



THE
12 COMMUNITY
AREAS OF
Transformation



Children's HopeChest exists to glorify God by releasing the potential of orphaned and impoverished children and their communities. We do this through partnerships that cultivate sustainable two-way transformation.





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► INTRODUCTION

The question that we hear most often is,

“What makes you different from other leading child sponsorship organizations?”

The short answer is that most sponsorship organizations focus on one-to-one child sponsorship and Children’s HopeChest focuses on integrating those sponsorship and donor commitments into transforming the communities in which those children live — but the longer answer is much more interesting.

We use the word “holistic” frequently at Children’s HopeChest to explain how we endeavor to care for all dimensions of the child and the community, not just one aspect of their lives.

We recognize the importance of addressing the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual requirements for an individual’s growth, as well as impacting all the various sectors of society of the communities in which they live.

What HopeChest aims to do is work alongside local community leaders to mend the broken relationships within the various sectors of society to reflect God’s Kingdom. We attempt to address the roots of poverty, not merely the symptoms. In their book, “When Helping Hurts,” Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert state, “If we treat only the symptoms or if we misdiagnose the underlying problem, we will not improve their situation, and we might actually make their lives worse.” To understand and address the underlying problems that cause poverty we must look at communities through 12 different lenses.



THE 12 PRIMARY AREAS

The 12 primary areas of community transformation that we wish to focus upon are agriculture and animal husbandry, arts and entertainment, communication and technology, infrastructure, economic development, family development, government, education, health and hygiene, security and justice, medical support, and nonprofit organizations. Committed to holistic transformation, when we partner with a community, we aim to impact as many of these primary areas as possible. The more community areas that are impacted, the longer the program will be sustainable.

TWO THINGS WORTH NOTING

The first thing we would like to note is that rather than walk into communities and tell them how to change or “westernize” them, we walk with community leaders who know their communities best and work toward their vision of sustainability and success.

The second thing we would like to clarify is that neither discipleship nor the church appears on our list of 12 community sectors, because the body of Christ, and discipleship, should permeate each of these areas and not be separated from them.



Join us as we walk through why each of the 12 community areas are important to long-term sustainable transformation and as we share real stories of transformation from each country of how we put our methods into practice. ►

► Community Area No. 1: Agriculture and Animal Husbandry



The ability to cultivate land and grow sustenance from soil is not only a command from God, but a gift from God as well. From the very beginning, we were called to “fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28), being good stewards of the environment, because from it we would be able to sustain ourselves. In the Garden, God told his new creation, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food” (Genesis 1:29). When we partner with a community, we work with community leaders to help them discover possible agricultural and animal husbandry projects and find ways to implement them so that this can move individuals in that community from barely surviving toward increased sustainability.



These children in Eswatini who got to pick their own cabbages at the Bhobokazi, Ludlati, Thembeni and Lesibovu CarePoints are nothing but smiles! (In partnership with Adventures in Missions)

Environmental management plays a massive role in long-term community transformation because in the communities where agricultural projects are possible, increased food security is also possible. **For this reason, when surveying the assets/resources that a community possesses, the potential for agriculture and animal husbandry are always a high priority.** Food security is a concept that needs to be better understood.

Food Security is achieved when the assets/resources of a community are employed in ways that empower all the individuals of that community to have either the physical ability to raise their own food, the ability to barter in exchange for food, or the economic means and access to purchase it, to the extent that they can live without undue concern about obtaining food in quantities sufficient, and of a kind necessary, to meet their dietary needs and empower them to live lives that are healthy and productive.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

Aside from establishing food security, there are numerous ways that agriculture and animal husbandry projects benefit individuals and communities. Part of our mission at HopeChest is to restore dignity to vulnerable children and their communities. This occurs through agriculture and animal husbandry when impoverished individuals in a community take ownership of crops and are no longer dependent



on others to give them food—a basic survival need. It is an innate desire for parents to provide adequate nutrition for their children, but many parents who live in extreme poverty experience shame or devastation when they cannot fulfill this desire. When parents and guardians learn how to cultivate their land, they can provide for their children.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

There are numerous ways that CarePoints can implement agricultural and animal husbandry projects with sustainability in mind. One example is irrigation management. Many CarePoints treat water like a precious and oftentimes limited resource, and recycle their water, using “gray” or nonpotable water to irrigate their crops. Sustainability can also mean planting crops with roots that are easy to break off and multiply. It can also include raising animals that can be used for numerous purposes, or raising chickens either for consumption or meat production for sale. Other options could be sheep for consumption, or for wool production, or other resources that can be sold.

Stories of Hope

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Part of being a good steward of the environment is keeping it free of waste and litter and taking ownership of it. An excellent example of environmental ingenuity within a community is a unique project at the Ngungwane CarePoint in Eswatini.

Two times a month, children participate in an environmentally friendly walk around Ngungwane. This CarePoint has worked hard to get rubbish bins which are placed at strategic points alongside the road that lead to the bus stations. They are marked with information to help pedestrians throw trash into the appropriate bins so they can be recycled. The plan is to recycle the waste to be made into mats, furniture, and building materials. The children at Ngungwane are enthusiastic about taking ownership of their CarePoint and keeping it clean while contributing to keeping the environment safe and reusing materials. The CarePoint staff is hopeful that this project will take flight and impact many other communities once the project is perfected.

“May God bless all these ideas and the brains behind such projects. May such projects bring glory and hope to the Kingdom of God,” says Musa, long-term HopeChest/Adventures in Missions (AIM) staff.



“I was given one goat when the project began. But now, I have a cow and six goats. These goats have supported me with most of my basic needs. I buy my own clothes, school requirements, and pocket money. This is a great support to me, and I know in two years I will have six cows and I will be wealthy and self-sustaining.” Nelson, 20 years old (Wera CarePoint | Uganda)



SELLING CHICKENS

In Guatemala, one of the biggest challenges that the Bethlehem community faces are cases of malnutrition among children. In response to this issue, Bethlehem CarePoint is implementing an animal husbandry project with chickens. Some of the chickens will be used for the people at the CarePoint to increase nutrition, but most of the meat will be sold at the local market and neighboring communities. Right now, there are 300 chickens growing in the CarePoint's chicken house. This project has so far proved to be sustainable and helpful for the CarePoint community, and the current plan is to buy 1,000 more chickens! Each family involved in this activity can also generate some income for themselves. Ideally, they can buy the chickens at a reasonable cost from the CarePoint, so they can sell it at a competitive price in the market.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

In 2017, HopeChest facilitated numerous agricultural projects, including gardens for 45 schools in Uganda, many of them growing sweet potatoes! These gardens are long-term projects that involve young students, their parents, and even community members. A portion of the harvest yielded over two million sweet potatoes, which fed over 23,000 children! In addition to creating increased food security, the agricultural projects in Uganda have enhanced the relationships between HopeChest and the School Management Committees, as well as strengthened the relationships between our in-country staff and the children's guardians as they worked in the garden together.



God created all things to propagate from seeds. **Every seed has unknown and immeasurable potential.** Particularly in the area of agriculture and animal husbandry, we begin to see the power of multiplication that God has given to mankind, and God's plan of redemption becomes increasingly clear as communities work to achieve greater degrees of sustaining themselves. He has given us all that is needed, not just to survive, but to actually thrive in life.

► Community Area No. 2:

Arts and Recreation



In the beginning, God created...

At times, we may overlook the very creative nature of God. God is the original Creator. He can start with nothing and create something. We are created in His image to be created creators. God wants us to be like Him and has built within humans the ability to design and develop everything from ideas in literature to the ability to put a person into outer space.

How much more does He want us to find creative solutions to the issues we encounter in society? God has embedded resources and the means for communities to sustain themselves and to create solutions for the lives of those within them as well.

Madeleine L'Engle describes the gift of using our creativity in her book, "Walking on Water."

To echo L'Engle, creativity is a way of living life, and we constantly see the innovation and creativity of our in-country staff and local leaders when it comes to solving societal challenges.

"But unless we are creators we are not fully alive. What do I mean by creators? Not only artists, whose acts of creation are the obvious ones of working with paint or clay or words. Creativity is a way of living life, no matter our vocation or how we earn our living. Creativity is not limited to the arts, or having some kind of important career."

The Bible also tells us that God rejoices and has reason to share that joy with us. We are to use our creativity not only to sustain ourselves but to also find reasons to enjoy life. The arts and entertainment are multifaceted. For some it is to create media that expresses ideas and concepts worthy of deeper thought and consideration. For others, it may be lighthearted and relaxing. Still, for others it may actually be therapeutic.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

1) Growth of Income

One of the many beneficial programs offered through our partnership with Moldova includes the Psychological Art Studio (PAS). This program is designed to enhance the psycho-emotional, mental, and social wellbeing of people struggling with pain, fears, depression, and the aftermath of traumatic





experiences. **Through art-therapy, PAS seeks to help people find hope and strength who are experiencing pain, cope with challenging life experiences, and find their way to deal with them.** After the participants create their art, they have the option to sell their crafts through Art Story, an income-generating shop for the women and their Urban Center.

Similarly, in Eswatini, a project was established to help teenage mothers in the community create handcrafted products to generate income. **This project helps the young mothers financially by teaching them how to make products that they can sell, but it also creates a safe place for them to build strong relationships with other girls and to be mentored by a CarePoint leader.** It is common for young girls who get pregnant to leave their children behind with their grandparents. This handcraft project at the CarePoint helps the girls by teaching them skills to stand up under the financial and emotional pressures that they face.

Programs like these in Eswatini and Moldova help break the cycle of poverty that individuals fall into through creating art within circles of psychological and emotional support.

2) Mentorship and Healthy Relationships

Many of our CarePoints have a sports ministry, which provides mentorship and leadership for children who otherwise have lost their parents or don't have healthy adult role models in their lives. **In the sports groups created at CarePoints, children gain someone who spends time getting to know them, prays with them, and encourages them to use their talents and abilities for God.** The children also learn the skills of teamwork and have the opportunity to build healthy relationships with other children their age who have grown up with similar life experiences. These sports ministries provide a practical field on which the children learn skills such as how to compete in a healthy way, respect your competitor, deal with victories and defeats, and how to develop a healthy self-image.



3) Bringing Communities Together

Arts and recreation create reasons for individuals to break barriers between communities and experience healing and deepening relationships. In Russia, children living at the orphanages we serve often put together plays and performances for their North American friends to celebrate their visit to the orphanage or Ministry Center. **Putting on these plays is a way for the Russian children to share their culture, express their creativity, and build their public speaking skills.**



Last year Eswatini held a choir competition for all of the children who attend the CarePoints. This competition brought children together at their CarePoints as they cheered on one another and traveled to compete. **Additionally, when children and young adults travel for competitions, they have the chance to meet and build relationships with people they otherwise would never have had the opportunity to meet!**

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CHAZILE'S STORY

Chazile is using her talents to bring praise to God! She won a trophy for being the best soprano soloist during the high school music competition! Everyone at the Bhobokazi CarePoint in Eswatini celebrated her victory. Chazile now has ambitions to form a choral music choir at the CarePoint. Chazile sang her winning song for all of the CarePoint children and they screamed for an encore. She has a stunning voice and her community is so proud of how she is cultivating her talents! Her artistic ambitions are bringing together other children who want to use their voices to praise God.



"I learned about stepping up. I learned about God and how He always dwells in us. This month I won a trophy, which I dedicate to all my fellow brothers and sisters here." Chazile

ENCOURAGING ARTISTIC TALENT

Julius is a talented young man who attends the Katuba CarePoint in Uganda. HopeChest staff recognized his talent and enrolled him in a course at Magezi Art Exhibition. Magezi is a prominent art gallery that has won several certificates for performance in the national art exhibition. Julius has taken part in the art exhibition three times and has acquired even more skill and talent since he started. He has painted 17 pieces and each range between 27 to 41 dollars. When he completes his education, as well as his art pieces, he can start his own art gallery that will help him to be self-sufficient.



"My name is Julius. I thank God to see that I am now also exposed to the city of Kampala where I study from my arts lessons. I would never get here without the support of HopeChest. May God bless you in abundance." Julius

SUCCESS THROUGH SOCCER

When Bandzile was a small boy, his father died, and his mother struggled to provide for him. When he began attending the Mpholi CarePoint in Eswatini, he joined the CarePoint soccer team and gained daily nutritious meals, educational support, and healthy mentors. Bandzile now plays for a premier soccer team called the Mweni Pirates under 20! Being selected to play on a premier soccer team is a huge accomplishment and speaks volumes of Bandzile's dedication, ambition, and talent.



At many of our CarePoints, it is necessary to begin at the “survive” stage of meeting critical needs. However, when we can begin to nurture individuals in areas of arts and recreation, we begin to see their lives transition from surviving to thriving and succeeding in life.

HopeChest's in-country staff do a remarkable job of helping the children and young adults we serve to recognize and cultivate their ability to create. This is yet another example of how working to bring change in a sector of society can help to produce the long-term effect of community transformation and the transformation of individual lives.

► Community Area No. 3: Communications/Technology



In today's world, we are inundated with input from various forms of media. Depending upon how it is used, technology can be a servant or a master. Communications consist of personal communications, such as phones, and radios; and mass communications, such as television and music; and technology consists of people around the world spending many hours per week listening to some form of media. These messages that we receive have a definite impact upon our thinking and our worldview. Many of these messages align with humanism and materialism. But if we can use the wonderful benefits of information technology to enhance what we do in the Biblical context and worldview, it is a gift from God.

TECHNOLOGY IS EXPANDING OUR MISSION

An example of technology expanding our mission is HopeChest's partnership with ForGood. ForGood provides an evaluation and reporting service for HopeChest, which we have begun to implement at our CarePoints. It helps us capture and profile information for each child, so that we can expand our reach—no longer having to take time to fill out multiple handwritten forms. The time our CarePoint staff must take to collect important data has been drastically reduced, allowing them to have more time to spend mentoring and encouraging the children they work with. This technology helps to improve communications, empowers us to make informed decisions, and pushes us to accomplish greater goals.



Our staff in Uganda with their ForGood certificates of completion!

HopeChest is continually investigating and researching means to keep our partners aware of the daily impact they are having on children and impoverished communities. With this cutting edge technology, we are able to measure the success of our programs and get information to our sponsors and donors more quickly and accurately. **The use of this technology is helping HopeChest to maintain better oversight, improved measurements and evaluation of programs and projects, and to guide us toward achieving our goals of increased self-sustainability of the CarePoints and the children we are serving.** This technology also enhances our ability to connect and increase the engagement of the communities between our country locations and their North American partners. Our ability to impact communities hinges on partnering communities that are thousands of miles away. ForGood allows both partners to do life together and shrinks the distance between the communities to continue to be engaged from halfway around the world. What once was a cumbersome and a time-consuming process has now been streamlined through this innovative technology.

ACCESSIBLE INTERNET

Another example of technology benefiting the children we serve is seen in the town of Puerto Abajo in Guatemala, where children were hitchhiking into a neighboring town to use the internet cafes for their homework, which made them vulnerable and potentially exposed to both unfiltered content on the internet and possibly being trafficked or assaulted. **The Puerto Abajo CarePoint was able to bring internet access into the CarePoint, which now provides a safe environment for children to learn and work on their studies.** Through the educational support, children have the ability to pursue their dreams and expand their skillset in many areas, including becoming engineers and returning to invest in their community.

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COMPUTER TRAINING

Children at the Mkhombokati CarePoint in Eswatini, many of whom do not have electricity in their homes, are learning how to use computers at the CarePoint! There are 10 children at the CarePoint who are the most dedicated to learning how to use the computers, and before their lesson begins they can be found patiently waiting outside the building. They often listen to the lesson over and over again to be sure that they fully understand it. When the lesson ends, many of the children stay to play and explore on the computers.



These children are learning a skill that will increase their employment opportunities in the future and will help them in their future studies. As the children excitedly talk about what they are learning, more children will become interested and the CarePoint will be able to expand the lessons.

BINI'S STORY

Meet Bini! He lives in Ethiopia and wants to study computer science, so he can develop software that will help spread the gospel and teach others about Jesus. He believes that God has created Him to do great things, not for himself, but for the glory of God! We are inspired by young men like Bini who have a passion for both technology and sharing Christ's love.



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Through Community-to-Community partnerships, the Murole CarePoint in Uganda has gained 23 computers to be used by the village and the children who attend Murole Prep School. Now, with the help of the internet and these computers, the children have an entirely new educational experience and unlimited access to information.



► Community Area No. 4: Infrastructure



The infrastructure of societies is akin to the inner workings of our body. When we eat, we begin a process of digesting our food. In order for the food to provide nutrition to the various parts of our bodies, there are a number of systems that must work together to accomplish this, transporting resources to where they need to go. Similarly, infrastructure must work harmoniously within various aspects of society in order to provide individuals with accessibility to water and adequate nutrition. Many communities that HopeChest partners with are still developing their infrastructure to improve the ease of accessibility to essential resources. HopeChest has joined with community leaders to assess these situations and create viable solutions to create means of enhancing community sustainability.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

In terms of infrastructure, one focus is on wells and how to implement reusable energy. All of the infrastructure projects that HopeChest and local staff develop are created with this in mind that they seek to increase sustainability in a community. For example, a well with a solar-powered pump in Eswatini not only provides water for the community, but it also creates the possibility of increased nutrition and food security by allowing in-country staff to create an irrigation system in the midst of Eswatini's drought so that people can plant and harvest their own food. It also builds toward the possibility of increased crop-growth, improved nutrition and food security by allowing in-country staff to create an irrigation system.



This will likely result in children being able to more regularly attend school, which will also improve their chances of better employment. Furthermore, it creates jobs for those who may otherwise be unemployed.

What we are looking at is not a compartmentalized view of a community, but we are always looking to find how one intervention can provide multiple outputs and outcomes.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

HopeChest is also invested in infrastructure projects such as the construction and use of solar panels to power reusable energy. By installing solar panels on the sides of homes in Eswatini, many who live in rural areas with limited access to electricity can now light and seasonally heat their homes. The light produced from the installed solar panels has helped them with their studies, prevented encounters with snakes, prevented fires since they are no longer using candles, and has allowed them to stay connected within their community by charging their phones as well as some of their neighbors' phones.



Stories of Hope

SOLAR-POWERED COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The solar panel at the top of this multi-purpose building at Adacar CarePoint in Uganda powers reusable energy for the building!



This solar panel at the Ekudzeni CarePoint in Eswatini is used to power their community water pump!



BERUK'S STORY

Beruk is a young man who lives in Ethiopia and has attended the Onesimus CarePoint since first grade. His parents had passed away, but despite the many challenges that he has faced, he has become a strong man and worked hard. After he finished school he was accepted to college and is studying engineering with the hope to support his sister and others in his community. With educational support at our CarePoints, children are becoming equipped to further their education and invest in their communities with their professional skills.



CRISTIAN'S STORY

Meet Cristian! He has attended Centro de Alcance CarePoint in Guatemala for nine years, and he is the oldest of six siblings. When he was young, his father passed away due to drug and alcohol abuse, but even with such challenging circumstances, Cristian has been an outstanding student with great grades. This year Cristian is finishing high school, and thanks to his diligence, he now has a job! Cristian wants to continue his studies in college and would like to be a Systems Engineer. Educational support at the CarePoint has empowered Cristian, and many children like him to study technology and engineering! Our hope is that these children will return to invest in their communities after gaining knowledge and expertise in college.



The implementation of infrastructure can be used as a tremendous blessing in the lives of individuals and communities to help both become increasingly self-sustained.

► Community Area No. 5:

Economic Development



There are many ill-conceived perceptions about work. To many, the word “work” implies that it is not fun. By our use of the word, we think of unpleasant circumstances where an activity was difficult or hard to complete – it was work, not fun.

This carries over in our thinking as Christians as well. Many consider work to be a result of the curse after the Fall of Mankind. However, when we read Genesis closely, we see that shortly after God created human beings, He told Adam and Eve that they were to take care of the garden – to work and cultivate the land. This all happened prior to the Fall – not after the Fall. Even God worked for six days and then He rested on the seventh day!

There was no original intention of work to be perceived as punishment. Work was not a result of the curse nor was it meant to be something bad. Work has a much broader concept and context. **The context of work is that it is a means for human beings to create – together with God.**

God, who created us in His image, has called us to work together with Him – to create together with Him. It seems that God receives great joy from seeing us, as His creation, creating with Him, fulfilling our purpose and calling.



Tailoring program participants at Wera CarePoint, Uganda

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

We see many situations in our world today, where international development does not function in a way that sustains people and communities. Many people think that all that is needed is to re-distribute the wealth – some have too much; others have too little. However, if we do not build into people’s lives an understanding of how to manage and multiply the resources that they have, it is not likely that they will know how to be good stewards of them. We must help them to properly use, leverage, and increase the resources that they have.

Children’s Hopechest is engaged with communities that have experienced extreme poverty. While some would starve or suffer deeply without the basics of food, clothing, and shelter, we do not want to simply give handouts on a long-term scale. There is an appropriate time to provide aid, especially when there has been a natural disaster or even a man-created circumstance, such as war. The problem is that the idea of handing out material goods and money as aid has become the de facto way of attempting to address poverty. **Where charitable organizations have done this in the past, it has only increased the sense of dependency that impoverished individuals have on others to provide for what is needed.**

We do not want to be “needs-based” in what we do. We are looking for the assets and resources already existing – perhaps dormant – in a community and in the lives of those who live there.

We must encourage communities to use “asset-based” assessments to discover what resources and skill sets have been buried and lie dormant. There will be many such “gifts,” including those who have innovative minds—entrepreneurs. As these people exercise their gifts and talents in various ways, we will experience how they love to create ideas and express those ideas in the form of businesses. As a result, they provide wonderful opportunities as these businesses begin to employ others to help their businesses function well. Thereby, we see that jobs are created, people are employed, and goods and services are produced.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

One of the things that we consciously focus on in the countries where we work is to help orphaned and vulnerable children and their families to either find meaningful employment, or to create small businesses that will sustain themselves and also employ others in meaningful ways. Hopefully, these will not just be “jobs.” It is important that these work opportunities are meaningful both for those who are employed but also for those who receive the beneficial goods and services from them.

HopeChest provides many unique programs that help to connect vulnerable individuals with meaningful

employment. At our Kirov Ministry Center in Russia, Kirov Employment Agency specialists conduct evaluations of program participants to determine their professional inclinations and job compatibilities in a four-month program called Jobs for Life. Support is also given at Ministry Centers to help youth and young adults put together resumes, find job openings, communicate in an interview, and succeed within their workplace.

HopeChest desires to empower individuals in the communities we serve to find work that they are suited for, and hopefully that they enjoy, so that they can contribute to their own self-sustainability, as well as their communities.



Way to Success is a two-year program in Moldova, designed to equip and empower young people, ages 16-21, to become self-sustainable and resistant to manipulation and risky behavior while they also learn to respond to the acute needs and problems of local communities that gives equal attention to the development of professional and life skills.



Jobs for Life is a program at the Kirov Ministry Center in Russia. Kirov Employment Agency specialists conduct evaluations of program participants to determine their professional inclinations and job compatibilities in this four-month program.

VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

As HopeChest endeavors to empower communities, we work to help the leaders of the CarePoints and local communities in their efforts to train youth in vocational and life skills. As young people learn these skills, they will use them during their lifetimes to earn a living, and support their future families. A wonderful side effect is that it may help create jobs, and stimulate healthy growth in their local economies through the production of goods and services beneficial to communities.



Aluminum saucepan making at Bukedea CarePoint, Uganda

Through vocational training, participants are able to network within the job industry to establish connections for future employment or business, as well as gain practical experience.

HopeChest works with local leaders to develop income-generating activities with self-sustainability in mind.

COMMUNITY SAVINGS AND CO-OPS

As individuals work together in communities, this serves to teach them how to build healthy relationships and lifestyles. They can begin creating and working in local co-ops, establishing healthy habits of saving and investing, and building for their future.

In some communities, HopeChest partners with local experts to conduct trainings on group savings programs called Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). Members of the group commit to making a weekly deposit into their VSLA group. The money doesn't go to a bank, but is pooled and held in a lock box in a secure place. Each week the VSLA members meet as a group, make their deposits, and members of the VSLA can prepare a proposal to present to the committee seeking a loan. The loans are most often used for starting a business, but may also be used for building or improving their home, or paying education fees, or funding some other community project. Loans are charged 10% interest and when repaid, the interest goes into the VSLA account which is then paid out as profit to all the members based on their percentage of savings over the year. They then start the VSLA all over again for the next year. This program is having a tremendous impact on the villages in which we work as the notion of saving, investing, and capital return are sown into the communities. The dignity and honor VSLA's create are truly inspiring.



Simon's story is a remarkable example of how the VSLA program is transforming lives. Simon is a CarePoint head cook at Obwobwo CarePoint. He was so happy to be chosen as the chief cook, and he expressed feeling thankful because his wellbeing and the wellbeing of his family has changed through his employment. Now he can

"I had completely lost hope both in God and in myself because the consistent lack in my family was overwhelming and scary. I was not sure of what to eat the next day. But like a star falling out of the sky, Children's HopeChest fell right in the middle of my community and was an answer to many prayers we prayed in our local church." Simon



support his family and pay his children's school fees. Through the Village Savings and Loans Association at the CarePoint, he has also been able to save money and purchase two heads of cattle, which is a great achievement.

Stories of Hope

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

Sifiso grew up in the community of Timbutini in Eswatini. He gained a sponsor through Children's HopeChest when he was very young, and after graduating high school, he was accepted into the Swazi Leadership Academy (SLA). SLA is a remarkable program that provides vulnerable young adults the opportunity to live out their potential, and to learn life skills and business skills that help them become employable and manage, mentor, and employ others. After graduating from the program, Sifiso is now self-sustainable through his growing pig business. He not only provides for himself, but also helps to support his widowed mother and siblings!



FUTURE GOALS



Lawrence is a young man who graduated from Children's HopeChest's Uganda Leadership and Development Program (UGLDP), which is a program designed to help equip the future generation of leaders in Uganda!

"My name is Lawrence, and I am 23 years old, and am a nurse by profession. By God's grace I happened to be one of the members of the UGLDP class of 2017, for which I am very grateful, because it completely changed my whole life. Because of UGLDP — specifically the Work for a Living Program — I learned how to successfully job hunt, interview skills, how to get good pay, seek promotion and be cared for by my employer. After the course, I established my own health clinic in Ngariam sub-county with the goal and vision of expanding it to a level three health center by 2021."

INVESTING BACK INTO COMMUNITY

Bereket and her husband started their tailoring business through a loan and guidance from the Merkato CarePoint in Ethiopia. They have had the business for over two years and are currently selling wholesale products to retailers. Bereket and her husband plan to expand their business and hire more people in the future. Currently, they employ five people and her husband works as a mentor helping others with business development!



WATER PROJECTS

Local leaders in Ethiopia have created an innovative project that not only brings safe water to large communities, but it also employs over 100 guardians and caregivers of children who attend our CarePoints! To work at the water kiosks, the guardians are selected by a committee and go through business training, which includes basic accounting, keeping track of sales, and reading the water meters. As an initial business loan, HopeChest stocked the storefront with goods. At the end of the guardians' two years, they use part of the money they earned to restock the storefront for the next rotation of employees. By this time, guardians make enough profit to open up their own small businesses. This income-generating project brings hope to guardians and caregivers who are then able to provide for their children while receiving occupational training and gaining the financial resources they need to open up their own businesses!



ENTREPRENEUR WOMEN

At the Puerto Abajo CarePoint in Guatemala, 20 women — all mothers of children at the CarePoint — are learning how to make jam and hot sauce to sell in the community. The mothers are currently making strawberry, blackberry, and pineapple jam, and they recently started making green hot sauce. The mothers attended a course for a month to learn how to make the product and to understand some business practices to start selling the final product. The mothers gather once a week to prepare the products.



Human beings were created in God's image. We are to use this God-given calling to create sustainability for ourselves and for others, moving from dependence toward dignity. In doing so, we give Him glory.

► Community Area No. 6:

Family Development



As we look at the concept of “family,” it is important to recall how, from the beginning of time, God has established a healthy family unit as the core of all relationships, and describes resultant blessings.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, our relationships became damaged and broken. God made us as perfect vessels that could contain all of the wonderful things that He wants to pour into our lives. However, once this vessel was cracked and broken, it could no longer hold these blessings. We have transitioned ourselves to a state that is vastly less than what God had intended for us.

Now, we face poverty on so many levels – that of body, soul, mind and spirit. There is a sense of barrenness and a struggle to build healthy relationships and to support and sustain ourselves.

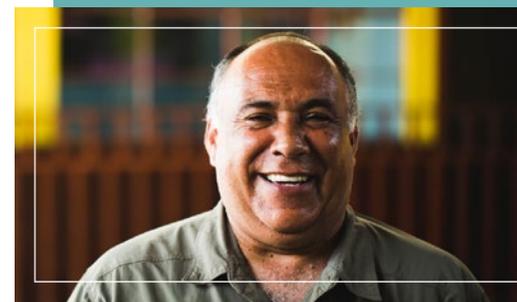
However, the entire Redemption story is the revelation of a God who wants to restore what was broken.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

There is an evident link between broken family relationships and an increase in criminality, violence, drug abuse, suicide, divorce and other aberrant behavior amongst children who have grown up in those family circumstances. Similarly, it is often true that amongst widows from broken families there is an increased rate of trafficking, prostitution, alcoholism, and suicide.

In many of the communities we partner with, families must navigate unique challenges, such as one or both parents who pass away from HIV/AIDS, families whose fathers have abandoned them, children who are raised by their grandparents or aunts and uncles, and even 10-year-olds who are now heads of households.

A primary focus of Children’s HopeChest’s work is to help bring restoration and healing to many of these broken relationships. In fact, we only go to communities within countries where there have been significant brokenness in the area of “family.” HopeChest’s mission is to build Kingdom-based relationships with local communities that will result in life transformation of their members as they reach out to empower and equip their orphaned and vulnerable children.



Although we can never fill the loss that orphaned children experience, Children’s HopeChest is determined to meet these children in their loss and provide a nutritious meal, basic medical care, and strong, healthy relationships. We are tremendously thankful for the men, such as Giuseppe, who work at our CarePoints and step up to provide mentorship, strength, and love to the children we serve.

James 1:27 is at the core of our mission: “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

The family is the core of every community, so we need healthy families at the core of society. **Our relationships with the people in our nuclear family are arguably the most impactful relationships of our lives.** HopeChest programs aim to speak life and healing into the pain that some of the children we serve experience.

Whether it’s marriage counseling or grief counseling or children renewed in their self-image, we begin to see communities healed and restored. These family-centric programs help to slow and stop generational cycles of abuse, insecurity, and pain.

Whenever families can begin to earn money to support themselves, we see a stark return of a sense of dignity and a lessening sense of dependence on others. This helps to relieve stress and can build health in the family unit. **By providing resources that equip parents to care for their children and empower individuals to navigate their own pain instead of projecting it onto others, HopeChest is helping to create more sustainable communities.**



It is fulfilling to see joy in the face of a mother who once was trying to raise her family alone, and now has encouragement and support as she cares for her family. (Addis Ababa CarePoint | Ethiopia)

Stories of Hope

HopeChest programs work toward keeping families together by equipping mothers and fathers to be healthy and conscientious parents; providing resources for parents to gain income and take care of their families; walking through marital and family conflict during home visits; discipling children to respect and communicate with their parents; and offering grief counseling for children who have experienced pain and loss. In certain cases where a child does not have any family, CarePoint staff advocate for and encourage the child by providing mentorship, compassion, and resources for them to succeed.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT + STRONG COMMUNITY

Adanech is the mother of Yosef who is sponsored through I Care for the Nation CarePoint in Ethiopia. “I am a single mother, a widow, and I have five kids. My husband died few years ago, and it became so hard to raise all the kids alone. I was very depressed and sad. I came to I Care for the Nation CarePoint and joined the psychological support program called ‘Buna Tetu’ meaning, ‘Come and Drink Coffee.’ When all the women talked and shared their experience, I became comforted and believed that I can



work hard to raise my children. Thanks to I Care, now I am a hardworking mother. I have confidence and can explain how I feel. Finally I want to say, thank you for all the support we get at the CarePoint,” says Adanech. Through psychological support and strong community, mothers are gaining the confidence and resources they need to take care of their families.



HOME VISITS

Home visits are an important part of CarePoint outreach, and each month, CarePoint staff select children to visit at their homes. This practice helps CarePoint staff to understand each child better and to encourage and invest in the children’s families. Our staff spend time getting to know a child’s challenges and opportunities at home, building trust between the CarePoint and the family, creating peace and communication in the midst of family conflict, helping a family budget, or teaching practices such as the importance of boiling water and washing hands.

MEDIATING FAMILY CONFLICTS

Juan is a new student in Camino al Cielo CarePoint in Guatemala. Previously, he attended a public school, but because of his bad behavior he could not continue studying in that school. At the beginning of the year, Juan, his mom, and the principal of Camino al Cielo talked through Juan’s feelings about his family and his behavior. His parents are divorced and his father currently lives in the United States. At home, Juan would have a bad attitude, which was difficult for his mother. During their talk, Juan was encouraged to honor his mom and he realized that he was not treating her well. Juan’s mom approached the CarePoint staff and told them that Juan is now a very different boy. He is active and helps his mom with the daily chores. He now strives in his studies and honors his mom by not getting into trouble. The CarePoint staff is so proud of Juan’s decisions. Our CarePoint staff in Guatemala, and around the world, genuinely care about the relationships that children have with their families, and whenever it is appropriate they are able to offer counseling or mediation.



FOSTER CARE TRAINING

Foster care trainings are a vital resource offered at the Vladimir Ministry Center, with the aim of increasing the success of healthy foster families. Through these trainings, foster parents and their children learn to overcome numerous challenges, as well as learn new beneficial skills, as they integrate and transform into a healthy family. These trainings are taught by individuals who are at the top of their field in Russia.



Children’s HopeChest aims to be the hands and feet of God’s love by empowering the orphaned, the vulnerable, and the widowed around the world. “God is a father of the fatherless, a defender of widows...” (Psalm 68:5).

► Community Area No. 7: Government



Participation in government and decisions of how to govern is an integral part of life and civil activity. God wants his people to be a part of shaping our society and restoring it on solid foundations. **For this reason, in the countries we serve, we aim to gain the respect and trust of local governments.**

By submitting ourselves to God's law and, just as importantly, by exercising "self-governance" in which we learn to exercise godly control over our emotions, our thoughts and our actions, we model God's law and promote it in our communities. The more self-governance that we exercise, the fewer laws our societies will need in order to maintain peace. Contrarily, the less self-governance in a society, the more laws will be required to try to maintain the peace.

Unfortunately, governments cannot legislate enough laws to ensure peace. If the people are unwilling to live under God's laws in their hearts, they will not live under external laws, either. When that happens, societies become increasingly chaotic and anarchistic. This is verified when James 4:1 says, "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?" We cannot legislate out of the hearts of human beings the wars that are in there until we submit to Christ and have His law in our hearts.



"Whereas we have a number of organizations in Rubanda district, Murole CarePoint has continued to set pace for others as community development is concerned. Helping improve children's health, socio-economic empowerment of communities, and equipping community members with vocational skills are key."
- Tophil (on far left), Rubanda District Community Development Officer (Murole CarePoint | Uganda)

Each community has its own governance that is in accordance with the country's constitution, as well as the national, state, and local laws. Christians need to be involved in all of these levels of government. They are the gatekeepers of societies and we want to go through the front gate, rather than like the thief who goes through the back. We want to work with the gatekeepers.



"As the community Chief, I just want to extend my sincere gratitude to the American people; a lot has been achieved over the short space of time. The CarePoint has become a place of hope to the children of this community. Thank you so much to HopeChest for finding it right to partner with this community. I want to assure all donors that the community leaders will continue to be hands-on to programs. On behalf of the King of Eswatini, government of Eswatini, and the nation, we are thankful." - Chief Mgebiseni (Bhalekane CarePoint | Eswatini)

In many countries, once local government sees the fruit produced from CarePoints and Ministry Centers, local leaders are more apt to lend their resources and voice to further our ministry.



Katya training foster parents at the Vladimir Ministry Center. This training program helps foster parents and their children navigate and talk through difficult situations.

In Russia, our Country Director, Katya, is often called upon by the Russian government for her expertise in foster care systems. She is at the top of her field and has certainly been recognized for it. Through the respect that she has earned and the knowledge that she shares, her voice is a part of shaping important aspects of foster care systems in Russia.

In Guatemala, the Puerto Abajo CarePoint leaders have built a relationship with the mayor of Puerto Abajo. Once he saw how the CarePoint leaders, Ismael and Mayra, were fighting to advocate for and serve the vulnerable children and their families in their community, they gained his trust and respect. A group of women whose children attend the CarePoint call themselves “Entrepreneur

Women” and make jam to sell in the community in order to better support their families. The mayor has granted them free usage of some facilities to cut down on their overhead costs.

In Eswatini, CarePoint staff paid a visit to the Chief of the Ekudzeni community. These visits serve to strengthen our partnerships with them and collaborate on some of their developmental goals for their communities and also to see how HopeChest can come alongside them in improving the wellbeing of the people.

Working with local governments has opened doors to many opportunities in the countries we work in.



The Entrepreneur Women at Puerto Abajo CarePoint making their delicious jam!

HOW DOES THIS CREATE SUSTAINABILITY?

HopeChest often works in communities where the citizens have lived in less-than-just societies.

We want to help children in these communities learn to understand and obey God’s laws and learn to self-govern their lives. It is our hope that they will also learn to participate in, and with, their governments to bring a standard of righteousness and peace for their communities. This creates sustainability through – in some cases – having the support of government, and – in other cases – building up the next generation of leaders to continue the work.

SLA is a three-year program designed to equip and empower Swazi youth to exercise their leadership abilities in practical ways. HopeChest launched the SLA to raise up new Christian leaders who are trained and prepared to lead Eswatini as a nation. Eswatini needs leaders – Christ-following leaders who desire to change the future of the nation.



“The overall goal of UGLDP is to equip and empower individuals with skills and practices that can empower them to become transformative and service-oriented leaders within their communities. This program is the future of Uganda.” Joseph, Uganda’s Country Director

In response to the lack of leadership in vulnerable communities that are suffering from poverty, corruption, and illiteracy, HopeChest has developed UGLDP. The UGLDP is similar to SLA in that it recognizes youth who have the potential to be great leaders and equips them with the skills necessary to serve others and give back to their community to create change.

Programs like these empower youth to recognize their own leadership ability and create sustainability in the communities they live in through becoming leaders and decision-makers in their nations.



“We are so grateful to Children’s HopeChest for the partnership created between Oditel and the partner community that has enabled our children to be empowered, get skills for earning a living, and even networking with the local government in ensuring service delivery is improved in Kapelebyong Sub County. This makes the government to easily attain its goals and vision of a middle-income nation. I particularly want to thank the partner community for sacrificing what God has blessed them with to help us here in Oditel.” Mr. Ouno, the LC III Chairperson Kapelebyong Sub County (Oditel CarePoint | Uganda)

It says in Proverbs 29:2, “When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.” As we build into the lives of these vulnerable children, we are helping them discover their God-given identity and find their places in society. As they learn to self-govern their lives, it is our hope that many will take their places of responsibility in their local and national governments.

► Community Area No. 8:

Education



In some countries, receiving an education is often taken for granted and people think that everyone has a right to go to school. However, education is not a right, but something to be worked for and cherished. Receiving an education opens doors to opportunities that may otherwise remain inaccessible. Just as a designer knows every aspect of how they created something, God knows how he has created each of us. Therefore, the first steps toward a real education are to know Him and His ways, which are the foundations of wisdom and knowledge. God wants each of us to discover things in life that will help us live up to the potential of how He created us. In Proverbs 1:7, scripture tells us: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..."

Knowing Him is the first step toward an education that will equip us for life.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

At many of the locations where we work, Children's Hopechest partners with communities in which many of the families are not able to send their children to school. **In some cases, they cannot afford it; in other cases, the parents need the children to work with them to earn sufficient money to survive; still in other situations, the parents are no longer living. For some families, the "heads of households" are the oldest surviving child - who may be only 10 or 12 years old.** In many of those cases, they have no option but to drop out of school and work in order to care for several younger siblings; to be sure that they can continue with their education.

A primary focus of HopeChest's work is to not only help these children survive but we also want to give them the tools to be able to live and sustain themselves. We want to help prepare them to break the cycle of poverty and to thrive in life. To achieve this goal, we often partially supplement what the family can contribute so that the child is actively attending school, and in some critical cases we cover all the required school fees and assessments for a child to be enrolled in school.

Many times, children, who are partnered with HopeChest's partners, come to a drop-in center in their community. As a part of the HopeChest programming at our CarePoints, they are integrated into Bible studies and personal discipleship because we believe that if we help children to know God, they will better understand the universe that He created.



Young women in Ethiopia striking a pose in their new school uniforms, provided by their CarePoint. These young women are Ethiopia's future doctors, lawyers, and leaders! (Kombolcha CarePoint | Ethiopia)

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

Education is more than just attending a school and going to classes. It is about learning how to live life. Education empowers people to learn and do things in life that would otherwise remain a mystery.

It is important that children do not just attend a CarePoint for many years and when they “age-out” of sponsorship, years later, have no idea what to do. Optimally, they will have received an education or vocational training that equips them to sustain themselves and, potentially, raise and care for a family.



“Hello, my name is Erick, and I want to thank you for the opportunity that you are giving me so I can learn a new language, which is very interesting and I enjoy learning it. I know that with this I will be able to get better job opportunities when I grow up,” says Erick, a 10-year-old active boy who loves playing soccer and wants to be a police officer when he grows up! Erick’s CarePoint in Guatemala places a large emphasis on educational support and vocational training. In this photo, Erick and other children from his CarePoint are on an educational field trip. (Grace of God Academy CarePoint | Guatemala)

PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD

All of the countries we work with place an emphasis on the power of education. In Russia, orphanage graduates can visit the Ministry Centers for homework help, internet, and assistance in applying for college or vocational programs. In Moldova, HopeChest has classes for youth to tutor and enhance the children’s education. This continues with vocational or business training in their teen years.

The My Special Treasure Educational Center, Centro de Alcance, and Colegio Israel CarePoints in Guatemala provide specific examples of how children are provided with educational resources such as tutoring, computer labs — which empower them to succeed in their studies, and vocational training.

Educational support does not exclusively mean covering school fees or uniform expenses. In Uganda and Eswatini, many CarePoints assist with community gardens, which are used for supplemental nutrition in schools. **When children eat before or in the middle of classes, they are able to concentrate on their studies with a full stomach instead of wondering when they will next eat.**



“Thank you so much Children’s HopeChest, for bringing hope into my family. Knowledge is power!”
–Nokwanda (Bhalekane CarePoint | Eswatini) in partnership with Adventures in Missions

Stories of Hope

BIRUK THE FUTURE ENGINEER

Biruk has been attending the Onesimus CarePoint in Ethiopia since first grade. His parents passed away when he was young, but he has one sister who lives with close relatives. Despite the grief of losing his family, Biruk has channelled his pain to become a strong young man and to work hard in his education. After he finished school, he joined university and is now studying engineering. He is a second year student and doing well in his classes. Full of hope, he dreams of investing back into his community by supporting others, including his sister. He is thankful for the educational support he is getting through HopeChest!



CARLOS THE FUTURE DOCTOR

Carlos is a teenager who lives in Guatemala. When he was born, his father left him and his mother, and under the pressures of single-parenthood, his mother left him in the care of his grandmother. Since childhood, he has been surrounded by individuals who were abusing drugs and alcohol. He and his grandmother also experienced immense poverty. However, the trajectory of his life took a sharp turn when he began attending the local CarePoint! Since receiving encouragement, healthy role models, and educational resources, the CarePoint staff can proudly share that he is attending church and has big, achievable dreams to be a doctor and to serve God and help the people in his community.

"I am grateful for the support you are giving me, for I can continue my education. God bless you a lot." Carlos



DAVIS THE STAR STUDENT

"I am grateful to God for what He has done for me. Who am I to score the top grade and be announced over the radio and newspapers? It was like a dream, but very real. Thanks go to members of Children's HopeChest for meeting my school needs, especially school fees. I again thank my father for toiling to provide me with other basic needs of life. I will join a secondary school and I know with God I will be able to achieve many things in life and my future will be bright. I want to become an engineer in the future, and I hope to care for my young brother and my father in his old age if God keeps us alive. May God bless all who bring hope to us who needed it most." Davis, Uganda

NOLWAZI THE FUTURE NURSE

Nolwazi is in fifth grade and is passionate about her education! She walks nearly four miles every morning with her friends to attend her nearest school. When asked about what motivates her to wake up and walk such a long distance to school, she said, "I believe that education is the key to success, especially as a woman." Since attending the Eskhaleni CarePoint, Nolwazi has huge dreams to be a nurse and help the people in her community. The people in her village have to walk many miles to the nearest clinic. Some people have even died because they couldn't walk to the clinic, which is an hour's distance from the community. Thriving in the educational opportunities offered through her CarePoint has helped her to realize her vast potential and to dream of a successful future for herself and for her community.



Proverbs 3:13 – 21 "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. ... She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed."

Receiving an education from a Biblical perspective, provides wisdom that is a tree of life for the young people at our CarePoints.

► Community Area No. 9:

Health + Hygiene



“You shall be holy as I am holy.” This is not just a spiritual cliché, but rather God’s guideline and desire for our lives. In the garden before the Fall, there was no disease or decay. Adam and Eve enjoyed a life without these burdens. However, with the Fall of mankind, the environment was taken down into the entanglements of death, as well. Now humankind would be subjected to these dangers and problems and would need to learn how to care for themselves and their surroundings, if they were to avoid disease and reduce the effects of decay.

God is not oblivious to these things. He has always involved Himself in the affairs of mankind. God desires dignity and wholeness for his children, and for humans to be able to live healthily is pleasing to the Lord.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

When HopeChest partners with a CarePoint, many CarePoints begin their partnership in the stage of “Survive.” This means that HopeChest meets the community where they are in terms of addressing critical needs.

NUTRITION

Some of the children who attend HopeChest CarePoints are severely malnourished. Malnourishment may impact a child’s health in many long-term ways, such as stunting. Dietary programs are implemented at almost all of our CarePoints. In Guatemala, some CarePoints have breakfast projects so children do not have to go to school on an empty stomach. It is common for the meals that children receive at CarePoints to be the only meal they eat that day. Oftentimes, CarePoint staff may also identify children who are malnourished and provide an extra meal or nutrient-rich snack or drink to help the child reach a healthy weight.

Deworming is another integral program that occurs in Guatemala, Eswatini, Ethiopia, and Uganda. Receiving cycles of deworming medication helps children to better absorb all of the calories and nutrients that they eat during the day. Children who are HIV positive may also receive supplementary nutrition so they can maintain their health.



“We provide around 200 meals every day at the Tabitha CarePoint in Guatemala. The nutrition is very important for us, we want them to be successful in their lives. To have an adequate learning they need to have adequate nutrition, that is why we try to provide different meals with cereals, meat, vegetables and fruits,” says one of our Guatemala staff.

“WaSH” is a very important acronym that comprises three aspects of our involvement in HopeChest. Firstly, Water (Wa), then Sanitation (S) and finally, Hygiene (H). The three of these need to be understood from their combined impact as they interweave together and not only from their separate and distinct value. Water is essential for health and hygiene just as sanitation and hygiene are each essential for maintaining safe drinking water, which is essential to good health.

WATER

In addition to implementing safe water projects with the guidance of local leaders, water projects must also be stewarded carefully with good sanitation practices so the water will not be contaminated. If a community has a safe water source, but one person brings a contaminated bucket, it could have a community-wide adverse impact. For this reason, as we bring safe water training, clean water stewardship must involve the whole community.

In-country staff also visit the homes of children who attend the CarePoint to see the living conditions of the children and to make sure that families have potable water or are boiling their water. If CarePoint staff notice that families are not boiling their water, they can gently remind them or teach them how to make their water safe to drink.

SANITATION

Assessing the sanitation in a community is also critical. For example, with the guidance of local leadership, HopeChest partners have helped to build and implement the use and maintenance of outdoor toilets at every CarePoint in Eswatini.

HYGIENE

CarePoints also provide trainings for children and their families, empowering them to take ownership of their own health and hygiene. Often, CarePoints will distribute toothbrushes, soap, hair oil, or feminine hygiene products for young women. Hand washing trainings and toothbrush trainings are also common occurrences that help keep the children we serve healthy! In Russia, the Dental Program is one of the most popular programs, and provides free dental care for youth!



Children in Uganda use teamwork, a bicycle, and jerrycans to bring safe water from the local CarePoint to their home.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

Community wells not only also contribute to agricultural projects, they also help to increase the safety and security of individuals in the community. When girls have to walk long distances to gather water for their families, they become more vulnerable and are exposed to greater danger. When a CarePoint has a safe water source, girls often do not have to walk as far and are also greeted at the CarePoint by caring staff.

The health and hygiene of individuals are linked to the sustainability of a community in numerous ways. One of the ways that health and nutrition contribute to a community is that children who are malnourished are less likely to succeed in school, or sometimes even fail to attend school. Trying to pay attention to a teacher on an empty stomach is incredibly difficult. **Nutrition is a building block for children who are able to lift their eyes from wondering what they will eat that day to looking toward their future.** In the longer-term perspective, we want to train locals how to raise their own food and develop affordable solutions that create ways to increase their food security.

Building latrines and digging wells also provides jobs for people in the community. This stimulates the local economy and empowers people to take care of their families. Now a family can afford to focus on both education as well as healthcare and live in accommodations that have better sanitation and hygiene all of which helps to increase the family's sustainability.

Similarly, when young women have the feminine hygiene products they need, they are less likely to have to skip school during their monthly cycle. It is critical for women to have knowledge on how to care for themselves, as well as have access to the products they need, so they can continuously attend school and thrive in their studies and, eventually, succeed in life.

CarePoints also provide a place for children to go while their parents are at work. For some parents, the place of work is in a community dump. In Guatemala, children who work in the dump picking up garbage with their parents are more susceptible to disease and often don't experience a balanced diet. When a parent can take their child to a CarePoint before going to work in the community dump, that child has an opportunity to receive a nutritious meal and learn in a safe, sanitary, and hygienic environment.



A toilet house being built at Mkhombokati CarePoint in Eswatini.

Stories of Hope

There are a number of CarePoints in the various countries where HopeChest works that focus on the families and individuals who have suffered with the lack of nutrition or WaSH options. In these situations, we often see the starkest examples of improved living conditions and new hope for tomorrow.

STUDENTS SUCCEEDING IN ETHIOPIA

Yetimwork is a beautiful 10-year-old girl living in Ethiopia who is an only child. Her father left when she was young and although her mom is a strong woman who works hard as a house cleaner, her finances were not enough to provide daily food and school materials. All of this changed when she began attending the Hosanna Emanuel CarePoint. In addition to receiving support with her school fees, she also received hygiene materials and supplementary food so she can succeed in her education! Learning about hygiene and eating nutritious meals has been crucial for Yetimwork's success in school.



SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD IN GUATEMALA

Katerine is a thoughtful and sweet 11-year-old who attends the My Redeemer Lives CarePoint in Guatemala. With 11 people living under the same roof, she is the oldest daughter in her family and lives with her parents, grandmother, and other relatives. Katerine enjoys coming to the CarePoint because she gets daily, nutritious food, like chow mein, incaparina (nutritious drink), meat and vegetables, and fruit punch. The CarePoint staff has noticed that Katerine and her siblings need to improve their nutrition, and have been providing them an extra nutritious drink at the end of each day to improve their health.



COOKING CLUB IN RUSSIA

HopeChest Ministry Centers in Russia teach youth how to cook healthy meals, including how to budget and shop for ingredients.



WATER IN UGANDA

“The community is very grateful for the tap water system. During July most of the community boreholes of Adacar, Okocho and Okibui were spoilt and most of these villages were fetching water from the CarePoint. The taps were quick and easy to use compared to the pumping of the borehole. Thank you for this support to our community.” Daniel, CarePoint guard in Uganda



When people don't have sufficient nutrition or can't avail themselves of good “WaSH” practices, their sense of dignity is diminished. God's desire is for us to have life, and experience that life in abundance. Children's HopeChest is grateful for the opportunity to partner with you to restore dignity to these individuals, families, and communities.

► Community Area No. 10:

Security + Justice



Societies need security, justice, and the rule of law. This sector is as important to society as a skeleton is to our body. We need a means of providing structure, safety and confidence for our communities.

Investing capital and human resources into a business always involves risk. Generally, however, businesses will not invest or prosper if they do not have confidence that their businesses and proprietary rights will be protected. Unsure and volatile economies or lack of rule of law can greatly limit the numbers of new businesses as well as the associated jobs created. This can exacerbate the effects of poverty and its impact on society.

On a human level, this sector is critical to provide guidelines for living. Individuals need to know that they have rights and that those rights are protected. Without security, justice, and the rule of law, people will suffer abuse at the hands of those who are more powerful.



CarePoint staff create an environment of safety for local children, where they know they will find security and someone to advocate for them.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, orphaned and vulnerable children have, on occasion, been exposed to living conditions that threaten their health. In cases such as the fire that was set at a public orphanage in 2017, children lost their lives. **Thus, it is critical that there are laws to which all must submit, to guide, protect, and offer security to those who may be living in conditions that make them vulnerable.**

Occasionally, our Program Officers are called upon to testify to the living conditions and circumstances in which children live. In these instances, we work with the government and the families to help them to establish a safe environment for the children.

UGANDA

CarePoint staff in Uganda visit the homes of the children at the CarePoints so they can spend time with the children's families and teach the families about children's rights. Many of the CarePoints in Uganda plan community training on child protection for parents and guardians. **In some cases, CarePoint staff will advocate for girls who have been abused, helping the authorities to find the attacker and provide justice.** Staff also attend trainings on child advocacy to expand their knowledge on child protection.

ESWATINI

Child-headed households in Eswatini are vulnerable to losing the rights to their homesteads. Some people may wish to entice them off their property and seize the property for themselves. Our staff make efforts to help children who are the heads of their families to know their rights and safeguard the ownership of their homesteads. CarePoint staff are also trained on how to identify signs of abuse, find a safe place for the victim, and report abuse so a social worker can be involved and help to find justice for the victim.



Children at La Terminal, playing and laughing and being able to be kids.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

Children's HopeChest helps to restore dignity to people, establish them within the laws of society and provide them with an identity that "sets their feet on solid rock." **Our in-country staff are familiar with legal processes and advocate for the vulnerable in their communities so the law works for them, not against them.**

At La Terminal, a slum in Guatemala, a single mother of three young boys worked with coal to provide the basic needs for her children. Hard, manual work with coal had worn her fingerprints off her fingertips. Without fingerprints she was unable to get a legal certificate from her home country of El Salvador, which meant that she was also unable to get legal certificates for her children. Without legal identification, her children were unable to be registered with a school. The Puerto de Esperanza CarePoint helped the mother obtain and get her legal papers in order. One of the CarePoint staff even traveled to El Salvador to advocate for the mother and her children. The mother was able to secure a legal certificate, ID card, and passport and now Puerto de Esperanza is working on helping the children with obtaining their proper identification as well. This legal help is changing the trajectory of their lives into a story of hope.

Instead of people losing their identities in the slums of La Terminal, by helping people regain their identity within the structure of the law, Puerto Esperanza is truly becoming for them a door of hope.

Stories of Hope

FRANKLE'S FAMILY

After being deported from the U.S., a family was living at La Terminal in Guatemala near the Puerto de Esperanza CarePoint. Returning to Guatemala, they faced many challenges with their housing, including not having electricity or running water. The children's mother has been working hard to find a safe and more stable place for her children to live. Once her four children became a part of the Puerto de Esperanza CarePoint, her children were able to eat a nutritious daily meal and the CarePoint staff helped the children with the papers they needed to get registered in school. Receiving the support of the CarePoint has empowered their mother to buy a piece of land that she is paying off. Helping this family navigate the paperwork and the challenges of resettling has given them a platform to begin looking toward their future in Guatemala. (Pictured is Frankle, the oldest sibling in the CarePoint programs.)



NADYA'S APARTMENT

With help from the Ministry Center, Nadya was able to prove her right to receive social housing after two court sessions. Nadya received the writ of execution from the court, attended the court ushers office and filled in the application to be placed on the waiting list. Being on the waiting list is the final step and now she can be provided with social housing, getting closer to living an independent, self-sustainable life!



JUSTICE FOR GRACE

Grace* is a 16-year-old girl who was a victim of sexual abuse. Grace's mother, left her in charge care of the rest of her siblings for two weeks, which left her worn out as she lacked resources to look after the three young children. Upon discovering that Grace was taken advantage of by someone in the community during this time, CarePoint staff followed up on the case and the culprit was handed to police. In cases when abuse is present, CarePoint staff in Uganda are trained how to advocate for the victims and provide helpful information for the authorities.



*name changed to protect child's identity

Children's HopeChest advocates for orphaned and vulnerable children, so they can live up their highest potential. **Whether HopeChest's in-country staff are conducting trainings on child protection, helping a victim of abuse seek justice, or working within the law to help an individual succeed, lives are being transformed and redeemed into stories of hope.**

► Community Area No. 11:

Medical Support



As a result of the of The Fall, everything changed. Not only was the ground cursed and “by the sweat of our brow” do we now labor to eat our bread, but there was also the introduction of pain and suffering resulting from that Fall.

In 1940 C.S. Lewis wrote his book, “The Problem of Pain,” in which he stated:

“We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world... Pain is unmasked, unmistakable evil; every man knows that something is wrong when he is being hurt.”

God’s “megaphone” is still crying out to us and rousing us to say that all is not normal. Since human beings fell and were driven out of the garden, we live in this fallen world. Pain actually helps us to know and to understand that something is wrong, that it was never God’s intention that we should experience pain, nor that He desires that we should suffer.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

Gratefully, as we grasp a Biblical Worldview, this begins to help us understand not only the problem of pain, but also to begin to understand how we can respond to this broken world with the heart and hands of God. In some of the cultures where we work, there is an Animistic approach, which teaches people to believe that sickness is only the result of a curse from a witchdoctor. Medicine is a sector of society that brings a Christian approach to pain and a healing to what is broken.

Children who attend HopeChest CarePoints have access to basic medical care, which includes regular physicals to screen for larger health issues and medication for those who are HIV positive. In some cases, when a medical tragedy occurs, CarePoints can use funds which are set aside for such emergencies to cover a portion of the medical costs. Around the globe, HopeChest has helped to support the costs of life-saving care for children in situations such as snake bites, cancer, motor accidents, burns, broken bones, surprise diagnoses, and more.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY



A young boy in Ethiopia learns how tall he has grown during a regular health screening.

We find that communities either spiral downward with the weight and impact of The Fall or they overcome these factors and begin to spiral upwards as the effects of Godly solutions propel their trajectory in a positive direction.

We work to combine a number of sectors of society so that the symbiosis of the various sectors can strengthen the whole. For example, we work with our partners to improve the components of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) as well as giving attention to dietary and other health and medical aspects so that they all work together to bring improvement.

Once children have access to better medical attention, they begin to have improved attendance in school and the education level of these children increases, supporting them to find better employment and increase their wages, allowing them to build a better life and contribute to improving their communities. All of this can now begin to raise the standard of living and increase their ability to sustain themselves and find solutions for increased sustainability in their communities.

Stories of Hope

*names changed to protect children's identities

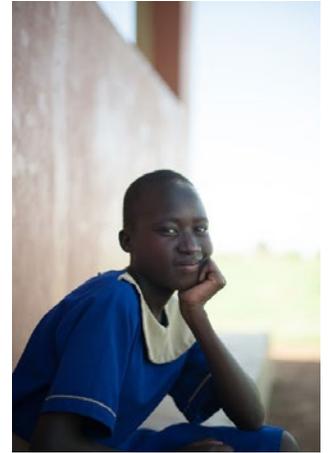
LIDIA'S STORY

Lidia* was born into a vulnerable family within a small village in Moldova. In many ways she raised herself, as her father was an alcoholic and her mother was disabled. Her father had abused her since she was a child, and when her mother found out about the abuse, she helped Lidia run away. Lidia was 14 years old. Soon she found a job cleaning in a hotel, where she worked and lived for almost two years, but to work all day, she had to abandon going to school - even though she loved studying. One evening when Lidia was walking with her friends, they were kidnapped and taken abroad to beg in the streets and earn money for the men who kidnapped them. She was trafficked for nearly two years until the man who was holding her hostage brought her back to Moldova to be a servant for his mother. While with his mother, Lidia met some missionaries who searched for a place for Lidia to receive the resources needed to escape her situation. When she first visited Beginning of Life (BOL), Lidia was closed off and scared. But as time went by, she began to trust the BOL staff. Physically, Lidia had serious problems due to the violence she had faced since childhood. In addition to the sustained injuries, it was also found that she had a brain tumor. Her mother was aware of the tumor, which Lidia had since childhood, but their family did not have the money to address the health issue. BOL arranged for Lidia to have surgery to remove the tumor, which was a success! Lidia's dream is to continue healing, finish school, and pursue higher education for a better future here in Moldova.



REBECCA'S STORY

Regular check ups and health screenings are often life-saving for the children and young adults who attend the CarePoints. Rebecca* lives in the Kaberamaido community in Uganda. She is a bright young woman who is studying hard to become an accountant. A few years ago during her CarePoint's general health screening she tested positive for hepatitis B. This news was a huge shock, and she was hit with hopelessness as she considered how this diagnosis would affect her future. Rebecca says, "I lost hope and I knew that was the end of me to live long and have a good future." Kaberamaido CarePoint supported her through this health challenge by paying for her medical bills and surrounding her with encouragement. Now she is continuing her education with her eyes fixed on her future.



MITIKU'S STORY

Mitiku* is a young boy in Ethiopia who broke his elbow. As in Mitiku's case, oftentimes families will seek help from a "traditional practitioner" due to the crippling costs of professional medical help. However, because of the delay in getting professional medical help, his bone started to heal incorrectly. After months of following up with the family, CarePoint staff came to an agreement with the family to take Mitiku to have the surgery necessary to heal his arm. Partners of Mitiku's local CarePoint generously raised the funds necessary for his surgery. He still has limited movement, but he has much more movement than they imagined he would! Mitiku is smiley, a joker, and enjoys showing off how his elbow is improving.

VISION SUPPORT

At the Kostroma Ministry Center, a team of volunteers and an eye doctor spent a day checking the eyes of every person in the community who could make it to the Ministry Center. The team also checked children's eyesight at Makariev Orphanage and Kovalyovo Orphanage, but they also had the chance to spend some quality time building relationships with the children. A partner of the Ministry Center raised funds for those who needed them to receive new glasses! Being able to see well impacts the children and young adults' ability to study and succeed in school and also boosts their confidence, as they are no longer visually impaired.



EVA'S STORY

Eva* is a 3-year-old girl who attends the Bethlehem CarePoint. She was leaving the CarePoint when she was hit by a drunk driver. The driver hit her with his motorcycle while she was walking and he fled the scene. Through Bethlehem CarePoint, medical support for admittance and surgery at the hospital was provided, as well as medicine and her recovery time after the surgery back in her home. This support was possible through the CarePoint's general funds, which was a great resource during this emergency. She is now walking normally and is always involved in the CarePoint activities.



When children receive life-saving medical care, we see some of the starkest examples of lives turning from despair to dignity. Children's HopeChest is grateful for the opportunity to partner with you to restore health to these individuals, families and communities.

► Community Area No. 12:

Nonprofits

As we consider the last of this series and discuss how nonprofit organizations impact society, some might say, “How can this be the last topic? Why have you not mentioned a topic that is devoted to the church?” In response to that question, we should ask another question: *Is the Body of Christ an entity that is separate from society?* In other words, we can consider the church both as an institution within society and as the living Body that is “salted” in, and throughout, society. As His Body, we are to permeate every area of society. If we allow ourselves to become separated and primarily *institutional*, we lose much of the salt and light impact. In effect, we dichotomize ourselves out of society. We are to be out in society and integrated into all aspects of society - in the world but not of the world; but not be separated and apart *from* society.

The Body, whose members are immersed in the culture of a given society are often involved in bringing this change through nonprofit organizations that influence society, much as do salt and light. Some Christians form societal associations, clubs, and civic groups. Many times we form Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) to accomplish showing the love of God in society.



In Moldova, HopeChest partners with Beginning of Life, a Moldovan-based nonprofit.

WHERE DOES HOPECHEST FIT IN?

As HopeChest forms relationships as an organization in the countries we work with, we have identified other nonprofits whose missions and motives match our own. **We have found that intentionally working together with other organizations that desire to bring holistic and sustainable change to impoverished communities increases our impact.** As we often say, “We are better together.” HopeChest partnerships with in-country NGO’s is also supportive of our mission to empower local leaders to see their vision for their community come to life.

RUSSIA

HopeChest was founded in 1994 and a while later HopeChest established Nadezhda Fund, in Russia to expand the reach in-country. Together, we work to empower orphaned youth with the resources they need before leaving an orphanage, and equip older youth with greater access to counseling to process their experiences, social work support, educational support such as tutoring and college application assistance, and opportunities to invest back into their community.

We also partner with Orphan's Tree, another NGO that focuses on empowering youth in Russia to lead fulfilling and independent lives. Often, we will partner with them to accomplish large and impactful projects, such as the Vladimir Ministry Center Renovation.

MOLDOVA

HopeChest partners with a Moldova-based nonprofit, Beginning of Life (BOL), to bring hope and resources to vulnerable children in Moldova.

BOL operates Urban Centers that are safe places where children and young adults can come to gain resources to lead independent, healthy lives. The wide variety of resources that are offered include vocational training, spiritual training and guidance, social programs, training educators on implementing a powerful character development curriculum used in the public schools, psycho-emotional-social programs for trafficked women (Chisinau location), and youth leadership programs.

ESWATINI

HopeChest's partnership with Adventures in Missions (AIM) is our second-longest partnership with another NGO. In Eswatini, we have co-branded our work. **Our local partner has been working in the country for over ten years and brings local staffing expertise that is essential for cultural sensitivity.**



UGANDA

In Uganda, many nonprofits - both Africa-based and North America-based - have come alongside HopeChest programs to increase our impact. **Work 4 a Living, a South Africa-based nonprofit, focuses on equipping youth to become employable and find meaningful work.** This NGO periodically trains our Ugandan staff and participants of HopeChest's Uganda Leadership and Development Program.

In Katuba, HopeChest has partnered with Reach One Touch One Ministries, a Christian ministry dedicated to meeting the spiritual, social, physical, and psychological needs of the elderly and children under their care. Another is Healing Waters International, which has helped us develop our water system at Adacar CarePoint. The Peanut Butter House at Wera CarePoint is an incredible project that stems from the NGO, Project Peanut Butter.

ETHIOPIA

One example of our Ethiopian CarePoints partnering with a local nonprofit occurred a few months ago. There were many displaced people in Addis Ababa from the nearby towns because of internal conflict. The displaced citizens fled their homes suddenly so they were in need of basic needs while they stay at a temporary shelter. **In collaboration with Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA), I Care for the Nation CarePoint (ICFTN) collected clothes and shoes and delivered them as a donation.** The communities that we serve also have hearts to serve others, and we are encouraged by the ICFTN community's heart to support displaced families and work together with other organizations in their community.

GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, when our CarePoints see a local nonprofit that is doing impactful work, we come alongside them! Then even our local partners such as Tabitha CarePoint in Guatemala partner with other nonprofit groups such as Futbol Calle, or Street Soccer. **The ministry encourages the youth to be part of a soccer team and channel their energy, their anger, and their frustrations in a better way.** Being a part of the soccer teams helps the youth stay away from the street, gangs, drugs and alcoholism. Some of the children from Tabitha started to go and play soccer with this ministry, and the hope is that some of the children who play with Futbol Calle can be part of and be impacted by Tabitha in the future.

HOW THIS CREATES SUSTAINABILITY

Being "not of the world" means we are not to be influenced by, and under the control of, this world's system. We are to influence society and effect change from within. In Acts 17:6, it tells us that there was a riot stirred up as a result of Paul's ministry. He preached the one true God and the silversmiths were concerned about both the loss of revenue from sales of their idols but also that people might believe Paul and quit believing in the idols. Their cry was: "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also..." The integration of believers into the fabric of society had its impact and the system of this world was being turned right-side-up again.



As we have discussed the other areas of society throughout this year, we want to see how important it is to bring together, simultaneously, as many of all 12 aspects as we can. As we employ these concurrently, and integrate them, they increase sustainability through the synergy that they create. At HopeChest, we are constantly working toward sustainability - toward transforming all the various areas of society.

This completes the series on the 12 Areas of Community Transformation, **however, it is just the beginning of us working together to build and transform our world.** We hope that you feel inspired to join us and the chorus of individuals who are passionate about breaking the cycle of poverty.