

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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**Hands  
for  
Africa**



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

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Hands for Africa was inspired by my return to Sierra Leone, the country I was raised in. Returning as an adult, I was astounded. While the civil war might have ended, the people of my home country still had to battle the forever lasting tragedies of it on a daily basis. Children who weren't alive during the war were being subjected to the horrors many thought were left behind with its end. I saw child amputees playing on playgrounds set on old land mines and kids working in fields to provide for their families instead of attending school. By providing prosthetic limbs and educational scholarships, we are mending the broken spirited and offering them a second chance. There is no greater gift than giving someone their self-reliance back. Without your support, we would not be able to change the lives of so many. I thank you for all of your support as we continue our journey of restoring lost hope to the survivors of the blood diamond trade and civil war.

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## Alton Harding

FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN



# OUR MISSION

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Hands For Africa provides innocent civil war survivors in Africa with tools that enable them to become self-reliant. We meet immediate needs by providing food, water, clothing, and shelter, while developing and implementing successful programs that foster self-reliance. The result is a community of individuals capable of supporting themselves and their families. Our philosophy is to give people a "hand-up," not a "handout."

With HandsUp4Health, Hands for Africa has implemented the same successful self-reliance programs in our own community, focusing on supporting underprivileged kids through our partnerships with after school programs. To end the cycle of unhealthy and dangerous activities after school that lead to an unsuccessful future, we help children grow and learn in a safe structured environment. We help provide local children with food, shelter, and activities in the hours that they would otherwise be caring for themselves.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

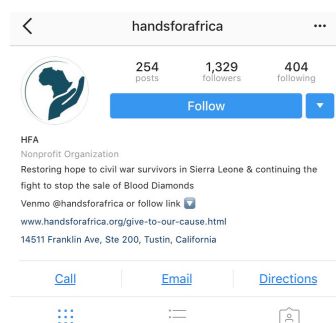


**HFA refocused its fundraising for a month after the Freetown mudslides, donating towards immediate relief.**

**HFA Introduced Project USA: HandsUp4Health and donated over 1400 products to local after school programs.**



**HFA visited over 20 colleges and attended more than 10 festivals and events to educate the community.**



**HFA gained over 1300 followers on Instagram and spread news to the online community through social media.**

# HANDS FOR AFRICA

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While Hands for Africa used 2017 to develop its new program, we still focused on our original mission to provide support for the community in Sierra Leone. HFA offered immediate relief through tragedies that hit in 2017, renewed full scholarships for 13 of our qualifying scholarship students with excellent grades, and continued building our prosthetic programs offering prosthetic limbs and rehabilitation services to those amputated by the Civil war and its effects. Through social media we have also partnered with companies working to stop the blood diamond trade or selling conflict free jewels.



## • MUDSLIDE RELIEF

On August 14th, 2017 a mudslide killed 500 and displaced over 10,000 in Freetown. HFA Raised over \$20,000 to go to immediate relief and rebuilding

## • SCHOLARSHIP RENEWALS

This year HFA renewed 13 of our full educational scholarships to students who achieved the GPA requirement.

## • PROSTHETIC PROGRAMS

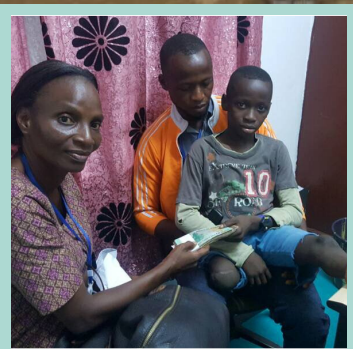
HFA has continued working with the Makeni Hospital in Sierra Leone to provide new prosthetics as needed as well as repair & replace old donations.

## • CONFLICT FREE PARTNERS

HFA has partnered with local high schools, jewelers and conflict free businesses to promote consciousness and further our mission.



# HFA SCHOLARS



**Patrick M. Lahai  
Santigi Conteh  
Musa Conteh  
Ibrahim Conteh  
Aminat C. Jalloh  
Bobsan I. Tourawalie  
Baiteh Conteh  
Aiah Bindi**



**Mary F. Jumissa  
Margaret M. Cooper  
Mohamed J Diabor  
Anonymous Student  
Anonymous Student**

## CONGRATS GRAD: AIAH BINDI

Aiah recieved his first HFA scholarship at 14 years old, now at 19 he is recieving his last. Aiah is able to complete his education in Koidu next year thanks to the support of HFA. We are so proud of Aiah and all our Scholars for a successful 2017!



Aiah with is first scholarship in 2011

# HFA

# HandsUp4Health



Hands for Africa  
Project USA:  
HandsUp4Health

For 7 years the generous donors of Southern California have supported our work in Sierra Leone and in return for that faithful generosity we have created Project USA: HandsUp4Health as a way to give back to our community. This program supports local after school programs that are vital in a child's path to success. After school programs provide a safe space for homework, a place children are supervised during the dangerous after school hours, sports and exercise opportunities as well as a healthy and reliable meal. By donating as needed to these programs we offer local kids a hand up for success.

- **TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AESES** 116 books donated to after school library
- **TUSTIN FAMILY AND YOUTH CENTER** 280 Hygiene Products & 463 non-perishable food items donated for low income family Christmas Baskets
- **RISING TIDE LONG BEACH** 2 Spalding Portable Basketball Hoops, 30 basketballs, 10 soccer balls, 24 playground balls and 18 jumpropes for underprivileged youth
- **BIGUPKIDZ COMPTON** 30 basketballs, 10 soccer balls, 24 playground balls and 18 jumpropes for after school sports



# BEST OF 2017: IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

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## Books for Benjamin F. Beswick Elementary School

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*"I'm already in love  
with this book, do I  
have to put it back?"  
-ASES Student*

The ASES Program at Tustin Unified School District is an After School Education and Safety Program that encourages schools and school districts to provide educationally enriching and healthy activities for

children during nonschool hours and to improve assistance to students.

ASES works to to broaden the base of support for education in a safe, constructive environment and HFA is partnering with them to provide libraries to 8 ASES sites.

## Holiday Boxes for Families in Need

HFA Teamed up with The Tustin Family and Youth Center to provide food and hygiene products! Through multiple food distribution programs, after school programs and more they positively improve the lives of students and adults.

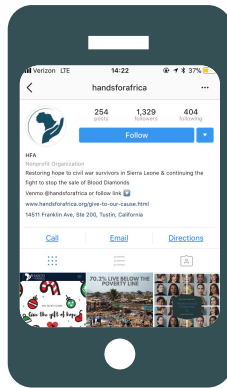


# SPREADING THE WORD

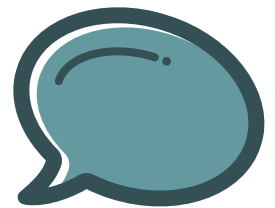
## Social Media

~19,000

Friends & Followers

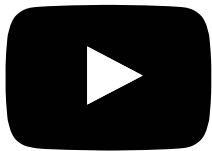


## Outreach



260

Advocates



92,000

Total YouTube Views

>200,000



People Reached

## handsforafrica.org

67,000

Page Views



126

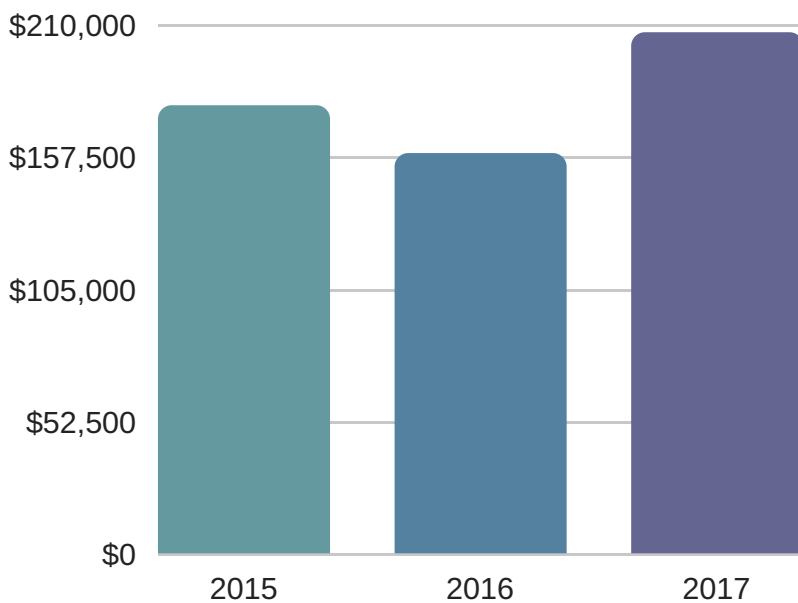
Unique Visitors  
Daily



# FINANCIALS

## Donations

Yearly Revenue 2015-2017

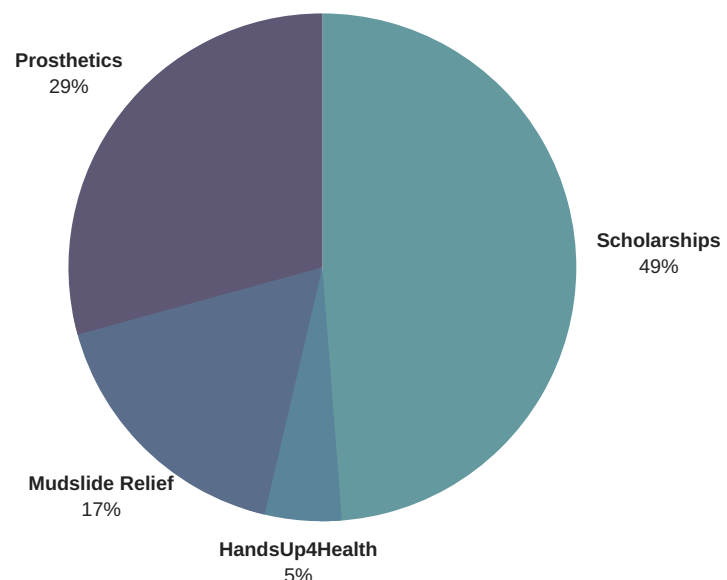


20

New Employees  
Hired

## Program Expenses

Funding Jan-Dec '17



22%

increase in  
donations  
from 2016

33%

increase in funds  
allocated towards  
programs since 2016

# A WORD FROM OUR TEAM

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I love being a part of the HFA team because we take the values of grassroots organizations and connect an international community to work together to make a difference. During my first year with Hands for Africa, I have learned so much and seen immense growth throughout our organization. Between starting new programs, reaching out to new community members and creating lasting partnerships, HFA is truly changing thousands of lives and it is an amazing journey to be a part of.

**Melissa Cataldo**

DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST



Since joining the HFA team, I have been fortunate enough to see the programs expand in a big way. Working to build Project USA:HandsUp4Health gave me an incredible opportunity to make connections within our own community and to find the areas of need. The mission of HFA, to offer a hand up not a hand out, is a successful tactic in strengthening communities and I can't wait to see how HandsUp4Health continues supporting youth in Southern California and Sierra Leone.

**Kayla Lynch**

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

# A THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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Over the last year, I have seen nothing but continuous growth in support from both our local and global community. We have successfully continued to educate all ages throughout Southern California about the horrors of blood diamonds and how people right here in the US can help those across the world. In addition to our founding programs, our new HandsUp4Health program has contributed over 1,000 items towards four after school programs in our community!

Due to the success of our programs this year, we are looking forward to implementing Hands for Africa Chapter Clubs in high schools and colleges throughout California, and expanding our HandsUp4Health program to even more after school programs in our community! I cannot thank you all enough for the continued support we are shown. I am excited to continue our outreach into 2018 with the help of all of you!

## Remy Pascine

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

