# Letter from Our Chair

For seven years, I’ve witnessed the challenges children face, from war and conflict to the right to attend school. Yet through Right To Play’s play-based approach, these children are fuelled with hope. From the refugee camps in Ethiopia and Lebanon to the slums of Pakistan and the gold mines in Mali, the girls and boys in our programs are rising above their challenges.

Children gain a lifelong love of learning, building life skills like confidence and courage. In a safe environment, children can speak candidly, heal and overcome conflict and emotional pain. Children learn and know their rights so that they can protect themselves.

All of this is possible because of you, our generous donors and the dedicated team at Right To Play. You make change happen. On behalf of the International Board of Directors, please accept our deepest thanks. Working together is truly inspiring. Thank you for believing that every child has the right to rise.

Sincerely,

Rob MacLellan
Chair, International Board of Directors

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In Jordan, at the Al Baqaa Refugee camp, 14-year-old Baraa learns about gender equality through creative arts and photography.

Photo by Paul Bettings
The Right To Play 2018 Annual Report outlines important facts about our global partners, finances and our focus on education, gender equality, health, child protection and peace. It also shines light on the 2.3 million girls and boys in our programs who through our play-based learning, are rising above disease, poverty and more.

For these children, the fight to survive and succeed is real and their struggle unfathomable. But through play they've learned to advocate for their rights and to build dreams.

In Jordan, 90 per cent of our teachers use our play-based approach to learning to create an inclusive, equal and active space for children to flourish versus 57 per cent of non-Right To Play-trained educators. Yet barriers remain high, especially for the 1.15 million girls in our programs, like 11-year-old Hamisa in Tanzania.

Like so many where we facilitate our programming, Hamisa’s parents prioritized work over education, so Hamisa laboured with her mother at the market. Through persistent door-to-door campaigning however, Right To Play leaders persuaded her parents to enroll their daughter in school. Now, with Grades 1 and 2 completed, a hope-filled Hamisa is free from labour and eager to become a teacher when she grows up.

Being treated with dignity and respect, having equal opportunity to participate inside and outside the classroom, to be accepted and safe and to consciously direct the course of their own futures is empowering these children. It’s reducing conflict, violence and discrimination and building smart, resilient and curious leaders. This is the power of play.

Thank you for supporting our work.

Sincerely,

Johann Olav Koss
Founder

Since joining Right To Play three years ago, I’ve visited our programs in the 15 countries where we operate. They are some of the most difficult places in the world to be a child – especially to be a girl. Places like rural Lebanon where refugee children live in makeshift tents in farmers’ fields or in Tanzania where girls are often married as child brides or in Mali where young girls and boys work in dangerous gold mines instead of attending school.

Right To Play is protecting, educating and empowering these children to rise above these massive challenges. By harnessing the power of play, we’re helping the 2.3 million children in our programs heal from the effects of war and abuse, protect themselves from unwanted sex, marriage and disease and to stay in school and graduate. And our measurement and evaluation proves that it’s working.

In the lead-up to the G7 Summit in June, we were part of a small NGO coalition lobbying to prioritize the education of girls living in crisis contexts. Our perseverance and determination paid off. As a result of our advocacy, the G7 countries and the World Bank pledged $3.8 billion dollars in new funding at the Summit to ensure that girls living in some of the world’s worst crises will receive a quality education.

None of this, however, would have been possible without you, our donors and partners. Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in the power of play for the possibility of all children.

Sincerely,

Kevin Frey
CEO, Right To Play
As a peace builder, I have operated in Mali at a national level with the Commission for Truth, Justice and Reconciliation and at the regional level with the European Union’s École de Maintien de la Paix. I have worked with Malian NGOs and community schools, engaging teachers, students and communities in the difficult conversations that must be part of positive peace, not just a temporary cessation of hostilities.

In this context, I have been fortunate to collaborate with Right To Play. Their play-based approach to quality education, child protection and peaceful communities constructively impacts children and I’m impressed with their clarity of vision for a country weathering the effects of 2012’s violent coup d’état and its growing inter-ethnic conflict.

Here, women and children, particularly young girls, suffer the most. Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world and 52 per cent of girls are married before they are 18, so their families can earn a high bride price. Educational opportunities for girls are limited and trained teachers are scarce. Health care is lacking and peace-building that combines, peace education, local dialogues and institutional reforms is intermittent.

Right To Play, addresses this by designing tools such as, multi-lingual picture books and a political simulation called “The Mali Peace Game,” which have been introduced in classrooms and in Child Protection Clubs. In collaboration with Scientific Animations Without Borders we have created a video for one of these books, Faire la Paid/Ben Sigili in French and Bamanakan, so it can be shared on cellphones without direct internet access. These tools empower girls and boys to lead local forums to discuss issues such as gender equality, child rights, displacement, education and reconciliation with government officials and village elders.

For Right To Play, games like “The Mali Peace Game” are not a distraction from their challenges. They prepare them to speak and listen responsibly about issues of national and regional concern. The groundwork Right To Play has laid in Mali is remarkable and I’m confident we will see measurable impact soon.

“Right To Play’s approach so important is their emphasis on the role young people and women must play in mediation, communication and reconciliation.”
We have programs in 15 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North America with seven national offices across Europe and North America.

We reached 2.3 million children around the world in 2018.

47% of the children and youth in our programs are girls.

52 refugee camps where our programs give girls and boys a safe place to play and learn.

Who we serve:
- Refugee & migrant children
- Indigenous children & youth
- Children affected by poverty, disease and war

18,063 teachers & coaches; 58% are female.
The continued support of our donors allows us to run play-based Quality Education, Gender Equality, Child Protection, Health and Peaceful Communities programs.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

- INDIVIDUALS & CORPORATIONS $27,889,840 (53.5%)
- GOVERNMENTS $17,859,041 (34%)
- FOUNDATIONS $6,241,131 (12%)
- OTHER $277,264 (0.5%)

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

- ADMINISTRATION $1,895,403 (4%)
- FUNDRAISING $7,139,533 (13%)
- PROGRAMS $42,755,893 (83%)

At the Mafuiane Primary School in Mozambique, children play a counting game that enhances focus and memory, as well as mathematics skills.

Photo by Guido Dingemans
QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is a right for every child, but persistent inequality denies many and there are more than 260 million children out of school worldwide. Millions more are not learning because of a lack of trained teachers in their communities. Girls in particular face multiple barriers that prevent them from receiving the same quality of education that boys do.

In 2018, we launched the Gender-Responsive Education and Transformation program, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, to transform and strengthen primary education in Ghana, Mozambique and Rwanda by improving children’s access to quality education, especially for girls. Over 220,000 children across all three countries are now actively engaged and participating in classes where Right To Play-trained teachers use play-based learning to engage students in math, languages and sciences.

Our work focuses on both individual and systemic change. We innovate new methods that transform learning to unlock the potential of children and then work with local educational authorities and national governments, to train teachers and coaches on how to use them to ignite a lifelong love of learning. The result? Children stay in school, graduate and become empowered to pursue opportunities they once could only dream of.

IN THAILAND, CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS WITH RIGHT TO PLAY PROGRAMS ARE 3X MORE LIKELY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN LESSONS THAN OTHER CHILDREN

In Thailand in the Mae La Refugee Camp, these school children play games in class to learn communication, acceptance and teamwork.

Photo courtesy of Right To Play Thailand
Every seven seconds, a girl under 15 is forced into a marriage that will extinguish her power and limit her future. Long-standing traditions often steer girls into harmful practices, while school systems short on resources cut expenses that are critical to them staying in school and graduating.

We believe girls are important advocates for change and deserve a fair future that respects their dignity, rights and capacity to contribute. In Pakistan, our Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls program supported 8,000 girls and boys confronting gender-based violence. They learned how to challenge gender inequality, changing the way women and girls are treated across the country.

In Mozambique, our Gender-Responsive Education and Transformation program, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, works with over 23,000 girls to elevate their voices, helping them learn and lead through education, resist child marriage, say no to unwanted sex and to take care of their bodies as they grow.

Our work transforms communities. It teaches boys that girls are their equals and builds positive ideas about masculinity. It shows parents the damages early marriage and discrimination have on their daughters. And it challenges community leaders to stand up for girls, so that they are protected, educated and empowered.

In Pakistan, peer violence against girls decreased by 59% in 20 schools with Right to Play programs.

In Pakistan, a classroom of girls learn literacy by singing songs. Excelling in school builds their courage and confidence, showing them they have the same capabilities as boys.

Photo courtesy of Right To Play Pakistan
Malaria and sanitation-based diseases are 100 per cent preventable. Yet, over 219 million people are infected with malaria every year and children are the most vulnerable, forming over half of the disease’s deaths. Two and a half billion people lack access to proper sanitation and are at risk of cholera, dysentery, diarrhea, typhoid and even polio. And for girls, a lack of proper hygienic facilities forces many to drop out of school once they begin menstruating.

We’re changing that. In 2018, almost 110,000 children in Ghana learned how to protect their bodies using sanitation techniques and equipment. Both girls and boys were educated about menstrual hygiene, collaborating with teachers and coaches to determine how to make their schools more accommodating to menstruating girls.

We teach children these life-saving lessons so that they can take this knowledge back to their families and communities. They’re building their resilience to illness by inspiring new behaviours and changing social norms around sexual and reproductive health issues. The result is fewer school days lost to sickness, fewer girls dropping out of school and most importantly, fewer needless deaths of children to preventable illnesses.

In Rwanda, 19,000+ children, like Olive, are in Right To Play’s hand washing programs and are preventing communicable diseases like dysentery through hand washing.

92% of children in Right To Play programs in Rwanda know how to prevent diseases like dysentery through hand washing vs 76% of other children.

Photo by Terence Babb
73 million children are trapped in the worst forms of child labour. They have been pulled out of school to perform dangerous work in factories, farms and mines. Even if they are not carrying bricks, digging gold and managing crops, violence can be common—three out of four children experience corporal punishment from their parents, teachers or employers. We believe every child deserves to be safe and in school.

Our work in child protection focuses on changing the beliefs and behaviours of communities about how children are treated and helps girls and boys heal from abuse, trauma, inequality and displacement.

In 2018, our Jam Suka project, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, worked with over 76,000 children in Mali to help them learn about their rights and to be respected. We advocate with community leaders to end child labour in Mali’s independent gold mines, while organizing children into child rights clubs to bring girls and boys together to protect their dignity. Here, the children use drama and poetry to teach their communities about the negative impact of child labour and other harmful practices and the importance of children staying in school and graduating.

**IN 2018 IN MALI, AS A RESULT OF RIGHT TO PLAY PROGRAMS, 1767 CHILDREN LEFT WORK IN THE GOLD MINES AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL**
Over 11 million children worldwide are refugees fleeing from conflict and disasters. Over half experience post-traumatic stress disorder and there are few options for dealing with their grief and trauma. Due to a lack of teachers and suitable classrooms, one in every two children are not in school. Worse yet, many adults during these conflicts seek to instill their prejudices and hate in these girls and boys in hope for a new generation to carry on the cycle of violence.

But children can rise above sorrow and hatred and learn to embrace their differences. They have a hidden resilience and strength that can be revealed through safe, fresh starts and education. We work with over 57,000 children in Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories living in refugee camps and the communities that host them.

We bring these girls and boys together through sports, art and hands-on education where they learn to respect one another and collaborate. We create spaces where children can deal with their feelings safely and help them to heal from the losses of war and displacement. And we call them back to hope by helping them attend and stay in school, where they can strive for a brighter future.
IN TANZANIA, as a result of Right To Play programs, girls saying that they have the confidence to say no to unwanted sex increased from 13% to 59% in 18 months.

IN JORDAN, 90% of children in Right To Play programs say that they are engaged in the classroom vs 57% of children not in Right To Play programs.

IN THAILAND, 60% of children in refugee camps with Right To Play programs, say they know how to respond peacefully to conflict vs 31% of children not in Right To Play programs.

92% of children in Right To Play programs in Uganda know how to prevent HIV vs 42% of other children.
SETTING THE STANDARD FOR
CHILD SAFEGUARDING &
GENDER EQUALITY
With support from our partners at Capgemini Consulting, we updated our Child Safeguarding and our Gender Equality Policies. By integrating new and critical information into each, we have strengthened our approach to both, as the new policies reinforce our commitment to keep the children in our programs safe and to promote gender equality in our organization worldwide.

MILLION-DOLLAR FUNDING FOR GIRLS
We were part of an NGO coalition lobbying to prioritize girls’ education. In 2018 as a direct result of our advocacy, the G7 and World Bank have committed to giving CAD $3.8 billion to programs supporting vulnerable girls around the world, so that they can receive a quality education.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN MALI
We continued our partnership with the Government of Canada to create programming focused on child protection in Mali. Here, children face challenges like accessing education due to child labour and child marriage, as well as female genital mutilation and child begging. Currently reaching 72,000 children, Right To Play-trained teachers and coaches work to empower the children and leaders in the communities through education.

EDUCATING MORE GIRLS IN AFRICA
With CAD $19.5M in funding over five years from the Government of Canada, we are strengthening our focus on quality education for girls in Ghana, Mozambique and Rwanda. Using our gender-responsive play-based learning approach to remove barriers to education and build teacher capacity, we’re improving learning outcomes in 220,000 primary school children, 50 per cent girls; 3,200+ teachers and 750,000 community members.

HELPING END VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN
Through our partnership with the Medical Research Council, we supported 8,000 girls and boys who are confronting gender-based violence in Pakistan. These children learned how to challenge physical and emotional abuse, inequality and toxic ideas about gender—all to change the treatment of women and girls in society.
LED BY RAMATA, A GROUP OF BRAVE MALIAN SCHOOL GIRLS ARE USING THEATRE SKITS TO HELP THEM SAY YES TO SCHOOL AND NO TO CHILD MARRIAGE.

A group of Malian children stand huddled around the body of a young friend. She has just died in childbirth. It wasn’t so long ago that she was a baby herself and now her life is over, the sad finale of a destructive childhood marriage.

The scene isn’t real. But for many children across Mali, it is a reality. And now, a band of bold Malian youth is speaking up for children’s rights and protection through live theatrical performances like this one.

This drama is the brainchild of the members of a Right To Play school club focused on child protection, educating participants on their rights and how to claim them. One of the group’s leaders, Ramata, speaks of a classmate married at 14: “Her husband is much older than her, so I worry about her.” 26 years of entrenched tradition and desperate livelihoods have created a world where the young are expected to become tools for others.

Those days can end, says Ramata. “Now girls can refuse to get married,” she explains. “We’ve learned how to advise each other not to accept these marriage plans.”

The confidence to say “no” to tradition is just one of the crucial skills taught in the club. Members have learned to express themselves and portray complex social issues which resonate with their communities, especially their parents. Rights education has increased their understanding of injustice and their motivation to tear it down. Team-building activities have helped solidify their power to move change by taking action together. “I’m no longer shy in front of crowds,” adds Ramata. “It’s easy to work as a team, speaking out together with one strong voice.”

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The group’s performances are hitting home, sensitizing spectators to the issues around child marriage and the value of education. “We use these plays to enlighten our parents about topics that are difficult to discuss at home,” says Ramata. As the child marriage play ends, the dead girl rises to emotional applause, mirroring the uprising of these young champions as they strive to carve a new reality.
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In China, a group of children play numeracy games at school. Excelling at mathematics builds their confidence, their self-esteem and their love of learning.

Photo courtesy of Right To Play China
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Photo by Louise Wateridge

In Lebanon, children learn about gender equality by playing team sports.
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In Thailand’s Umphang Refugee Camp, teachers use group time like this one to encourage the children to speak freely and openly. This builds their self-esteem and confidence, while creating acceptance and understanding.

Photo by James MacDonald
Every Saturday morning on a sand pitch overlooked by bullet-ridden apartments, children can be seen helping each other pull on their boots for football practice. Like many of the settlements in Lebanon, Al Quobbeh is home to displaced Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese families whose lives jostle uneasily with one another. Life is violent, precarious and destitute, but amongst it there is dignity and hope.

Said, a 17-year-old refugee found inspiration through his Right To Play-trained football coach, Bilal. The bond between the two began when Said joined Bilal’s football program six years ago.

In Lebanon, coaches are scarce and sessions costly, but through Right To Play’s Sports and Humanitarian Assistance program Bilal offers classes to any child, regardless of their ethnicity, religion or wealth. The program enables children to come together, learn to embrace their differences and cooperate with one another. It helped Said heal and fuelled him to see football as a tool to unite the community’s children and teach them self-discipline.

Now a coach, Said passes on the knowledge he learned from Bilal to the 30-plus children who attend his coaching sessions each week. His team is respectful and focused. The pitch, a safe space for their growing friendships and achievements. Through football, they’re bringing peace and hope.
MESSAGE
FROM MARK HANTHO, CHAIR OF THE U.S. BOARD

With another fantastic year for Right To Play behind us, I have never been more optimistic about the direction of this organization. As the Chairman of the U.S. Board of Directors, I remain exceedingly grateful to my colleagues on the board, and to the team of committed leaders who allow us to continue protecting, educating and empowering children in 15 countries and 52 refugee camps in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North America.

This year, we launched a new brand identity and created a global fundraising campaign, ‘We Rise,’ to generate awareness and funds for Right To Play’s international programs. The campaign amplified a conversation around Right To Play’s innovative and impactful approach of using play-based learning to address the crisis of opportunity for children in the most disadvantaged areas of the world. Right To Play’s new logo pays tribute to our Founder Johann Koss, who was inspired to change the world by a boy with long sleeves who loved the game of soccer.

In 2018, our partnership with LDS Charities raised over $1.1M to support refugee children and their families in Burundi, Gaza, Uganda and Lebanon. In some of the most difficult places on earth, we are training teachers and coaches to use play as a tool for learning, social and emotional support and physical well-being.

We maintained our momentum with the Big Red Ball, hosted in New York City, celebrating Right To Play’s impact around the globe. We heard about the inspiring efforts of Right To Play’s Thailand Country Director Niamh de Loughry, who described how we are helping vulnerable refugees rise above their challenges. We also heard the incredible story of Malual Bol Kiir, a former refugee from South Sudan who went through Right To Play’s programs, and now regularly speaks at the United Nations as the founder of his own organization. The evening raised over $1M to benefit youth in our classrooms and playgrounds around the world, and included 30 of our athlete ambassadors to help make the event all the more special.

As we look to the future, we’ll continue to take the lead in transforming the lives of children through play. We’re committed to improving the lives of the children we serve, and we couldn’t do it without you, our family of donors who join us in our mission every day.

Thank you for your support!

Mark Hantho
Chair, U.S.A. Board of Directors
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2018 LIST OF U.S. DONORS
LIFETIME PATRONS OF $1 MILLION PLUS

OUR DONORS
### SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$28,079,092</td>
<td>$28,009,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$24,795,217</td>
<td>$21,393,529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>$2,424,176</td>
<td>$5,407,805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid and other expenses</td>
<td>$663,415</td>
<td>$1,029,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harmonized Sales Tax receivable</td>
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<td>$178,152</td>
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<td>Net assets</td>
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<td>$28,009,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
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<td>$1,029,097</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$28,079,092</td>
<td>$28,009,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term</td>
<td>$48,979</td>
<td>$37,287</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred lease inducement</td>
<td>$242,979</td>
<td>$226,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred capital contributions</td>
<td>$3,032,504</td>
<td>$3,045,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>$28,364,515</td>
<td>$28,947,059</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>$3,301,760</td>
<td>$3,433,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$15,754,139</td>
<td>$15,691,918</td>
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<td>Deferred lease inducement</td>
<td>$33,133</td>
<td>$33,133</td>
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<td>Long-term</td>
<td>$19,089,032</td>
<td>$19,158,431</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred lease inducement</td>
<td>$242,979</td>
<td>$226,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred capital contributions</td>
<td>$1,032,504</td>
<td>$1,045,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>$20,364,515</td>
<td>$19,947,059</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted - programs</td>
<td>$3,059,765</td>
<td>$3,146,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted - other</td>
<td>$3,363,015</td>
<td>$3,364,733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$15,844,506</td>
<td>$13,898,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenue</td>
<td>$22,267,286</td>
<td>$20,399,600</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program expenses</td>
<td>$35,805,508</td>
<td>$37,375,268</td>
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<td>International programs</td>
<td>$3,120,546</td>
<td>$3,494,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>International program development and management</td>
<td>$1,764,824</td>
<td>$1,875,783</td>
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<td>Development education</td>
<td>$1,730,556</td>
<td>$1,775,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional partnerships,monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>$134,450</td>
<td>$164,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy and advocacy</td>
<td>$42,756,893</td>
<td>$44,990,024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total program expenses</td>
<td>$52,565,359</td>
<td>$54,150,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Non-program expenses                        | $189,540   | $1,629,890  |
| Administrative                              | $719,583   | $9,795,215   |
| Fundraising                                 | $3,954,356  | $7,037,782  |
| Total non-program expenses                  | $5,023,289  | $9,858,457  |
| Total expenses                              | $51,790,829 | $9,238,220  |
| Excess of revenue over expenses             | $476,447   | $263,320    |

TO SEE A FULL AUDITED REPORT OF OUR 2018 FINANCIALS VISIT RIGHTTOPLAY.COM
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