



**EMPOWERING CHILDREN OF WAR TO BECOME LEADERS FOR PEACE**

# Child Soldiers & War-Affected Children

In Uganda and DR Congo, armed forces and rebels have **abducted more than 100,000 children**. Children as young as 7 are **kidnapped and forced to fight** in rebel armies. Many are psychologically tortured and brainwashed — **forced to commit atrocities** against their own families and communities. Young girls are abused — often becoming victims of rape and **sexual violence**.

Those fortunate enough to escape or be released **are left with deep and enduring emotional scars** from what they've seen and been forced to do. **Many are unable to return home** because they have lost their families. Others are stigmatized for atrocities they were forced to commit in their own communities.

## Restoring & Empowering

Exile International exists to restore rescued **child soldiers** and children orphaned by war to **become leaders for peace** through **art therapy** and **holistic, rehabilitative care**.

PHYSICAL CARE    EMOTIONAL CARE    SPIRITUAL CARE  
EDUCATION        LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



# Exile International - 2015 YEAR-END REVIEW



In 2015, we saw God bring healing to **over 1,200 rescued child soldiers and children orphaned by war!** With your help, lives are being transformed!

As you turn these pages, we hope you enjoy seeing how your support is **impacting the lives of children like Nathan and Nighty.** May it bring you as much joy as it does us.

As a team and on behalf of those served: Thank you for your continued giving and prayers! Together, we are changing lives — transforming children of war into future leaders for peace.

— *Bethany Haley Williams, Founder & Executive Director*

## THE MISSION Restoring and empowering rescued child soldiers and children orphaned by war to become leaders for peace through art therapy and holistic, rehabilitative care

### Transforming the Lives of Child Survivors Through:

**Comprehensive, rehabilitative care** — delivering physical, emotional & spiritual care, education & leadership development

**Advocacy and awareness** — amplifying their voices to promote action & change

**Child sponsorships** — providing education, housing, food, medical & rehabilitative care

**Training and partnering** with local counselors, caregivers & leaders

## DR CONGO

While violence and war remain a constant in DR Congo, we see hope. Namely, we are seeing a generation of child survivors being restored physically, emotionally & spiritually. This generation has potential to transform their communities!

**Hundreds are being restored...** healing past wounds, being educated and developed as leaders. Many are already serving their communities — a testament to comprehensive programs, great local leaders and the potential of these wonderful youth! Praise God!

## UGANDA

In schools and villages of Northern Uganda, “Peace Clubs” are providing art therapy, rehabilitative care and leadership development to LRA child survivors.

Peace Clubs are providing a place for war-affected children to learn they are not alone... they have peers and caregivers who have experienced similar traumas... peers who understand their heartaches and care for them. It is a safe place for healing and restoration in the context of relationships founded on **hope and unconditional love.**

# 1200+

war-affected children, rescued child soldiers and those orphaned in DR Congo and Uganda provided with art therapy and rehabilitative care — healing wounds and restoring hope

# 220

children sponsored — providing each with education, food, housing, counseling, and medical care — empowering children of war to become leaders for peace

# 115

rescued child soldiers and children orphaned by war provided with comprehensive care at EI's Rehabilitative Care Center in Goma, DRC — a place of healing and a launching pad for future leaders

# 86

national leaders and caregivers trained to facilitate quality, trauma care programs



medical care



education



food/housing



psychological care



spiritual care



destigmatization



mentoring



art therapy

# 7

rescued child soldiers reintegrated into their communities AND leading Peace Clubs in their own villages

# 17

program graduates attending university AND volunteering at EI's Peace Lives Center — mentoring/influencing the next generation

# 150+

“Young Peacemakers” are leading peace/reconciliation presentations and service projects in their communities

# MANY

answered prayers! Here's one: M23, a Congolese rebel army that displaced and violated hundreds of thousands of people, surrendered their arms. This led to thousands returning home in 2015! EI care programs in the region now serve 120 more recently displaced children and rescued child soldiers. That's 120 lives bring radically transformed — healing their wounds of trauma and developing into young peacemakers!

## With your partnership, here are things we plan to accomplish in 2016:

**We have to turn away kids every month, so we're expanding our reach** — buying land, building facilities & training staff **to restore more children than ever before**

**30% more child survivors of war receiving comprehensive care** — restoring and empowering children of war to become leaders for peace

**Expanding programs to serve more children** — specifically focusing on war-affected children in areas that have been underserved due to their remote locations

**Doubling child sponsorships** — providing an education and a empowerment to over 400 children in 2016: Join us! [www.exileinternational.org/give](http://www.exileinternational.org/give)

**Exile International's programs are restoring children of war to become leaders for peace through comprehensive care models.**

**While 2015 was a remarkable year, many children remain unserved. Your support will transform the lives of child survivors — giving healing and hope.**

## How Can You Help?

### **Partner with Exile Int'l**

Donate to provide holistic, transformative care to war-affected children, and make healing and hope possible.

**Donate Now:**

[exileinternational.org/give](http://exileinternational.org/give)

### **Become a Restore Partner**

Give monthly, taking an active role in restoring & empowering war-affected children to become leaders for peace.

**Sign Up Now:**

[exileinternational.org/give/#restore](http://exileinternational.org/give/#restore)



## Transformation: Nathan

When Nathan was 14 years old, his village was attacked by a rebel army. **He lost his entire family that day as each were murdered by rebels.** They took Nathan captive for 2 years and forced him to witness and participate in terrible acts of violence. Thankfully, Nathan would later be rescued and find **a safe place to begin a journey of healing** at one of EI's care centers in DR Congo.

**"I gave up my gun for a guitar,"** says Nathan. The guitar and songwriting have been an essential part of his healing. Now, he teaches his songs and lyrics to peers: **"We lay down our guns, for it is not the way. Join us in peace – Christ is the way."**

By God's grace, we have watched Nathan heal and grow into a confident leader and positive role model.

Nathan has finished secondary school and become **one of the first university students sponsored** at Exile International. When not at school, **he continues to mentor and lead a younger generation of child survivors.**

Nathan also leads a church youth and children's choir, using his musical talents to share healing and joy with many!

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark skin and short hair, looking through a series of thick, dark wooden beams. He is wearing a red and white striped shirt. His hands are clasped together, resting on the beams. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

## Comprehensive Rehabilitative Care

**Exile International provides holistic care.** Simply said: basic needs (food, water, etc) must be met before meeting emotional and psychological needs like **recovering from the deep scars of war, trauma and loss.**

Like any good parent, we want to see our **children succeed and excel.** We believe in each child's potential not only to survive, but **to make their communities better places.** EI provides Christ-centered programs for rehabilitating and discipling young men and women **to become leaders for peace.**

This requires a **long-term commitment to each child's** physical, emotional and spiritual health, as well as their education and leadership development.



## Restoring Hope: Nighty

As she was returning home from school, 7-year-old **Nighty** heard rumors that rebels were attacking near her village. **She ran to hide** with her aunt but they were soon separated. The rebels found her in the bush, alone. **The LRA forced Nighty to walk until her feet were bloodied and raw to the bone.** She was shot in the leg during an ambush and saw friends being killed. For 3 years, Nighty was a captive to the LRA rebels. But with proper care, even **these traumatic experiences and scars can be overcome.**

Nighty was reunited with her mother, father and siblings, but the wounds of extreme violence and **captivity hindered her psychological and spiritual health.** Physically, she had been left with disfiguring scars that only added to her sense of shame and insecurity she felt daily (not only for past experiences, but from stigmatization common to former child soldiers). Through the compassion of a donor, she was able to have surgery to erase that physical reminder of her past.

Through holistic care programs and the help of loving counselors, Nighty has a new life. She is actively being transformed inside and out. **Today, Nighty radiates with a strength and beauty she never thought possible! Praise the Lord!**





## Why Art Therapy?

**Art and expression are empowering mediums**, especially for children — they provide a safe avenue **to express and process emotions and experiences** that children do not yet have the words to share.

Weekly group therapy and programs incorporating **art, music, dance and drama** provide children with avenues to share their stories. For many, this expression becomes the first step on a **path of healing and discovering hope**. Communicating their stories with caregivers, mentors and peers **helps traumatized children to rebuild a sense of normalcy** - the idea that “I can be understood” - once lost to extreme physical and emotional traumas.

# Training & Partnering with Local Leaders

Equipping local leaders to restore lives and bring hope to war-affected children in their own communities.

By partnering with local counselors, caregivers and leaders in DR Congo and Uganda, EI implements **culturally appropriate counseling and care practices**. Many local men and women who are already helping their communities to heal are looking for more ways to **strengthen their communities**. Trainings in the rehabilitative care, peace-building and leadership models utilized by EI programs further empower local leaders to do just that!

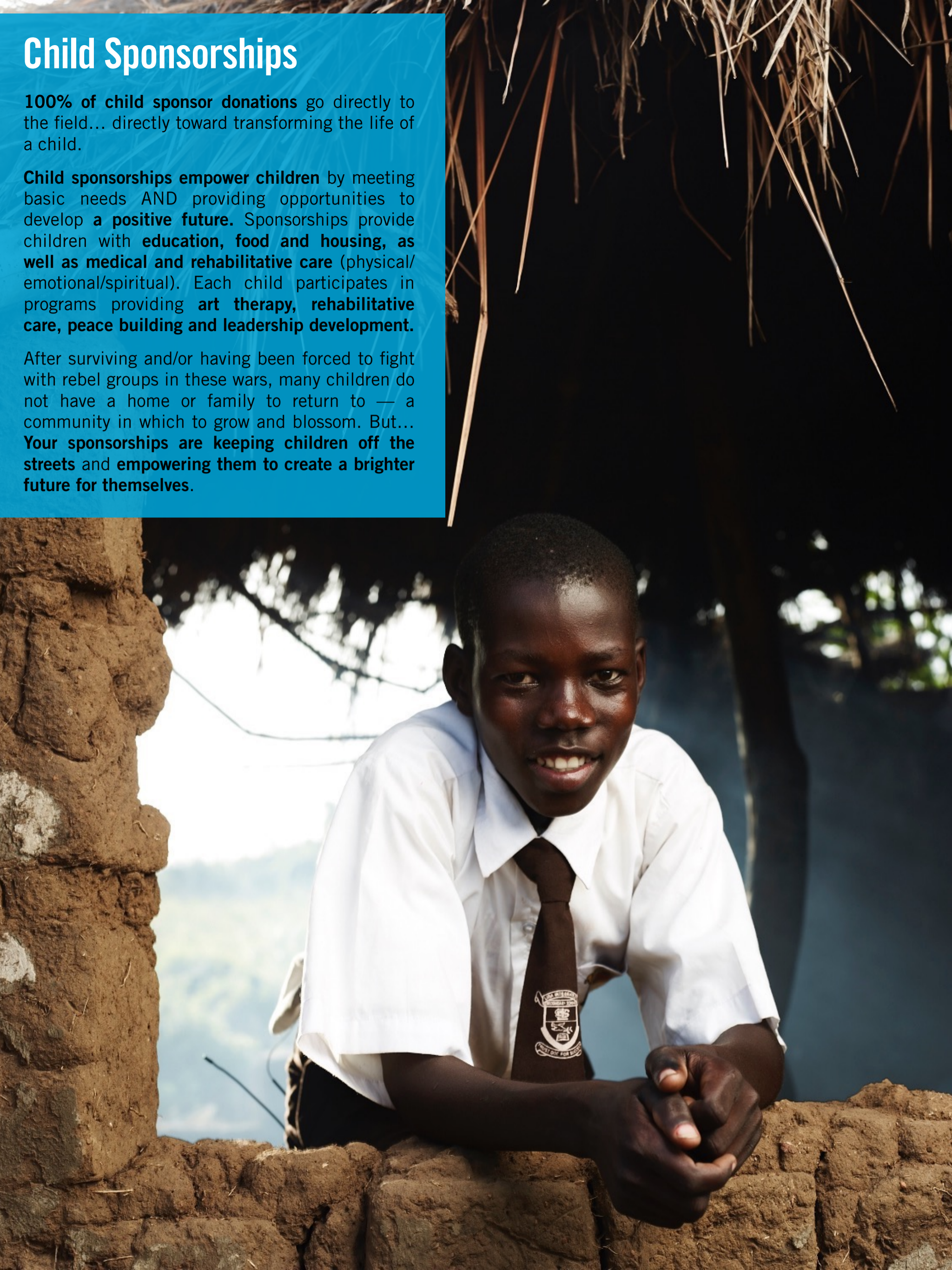


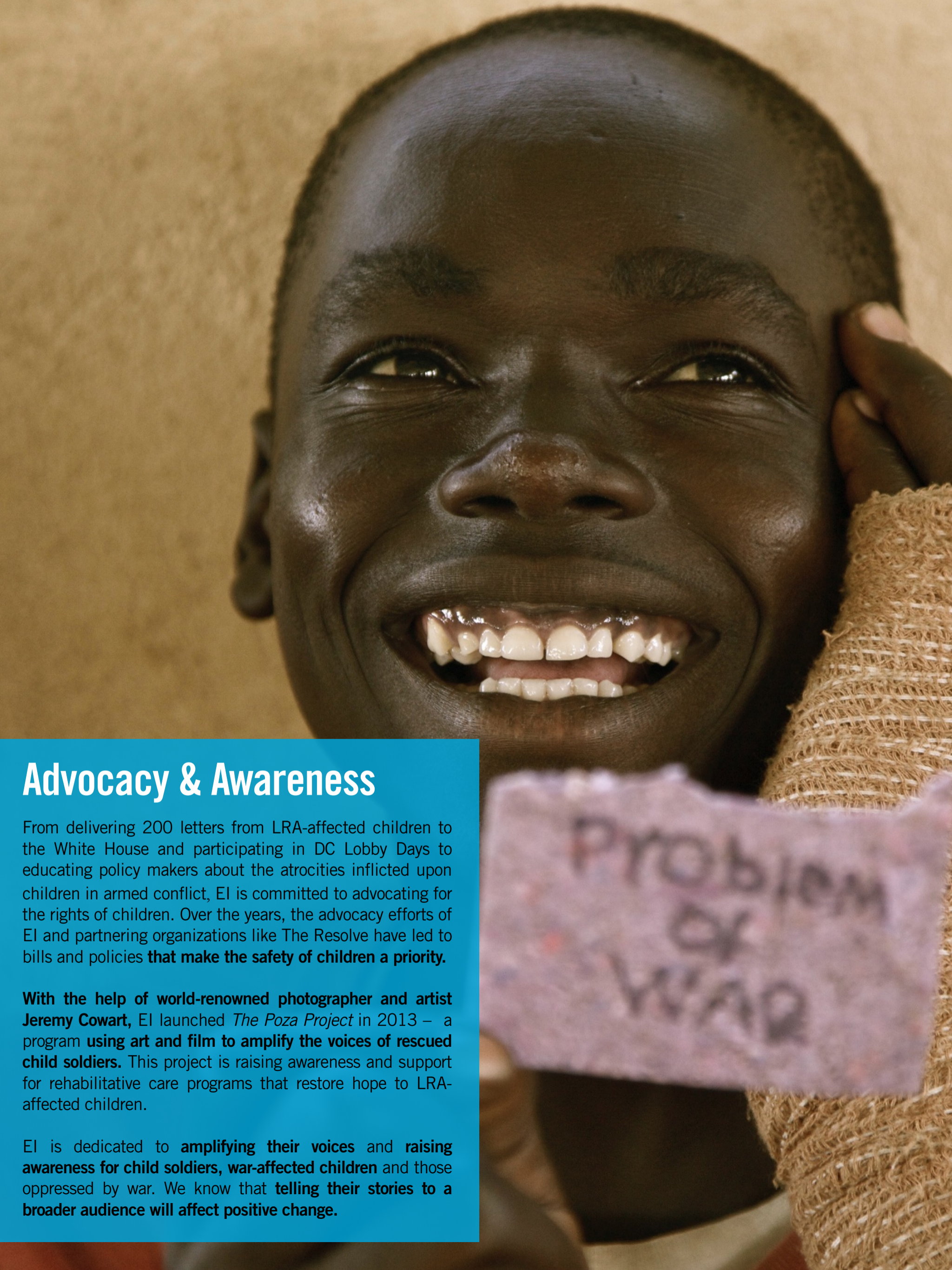
# Child Sponsorships

**100% of child sponsor donations** go directly to the field... directly toward transforming the life of a child.

**Child sponsorships empower children** by meeting basic needs AND providing opportunities to develop a **positive future**. Sponsorships provide children with **education, food and housing, as well as medical and rehabilitative care** (physical/emotional/spiritual). Each child participates in programs providing **art therapy, rehabilitative care, peace building and leadership development**.

After surviving and/or having been forced to fight with rebel groups in these wars, many children do not have a home or family to return to — a community in which to grow and blossom. But... **Your sponsorships are keeping children off the streets and empowering them to create a brighter future for themselves.**





## Advocacy & Awareness

From delivering 200 letters from LRA-affected children to the White House and participating in DC Lobby Days to educating policy makers about the atrocities inflicted upon children in armed conflict, EI is committed to advocating for the rights of children. Over the years, the advocacy efforts of EI and partnering organizations like The Resolve have led to bills and policies **that make the safety of children a priority.**

**With the help of world-renowned photographer and artist Jeremy Cowart,** EI launched *The Poza Project* in 2013 – a program **using art and film to amplify the voices of rescued child soldiers.** This project is raising awareness and support for rehabilitative care programs that restore hope to LRA-affected children.

EI is dedicated to **amplifying their voices** and **raising awareness for child soldiers, war-affected children** and those oppressed by war. We know that **telling their stories to a broader audience will affect positive change.**

# 2016 Budget Overview

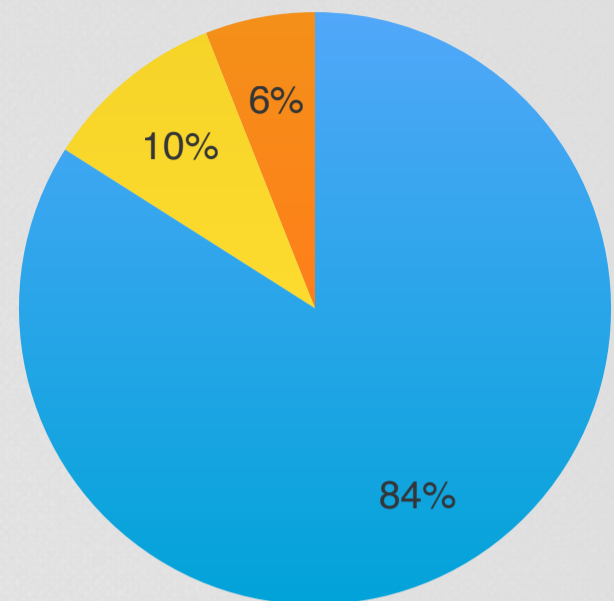
**Program Services = \$638,166 (84%)**

Care Programs	\$584,904
Advocacy & Awareness	\$53,263

**Support Services = \$122,428 (16%)**

Fund Development	\$72,911
General & Administrative	\$49,517

**Total Expenses = \$760,594**



● Program Services  
● General & Administrative  
● Fund Development

## Program Services — \$638,167

Program Services include rehabilitative care programs, education, food, shelter, medical care, beneficiary skills programs, trainings for counselors & caregivers, program staff compensation, program facilities, emergency response services and advocacy/awareness initiatives.

## Support Services — \$122,428

Support service expenses include information technology, communications, public relations, general office management, digital and print resources, admin compensation, taxes and fundraising.

Exile International is a 501(c)(3) faith-based, nonprofit organization. Our work is made possible through the financial contributions of individuals, churches, businesses and foundations. Join us and become a part of their story.

[www.exileinternational.org](http://www.exileinternational.org)

[info@exileinternational.org](mailto:info@exileinternational.org)

5123 Virginia Way B-11, Brentwood, TN 37027

**exile**



**INTERNATIONAL**

from  
**RESCUED CHILD SOLDIERS**  
to  
**FUTURE LEADERS FOR PEACE**

PHYSICAL CARE

EMOTIONAL CARE

SPIRITUAL CARE

EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Since 2008, over 3,500 children's lives have been transformed through EI's art therapy and holistic, rehabilitative care programs.

**THANK YOU**

for partnering with us to restore lives  
and empower child survivors of war  
to become leaders for peace!

[www.exileinternational.org](http://www.exileinternational.org)