Putting Families First

Vol. 5 Issue 2
From the moment we were founded in 1981, Unbound has never stopped working to make sure you can believe in us.

That belief is important because it allows us to do what we need to do to help the hardworking, resourceful families we serve lift themselves out of debilitating poverty. Without your confidence in us, we wouldn’t be able to invest our confidence in them.

Yes, we are confident in our sponsored members and their families — in their creativity, in their steadfast spirit and in their ability to find their own solutions when given opportunity. For more than 36 years, we’ve seen that confidence bear fruit in improved living conditions, better jobs and happier, healthier families.

Whenever I visit Unbound programs around the world, I’m impressed with the ingenuity families demonstrate in making use of resources available to them through sponsorship. In partnership with Unbound staff, the families are continually innovating, constantly working to make sure they take full advantage of the opportunities provided to them.

We know your confidence is not something we can take for granted. This year we reached an important milestone at Unbound. We surpassed $2 billion in revenue received since our founding. It’s a testament to the generosity and vision of sponsors and the effectiveness of sponsorship.

This issue of Impact focuses on some of the ways Unbound programs support individuals and families as they work to overcome challenges in their lives and communities. And it’s all possible because of your support.

We thank you for being part of our community of compassion and pledge that when it comes to earning your confidence, we’ll never rest.
Responsible, transparent financial management is a hallmark of Unbound. We put sponsored friends and their families first.

Unbound’s total contributions and revenue reached $136 million for 2017. More than $108.3 million was disbursed directly to our field projects in Latin America, Asia and Africa, with an additional $10.3 million going to program support services.

Overall, program support totaled 92.7 percent of our expenses, with just 3.9 percent going to fundraising and 3.4 percent to administration. Learn more at unbound.org/financials.

The support and encouragement you provide to individuals and families is vital to their efforts to become self-sustaining. You’re an important part of the Unbound worldwide community, and we appreciate all that you do!
We believe the surest path out of poverty is a self-directed one. In our programs around the world, children, youth, elders and families partner with local staff to develop individual and family goals based on their distinct challenges, needs and skills. At Unbound, we make sponsorship benefits highly personalized for the 310,000 sponsored individuals and their families participating in our programs. This gives families the flexibility to use their benefits for what they really need. For many, goals focus on their children’s education, but parents may also choose to use funds for other needs such as housing, developing new livelihoods or providing food for the family.

310,000 sponsored friends served
Sponsorship isn’t the only way we support education. In 2017, Unbound awarded more than $3.1 million in scholarships to 10,472 students, helping them continue in secondary, vocational or university education. Unbound scholars also participate in service opportunities to give back to their communities and develop leadership skills.
SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS

We believe in the wisdom of mothers, which is why they’re at the heart of our programs. From taking microloans to start businesses, to creating their very own credit cooperatives, mothers lead the way.

A 2017 evaluation involving 700 mothers at 26 program sites focused on three empowerment indicators: increased choices in life, positive change and greater personal control. A key finding was that more women in Unbound programs have their own businesses and fewer are unemployed than mothers whose children were on the waiting list for sponsorship. Half of Unbound mothers surveyed reported having complete choice in deciding or changing their occupations, compared with just more than 40 percent of mothers on the waiting list.

50% of mothers feel more empowered to make career choices.
Elders around the world face challenges related to nutrition, access to health care and isolation. Unbound helps elders overcome these challenges through benefits such as food assistance, support for health and medical expenses, home visits and group activities. This year, we set out to measure our impact in an evaluation covering a broad range of elders’ concerns, with a particular focus on the effects of loneliness and isolation on their health and well-being. At this writing, our evaluation team was analyzing data from 25 program sites in 14 countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.
Watchdogs give Unbound high marks

We received an A+ from CharityWatch and the highest ranking of 4 Stars from Charity Navigator. We’re also accredited through the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. Visit unbound.org/financials for more info.

INSIDE:

Want to make room for more possibilities for children, youth and elders around the world? See inside envelope for details.

ON THE COVER:

Maria (left), Olga and José sit atop tree branches used to make charcoal for their family business in Ecuador.