining up to receive help with groceries for their families. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of friends like you, Operation Blessing semi-trucks were able to deliver 45 million pounds of food and relief to those in need.

*"Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness and support to Operation Blessing. It is the needed fuel for us to bring truckloads of food and relief aid to our feeding partners across America. It is because of you that our partners are still on the COVID-19 riddled front lines, providing physical and spiritual help to their local communities."*

– Steve O'Grady, Operation Blessing Vice President of Operations & Logistics

#### FY21 STATS

POUNDS OF FOOD  
AND RELIEF DELIVERED

**45 MILLION**

COUNTRIES WITH  
MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAMS

**9**

MILES TRUCKS HAVE DRIVEN

**1.5 MILLION**

OVER A MILLION POUNDS OF  
FOOD DISTRIBUTED IN

**14 COUNTRIES**

## INTERNATIONAL HUNGER RELIEF

### FEEDING THE POOR AROUND THE WORLD

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Those who were already struggling to put food on the table in poor and developing nations were also the most vulnerable to the economic effects of a global pandemic. As country after country went into lockdown to prevent the spread of the virus, many people found themselves with no way to provide for their families. But Operation Blessing partners stepped up to show God's love to those facing hard times.

Not only were we able to deliver emergency food supplies to those in need in places like Kenya, Peru, and Haiti, we also helped hardworking people start new businesses that gave them the ability to provide for themselves.







# BLESSED IN GEORIGIA

Not long ago, single mom Angela and her boys in Georgia—like so many people across our nation—faced food insecurity. Angela loves spending time and participating in activities with her sons, Bryson and Jabril. That enjoyment spurred her to open a day care to spread her love to other children as well. She adored her work with the kids, but when her enrollment numbers dropped, bills started piling up. “I didn’t know when we would have our next complete meal,” she said. “To be in a position like that and have children to support at the same time, it made me feel bad as a single mom.”

But because of the kindness and generosity of our partners, Angela and her sons found the support they needed! In partnership with Operation Blessing’s Hunger Strike Force, friends like you helped provide food to Warehouse of Hope, a food distribution center near Angela’s home. “I was amazed by the amount of food that they gave me,” she said. “It was mind-blowing. And just to be able to put a whole meal together, and not break the bank to do it, it’s a blessing!”

Since that time, Angela found a better paying job and is blessed to work remotely from home. However, she won’t soon forget the aid you sent her during a painful time in her life. “I appreciate everything that you all are doing,” she said. “You never know how you affect other people’s lives. For me to have somebody support me and my children—there are no words that can express how I truly feel about that.”



“You never know how you affect other people’s lives. For me to have somebody support me and my children—there are no words that can express how I truly feel about that.”







MEDICAL CARE

CARING FOR THE SICK AND HURTING AROUND THE WORLD

For those living in remote regions in the developing world, and for those with limited resources, even relatively minor medical issues can become major problems. Unable to afford care, even if it's available, many have nowhere to turn when they're sick or hurt.

In order to reach those in need of medical care, Operation Blessing partners provide a number of innovative medical care programs including Community Health Volunteers and Life-Changing Surgeries.

COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS  
CARE FOR MOTHERS IN KENYA

One great example of Operation Blessing's Community Health Volunteer (CHV) program comes from the remote community of Loitokitok, Kenya. In Loitokitok, even simple services like prenatal care for pregnant women are difficult to access. To meet this urgent need, Operation Blessing-trained CHVs are able to provide help to expectant mothers with nutrition, regular checkups, encouragement to give birth in health facilities under the care of qualified medical staff, and breastfeeding support—giving new moms and babies the best chance to thrive.

LIFE-CHANGING SURGERIES

Surgeries can be expensive, and for those with barely enough to put food on the table, being able to afford an operation they need can seem like an impossible dream. Many parents of children living with easily treatable conditions like clubfoot, cleft lip or palate, or congenital heart defects have no way of providing healing for their kids. Through Operation Blessing's Life-Changing Surgeries program, generous donors are able to provide healing directly to those in need!



FY21 STATS

DONATED MEDICINE

\$13  
MILLION

NUMBER OF SURGERIES

1,500+

TYPES OF SURGERIES/AILMENTS  
TREATED (FY21)

- Cardiac
- Burn
- Clef Lip/Palate
- Orthopedic
- Vision
- Cyst Removal

COUNTRIES WITH  
CHV PROGRAMS

4

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES  
SURGERIES PERFORMED IN

12





# A NEW SMILE BRINGS HOPE

CHINA – Ziwen has already faced many struggles in his young life. The 4-year-old was born with a cleft lip and cleft palate, a condition that caused him to easily choke on milk and water. Because of this, he grew slowly compared to other children his age. He also faced extra speech and social challenges.

His parents didn’t know much about his condition at first. However, they soon learned that it could be repaired and started to make arrangements for surgery. Sadly, the surgery didn’t succeed. Ziwen became sick with scarlet fever shortly after the procedure and it affected the healing process. Little Ziwen would need another surgery in order to heal properly.

His parents had already struggled to pay for Ziwen’s original surgery. His father works hard at a construction job, but receives only a small income in return. The family simply couldn’t raise the funds to pay for Ziwen’s second surgery.

As Ziwen grew, the situation grew more dire. That’s when faithful Operation Blessing partners stepped in to meet the family’s need. When we heard Ziwen’s story, we shared it with our partners, and friends like you showed up for Ziwen in a big way! You made sure he received the surgery and care he so desperately needed to repair his cleft lip and palate.

Now, Ziwen has a bright new smile and can grow up healthy and strong. His family is grateful for the help provided by Operation Blessing and for the faithful support of partners like you.

“Thank you for helping my son,” Ziwen’s father exclaimed. “I am so grateful! Thank you to the generous donors.”

Find more  
patients in need  
of surgery at  
[ob.org/surgery](http://ob.org/surgery)



“Thank you for  
helping my son.  
I am so grateful!  
Thank you to the  
generous donors.”  
– Ziwen's Father





FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Operation Blessing is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization committed to showing the love of Jesus to those in need around the world through powerful humanitarian aid. We are committed to providing the maximum amount of relief possible with every donor dollar. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges and opportunities throughout Operation Blessing’s fiscal year 2021, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of our faithful partners who continue to make our worldwide relief efforts possible.

*“As COVID continued to adversely impact people around the world, Operation Blessing actively sought ways to leverage our clean water, hunger relief, and medical care programs to meet the needs of people worldwide. We made and distributed sanitizing solutions globally while providing food to families in need. We supplied several hospitals with beds and oxygen for COVID patients. Our domestic disaster relief teams spent two months in Louisiana responding to back-to-back hurricanes. Our Hunger Strike Force distributed food and other supplies throughout the U.S. for distribution by our church and ministry partners. It is amazing how God provides what is needed, and it is a privilege to serve those in need as the hands and feet of Jesus.”*

– Jeff Westling, Operation Blessing’s Chief of Staff

OUR FINANCIALS

Condensed Financial Information for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

REVENUES

Contributions.....	\$32,312,000
Gifts in Kind.....	\$60,476,000
Other Revenue.....	\$38,000
TOTAL REVENUE.....	<b>\$92,826,000</b>

EXPENSES

Programs .....	\$21,253,000
Gifts in Kind.....	\$60,830,000
Fundraising .....	\$2,429,000
General and Administrative .....	\$1,436,000
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	<b>\$85,948,000</b>

GAINS .....	<b>\$20,000</b>
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INCREASE IN NET ASSETS .....	<b>\$6,898,000</b>
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For a copy of Operation Blessing’s complete financial statements audited by our independent auditors, KPMG LLP, please write to: Operation Blessing Public Relations Department, 977 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, VA 23463-0001.



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A Mission You Can Believe In.  
A Charity You Can Trust.

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 **OPERATION BLESSING**

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