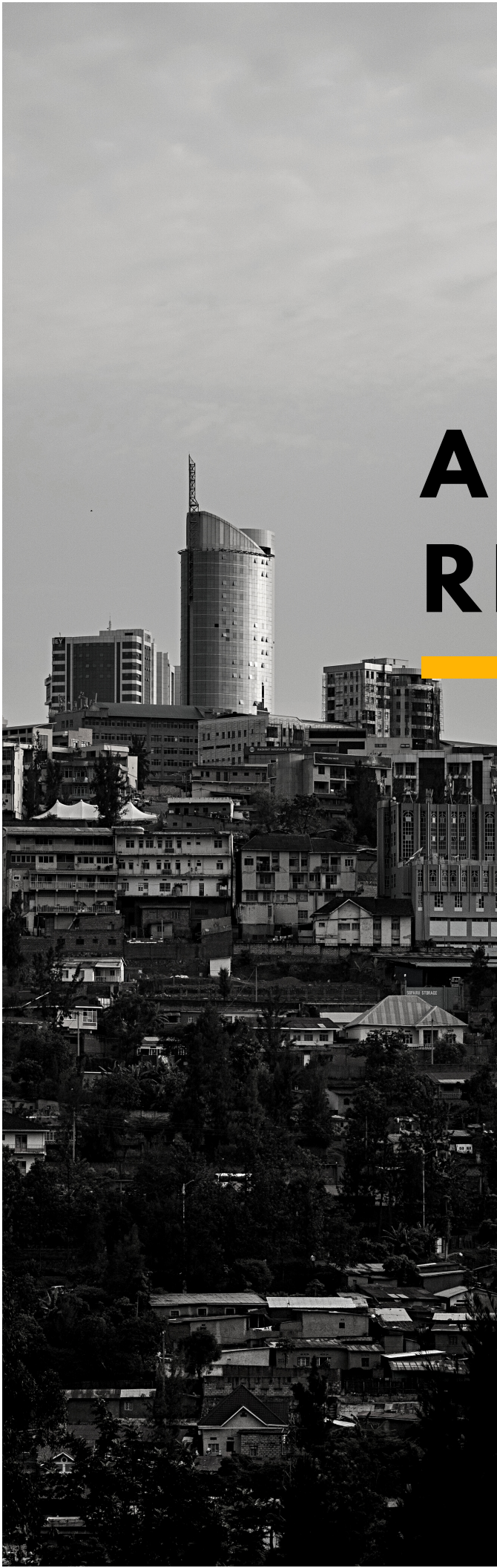




ANNUAL REPORT

2020
EDITION



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LOOKING FORWARD

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance



OUR MISSION

We strive to instill hope and advocate for at-risk and vulnerable youth. Our goal is to ensure these students have a chance at long-term success and stability through awareness, education, and empowerment with the help of our world's greatest volunteers and the power of our founder's personal story.

ABOUT US

At Rising Above the Storms, we envision a world where every child has access to education, love, and a successful future. We work tirelessly to ensure a chance at long-term success and stability through awareness, education, and empowerment from our world's greatest volunteers and our founder's personal story.

In partnership with a local nonprofit, Amahoro (Peace) Builders, our Learning Center currently supports about 50+ children ranging from 10 -18 years old and offers an after-school program that serves as a safe haven for at-risk youth. The Center is designed to complement existing educational systems and promote the value of education among participants and their families.

At the Center, kids can seek education support from our tutors, listen to guest speakers, and play games or football.

We are on a mission to bring hope and stability to these children.

A FOUNDER'S STORY



April 7th, 1994 and the 100 days that followed will forever be engraved in my memory. Although the events leading up to that day started long before I was born, the moment that changed everything started one day earlier.

On Wednesday evening, April 6th, the plane carrying the president of Rwanda was shot down as it landed at Kigali International Airport. The loud explosions and flames visible in the sky terrified us, but even more terrifying was the announcement on the radio that the president had died in the crash, along with the president of Burundi and everyone on board. That night, myself and my 4 siblings all crept from our own rooms and slipped into bed with our parents; we were scared. Nothing could have prepared us for what was about to unfold.

Thursday morning, April 7th, 1994, marked the beginning of an ethnic cleansing: the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda where more than one million Tutsi men, women, and children would be slaughtered in 100 days. My younger sister Marie Claudine, only 11 years old, was one of the first victims in our area on that morning of April 7th, when she visited her godmother not far from our house. Ten days later my dad would be killed. And 17 days later my mom and my older brother.

I was spared, and at the time, I often wondered why. Later, when I found my three younger siblings in a nearby orphanage, I learned my purpose: my life had truly found a new meaning. Faith, education, and fortitude allowed me to persevere through the harshest of circumstances. Today, I feel fortunate. My dream is to create opportunities for children around the world who have not been as lucky and give them hope to persevere and overcome.

I started Rising Above the Storms (RAS), a nonprofit organization with a vision to bring hope, advocate for orphans and empower vulnerable children and youth through the gift of education. We launched our very first project, a learning center, in Rwanda in January 2017.

This Annual Report - and everything we do at RAS - is In remembrance of my little sister, Marie Claudine (11 years old), my Dad (43), my Mom (40), and my older brother, Jean Felix (15).

Alphonsine Imaniraguha Anderson

2 OUR

0 BEST

2 YEAR

0 YET

\$60,377
RAISED

20,000
HOURS
GIVEN

50
CHILDREN
HELPED

In 2020, we raised **\$60,377** to bring hope and stability to our students.

A net increase of \$13,942 from 2019!



We Raised \$60,377 to Bring Hope and Stability to these Children.

Rather than expanding into more countries, we chose to invest in our center in Rwanda to provide our families COVID relief.

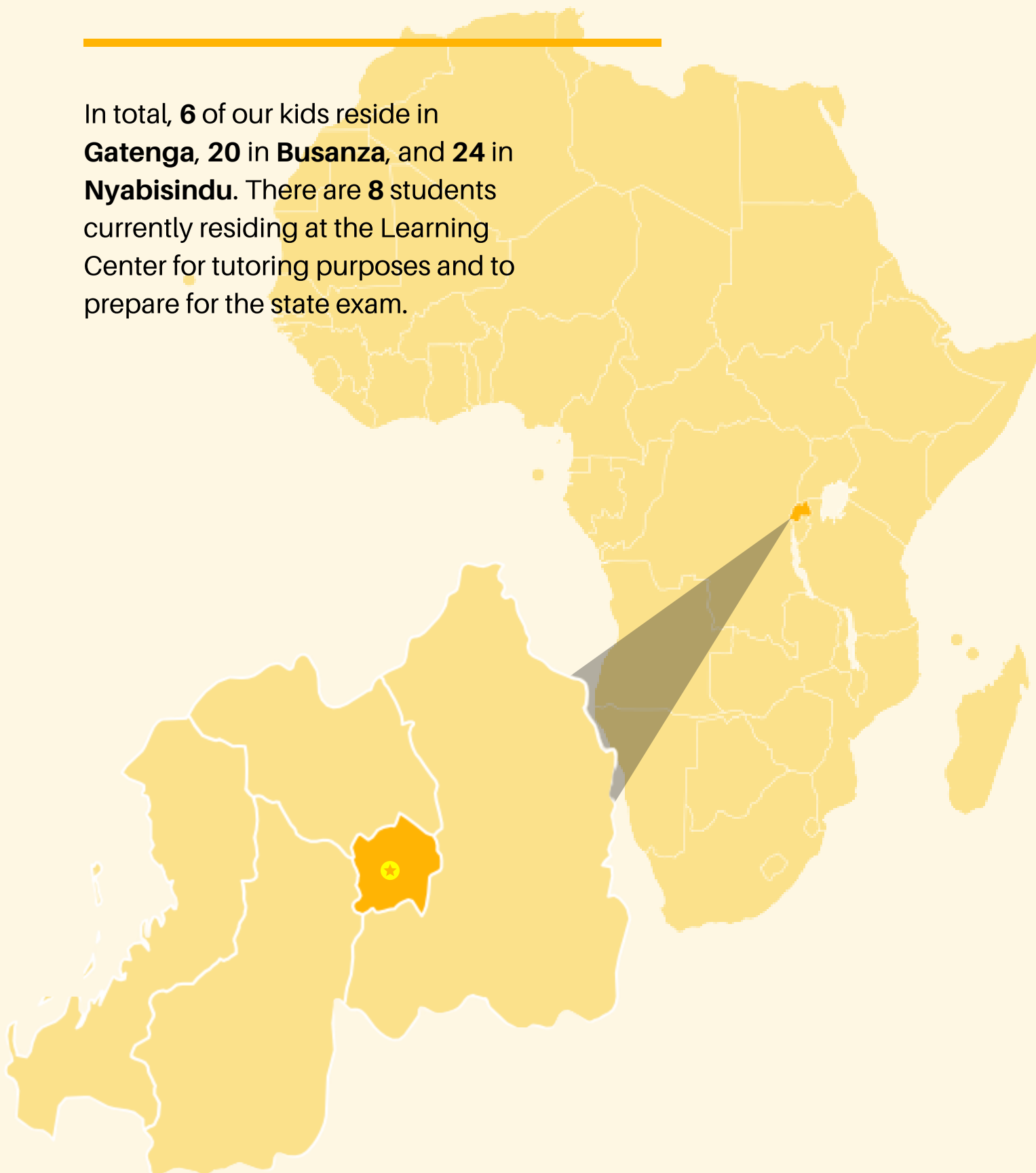
We worked with 50 kids in 2020 (compared to 28 in 2019) and developed multiple partnerships including with Panera Bread for percentage nights, two schools in Research Triangle Park, and a youth soccer league. In 2021, we plan to significantly expand our outreach through strategic corporate, community, nonprofit, and vocational partnerships.



KIGALI CITY, RWANDA

WHERE WE WORK

In total, **6** of our kids reside in **Gatenga**, **20** in **Busanza**, and **24** in **Nyabisindu**. There are **8** students currently residing at the Learning Center for tutoring purposes and to prepare for the state exam.



A MAJOR MILESTONE

50 FAMILIES SERVED

Thanks to our partnership with Amahoro (Peace) Builders and our volunteers, we have been able to support 50 families in Rwanda. It's an incredible milestone that only continues to multiply.



OUR PILLARS

We support our students in four key ways.

AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING

We support our children's education by offering after school programs, and working with their teachers.

BASIC NEEDS ASSISTANCE

We provide our children with temporary housing, clean water, meals, clothing, and a safe space for continued education.

COUNSELING SERVICES

We offer counseling sessions to our children and their families for continued emotional support.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Through our lab, we boost our kids' confidence and curiosity by teaching them essential computer skills.



OUR BOARD

US BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALPHONSINE IMANIRAGUHA ANDERSON

CHANTELLE BREITHAAPT

MICHELE DAY

KARINE ELSEN

DEVIN HOOD

VINAY PATEL

ANISHA SIVAKUMAR

TSCHUDY SMITH

US OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

ALPHONSINE IMANIRAGUHA ANDERSON, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER**

CHANTELLE BREITHAAPT, **CFO**

ABIJURU LINE (KADO CI)

SUCCESS STORIES

At Rising Above the Storms, we have seen our children impacted by family issues, violence, or even an identity crisis. Since the age of nine years old Abijuru Line, now 14, has come to our center because of such factors. As a street child, he faced critical conditions such as using drugs, theft, and intra-group violence. Recognizing his circumstances, he accepted our invitation to attend counseling with the goal to experience a social and emotional transformation.

As a part of our process to rehabilitate Line after just two months our team met with his family to identify what pushed him onto the street in the first place and what triggers would potentially pull him back. By doing so, we were able to successfully reintegrate him with his family and school.

Line's success did not come without struggle. During this time, his father left the family leaving his mother to struggle to provide basic needs alone. His mother would then turn to unhealthy activities. The center intervened by providing family counseling.

Line was able to resume his primary school classes, sat for his primary six (6th grade) national exam, and graduated among the top in the country. He is now in senior school one (7th grade). He does well in his academics and is among the best football (soccer) players on the team. We continue to work with Line in group counseling and keep a close eye on how we can develop his talents. More importantly, we continue to see a positive change in his behavior, and he dreams of continuing his education and like many of our kids, wishes to be the best soccer player in the world.



Note: In Rwanda **P1-P6** or **Primary 1-6** is equivalent to **1st to 6th Grade** in the United States. **Senior 1 - 6** can be compared to **7th to 12th Grade**.

ANDREW MUCYO

SUCCESS STORIES

Born into a disorganized and conflicting family, Andrew faced domestic violence and poverty early in his life. This led him to drop out of school and join the street life. He continued to be abused by his father and relatives and was not loved or cared for. Feeling hopeless and depressed, he consumed drugs and slept outdoors.

At the age of 12 years old, he accepted our invitation to attend counseling at the center. A few months later, we were able to get his family to begin family counseling as well. This arrangement made Andrew's integration back into his family and school much easier.

Andrew, committed to change, resumed primary school two. He was brilliant! At 16 years old, he is now in P5. We have seen him become strong in making decisions and is a well-disciplined and wonderful peace maker in the group. He dreams of becoming a medical doctor and the best football (soccer) defender in the world.



IRUMVA DANIEL

SUCCESS STORIES

Born to a teenage mother without the means to take care of him, Daniel was left as a baby to be raised by his grandmother. He grew up feeling frustrated with his home life, constantly asking to live with his mother who routinely turned him away. Attempting to fill the void in his heart created by a lack of a loving home environment, Daniel dedicated his energy to life on the streets. He had no choice but to engage in destructive behaviors to survive the harsh conditions.

During this challenging period of his life, Daniel accepted an invitation to attend counseling for one year accommodated by Amakoro Builders. He started P1 at the age of 12 and became a driven student who flawlessly hit his academic targets. With help from the center, he pursued family counseling with his mother and grandmother and began rekindling and rebuilding their relationship. At last, his desire to build a loving home was coming true.

He is currently 16 years old, studying in P4, and lives with his mother. Through the adversity faced in the streets during early childhood, he has developed exemplary resilience that he carries forth to this day. He has refocused his energy on his studies and become a responsible, level-headed student. After completing P6, Daniel intends to go into welding. Outside of studies, Daniel is a talented striker on the football (soccer) team and plans to become the best player in the world.



IDRISSA DUSENGIMANA

SUCCESS STORIES

As a child, life became difficult for Idrissa and his siblings when his parents separated. His mother was left with the children and did not have the resources to satisfy their basic needs. Feeling neglected and abused, Idrissa turned to a life on the streets, stealing food and only returning home late at night to sleep. Education was not a priority to him, and he attended school for only a few days during his early childhood.

At the age of 15 years old, he received an invitation to attend counseling at the center. His mental health and motivation improved drastically. His mother was impressed by her son's improvements and attended counseling as well three months later. This was a remarkable success, and they subsequently enrolled in family counseling to further develop a healthy relationship.

With this intervention and education, Idrissa readily reintegrated into school and made tremendous progress. At 19 years old, he is now a well-disciplined pupil in senior six, always first in the class with exceptional marks. Idrissa has undertaken vocational training in general mechanics and looks forward to becoming a mechanical engineer at the highest level.



OUR EVENTS

While the COVID-19 pandemic limited our ability to hold in-person events in 2020, we were still able to build community and bring our volunteers and supporters together in new ways.

We are excited to take our learnings from a virtual 2020 to build a hybrid future of both in-person and virtual events to increase the footprint of Rising Above the Storms in the future.

AMAZON DRIVE

For three weeks in December, we focused an Amazon Wish List Drive on sports equipment, clothing, and school resources.

The Result

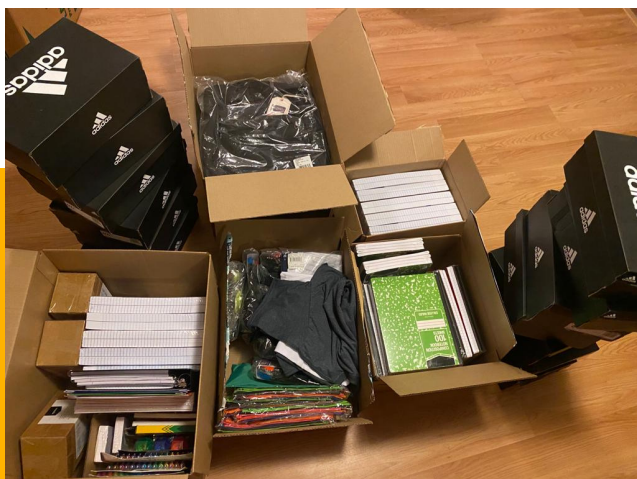
\$2K in Wishes Fulfilled

RAFFLE AND LIVESTREAM

In September, we hosted a global, live-streamed panel of nonprofit leaders on Cisco's Virtual Events Hub and over social. This event drove traffic to our raffle.

The Result

\$3K Raised Through Raffle



BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS

INCOME SOURCES

- Bright Funds (corporate matching)
- Marketing Campaigns
- Triangle Community Foundation
- Virtual Events
- Cisco Matching Gifts Program
- Individual Contributors (Donors)
- Amazon Wish List
- Amazon Smile Program

EXPENSES

- Administrative Tools (QuickBooks - US)
- Marketing & Advertising
- Building for RLC (Rent)
- Payroll and Taxes (Rwanda Staff)
- Transportation & Utilities
- School Fees
- Computer, grocery, and living
- RLC Admin



FINANCIALS

\$60.4K

total consolidated revenue
in the past fiscal year

IN 2020, WE INVESTED

\$33.6K in the Rwanda
Learning Center

\$2K for operating
expenses

NET ASSETS

2020: **\$46.2K**

2019: **\$25.8K**



ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

\$35,609

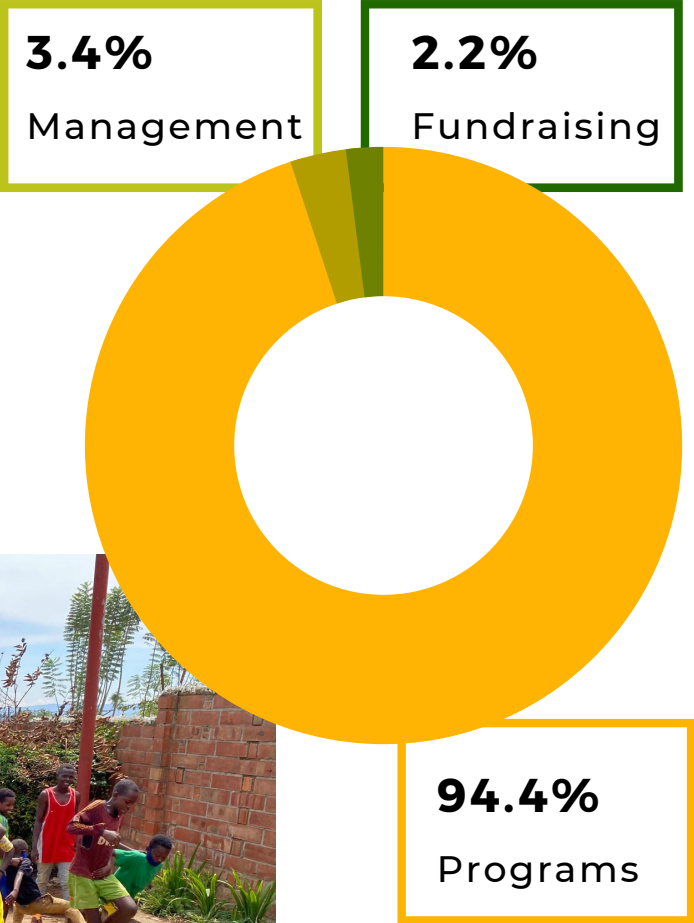
Total Expenses in 2020

IN 2020, WE SPENT

\$790 on Fundraising

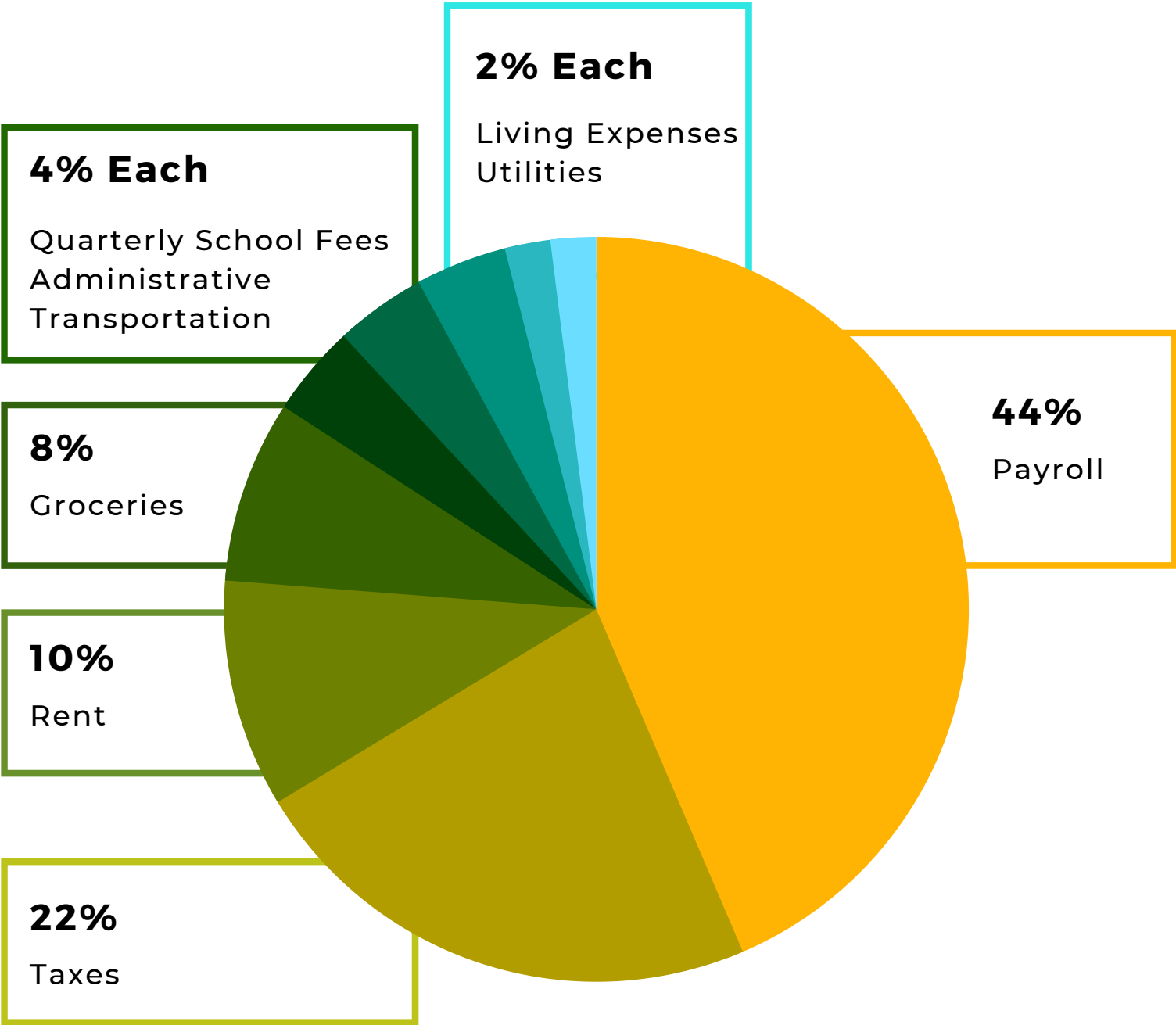
\$1,219 on Management and General Expenses

\$33,600 on Program-related expenses.



ALLOCATION OF PROGRAM EXPENSES

The following breakdown shows how much we spend on each program as a percent of total Programmatic expenses.



CLOSING WORDS

When I look back to when we started and where we are today, it brings me immense gratitude. Along the journey, I met incredible people who believed in me and decided to walk with me. Everything you see in this report and beyond is a testament to what joined forces can do: incredible board of directors, US volunteer team, donors and sponsors, fans and supporters around the globe. You all make my dream become a reality, every day! Thank you so much for believing in me, in my vision and mission to ensure vulnerable children feel loved and cared for.

After I lost my parents, I was no longer told that I had a brighter future. I grew up without knowing that I was really good in school, or hearing that someone was proud of me. My dream is that these kids will know how proud I am to have overcome what they are going through and that their future is bright. They have my word.

I am very grateful beyond words!

Alphonsine Imaniraguha Anderson



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