

GLOBAL HOPE IMPACT REPORT



Advancing Hope and Freedom Among Peoples Impacted by Conflict



Global Hope is an organization dedicated to sustainable and transformational relief, development, and freedom work empowering women, their families, and their communities to thrive beyond war, conflict, and violence. For the last 20 years, we have served the Iraqi Kurdistan Region with a vision to expand our impact to transform millions of lives across the Middle East. Global Hope serves all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, background, or gender.

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Cover Photo: A Syrian refugee does laundry in a make-shift camp in Koya, Iraqi Kurdistan Region

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We envision a world where women, communities, and nations thrive beyond violence and war. To turn that vision into reality, we are doing hard things in hard places. We are advancing freedom and hope among peoples impacted by conflict.

LETTER FROM THE **FOUNDER**

We are living in days of unprecedented conflict around the world. Wars, rumors of wars, devastating natural disasters, existential nuclear threats, the collapse of nation states, mass displacement of entire populations, and unimaginable human rights violations fill the news cycle. The toll it takes on our hearts and minds to continue to bear witness to these injustices can be overwhelming, and yet we must not look away.

As the international news cycle has moved beyond the ISIS crisis and the pullout from Afghanistan, the global will and appetite for engagement in the Middle East has significantly waned. Our friends and allies in the region have felt left behind, wondering if the ideals of hope and freedom they heard from us and dared to believe in were true.

In the last few years, I have witnessed across this generation of women and young people in the Middle East, an inescapable longing to experience lasting hope and true freedom. In their relentless quest to find it, thousands of those in communities we serve have risked their lives to flee by human smugglers in search of a brighter future in the West. When confronted with the reality that they might die on the journey, all of them say, "I would rather die with the hope of freedom in view than to continue in this situation. If I die on the way, I die only once. But if I stay here, I die again every day."

Simultaneously, another courageous movement of women is moving across the Middle East, raising its collective voice to demand the basic human rights and dignity they deserve - even in the face of tremendous violence, imprisonment, and torture. Their mantra "Women, Life, Freedom" ricochets across the streets of the Middle East and demonstrates that progress is possible.

When we witness their struggle and support their work towards freedom, seeds of hope are planted and solutions are cultivated.

Jesus spoke to his followers in Luke 12:48 saying, "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required." We are the beneficiaries and the stewards of love, light and life in a world plagued by darkness. Wherever conflict and injustice are unfettered, we as global citizens and people of faith have the responsibility to offer enduring hope and meaningful, sophisticated solutions to these complex challenges.

Thanks to your partnership and support, we are serving together at the frontlines of conflict and despair - transforming lives, serving families, engaging communities, influencing leaders, and impacting nations - already reaching tens of thousands of vulnerable people from across the Middle East. And we are only just getting started.

Many of you entered the Global Hope story when you first heard about a vision to establish a multi-purpose community outreach center in the heart of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region - a place called the Freedom Center. Its mission was simply to merge business and benevolence to create transformational and sustainable solutions to the biggest needs of vulnerable communities across Iraq. Today, the Freedom Center shines as a beacon of hope to a largely hopeless generation.

Your faith and trust to invest in this vision when it was but a dream allowed Global Hope to break ground and work towards something that had never before been done in Iraq. Not unlike the Kurdish struggle for freedom, our journey to establish the Freedom Center was filled with challenges and obstacles. War, terror attacks, refugee crises, supply chain issues, political corruption, and persecution all complicated

the path towards its completion. This complex and unstable environment demanded resilience, endurance, and fierce resolve that failure was not an option. It could not be because the future of countless lives hung in the balance.

As we climbed together to achieve the completion of the Freedom Center, Global Hope and its hundreds of volunteers served across Kurdistan to bring help and hope to countless vulnerable people and communities - including Kurds, Yezidis, Arabs, Syrians, and Christians. With your financial support, we have:

- » ***rescued dozens of Yezidi women and children from ISIS captivity***
- » ***helped establish displacement camps and supplied aid to thousands of refugee families***
- » ***supported hundreds of widows and orphans of fallen Kurdish soldiers***
- » ***fed thousands of hungry families***
- » ***brought leadership training and education to thousands more***

Despite the obstacles, we never stopped serving those most in need.

Through your enduring generosity and faithfulness, and by God's abounding grace, Global Hope inaugurated the Freedom Center on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 in the presence of 650 Iraqi and American government and community leaders, members, and friends. The celebration declared to a region plagued by despair that there is still hope. Light can still triumph over darkness.

And the Freedom Center is just the beginning of our vision to impact nations across the Middle East.

After twenty years of investing deeply into individuals and communities across Kurdistan, cultivating regional and cultural expertise, and establishing vital local networks and leadership, Global Hope stands on a firm foundation to grow and scale the mission to impact millions more lives, across multiple countries, for generations to come.

But we cannot do it alone.

The challenges facing the people of the Middle East have existed over thousands of years. Meaningful and lasting change will come only through a thoughtful, well-funded generational strategy led by the people it serves. You are the partners that fuel that strategy.

Together, in partnership with local authorities, community leaders, and faithful partners like you, we will continue to advance freedom and hope among peoples impacted by conflict.

As you read the pages of this report, I pray you will see the impact your investment has made to transform countless lives over two decades of service. None of it has happened without you. I hope, as well, that these pages express with clarity the future of Global Hope's mission across the Middle East so that we might expand our impact as we continue to partner together to bring lasting hope and healing to the most vulnerable.

For you and for God's goodness in this work, I am forever grateful.

Heather Mercer

Heather Mercer
Global Hope, President and Founder



Heather Mercer, founder of Global Hope, visits a displaced Syrian refugee family and helps them resettle into a new community



WE ARE GLOBAL HOPE

Our vision is advancing freedom and hope among peoples impacted by conflict. We help the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, overcome the effects of conflict and violence so they can thrive and fulfill their God-given destinies.

Inspired by our Christian faith, our work reaches women and their families despite the sensitivities and dangers facing them and the obstacles facing us along the way. We believe that when women and girls hold equal and active roles in their communities, families thrive and nations are transformed.

As Iraq continues to battle instability, sectarianism, and insurgency, Global Hope remains committed to the important work of empowering meaningful change and preparing leaders for the next generation.

Guided by extensive field experience, expertise, and the direction of our local staff and partners, Global Hope is able to adapt to the evolving needs of this rapidly changing environment while pursuing sustainable and transformational development priorities throughout the region.

While we invest in strategies that have a broad impact for communities and regions, we know that real change happens one life at a time. Global Hope invests deeply into the lives of individuals so that those individuals can be the change agents their families and communities need.

The people we serve today become the leaders of tomorrow, creating a future of peace, stability, and flourishing - first for Iraq, and eventually the world.



20 YEARS OF HOPE

BEFORE GLOBAL HOPE

2001

Heather moves to Afghanistan with a one-way ticket to serve women and children suffering from famine and Taliban oppression. She, seven of her humanitarian colleagues, and sixteen Afghan co-workers are taken captive by the Taliban for 105 days during the days of 9/11. They are tried before the Afghan Supreme Court for crimes against Islam. Ultimately, they are miraculously rescued by US Special Forces and the prayers of millions.

2002

Heather and her friend, Dayna, write and publish their personal memoir, *Prisoners of Hope: The Story of Our Captivity and Freedom in Afghanistan*. It sells 250,000 copies and makes the *New York Times* best seller list for non-fiction. Together they travel and share their story and the story of the beloved Afghan people.

2003

The Second Gulf War begins. No longer able to return to Afghanistan, Heather travels to Iraq to work with an international relief agency providing aid to displaced people. She visits the Iraqi Kurdistan Region for the first time and learns of the remarkable story of the Kurdish people. Over 18 months, Heather leads ten short-term teams across Kurdistan and the Nineveh Plains to explore the region and opportunities for future work.

THE GLOBAL HOPE YEARS

2004

All the money raised from the *Prisoners of Hope* story, totaling more than \$1.5M, is given away to fund projects serving vulnerable people in Afghanistan. A small seed amount is used to incorporate Global Hope and launch its vision to advance freedom and hope among peoples impacted by conflict.

2005

Heather leads a team of four women that moves to Kurdistan one week before Christmas. With a vision to serve the Kurdish people in a post-Saddam Iraq, the team studies Kurdish language and culture.

2006

Global Hope is invited to work in an underserved area of Kurdistan. The provincial governor offers Global Hope land and the support of the Kurdish government to establish a multi-purpose community center to meet the most

crucial needs of the Kurdish people emerging from genocide and war. Global Hope signs a land and construction contract with the KRG to build the Freedom Center. The first \$500,000 is raised to get started on the project.

2007

Global Hope is officially registered in Iraq as an international NGO. It is one of the first 100 organizations registered with the Kurdish Regional Government through the Ministry of Planning. Global Hope hires an Iraqi contracting company to build the Freedom Center and breaks ground.

2008 – 2009

Global Hope launches Impact Iraq, a program to mobilize volunteers across various sectors to serve the humanitarian and development needs across Kurdistan. As the Kurds aim to become contributing members of the global community, Global Hope facilitates more than 200 volunteers - including doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, ministers, and business professionals - to train the leaders of the next generation. Global Hope registers the first and only government-accredited English language school in the area.

2010 – 2011

Global Hope brings life-saving medical care

to Iraqi Kurdistan's most vulnerable children. Babou travels to America to meet with one of only fifteen doctors globally who can perform advanced limb-lengthening surgery to save his leg. With only weeks to live, Alan receives heart surgery that saves his life. In partnership with American obstetricians, Global Hope addresses a critical gap in women's healthcare by coordinating a program to read mammograms.

2012

Global Hope expands its business partnerships and hosts a Chick-fil-A™ discovery team to visit the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and the Freedom Center. As a part of its long-term strategy for sustainable change, Global Hope explores ways to increase opportunities for language learning, education, and economic development among young people, especially women and girls.

2013

Navigating the pitfalls of corruption, supply-chain challenges, and contract disputes, Global Hope takes over as the general contractor for the Freedom Center and mobilizes dozens of skilled construction volunteers and project managers to coordinate its completion. Teams from across America travel for weeks or months at a time, at their own expense, in service of the Kurdish people.

2014

ISIS seizes territory across Syria and Iraq and changes its name to the Islamic State. It declares the establishment of a caliphate in Iraq and Syria and takes over Mosul from the Iraqi Army. Over 1,000,000 people from Iraq and Syria are displaced, flooding into the Iraqi Kurdistan Region in search of safe haven. Global Hope adjusts its original purpose for the Freedom Center and uses it as a distribution center for its emergency response and humanitarian work.

2015

Global Hope launches and trademarks the Hope4IraqSM campaign as its response to the growing ISIS crisis and expands its frontline distributions supporting Kurdish soldiers and their families defending the freedom of the region and the world.

2016

Global Hope establishes a direct pathway to rescue Yazidi women and children from ISIS captivity. Twenty-one women and children are brought to safety with their families before the pathway closes. Heather sponsors Hawal, a deaf Kurdish boy, to come to America for surgery for his hearing impairment. When no viable treatment is available, Heather adopts Hawal as her son and helps him build a new life in America.

2017

Global Hope continues live-saving aid distributions in camps across the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, supporting tens of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons, and also establishes a safe house prototype for victims of gender-based violence. The referendum vote for Kurdish independence takes place and gains more than 92% support in favor of independence. This sets off a firestorm of political conflict with the federal government of Iraq that leads to further military conflict. The KRG loses 20% of its territory and its main source of revenue: the oil fields of Kirkuk.

2018

Global Hope suffers a tremendous heartbreak when it discovers regional actors and power brokers have orchestrated an entrapment plot threatening the work and the lives of its staff. Committed to securing justice and preserving the work for the most marginalized, Global Hope lobbies for support at the highest levels of the US government. Secretary Mike Pompeo ultimately activates a delegation of senior government officials to intervene, including the US Ambassador to Iraq and the Assistant Secretary of State. Ironically, this confrontation garners increased support from the KRG and establishes Global Hope as a strong partner in the region.

2019

The US withdrawal from northeast Syria sparks another wave of displacement in the protracted Syrian refugee crisis, and once again communicates a significant betrayal to the Kurds. More than 260,000 people now live as refugees inside the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. Global Hope brings emergency aid to Syria and to thousands of families in camps. Global Hope is asked by Kurdish officials to assist in the development of a deradicalization program for the families and children of ISIS fighters, an essential task in destroying extremist ideologies.

2020

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic and COVID shutdowns, Global Hope completes the Freedom Center with its original vision as a multi-purpose community center serving the development needs of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and beyond.

2021

On the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and Heather's captivity in Afghanistan, Global Hope inaugurates the Freedom Center together with 600 Iraqi government officials, community leaders, and friends. More than 50 American friends and supporters also travel for the occasion. The unprecedented celebration testifies that the dream is only impossible until

it is done. After more than a decade of faith and perseverance, the long-awaited vision is realized.

2022

Escalating Iranian interference throughout Iraq threatens the community around Global Hope's headquarters in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. In multiple attacks, Iran launches dozens of ballistic missiles and suicide drones targeting Iranian opposition groups in the area. These attacks displace more than 700 local families and kill and injure dozens more, including women and children. Global Hope immediately responds with aid and support for the victims of the attacks.

2023

After the completion of the Freedom Center, Global Hope launches its renewed vision for the next twenty years. Focusing on maximizing impact, scaling for growth, and expanding to new regions, Global Hope mobilizes high-capacity leadership and resources to carry the mission into the future.

"The Kurds are the orphans of the universe and those who have no friends but the mountains."
— ancient Kurdish proverb

A history of doing hard things in hard places



WHAT WE DO

Our Promise

We are deeply committed to serving the most vulnerable in Iraq and across the Middle East. As conflict and violence disrupt hope and threaten freedom, our five strategic pillars define our mission focus and embody our enduring promise to the women and communities we serve.

1

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Creating educational and economic opportunities that equip individuals to flourish beyond conflict, achieve their dreams, and fulfill their God-given destiny



2

SERVING FAMILIES

Empowering women to improve their livelihoods, strengthen their resilience, and thrive in safety so they can build stronger families and lead the next generation



3

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Developing local ownership to lead relevant, effective, and sustainable programs that meet essential needs and elevate the lives of the most vulnerable



4

INFLUENCING LEADERS

Engaging politics, business and the public sector at the highest levels to promote policies and practices advancing women's equality and human dignity

5

IMPACTING NATIONS

Building sustainable, scalable solutions to hard problems in hard places

OUR APPROACH

We firmly believe that it is not just what we do that matters, but how we do it. In the complex environments of the Middle East, we use a multi-faceted methodology to achieve our goal of freedom, opportunity, and hope for all.

ADVOCACY

We speak up for the voiceless and empower women so they have the confidence and skills to make decisions that impact their lives and families. We work to transform the attitudes towards girls and women that perpetuate violence against them, because we understand that shifting the core values and beliefs that shape those attitudes creates real and lasting change. We advocate for progress in policy and practice on a government, community, and individual level - seeking not just understanding, but action.

AWARENESS

We raise the recognition and appreciation for the injustices systemically committed against women and extend a call to action for change. We create opportunities for women to find allies and their own voice in their struggle against oppression, forging new paths for women to stand for change and men to join them in the work for freedom.

ACCESS

We provide access to education, life-skills development, and empowerment opportunities because freedom from violence and oppression does not happen without them. We bring these resources to the forefront of women's lives to open the door to a healthy identity, appropriate interpersonal relationships, and a life of independence, free from the fear of violence and oppression.

AFTERCARE

We rescue and offer safe haven to women who experience gender-based violence in its most extreme forms, including the practice of forced marriage, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation, 'honor' violence or killings, or trafficking. In conflict zones, these forms of violence significantly increase, and they are often culturally and religiously sanctioned. We offer a place for women who have nowhere else to go and no one else to turn to by providing vital care to deal with trauma. By developing one of the only private and holistic residential care facilities in all of Iraq for those impacted by gender-based violence, we are ensuring that no woman's life is lost to gender-based violence.

CHANGE A LIFE CHANGE A NATION

Hawal's Story of Expanding Impact

Hawal never met a stranger and always made a friend, but his world was not always kind to him.

Hawal was nine-years-old when Global Hope staff first met him running the streets of his small Kurdish town. A gregarious and vibrant boy, he was ambitious to make a buck by shining shoes in the local bazaar, sweeping the floor of his father's shop, and weighing passersby on his tiny scale. But under the surface of his amiability lay a challenge that left Hawal isolated and excluded from his community. He was born profoundly and bilaterally deaf, most likely the result of altered genetics caused by chemical warfare when Saddam Hussein annihilated his parents' village in a genocidal raid against the Kurds.

Like most children with special needs, especially among the merchant and middle classes, Hawal was never afforded an education because services for the deaf did not exist. The lack of opportunity deprived Hawal of an education altogether and left him completely languageless, without the ability to read, write, or speak sign language. The social stigmas around his impairment left him feeling alone and hopeless.

Following the invasion of ISIS in Iraq, Hawal resolved to flee to Europe by human smuggler in search of a better life. Fearful for her son, Hawal's mom looked to Heather for help, and together they forged a plan to secure an emergency medical visa to bring him to America for cochlear implant repair surgery in the hopes that Hawal might gain an ability to hear. He received the coveted

visa and soon he and Heather departed Iraqi Kurdistan together for an unknown adventure.

En route to the airport, Hawal's parents announced to Heather that he was no longer their son. Hawal now belonged to her, and they entrusted him into her hands. Dumbfounded yet humbled by the declaration, Heather embraced Hawal as her own and committed to do everything possible to provide him with love and a bright future.

After arriving in America, it was soon discovered that no medical recourse existed to restore Hawal's hearing. Instead, deaf education and sign language were his future, but Hawal needed to obtain legal residency to remain in the United States. From entering school with no academic skills or a shared language with which to communicate, to acquiring permanent residency status as an asylee from Iraq, the obstacles ahead were mammoth. Determined to succeed, they confronted and overcame both challenges and together learned basic American Sign Language.

Before long, it became apparent that Hawal required a robust support system to thrive independently in America.

Over the next few years, his support team grew remarkably to include teachers, interpreters and friends, including one remarkable mentor, Emma DeCaro. A certified interpreter, Emma joined Heather and Hawal's small family. She helped Hawal exceptionally improve

his language skills and integrate into the broader deaf community. She continues to mentor him today.

Within two years, Hawal graduated from high school and obtained his permanent residency. Passionate about continuing his education, he attended Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. where he studied at the English Language Institute.

Today, Hawal is thriving as a young adult in Washington D.C. working two full-time jobs, and he recently won a supporting acting role in a feature film produced by the deaf for the deaf. He represents and advocates for the Kurdish deaf community and hopes someday to return to Kurdistan to help others like him.

Remarkably, Hawal's story is already paving a path for deaf advocacy in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. In partnership with Emma and her colleagues, Global Hope hosted the first region-wide deaf conference at the Freedom Center addressing deaf rights, access and education.

The journey that started more than fifteen years ago to help one deaf boy hear has now impacted an entire nation.



Photos from Top Left: 1) 10-year-old Hawal Mohammed Abdullah and Heather Mercer when they first met 2) Hawal visits Washington D.C. 3) Hawal and Heather celebrate on his graduation day 4) Hawal with close friend and mentor, Emma DeCaro 5) Hawal's first Christmas in America with his new adoptive family 6) Primary Photo: Hawal's graduation photo from the Texas School for the Deaf

WHY WE DO IT

Our Values

Global Hope has been on the ground in conflict zones for more than twenty years investing deeply into the lives of women, children, and their families.

From the inside-out, these values shape who we are, influence what we do, and how and why we do it.

1

FRONTLINES

We go where others don't and care when others won't. We do not fear the dangerous places of the world. We were made for them. In the places of greatest need, we find the greatest opportunities for hope. And we are committed to advancing that hope across the Middle East.

2

CULTURAL IMMERSION

We live with the people, not simply among them. Global Hope's staff are immersed in the culture of the communities we serve, even speaking the local language. They are our friends. They are our family. Our local and regional networks and partnerships inform our work and provide effective leadership.

3

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

We believe lasting change happens when it is integrated and empowered at a local level. As we work to ignite change, we seek to build community ownership and leadership in the process. We not only work for the community, we work with them. We are in this together, and they are leading the way.

4

LONG-TERM

We will do whatever it takes, for however long it takes, to see women freed from oppression, released from the grip of violence, and empowered to fulfill their greatest destiny. We have been on the ground for twenty years, and we will be there for twenty more. Injustice has lasted long enough. Now is the time for change. And we are determined to stay until the job is done.

5

INTEGRITY

Integrity matters. We want to activate change to some of the world's most systemic injustices, so building trust through integrity is non-negotiable. We seek to do what is right both when the world is watching and when no one is looking. We will continue to choose what is right, even when the path is unknown and the cost is high.

6

PEOPLE

Everyone has a seat at the table. And at this table every voice gets heard, regardless of station or background. Each person has something essential to offer, and without each other we are diminished in what we can achieve. We believe influence grows from character and compassion, not power and position. Lasting change will require the contribution of the collective over the few.



HOW WE DO IT

Our Strategies

The needs in regions marred by conflict are comprehensive and complex. Global Hope specializes in long-term, sustainable, and holistic strategies that achieve maximum impact - so that every part of the society is changed for the better.

1

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Since the start of the Second Gulf War, Global Hope has been on the ground and ready to respond when the next emergency strikes. Whether the conflict is instigated by external actors or internal threats, the need for emergency response is inevitable. We work with communities to prepare for and respond when conflict arises by collaborating with regional authorities and local community leaders to provide immediate and relevant assistance.

2

EDUCATION

The instability war brings remains long after the conflict ends and extends well beyond the frontlines. Education is one of the first public resources to suffer, drastically affecting the future of Iraq and the Middle East for generations to come. Through the Freedom Center, Global Hope creates educational opportunities to equip the vulnerable with skills that create new pathways out of oppression, such as job skills and professional training, computer skills, leadership development, youth programming, and literacy and language classes.

3

EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION

The most vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, often do not have access to the care, opportunities, or advocacy they need. This can create an inescapable cycle of oppression, injustice, and harm. Global Hope works to break this cycle by providing rescue from violence, access to life-changing care, and opportunities for personal and professional development in a safe environment – opening the doors of freedom to those who need it most.

4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Countries impacted by war face a dual challenge of rebuilding their economies while avoiding renewed conflict. Global Hope creates pathways for sustainable transformation through professional training and job creation, providing critical deterrents to mass migration and ideological radicalization. The Freedom Center houses for-profit businesses that offer employment opportunities and a business incubator training young entrepreneurs – granting women and youth increased control over their own lives and allowing them to better provide for their families and contribute to their communities.

5

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Communities are made through connection. In areas of conflict, families are often displaced from their homes and disconnected from their support systems. Global Hope invests not only in individuals, but also in their communities, creating opportunities for connection to their neighbors and resources to replace the support they left behind. With connection, a lifeline of hope is created – even in the most challenging circumstances.



WHO WE SERVE

Global Hope serves the most vulnerable people in regions touched by conflict and provides hope and resources that will change communities for generations to come.

WOMEN

Women lack the basic human rights and dignity they deserve, and yet, when they are empowered, they empower the communities around them.

YOUTH

Young people lack access to education and safety, but when they find hope, freedom, and opportunity, they become the leaders that shape a better future.

REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Those removed from their homes and sometimes their families often lack the support and resources to meet their everyday needs. When they encounter care, they find security and stability in new places.

UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Oppressed, overlooked, and exploited, we are committed to seeing and serving the ones few others see and serve, because every human life matters to God, and every human deserves a chance to flourish in peace.

DISPLACED PERSONS

Caring for the Victims of ISIS

The summer of 2014 brought with it a terrifying and dark chapter in Iraq's history when the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sh'am (ISIS) advanced into the Nineveh Plains to establish their self-declared caliphate. Under threat of death, forced conversion, and enslavement, hundreds of thousands of religious and ethnic minorities abandoned their homes. In a matter of days, nearly 10,000 Yazidis were killed and thousands of women and girls were abducted and enslaved.

The systematic murder and abduction of Yazidis, Assyrian Christians, Shabak Muslims, Turkmen, and Kaka'i was genocide. By the end of that year, the Iraqi Kurdistan Region was harboring more than one million refugees and internally displaced persons. Over the last ten years, that number has doubled to more than two million people.

Ever since the struggle began, Global Hope has been on the ground working to help those most affected by the brutality of ISIS.



Mosul, Iraq on fire under ISIS siege

RESCUING WOMEN

When ISIS moved into the Yazidi communities of Kocho, Qiniyeh, and Mount Shingal, they divided people into two groups: men, and women and children. Men and boys over the age of twelve were taken to mass grave sites where ISIS filmed them before opening fire. Young women and mothers with children were separated from the elderly to be trafficked to ISIS fighters and forcibly converted to Islam. Through the use of sexual violence and slavery, countless rescued women and children have been severely traumatized. Still today, more than 4,000 Yazidis are still unaccounted for, and an estimated 3,000 of them are women.

With such evil and brutality ravaging Iraq, Global Hope boldly engaged the intolerable violence to rescue those held in captivity. Navigating very dangerous and complex territory, we coordinated with a network of deeply-embedded local intelligence agents to secure a direct pathway to rescue Yazidis who had been abducted. As women and children were forcibly on the move through ISIS-held territories, Global Hope partners intercepted them and secured their rescue.

HEALING TRAUMA

The rescue of these women and children was unfortunately only the beginning of a long journey towards healing and restoration. Cultural stigmas around sexual violence caused many of the victims to be ostracized by their families and communities after their return, and young boys rescued from ISIS training camps required psychological deradicalization education.

For three years following the conflict, Global Hope helped create programs and facilities to aid in the recovery from these complex traumas. In 2019, we worked with Kurdish officials to take a vital step toward eliminating extremist ideologies by developing a deradicalization program for the families and children of ISIS fighters. Additionally, we established a prototype for a residential aftercare and safehouse facility for victims of trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence.

Today, Global Hope is working to expand these programs into long-term services so that they can extend their reach to those impacted by on-going conflict and trauma – all so lives are preserved, healing is enabled, and violence and its effects are eradicated.

AIDING REFUGEES

ISIS imposed forced displacement, property theft, and destruction of holy sites on Iraq's ancient Christian community. It is estimated that around 200,000 Christians fled their towns in Nineveh when ISIS attacked in 2014, seizing their homes. Christians who remained would be forced to pay a tax to ISIS, convert to Islam, or ultimately flee. Nearly all Christians fled to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region in search of safe haven.

More than 1,700 refugee families from Syrian, Yazidi and Christian communities entered the area surrounding the Freedom Center. Global Hope organized regular distributions to dozens of government-sponsored and make-shift refugee camps housing thousands of people.

Food parcels, winter supplies, kerosine, clothing, medicine and equipment provided vital resources inaccessible to displaced groups outside of UN-supported refugee camps. Before the conclusion of the ISIS crisis, Global Hope brought life-saving aid and hope to more than 30,000 refugees and displaced people.



IDPs form a line awaiting evacuation by the Iraqi Army during the liberation of Mosul



Before the pathway to rescue closed, Global Hope and its partners rescued twenty-one women and children from the hands of ISIS brutality and returned them to their families in displacement camps in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.



Bardarash Refugee Camp outside Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan Region



SOLDIER CARE

Supporting the Fight For Freedom

The Peshmerga, Kurdistan's brave and highly-skilled military force, are the heart of Kurdish identity and pride. These fierce fighters, whose name means "to stand in the face of death," play an essential role in the regional and global fight against terror. As a key partner of the Allied Forces in the capture of Saddam Hussein, the killing of Osama bin Laden, and the battle against the Islamic State across Iraq and Syria, the Peshmerga have fought to defend not only the freedom of the Kurdish people, but the freedom of the whole world.



During times of great conflict and turmoil, Global Hope serves the soldiers and their families, demonstrating to the Kurdish people, "we love what you love, and we care about what you care about."



ONE WIDOW'S DREAM

Shamal's Story through the Eyes of His Widow

When the war against ISIS began, our son was two months old. Shamal and I shared four children, and though we were poor, we had a good life.

Shamal was proud to be a Peshmerga, and he never took a day off in the fight against ISIS. While he was at war, our children heard planes flying overhead and they were filled with fear. They begged their father to return home. As the war continued, he reassured them that he would soon return.

Shamal was the only son in his family. He was not required to fight on the frontlines, but he wanted to go. He was brave and courageous, determined to fight on behalf of the Kurds and for the freedom of Kurdistan.

Shamal never came home empty handed, always bringing gifts for the children. Two days before he was killed, during a video call, he showed the kids the gifts he was bringing home. He had his first gift for our son, but it never made it to him.

The morning before he was killed, Shamal called me. His cell phone battery was about to die. He said the night before there was a fierce battle, but not to worry. Everything was fine. He was fine. When I called him a short time later, he did not answer. I knew then that he was gone.

My husband would always say that the war is going to end and bring freedom to Kurdistan. He hoped to see the end of the war. Sadly, he did not live to see that day, and our children are still waiting for him to come home.

My hope is there would be no more war, that young people would no longer have to die, and that there would be no more orphans. This is my dream.



Heather & Shamal at the frontlines of Mullah Abdullah, Kirkuk, Iraq three weeks before he was killed by an ISIS attack

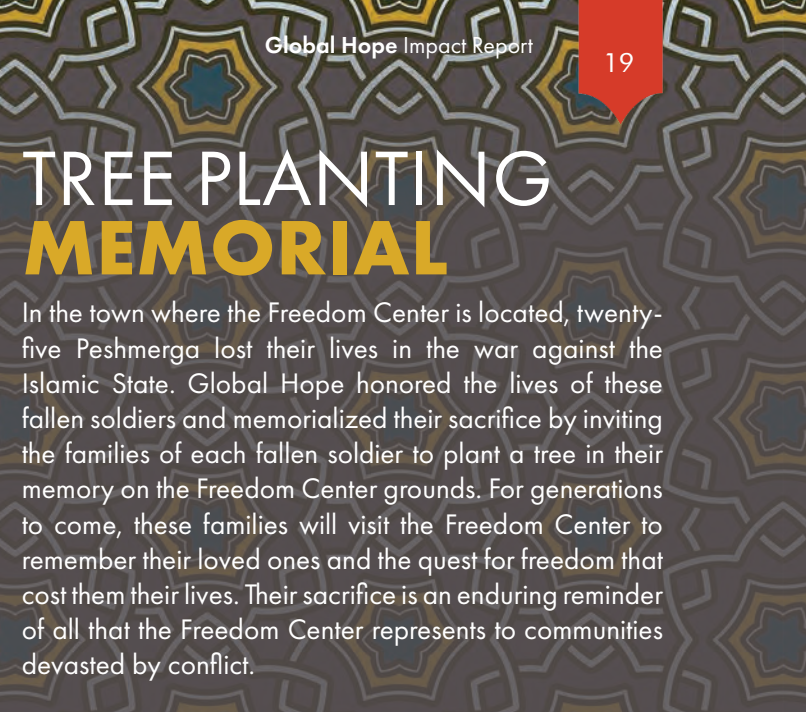
Shamal's wife and children honor his memory

FRONTLINE DISTRIBUTIONS

At the height of the ISIS crisis, Global Hope served tens of thousands of Peshmerga soldiers on the frontlines of the battlefield. Just yards away from ISIS terrorists, Global Hope teams distributed food, medical and winter supplies, and digital scriptures, all offering hope and help in their darkest hour.

WIDOW & ORPHAN CARE

Thousands of Peshmerga soldiers lost their lives in the fight against the Islamic State, leaving behind widows and orphans who were now vulnerable to exploitation and poverty, without a male head of household. Global Hope provided financial support and tangible aid to more than a hundred families suffering from the conflict's most unimaginable losses. This created ongoing relationships to aid in the long-term work of restoring lives after war.



Wife and son of a fallen Peshmerga soldier plant a tree at the Freedom Center in his memory

TREE PLANTING MEMORIAL

In the town where the Freedom Center is located, twenty-five Peshmerga lost their lives in the war against the Islamic State. Global Hope honored the lives of these fallen soldiers and memorialized their sacrifice by inviting the families of each fallen soldier to plant a tree in their memory on the Freedom Center grounds. For generations to come, these families will visit the Freedom Center to remember their loved ones and the quest for freedom that cost them their lives. Their sacrifice is an enduring reminder of all that the Freedom Center represents to communities devastated by conflict.

EDUCATION COURSES

Unlocking a Door to Freedom

Education is the foundation for every prosperous and peaceful society. It creates more than opportunities to learn; it can also grow human dignity, rescue people from economic deprivation, foster broadminded and creative thinking, and create productive and thoughtful citizens.

With effective education, individuals are more likely to reject violence, intolerance, discrimination and oppression as acceptable societal norms, making space for women to be empowered and to flourish despite limiting cultural expectations.

Global Hope creates educational opportunities that focus on critical thinking and problem-solving

skills through the Freedom Center's multi-purpose classrooms, computer laboratory, and professional training facilities.

As students seek to increase their employability in a global economy, conversation-based English language courses remain in high demand. Global Hope's seasonal courses provide six levels of language learning, from beginner to advanced. Through these programs, we have taught and graduated more than 2,000 students.

As Global Hope grows the program, we seek to be the premiere government-accredited English language institute in the region, sourcing and supporting native English-speaking language teachers to meet the growing demand.



A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Chiman's Story of Empowerment

Our community does not have many opportunities to learn English from native speakers, unless you attend university. Growing up, education was limited, especially for girls. When Global Hope started its English classes, the entire town was excited. I enrolled in the beginner course, because I did not know any English at all.

The class was so much fun: full of learning and laughter. I learned the alphabet and simple phrases. I used to be embarrassed to speak, but through conversation practice in class, my confidence grew.

As a young girl, I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to learn such a universal language, but learning conversational English has opened many new experiences for me. Today, I have many friendships with Americans working in Kurdistan, and our relationships can flourish. By not knowing English, I felt blind to the world outside of Kurdistan. Now I can better share about my homeland and my culture with my American friends too.



CHILD OUTREACH

Distributing Love Pax

One in six of the world's children, about 450 million, lived in conflict zones at the end of last year, the highest number in 20 years, according to the United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). A record 36.5 million children were displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, violence and other crises.

Two million Iraqis have been displaced in the aftermath of the ISIS conflict and the protracted refugee crisis, and over half of them have been displaced for three years or more. Among these, children have become some of the most vulnerable victims.

They are the invisible victims of war, facing physical, mental, and sexual abuse without recourse or protection. Many of them are required to provide for their families by selling tissues, flowers or washing windshields for pocket change. This increases the risk of forced labor, child marriage, and acute threats to their safety and wellbeing.

But it is not just their present that is affected by these conflicts. It is also their futures.

Access to education remains limited for the 2.6 million children inside Iraq currently in need of educational assistance. Over half of the existing schools in formerly conflict-affected governorates need rehabilitation to create a safe and protective learning environment for students. This can increase their opportunities to thrive

beyond the conflicts that have defined their past.

Global Hope has collaborated with a long-time church partner to bring joy and support to these children through Love Pax distributions. Love Pax parcels contain school supplies, hygiene items, and toys. When receiving one of these parcels, simple but vital needs are met, creating hope and excitement to fuel academic success. Through our efforts, more than 2,000 children have received Love Pax parcels throughout the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.



A visiting team celebrates a Lov Pax distribution to 1,500 children of Peshmerga soldiers

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partnerships That Bring Hope

After a long history of oppression, violence, and injustice, the Kurdish people believe that their only friends are the mountains. When Global Hope stepped into the region, we knew that our first role was to earn trust through meaningful service and our ultimate goal was to empower the people rather than lead them.

For two decades, Global Hope has built trust with the Kurdish people, and we have learned that sustainable impact is obtained and multiplied when locals have ownership. Our local partners' regional knowledge is integral to this work and they guide our policies and practices at every level. These local staff, advisors, and advocates shape and lead the programs and projects that are at the center of our work.

Even when faced with hostility towards themselves and their families from those who oppose freedom, they remain courageous, compassionate, and committed to ensuring safety, care, and dignity are granted to every person in their communities. They are the true heroes of hope.



Community members fill the empty library shelves with their own favorite books



Wan's family and friends gather to dedicate the Freedom Center library in his memory

WAN'S LIBRARY OF LEGACY

Wan was days away from graduating from high school when a devastating car accident took his life.

The tragedy rippled through the community. Grief washed over them all like a tsunami. No one in his small town was unaffected by his premature death.

Within minutes of the tragedy, our team was alerted and immediately offered support to the family. His mother and father, both long-time friends of the organization, are influential leaders in their community.

In the days and weeks that followed, Global Hope staff attended to the family's practical and emotional needs, easing their tremendous burden. We offered to dedicate the Freedom Center library in Wan's name and in his honor. Together with his family, a dedication ceremony was planned for the fortieth day after his passing, an important milestone in Kurdish culture.

Community members brought thousands of their own favorite books to fill the library. People of all ages brought history, literature, and academic books to share with the community. Muslim leaders even brought Bibles, displaying their acceptance of the Freedom Center and its mission.

Today, the library carries Wan's memory and is a testament to the power of unity created when a community stands together to overcome despair with hope and pain with purpose.

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

Partnerships that Create Sustainability

In the context of a fragile and fragmented Middle East, trusted partners in the region are more important than ever. Strong coalitions are essential to creating and sustaining peace. From the time Global Hope entered Iraq, we have pursued a cooperative and productive partnership with the highest levels of government and political leadership, resulting in effective relationships with the region's decision makers and power brokers.

Government officials appreciate the intentionality of our staff and volunteers to understand Kurdish culture, language, and its political framework. Our longevity in the region proves to Kurdish leadership that we are an enduring partner worthy of their trust.

This trust opens doors to elevate the voices of the marginalized to the leaders who determine and influence the policies which shape their lives. Without this established trust, Global Hope would not experience the liberal access and cooperation generously afforded to us by the Kurdish Regional Government.



Heather Mercer meets with Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabany to discuss Global Hope's strategic partnership with the Kurdish Regional Government



Masoud Barzani announces the 2017 Kurdistan Region Independence Referendum



Heather meets with Peshmerga commander, Rahbar Said Braim, and former governor of Kirkuk, Najmiddin Karim, to advocate for an abandoned and stateless Kurdish child



Heather and senior Kurdish government officials at the Freedom Center groundbreaking in January 2007



Global Hope has welcomed four consecutive American consul generals to the Freedom Center on official visits

FREEDOM CENTER

A Catalyst for Multiplying Impact

In May 2003, the Iraq War had just begun, creating a new humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. When Global Hope founder, Heather Mercer, stepped into this troubled landscape, few organizations were established and even fewer were prepared to meet the challenges caused by the chaos of war. For two years, Heather lead numerous volunteer teams and traveled to every corner of the country - from Baghdad to Najaf, Anbar to Fallujah, Mosul to Kirkuk, Zakho to Halabja - meeting with government officials, international organizations and those impacted by conflict to understand the real issues facing communities seeking a free and peaceful future.

By God’s providence, Heather was invited to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, a semi-autonomous area in the northern part of the country, to meet with the provincial governor of one of the three regional governorates. When she asked

the governor how Global Hope could most effectively serve the Kurds in a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, he replied with a most remarkable invitation. He said, “Would you come here? No one comes here. Everyone goes to the East and to the West. If you would come here, we will give you land. You can work here tax-free, and we will help you do whatever work you like.”

Global Hope responded to the invitation and established an official and permanent presence as a legally-registered, international non-government organization with the Kurdish Regional Government. As international reconstruction efforts expanded across the country, Global Hope investigated meaningful avenues to create lasting impact at a grassroots level for young people, women, and those most marginalized by the aftermath of the war. A series of Global Hope focus groups revealed

that the greatest felt needs included opportunities for education, professional and English language training, leadership development, job creation, safe and happy spaces for women and their families, and trauma and mental health care.

Thus, the dream of the Freedom Center was born.

The Freedom Center is a community center designed to address these multifaceted needs in a long-term, sustainable, and transformational way. In partnership with local engineers, tradesmen, churches, and volunteers, the Freedom Center has become a strategic tool to catalyze hope and offer tangible opportunities to meet needs and touch hearts in the region.

The Freedom Center itself is not the vision. Rather, it is a

tool to accomplish the ultimate goal of transforming lives by merging business and benevolence to create sustainable solutions to the biggest challenges facing vulnerable communities across the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. It is not only Global Hope’s operational headquarters in Iraq, but also the very visible platform that demonstrates trust and credibility and communicates to the underserved that they are not forgotten.

Through the Freedom Center, Global Hope serves people from all walks of life, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or social class. Our center has access to continuous subsidized electrical

power and water, coveted resources uncommonly available to the private sector. We have established infrastructure and systems with capacity to serve thousands of people weekly for impact today and ultimately to expand our reach across the region for generations to come.

Housed in the Freedom Center are numerous businesses and educational spaces where we facilitate our benevolent and for-profit activities.



Preparing for the Freedom Center Inauguration Day on 9/11/2021



COFFEE CAFÉ & RESTAURANT



MOVIE THEATER



MICRO-BUSINESS BOUTIQUE



LIBRARY



MULTI-PURPOSE CLASSROOMS



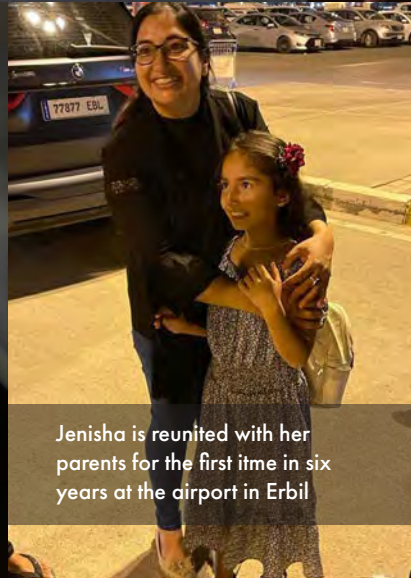
TECH LABORATORY



CONVENTION & CONFERENCE SPACE



PARK & PLAYGROUND



Jenisha is reunited with her parents for the first time in six years at the airport in Erbil

WELCOME HOME

Thakur and Sita's Story of Finding Family

Global Hope's impact and your partnership extend beyond the borders of Iraq. Through the Freedom Center, lives from around the world are being transformed.

All was right in Thakur and Sita's world, until one devastating day. On April 25, 2015, an 8.1 earthquake ravaged their land killing almost 9,000 people, injuring 22,000 more, and leaving 3.5 million others homeless.

Thakur and Sita owned and operated a successful hotel in Nepal, but the aftermath of the earthquake left the nation's economy in shambles, and they lost their business, their livelihood, and their dream. Unable to survive in Nepal without employment, they had to leave their two-year-old daughter, Jenisha, and migrate in search of a new beginning.

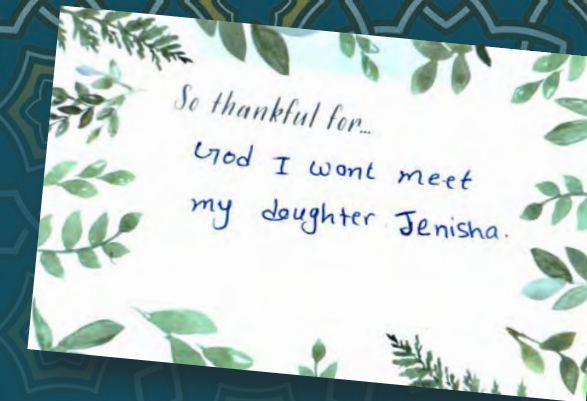
Thakur and Sita moved their lives to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and entered the dilapidated economic landscape where thousands of migrant workers found themselves overworked, underpaid, abused, and exploited with little protection. In the fog of war, human exploitation and injustice thrive. For more than fifteen years, Iraq has migrated more than 750,000 foreign workers into the country, mostly from southern and southeast Asia, to mitigate the country's long-standing brain drain, preference for public sector jobs, and failure of the education system to provide the skills and training needed in a modern, knowledge-driven economy. Migrant workers, many without legal status, risk their lives to come to Iraq in search of better employment opportunities, often doing jobs undesirable to locals. They soon discover that what they were promised is far from reality.

Thakur and Sita were two of the hundreds of thousands who embarked on this journey across the world in search of a better life. Once they arrived, the couple lived separate lives while working for different companies owned by Kurdish business tycoons. They endured the unfortunate circumstances while striving for a financial future that would enable them to return to the daughter they had left behind with family.

In 2021, Global Hope was preparing to officially open the Freedom Center. Dozens of additional staff were needed. In a hiring boost, Thakur and Sita were immediately recognized as a hard-working couple with strong leadership capacity. Ready to take on new challenges and learn new skills, they soon joined the Global Hope team as Freedom Café baristas. Trained for several weeks by a master Starbucks barista in the Kurdish capital of Erbil, Thakur and Sita spent the next couple months setting up the Freedom Café for business.

As the holidays approached, the team gathered to celebrate an American Thanksgiving. Each with a notecard, the staff took turns acknowledging what they were thankful for. Sita grabbed a pen, and instead scripted a prayer on her card. "God, I want to meet my daughter, Jenisha." She held that prayer and that card close to her heart.

With New Year's soon to follow, the Global Hope team looked ahead to their dreams for 2022. When asked



about her wish for the coming year, Sita began to cry. "All I want this year is to be reunited with my daughter." With hardly a dry eye in the room, Heather committed to Sita that everything possible would be done to reunite their family.

Within a few months, Global Hope facilitated the immigration process for Jenisha to arrive in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. After more than six years of separation, Jenisha was reunited with her parents, and once again, all was made right in their world.

Today, Thakur, Sita and Jenisha live together in a home just yards from the Freedom Center. Jenisha attends a local, private school and now speaks four languages: English, Kurdish, Arabic, and Nepali. She visits the Freedom Center every day and enjoys helping her mother and father.

When asked about what the Freedom Center means to them, Thakur replied, "We came here for a job. That was all we thought we needed. But instead, we found a family. Our personal family was restored too. Our family is now complete. Being a part of Global Hope truly holds uncountable value for us. Now we are a part of a vision, and we want to see that vision grow. We want our café and coffee business to be very successful. The Freedom Center is our home, and we hope many others find a home here too."





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Victoria Simpson

I first heard about Global Hope when Heather spoke at my church. Immediately upon hearing about the region and the people they served, my heart was moved, and I knew I wanted to be a part of it! Since that day, my husband and I have been involved by helping with communications strategy and serving in Kurdistan during the grand opening of the Freedom Center.

Seeing first-hand the many people that Global Hope serves was eye-opening. Young women who were visiting the Freedom Center for the first time could not believe the center was for them. Others expressed disbelief that an organization would choose such an underserved area to do

work. The center is beautiful and has already brought hope to so many who never imagined that they would have the opportunity to dream of a better life. Hearing their stories, it was clear that Global Hope meant more to them than I could possibly understand.

As people gathered from across the region to celebrate the grand opening, I realized that they were not only celebrating the opening of a building, but the new opportunities, resources, and hope that Global Hope brings. I love this mission so much, and I cannot wait to see all the lives that will be transformed through this work!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Mark Fauk



De Oppresso Liber, means “to free the oppressed,” and it is the motto of the United States Army Special Forces. That aspirational vision motivated me to join them in fulfilling it. I have always cheered the underdog and believed what the Bible says about loving God by serving others. I am passionate about justice and doing what is right.

In 2010, I attended a fundraiser for Global Hope led by Heather Mercer. When I heard about her story and bold work in Kurdistan, I could not ignore it. So, in 2012, when Winshape International invited me to travel to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region for a discovery trip with Global Hope, I jumped at the opportunity.

My wife and I have financially and prayerfully supported Global Hope ever since. For more than twenty years, we have watched Global Hope serve faithfully to transform lives and even whole communities across Kurdistan. Through the programs of the Freedom Center, supporting access for women and children to receive life-saving medical care in America, rescuing Yazidis from ISIS captivity, providing relief to refugees,

and aiding the widows and orphans of Kurdish soldiers, Global Hope has made a lasting impact in a very hard place – a place few are willing to go.

Heather has a God-sized vision. Her commitment and determination to grow this vision across the Middle East inspires me. Global Hope is doing hard things in hard places, and I want to be a part of the transformation of this region for generations to come.

I invite you to join me.

Do you want to free the oppressed, offer hope to the hopeless, and empower people to be who God has made them to be? Are you looking for a reliable, trustworthy partner who is bringing real solutions to some of the region’s most complex challenges? Do you want a partner who is all in - no matter the cost?

We cannot do it alone. As a Global Hope partner, you can join us to make a significant difference in Iraq and beyond. My life has been blessed, and I believe yours will be too.

THE NEEDS TODAY

Current Project Priorities

Thank you to all our partners whose continuous and generous support has made the impact of the last twenty years possible. Your investment has transformed the lives of countless vulnerable people in ways that cannot be measured. Your impact continues today.

REACH

Create Jobs Through the Freedom Café and Coffee Roaster

YOUR IMPACT

The Freedom Center is located next door to a prominent university with more than 5,000 students. In this underserved town, young people and families have few places to gather, connect, and grow. We estimate the coffee shop will serve 500 people a day and generate an average of \$40,000 USDs a month, creating sustainable revenue streams to support the ongoing mission. The coffee shop creates vital jobs for youth otherwise tempted to flee the country, offers one of the only safe and culturally appropriate places for women to socialize, and significantly expands opportunities for meaningful relationships within the community.

PROJECT FUNDING NEED

\$50,400 – Branded Paper Products, Staff Salaries, Small Kitchen Equipment

\$19,000 – Roaster and Raw Beans

TIMELINE

90 – 120 days

SERVE

Multiply Impact Through Technology

YOUR IMPACT

The Freedom Center is the premiere education and training center in a region with a reach of nearly 3,000,000 people from nearby cities, towns, and villages. People earnestly seek opportunities for quality education and professional development not available elsewhere to the general public. Quality technology allows Global Hope to better serve the leaders, educators, and aspiring youth who are the nation's future. In a geopolitically volatile region, this technology is imperative to implement life-saving safety and security measures essential for our staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries.

PROJECT FUNDING NEED

\$120,000 – Computers and Software, Security Systems

TIMELINE

30 days

MOBILIZE

Support Global Workers Through Secure Housing

YOUR IMPACT

This three-story, 2500 sq. ft. home, located just yards from the Freedom Center, will facilitate needed long-term global workers, volunteer teams, and visitors. Many teams are ready to serve in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, but they are limited by the lack of secure accommodations. This housing empowers workers to live and work in close proximity to the center and significantly increases opportunities for engagement with locals. Secure Global Hope housing will also reduce field operating expenses by more than 75% and will pay for itself in 24 months.

PROJECT FUNDING NEED

\$100,000 – Land and Turn-key Build

TIMELINE

90 – 120 days

EMPOWER

Employ Vulnerable Women Through Hospitality and Catering

YOUR IMPACT

Women are often among the most vulnerable populations in zones of conflict. Restricted from many employment opportunities, they may be left with limited ability to earn money to free themselves from untenable situations. Through a mobile Kurdish kitchen, outfitted with traditional cooking equipment on the Freedom Center property, Global Hope will open the first women-run restaurant in town. At the Freedom Center restaurant, these women will use the exceptional skills they already possess – hospitality, service, and catering – to build a more empowered future for themselves and create a pathway to their own freedom in the process.

PROJECT FUNDING NEED

\$25,000 – Mobile Kurdish Kitchen

TIMELINE

30 days

ACTIVATE

Mentor Female Entrepreneurs Through a Business Incubator

YOUR IMPACT

In 2018, Global Hope participated in the Digital Mashreq Forum in Jordan bringing together global government and private sector partners to explore sustainable solutions to the social and economic challenges facing the Middle East. As a result, Global Hope has invested in growing corporate partnerships to empower young entrepreneurs to achieve their dreams. Through a new partnership with the Chick-fil-A™ coffee partner, *Thrive*, and its philanthropic arm, *Thriveworks*, we will activate a business incubator program at the Freedom Center mentoring female entrepreneurs and connecting them with necessary resources to launch their businesses and transform their lives.

PROJECT FUNDING NEED

\$58,375 – Recruitment, Training, and Materials

TIMELINE

180 - 365 days

The following programs and projects invest in the foundations of education and economic development essential to any flourishing society.

TEACH

Equip Students Through an English Language Institute

YOUR IMPACT

English language courses are in high demand, yet the opportunities to learn from native English speakers remains rare. Global Hope seeks to become the premiere government-accredited English language institute in the region by sourcing and supporting native English speakers to teach courses from beginner to advanced through the Freedom Center. The English language institute would attract an estimated 1,000 students per year and generate approximately \$250,000 in revenue annually. This program will help students unlock new levels of potential for employment in a global economy and create new opportunities to connect with the world beyond the Middle East.

PROJECT FUNDING NEED

\$27,750 – Marketing and Materials

TIMELINE

180 - 365 days

BUDGET FORECAST

Global Hope has outgrown the capacity of its current operating structure. Over twenty years, the organization has maximized and multiplied every dollar invested to make the biggest difference in the lives of those who need it most. Through the sacrifice and service of hundreds of volunteers, Global Hope has minimized overhead and operating expenses, putting an average of 94 cents per dollar directly to programs and services on the field. More than 8,000 contributions from thousands of private donors have made this work possible.

As Global Hope grows into the future, it is clear that we must implement a diversified and sustainable fundraising approach, including the integration of for-profit revenue streams which underwrite the cost of our field programs and reinvest profits into the communities we serve. We seek to utilize the power of strategic partnerships to expand and accelerate the impact of our work and grow grant awards across all project sectors to support mission priorities.

In the near term, Global Hope forecasts an operating budget of \$1,419,000 annually and a one-time, capacity-building and infrastructure budget of \$1,185,305.

For more detail about our financials, please contact Heather Mercer at heather@globalhope.com.

ANNUAL OPERATING

FREEDOM CENTER \$102,400

Facility maintenance and repairs

INTERNATIONAL FIELD STAFF \$412,800

Salaries for 58 Freedom Center local and multinational project and program staff

GOODS & MATERIALS \$142,600

Consumables and products for the Freedom Center programs and projects

FIELD OPERATIONS \$106,600

Vehicle use and maintenance, rent and property expense, food and hospitality

SECURITY \$79,704

Facility security staff and uniforms

LEGAL, COMPLIANCE & INSURANCE \$26,504

Attorney fees, government registrations, and immigration renewals

COMMUNICATIONS & ADMINISTRATION \$48,804

Field accounting, marketing, communications, human resources, and office management

US GROWTH & OPERATIONS \$499,588

Accounting, marketing, communications, fundraising and strategic and program development

TOTAL: \$1,419,000

CAPACITY-BUILDING

FREEDOM CENTER \$278,500

Landscape and grounds, facility expansion and large repairs

FIELD OPERATIONS \$320,000

Vehicle purchases and housing construction for staff, visitors, & volunteers

UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE \$100,505

Electrical and water infrastructure

EQUIPMENT \$97,200

Machinery and tools for the Freedom Center

SECURITY \$73,700

Security equipment and gear

LEGAL, COMPLIANCE & INSURANCE \$100,000

Legal services for land acquisition, and property and liability insurance

COMMUNICATIONS & ADMINISTRATION \$15,400

Operational software and office equipment

LAND \$200,000

Land acquisition for future projects and programs

TOTAL: \$1,185,305

JOIN US To Build a Future of Hope

After twenty years of working on the frontlines, we know this to be true: we achieve more through the power of collective action than we do alone. Your support helps us to empower the people of the Middle East to rewrite their story – transforming it from a story of war, violence, and strife to one filled with hope, freedom, and dignity.

We invite you to join us today in transforming their lives and impacting their nations for the future.



Hope is a scarce commodity in areas of conflict. When life has only consisted of insecurity and fear, it can be a challenge to believe that anything better is possible. In those moments and places, the people need champions of hope and dignity.

When you partner with Global Hope, you become a catalyst that inspires a hopeful future in places that need it most. Join us today to advance hope and freedom throughout the Middle East for generations to come.

GIVE

94% of donations received by Global Hope directly impact our field projects. Your financial gifts will help us to empower women and their families and provide the resources to tangibly care for the communities we serve, bringing hope to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and beyond.

CONNECT

Global Hope's network is expanding, and we would love to meet more people who care about advancing freedom and hope throughout the Middle East. By hosting a gathering, introducing us to new donors and corporate partners, or engaging your school, you can help Global Hope grow our network and our impact.

VOLUNTEER

Global Hope benefits greatly from the skills of our friends and partners. Whether hosting a gala near you or serving as an advisor in your area of expertise, we welcome your participation and service in our mission at home and overseas.

Find out more at globalhope.com.

*Freedom, Opportunity,
and Hope for All*



globalhope.com

