



**BECAUSE**  
— OF —  
**YOU**

**WHEAT RIDGE MINISTRIES**  
**ANNUAL REPORT | 2016**



## **Because of You**

Wheat Ridge Ministries is honored to present our 2016 Annual Report, which reflects the impact of your gifts and commitment activity from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Wheat Ridge donors help inspired leaders and innovative projects develop and thrive in an uncertain world.

Jesus told His disciples—He tells us—“In this world you will have trouble.” (John 16:33, NIV) From the pain of personal challenges to the plight of poverty-stricken communities, we know this trouble well.

Wheat Ridge is blessed by our supporters and donors who carry on with strength and faith despite the burdens of the world. You aren't deterred by this trouble—you are inspired to action because of it. Despite dark moments, you choose to share the light of Jesus. With your prayers and financial support, you help make the world a better place.

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul writes that giving is truly God's grace at work in the lives of the givers. He says that while they may give their time, talent, and treasures to meet an immediate need, ultimately their giving brings honor and glory to God: “This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

(2 Corinthians 9:12, NIV)

Because of you, Wheat Ridge continues its mission to support new initiatives striving to offer hope to individuals and build healthier individuals and communities around the country.





## **Our Mission**

Wheat Ridge Ministries seeds new ministries  
of health and hope  
in the name of the healing Christ.

Wheat Ridge Ministries has been investing in new  
start-up ministries for more than 60 years!



# People Served in FY2016

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During Fiscal Year 2016, Wheat Ridge grant recipients  
**served over 58,000 people**  
through their projects!

These projects work in the United States and around the world to bring health and hope to churched and non-churched, young and old, needy and broken.



## **Volunteers Engaged in FY2016**

Volunteers are the lifeblood of so many nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2016, **over 10,500 individuals volunteered** their time with Wheat Ridge grantees for a total of **107,032 hours!**

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16







## **Grants Awarded in FY2016**

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- 43 WeRaise Crowdfunding Grants totaling \$281,081
  - 14 Burst Grants totaling \$65,430
  - 11 GrantsPlus Grants totaling \$445,000
  - 8 Joshua Grants totaling \$38,460
  - 1 Select Grant totaling \$25,400

**77 Total Grants – \$855,371**



## **Donor Support in FY2016**

Everything Wheat Ridge Ministries does is made possible by our generous, faithful supporters.

**We received donations from 18,585 individuals during fiscal year 2015.** Our volunteers helped us make thousands of thank you calls and write hundreds of thank you notes.



# **WeRaise – Channeling social media for positive change.**

Wheat Ridge's innovative crowdfunding platform – WeRaise – has expanded exponentially since its inception in 2014. Because of you, WeRaise draws attention to critical projects and amasses support for essential programs. Because of you, WeRaise connects exceptional leaders to new audiences and new resources.

Your support helps organizations and individuals create positive, sustainable solutions for healing within their communities.





# **FY2016 WeRaise Highlights**

**Memorial Lutheran Church (Katy, Texas) started a Comfort Dog Ministry.** Inspired by the impact of Comfort Dogs around the country, Memorial Lutheran raised \$6,000 to fund their dog's training and that of its handlers. Church leaders anticipate bringing the dog "home" in February 2017; in the meantime, they've been building relationships with local hospitals, schools, first responders, nursing homes, and other organizations so that their dog and handlers will be invited to serve in a time of need. Trained Memorial Lutheran leaders will provide comfort, care, the Gospel message, a listening ear, and prayer. **"The dog will serve as a bridge between us and the various people we will serve,"** notes Nathan Engman, Director of Discipleship.

**Harmony Church (Chicago, Illinois) replaced its roof and gutters and repaired interior areas damaged by rain and flooding.** For 25 years, Harmony has been a safe haven for the troubled neighborhood of North Lawndale. Approximately 300 people are uplifted by weekly worship and hundreds receive assistance via the church's food pantry. But in 2015, the building was literally crumbling. Through WeRaise, Harmony attained their goal of \$79,000 in 45 days, and repair work was completed in October 2016. Pastor James Brooks says, **"With peace of mind about their facility, Harmony and its members can continue to focus on their mission of 'loving and serving like Christ!'"**

**ALT (Abundant Life Together) (Toledo, Ohio) launched a new site in Minnesota's Twin Cities and developed their Ministry Manual.** ALT offers a unique, nine-month experience for young adults to dig into faith, grow as a person, and explore a vocation while living in intentional Christian community. ALT's one-month WeRaise campaign exceeded their original goal by 145%, with additional funds supporting the recruitment and training of new leadership teams. ALT youth become active participants in moving toward community wellness, racial equality, and social justice. **"There is abundance here: there is abundance to share and it's worth sharing,"** notes ALT Year participant Amber Kalina.

Your spiritual and financial support makes a difference in the lives of these ministry leaders and the people they serve. Because of you, WeRaise makes critical connections between health and human services projects and potential supporters.

Grantee Highlight

# Chopping for Change

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*Because of you, prison inmates see a brighter future upon their release.*

**Chopping for Change** is a cooperative effort between Cleveland-based Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM), the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and the Cuyahoga County Office of Re-Entry. Bryan Mauk, LMM's director of social enterprise programs, developed the nine-month intensive program for inmates preparing to reintegrate into society. A grant from Wheat Ridge helps fund aspects of the three-phase program: work experience/therapeutic services, trade skill development (culinary arts), and release and case management. The goal: facilitate inmates' re-entry experience and decrease recidivism.

Ashley, a member of the first Chopping for Change cohort, appreciated the opportunity to go outside the prison walls and work with people with real-life experience. "I feel like this program will keep us out [of jail] because it's giving us hope—it's giving us a chance to see our skills and what we can actually do when we leave here."

Thanks to Wheat Ridge donors, Northeast Reintegration Center inmates can plan for a better future. "We're so grateful for this program," Ashley says. "Please continue to fund programs like this so more people can have this opportunity. We need this."





## Grantee Highlight

# Safe Lots Parking Initiative

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*Because of you, homeless people can sleep safely while transitioning to housing.*

Compass Housing Alliance's new **Safe Lots Parking Initiative** helps Seattle-area homeless people living in their vehicles to stay safe and to connect with resources for increasing income and finding housing. The Initiative is an outgrowth of Compass' Road to Housing Program, which relies on partner churches to provide safe parking locations. Safe Lots Parking Initiative was created by Hilary Carr as a response to an upsurge in the number of households surviving in their cars in the region—and Wheat Ridge awarded her a grant for her efforts.

Safe Lots increased the number of available parking spots by using two city-owned lots. It also addresses public health and safety by providing basic security for program participants. As the project moves participants towards more viable housing, Compass is also developing new assessment tools and strategies to best help vehicle residents.

In six months, Hilary and her team reached 203 families, created stability plans with 23 families, and moved 25 households into stable housing. They've also engaged 30 volunteers offering vehicle repairs, free legal advice, and art classes. Because of your financial and prayerful support, Safe Lots is making a difference in Seattle.







## Grantee Highlight

# Serve + Share H.O.P.E

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*Because of you, young people living in troubled neighborhoods gain hope and develop self-worth.*

The **Serve + Share H.O.P.E.** project is a partnership between Bridge City Community and Calvin Donaldson Elementary School (Chattanooga, Tennessee), where select 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders work with Pastor Josh Woodrow to plan, purchase ingredients, and prepare regular warm meals for kids in the community. A recipient of a Wheat Ridge grant, the program is H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Positively Engage) and it brings hope to children in a crime-ridden, impoverished area.

“From a societal and familial perspective, these kids are ‘taught’ they are not going to amount to anything,” notes Woodrow. “Serve + Share H.O.P.E. students gain new skills, and they begin to see value in their work and take pride in their accomplishments.” Fifth grader Devonte says the best thing about his participation is the opportunity to help others. Devonte now takes the initiative to cook at home and sees a future using his new skills. “I’m thinking about a cooking career,” Devonte says. “It’s really going to be a big break for me.”

Woodrow appreciates Wheat Ridge staff and their spiritual, emotional, and personal investment in his work. “The hope and confidence they’ve instilled in me, our programming strategy, and our future as an organization is just priceless,” he says. Thanks to the generosity of Wheat Ridge donors, we can support grantees like Pastor Woodrow as they bring health, hope, and self-worth to their communities.



## Grantee Highlight

# Clean Water Indonesia

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*Because of you, low income families in rural villages will have access to fresh water.*

Kingdom Workers (Wauwatosa, Wisconsin) is applying a Wheat Ridge grant toward creating clean water sources in rural Indonesian villages and distributing household water filtration systems where community-level systems are not the answer.

During the dry season, villagers travel about 1¼ miles over rocky and steep terrain to retrieve water from the river—and it's a trip they make two or three times each day. Many children suffer from childhood illnesses related to poor sanitation and hygiene, including diarrhea, vomiting, and severe malnutrition. Kingdom Workers' Clean Water Indonesia program will teach families how to implement health initiatives, specifically through the installation of clean water systems. Villagers will be given the tools to improve their health and wellness and then trained how to share these tools with others in the community.

And it's so much more than water. The program opens the door for relationships to be built between Lutheran congregations in Indonesia and the communities surrounding them so that God's word may continue to be shared. Thanks to Wheat Ridge donors, families will have easier access to clean water, live healthier lives, and most importantly, witness God's grace in their lives.



# Thank You!

Because of you, communities and individuals around the world have hope for a better future. Your financial and prayerful support shines a bright light in our unsettled world. Humbled by such generosity, we echo the prayer in Paul's letter to Philemon:

“I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.” (Philemon 6 NIV)

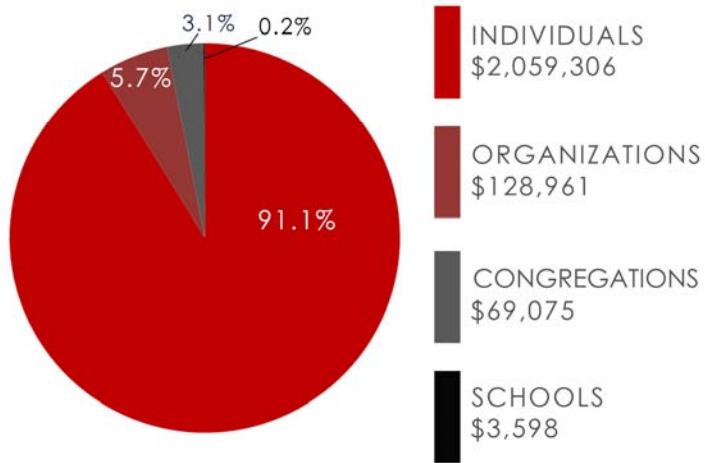
Visit [www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org) for more grantee stories.



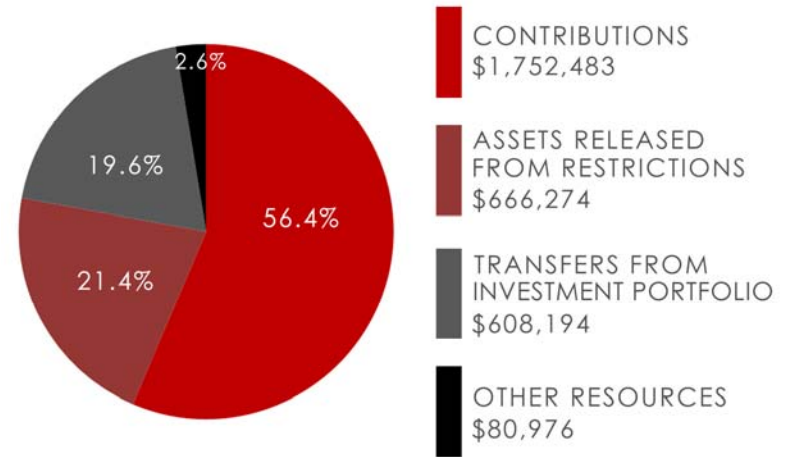


# FY2016 Financials

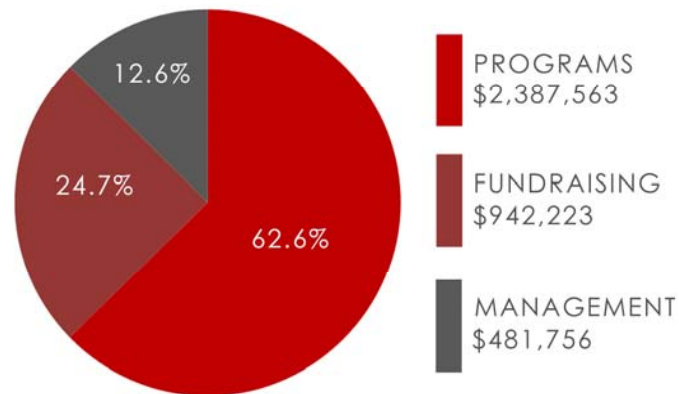
SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS



BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING REVENUES



BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING EXPENSES



Wheat Ridge Ministries does not accept any government funding.  
A full copy of our audit report is available online at [www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org).



# Board of Directors

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Fiscal Year 2016

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One Pierce Place, Suite 250E  
Itasca, Illinois 60143  
800.762.6748 | [wrmail@wheatridge.org](mailto:wrmail@wheatridge.org)  
[www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org) | [www.WeRaise.us](http://www.WeRaise.us)

