



UNBRIDLEDACTS
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The vibrant colors of last fall created a picturesque time of year, but the colors also signaled a time of transition. Pruning trees and plants prepares them for rest and is also vital to future growth. While I'm never enthusiastic about transitional pruning, I know that it is a natural and necessary step that prepares us for an exciting new season. 2016 has definitely been such a time, including unexpected transitions in Africa, the end of an era with one of our homes in Elizabeth, our move to new headquarters in an old landmark, and of course, it was my first year as Executive Director of UnbridledACTS.

Reflecting on the year allows us to understand the purpose behind some of the transitions and prepare us for the work ahead. As we look toward 2017, we are excited to start building on the foundations laid this year, and see the Kingdom come by continuing to love people to life and empower them to flourish in their identity.

It is my honor to present to you the 2016 Annual Report.

Olivia McGraw

VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION

Love people to life, and empower them to flourish in their identity

OUR MISSION

Build Authentic Community: Establish homes where family-oriented communities discover their God-given identity, potential, and purpose

Facilitate Healing & Restoration: Foster and model a lifestyle of emotional healing, spiritual growth, physical health, and social responsibility

Empower Identity: Recognize the treasures in God's children and empower them to launch into their unique life calling and contribution

Steward Strategic Partnerships: Develop like-minded partnerships that celebrate diverse missions

ACTS COLORADO

UnbridledACTS seeks to love people to life and empower them to flourish in their identity. In the context of a safe home environment surrounded by supportive “family,” women find refuge, renewal, and restoration through an intentional process of healing, growing, and believing that God really can put their lives back together.

Free from constraints of a program, life together in an ACTS community allows each guest to pace herself (with input from those she has invited to speak into her life) and transition when the time is right.

In 2016, we cheered those who launched from the Nest into new opportunities, and welcomed others whose time was right to join us for a season.

In addition to the healing work that happens at The Nest, ACTS provides financial assistance to women outside the home in need of counseling, allowing us to extend our reach to those whose circumstances prevent them from leaving their homes to be part of an ACTS household.





THE NEST: A LOOK BACK AT 2016

by Julie Miles*

It's been a year for extending our boundaries beyond the ACTS property in Elizabeth, and realizing that family and belonging aren't always defined by physical structures, geography, or birth. As one "flew the coop" to spread her wings in early 2016, another swooped in to fill the space God so perfectly prepared for her, teaching all of us how to create a warm and welcoming place inside our hearts for each other...and ourselves.

We resolved to be quitters...of life long patterns and habits that sabotage our lives and deepest longings. We were reminded that sometimes we need a

little a wake-up call to shake us from our slumber, and a "call to arms" because life is full of battles we're not meant to wage alone and can never win that way. It's the reason for the ACTS Journal...to reach out, link arms, and stand together to spur the momentum and strength required to overcome. It's what UnbridledACTS is all about. Intentionally living together in community to explore our personal stories and discover the lies and distortions that drive our beliefs and behaviors. No more hiding, no more running, and no turning back, in order to finally face what we need to face; allow ourselves to be known and loved by safe, kind, authentic people; and witness the beauty of vulnerability

at work in each other...forever grateful that God knew exactly what each of us needed when He prepared a place for us to call home for a while...in Elizabeth, Colorado.

He knew we needed to challenge the paths of least resistance that sabotage more deliberate courses of action. He saw our tendency to drift from significant relationships, even though the truth is that *we all want to belong*. He brought us to our senses and showed us we can belong if we really want to. He taught us that it takes *honesty with ourselves and each other*, humility to open our hearts to safe people, courage to expose the shame that makes cowards of us all, and confrontation to establish authentic connection and true *camaraderie*. Step by step and bit by bit, we persevere, cheer each other on, and celebrate the victories and courageous moves that allow us

to take hold of the plans and purposes God has for us.

And the good news is...it's never too late if we'll acknowledge our childish games and quit kicking the can down another wrong road. Real grown-ups don't do that. They grow up...eventually. Better late than never! They learn what they need to know...and ask for help when they mess up. They stay in the game and do what they can to keep others in the game with them. It's what real families and friends do. It's what UnbridledACTS does, so we don't waste one more minute wishing for days gone by. Because the game's not over 'til it's over...and God always gives us another shot to get back in the game, give it all we've got, and live life to the fullest!

*Compiled from Journal posts written by Julie throughout the year. Visit www.unbridledacts.org/journal for the full story.



DOUD HOUSE: THE LEGACY

In the wake of the Second World War, Ralph and Doris Doud opened their rural home in Elizabeth, Colorado, to the widows and children of fallen soldiers from the surrounding area. Over the next fifty years, the Doud House became home to four biological, eight adopted, and eighty foster children. As the family grew, so did the house. It was a true DIY project and labor of love that involved the entire family, adding seven bedrooms and leaving an amazing legacy of selflessness and love for others

Upon retirement, the Douds hoped the home would continue to serve as a haven for women and children, and in 2002, their hope was realized through a divine connection. While on their honeymoon, Stan and Cindy Bullis received a phone call from the Doud family, offering their home and thirteen acres to UnbridledACTS. It was an opportunity for ACTS to fulfill their vision of loving people to life.



The transfer was completed around Thanksgiving of 2003, and the two families gathered to give thanks and celebrate. The patriarch of the Doud clan prayed for Stan, commissioning him into the ministry that would take

place in the home, then prayed for his grandson, John, who was also present at the celebration. The image of the grandfather blessing his grandson remained with Stan ever... prompting him to wonder if the house would one day return to the Doud family.

Ten years later, Stan's inklings proved amazingly accurate. After the McElroys moved out of the Doud House in early 2016, the image of Mr. Doud blessing his grandson came back to Stan, prompting him to inquire if John would be interested in purchasing the family home. As things so often work out when God is in the mix, John and his family were actually planning to move back to Colorado...and the ACTS Board unanimously voted to sell the Doud House back to the Rodrigue family. We see it as an opportunity to restore the family legacy. The sale closed in October, and The Nest now has new neighbors. While the home was not for sale, the opportunity to restore a family legacy felt like God bringing new life into the home. ACTS earmarked the money from the sale for future territory and continues to seek direction for our next steps.



EST. GRANT STREET 1892
MANSION
AN UNBRIDLED COMMUNITY



In May, Unbridled Solutions and UnbridledACTS made a monumental move to the Grant Street Mansion located a few blocks from the state Capitol. Built in 1892, the Historic Landmark was restored to highlight the beauty of its original design with the guidance of Humphries Poli Architects. Unbridled Contractors did the heavy lifting of building out the space with all the modern amenities needed for a growing business.

Included in the updates are three conference rooms available for use with a suggested donation to UnbridledACTS. If you are interested in using the space, please contact Olivia McGraw at omcgraw@unbridledacts.org for more details.

ACTS AFRICA

Africa is a place where our hearts come alive. The vibrant continent speaks to us of a life where relationships are foremost, quality time is a commodity, and anything is possible because everything is needed.

Our contribution in a tiny corner of Northern Uganda may be a small drop in the bucket of needs, but it makes a world of difference to each life we have the honor of walking alongside. Bev Harris (known as Mom in Uganda) shares her journey, as well as what 2016 looked like for ACTS in Africa.



MIZIZI

by Beverly Harris

I first visited Uganda in 2009, when my children and I traveled there with a mission team from Colorado. Having lived on the West Coast of Africa as a child, the trip reconnected me to my deep love for the people, the culture, and the land...and I was excited to see the same love stirred in my children. We returned each year, building relationships and investing in the lives of the Ugandan people, until eventually, we found ourselves making more frequent and extended trips. For the last several years, with my children grown and involved in their own endeavors, I have made many trips alone. Has it been easy? No...but after spending 25 years at home with my children, the time had come to step out in faith to meet the challenge of new opportunities beyond my wildest dreams.

Each trip left me asking God, "How can I make a difference?" Then, He reminded me of the story of Hagar. If you're not familiar with it, you can read the full account in Genesis 16. Hagar was a young, pregnant, servant girl who fled from the mistreatment of her mistress. Alone in the desert, Hagar heard a voice call her by name, asking where she had come from and where

she was going. The angel of the LORD sought and found her in the wilderness. He heard her cries, saw her despair, and assured her that her child had a destiny. The story touched me in a new way, and Hagar's response gave me the answer to my question. Just as she learned, "You are the God who sees me. I have now seen the One who sees me," I realized I could make a difference by intentionally seeing the one God puts in front of me, so they might encounter the One who sees them and led me to them.

Our work in Uganda began in 2012 with a sewing project in Entebbe, near the capital of Uganda. This year, we were able to turn the project over to local Ugandans, releasing us to seek out new areas of need and opportunity. Though I wasn't quite sure what or where the next project would be, or how it would unfold, my deep desire to minister in more remote areas remained strong.

In October, Dave, my husband, and I were back in Uganda for a month, traveling to the four corners of the country with Anna and Geoffrey Olara to network with local friends. We met

the Olaras via Skype a year earlier through our friends at Yobel, and spending time with them in person confirmed our similar visions and passions. Geoffrey, a Ugandan and one of Yobel Market's first artisans, met Anna during a Yobel Exposure Trip. Anna returned to study abroad and be with Geoffrey, then moved to Uganda permanently in 2015 to become his wife.

Anna & Geoffrey Olara



Geoffrey's family recently transitioned back to their home in the Kitgum region after years of displacement. The newly-weds chose to settle in the same area to help the community recover from decades of civil war with the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, notorious for its human rights abuses and abduction of children to serve as

soldiers. Now that the region is beginning to stabilize, families are returning to their homeland for the first time in twenty to thirty years.

During our visit to Kitgum, we explored the region and met daily with Geoffrey's parents in the village. We were humbled by their incredible welcome, and we knew this was the area we would put down roots. On one occasion, seven groups from five different villages came together for a day of celebration, fellowship, and food. Originally planned for a projected count of 100, news of the gathering spread throughout the villages, drawing close to 400...and we were honored to contribute a cow for the meal prepared from the produce of local fields. It was the first time everyone from the region had been together since the war...a time of great celebration, complete with a procession of instruments and dancing, skits and feasting.

We saw the hunger of our new friends for God's Word and their need for practical training in areas that will improve their lives. Their requests for Bibles and help with the repair of the nearest borehole (well) are already being addressed, and we hope to foster long-term relationships and collaborative partnerships that sustain solutions for the community's ongoing needs. Next year, we will introduce the Yobel Business Curriculum as a first step toward empowering the locals with new skills and opportunities for entrepreneurship.



Bore hole in a local village.



Five Villages gathered in Kitgum to celebrate our visit.

How did the name Mizizi come about?

With the birthing of a new vision came the choosing of a new name for the work that would become our focus moving forward. We chose Swahili because of its widespread use in East Africa, and originally focused on the story of Hagar and the theme of being seen and known by God. We continued to ponder possibilities during our time in Uganda, looking up English words in Swahili and praying for God's revelation of the name that would best express His heart for the vision He had given us.

The answer ties back to when I read Banning Liebscher's book, *Rooted: The Hidden Places Where God Develops You*, about the importance of

root systems and firm foundations. While in Kitgum, Dave ran across the word "Mizizi." We felt an instant connection to the sound of the word, and it fit our criteria of a 5-to-6-letter Swahili word. When we discovered the meaning, we knew "Mizizi" was the name that would carry us forward into 2017. It means "roots," and we couldn't be more excited or expectant to share the joy of a new ministry, a fresh look, and renewed vision and passion.

-Ben



Meet Phiona

Phiona, a friend of Anna and Geoffrey, had never traveled outside the Kitgum region when we invited her to join us in Nansana for Yobel's Train-the-Trainer program. She is a 19-year-old single mother who needed guidance and a little help from her friends. After graduating from the program with flying colors and receiving a small loan from the ministry, Phiona was able to open the first hair salon in the town center of Omiya Anima. She works hard, continues to dream of ways to expand her business, and has already inspired several young girls who have asked Phiona to train and mentor them.



Phiona recently called and said, "Mom, you please bring me a wedding dress and fake flowers for my shop." Ugandan brides have to rent their wedding dresses and accessories, and many can only dream of wearing a "big city" wedding dress. By offering this service to her customers, Phiona is able to make dreams come true for others, and we are blessed to play a role in empowering her dreams and aspirations.

Who wouldn't want to be a part of this?



Uganda Unite is a collaboration of Colorado-based organizations working in Uganda. This year we gathered for a day of continued education and leadership development at the Grant Street Mansion. Speakers imparted valuable wisdom on how to look after ourselves as we look after others, develop a strong Board of Directors, and better serve our donors. The group is an encouragement and resource and provides opportunities to work together in the common goal of serving Uganda. This year UnbridledACTS spent time on the ground with the team from ROWAN that operates in Southern Uganda outside Jinja, and Yobel hosted a Train the Trainers program for the local staff of several organizations from Uganda Unite.

OTHER ENDEAVORS

YOBEL INTERNATIONAL

The Vision

To alleviate poverty and prevent slavery around the world through sustainable business training and opportunity.

The Problem

Poverty, oppression, and lack of education and economic opportunity render 1.5 billion men and women within developing nations vulnerable to exploitation and abuse through trafficking and unjust labor.

Our Solution

In alignment with recommendations made by IOM, World Bank, OSCE, ILO and the UN, Yobel International seeks to foster social and economic stability for the purpose of reducing deep poverty leading to unsafe migration, exploitation, and vulnerability to trafficking. Yobel accomplishes this by providing highly effective, affordable, and accessible entrepreneurial training courses to high-risk communities of undereducated men and women within developing nations, thereby increasing job opportunities locally and improving money management skills while lending dignity and status.

As of November 2016, Yobel's Specific 4-Year Program Impact Was:

- 800+ families empowered within 9 nations
- 4,000 children's futures changed for the better
- 19,200 community members benefited from shared knowledge
- 54% of graduates began new businesses within first year
- 40% increase of income averaged by all graduates within first year
- 87% contribute regularly to savings
- 90% keep a monthly budget
- 144% increase in job creation for their community





CONTINUING KATE'S FIGHT: DIPG CAMPAIGN

In August of 2014, our friends, Abby and Matt Arpano, learned that their 5½-year-old daughter, Kate was diagnosed with aggressive tumors from Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas (DIPG). DIPG accounts for 10% of all childhood CNS tumors, and approximately 300 children are diagnosed each year. Once diagnosed, the life expectancy is 12-18 months. Kate battled the tumor for 16 months before passing away in January of 2016. She was six years old.

Kate loved glitter and rainbows, whoopee cushions and the color purple, smelling flowers and playing with her cats. To honor Kate, Unbridled Solutions and UnbridledACTS hosted a fundraising campaign to help fight DIPG through research and genetic mapping of this specific cancer. The study is the first for pediatric cancer at the single-cell level, and was conducted at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. The research is applicable for all areas of pediatric oncology.

On Kate's 7th birthday, the Unbridled family donated \$14,170 to continue Kate's legacy of funding research so that others may live to celebrate their birthdays. If you'd like to join us in continuing Kate's Fight, please visit www.fightdipg.org for more information.

ROCK IT FORWARD

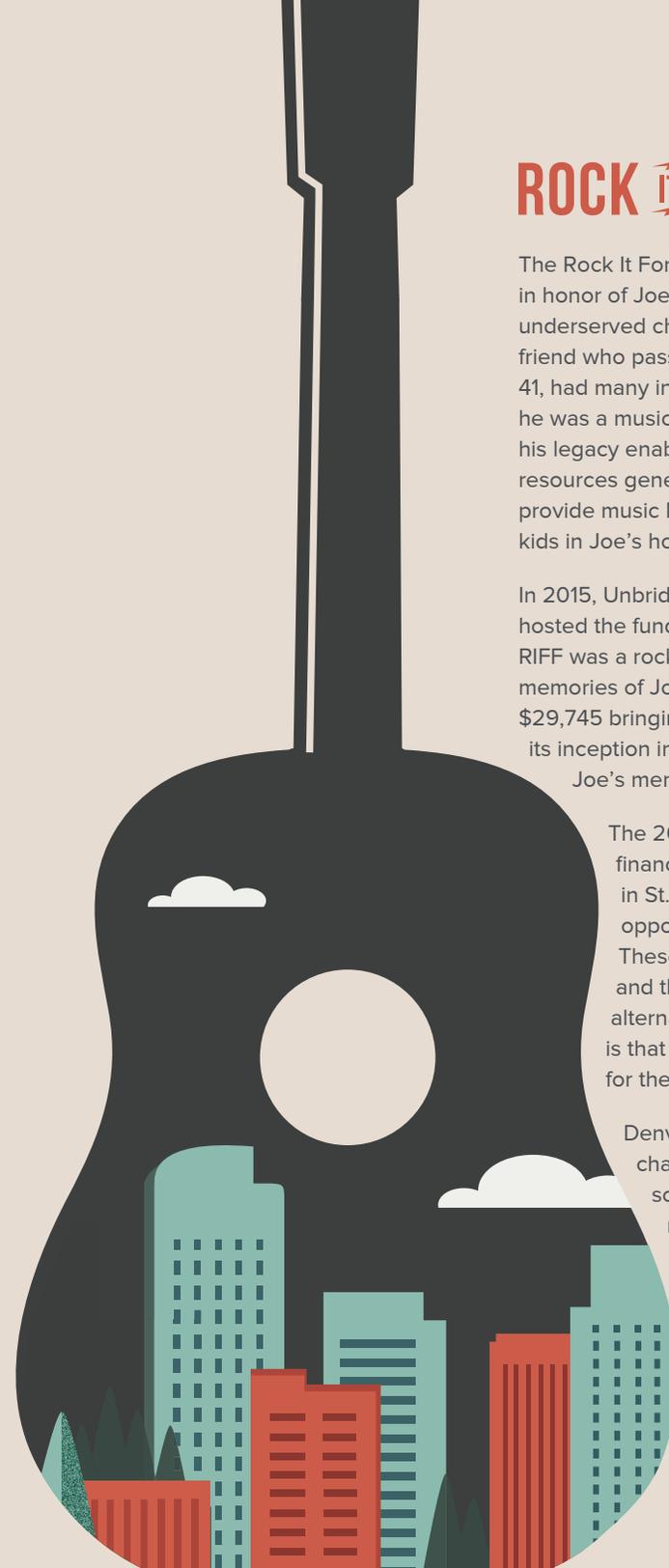
The Rock It Forward Fund is an annual fundraiser, in honor of Joe Leslie, that provides resources for underserved children to learn music. Joe, a dear friend who passed away in 2012 at the young age of 41, had many interests and talents, but at his core, he was a musician. Music was his true love, and now his legacy enables others to share that love. The resources generated by RIFF over the past four years, provide music lessons and musical instruments for kids in Joe's hometown of St. Louis, Missouri.

In 2015, Unbridled Solutions and UnbridledACTS hosted the fundraiser in Denver, Joe's second home. RIFF was a rock'n good time of music, friends, and memories of Joe. The fundraiser generated a total of \$29,745 bringing the total raised by RIFF since its inception in 2012 to more than \$100,000 in Joe's memory!

The 2016 funds will be used to continue financing scholarships and youth programs in St. Louis that provide musical education opportunities for underprivileged kids. These programs provide structure, direction, and the chance to pursue music as an alternative to negative influences. The hope is that music might become a lifelong passion for these young musicians, as it was for Joe.

Denver's proceeds will benefit local charity, Youth on Record, a larger scale organization that provides music education and performance opportunities to several hundred underprivileged kids in the Denver area.

For more information, check out www.rockitforwarddenver.com.





MARIPOSA DR FOUNDATION

This year, UnbridledACTS, Unbridled Solutions and Red Robin united for a unique opportunity. As Solutions coordinated a Red Robin meeting in the Dominican Republic with the theme “Better for Being Here” they sought an opportunity to ensure the local community would be better as a result of their presence. Together, they discovered a Dominican-based charity called the Mariposa DR Foundation.

The Mariposa DR Foundation was founded in 2009 and uses a holistic approach to involve a whole family and community to educate, empower, and employ girls in an impoverished area. Mariposa works with girls to help them stay in school, reduce teenage pregnancy, and provide the tools and confidence to break the cycles of poverty, and give them hope for a different future.

Using the United Nations Millennium goals as guideposts for poverty reduction, Mariposa transforms these young lives by providing after-school programs, helping the girls with their

homework, and facilitating additional education through field trips, community service, and fun activities. They implement elements taken from the American Girl Scouts to help the young ladies grow in confidence and maintain a hope for a future that will differ from many of their peers.



Red Robin prepared a bag of school supplies for each of the Mariposa girls.

As the Red Robin team prepared for the event, each of the over 1,300 attendees packed reusable bags with much needed supplies for Mariposa. More than two thousand pounds of school supplies and other vital items were distributed to the girls. Red Robin and UnbridledACTS also purchased eighty bicycles, and shipped them to the Dominican Republic.

On the last day of the event, teams of attendees gathered with thirty assembled bikes to help the girls get to and from school. Thirty Mariposa girls had the opportunity to leave the dirt-filled roads near Cabarete on a chartered bus for the Hard Rock Hotel



The Red Robin team and Mariposa girls work together to assemble bikes.

in Punta Cana to join the Red Robin team at the resort. The girls took full advantage of the resort, having the time of their lives while also collaborating with the Red Robin team in assembling the bicycles. After leaving Punta Cana to return to Cabarete, the girls escorted the bikes back to their community to distribute them to the other Mariposa girls.

The collaboration was transformational for both the girls and the Red Robin attendees, so much so that it has gone beyond a one-time giveback, growing into an ongoing relationship between Red Robin and the Mariposa DR Foundation.



Mariposa performed for the Red Robin team on the final day of the event.



LOUISIANA FLOODS

This past summer, flash floods unexpectedly breached the bayous of Louisiana, destroying areas that had never flooded before with six feet of toxic water. As part of a disaster response team, my husband, Jonathan, and I were honored to deploy and help vulnerable families pick up the pieces.

As volunteers for Operation Blessing, we stripped homes down to the studs, cleared out the muck, and sifted through personal belongings. Several homeowners told us they would have walked away from their homes and counted it a loss if we had not been there to help. Another, who had a birthday while we worked on his house, shared that having us come to help was the best gift he could have received. Treating this man, his wife, and their 3-year-old grandson to something sweet and a few gifts was just one of countless blessings we received by doing what we could to support them as they put one foot in front of the other to rebuild their lives. UnbridledACTS raised funds for a local church that continues to serve the needs of their community in the aftermath of the 1,000-year catastrophe.

Olivia McFraw



FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS



Thanks to a new partnership with WaterStone in 2016, UnbridledACTS is now able to receive donations from Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Trusts, and other non-cash gifts, such as real estate, business, oil, gas, and agricultural assets.

If you'd like to learn more about Charity Advised Funds and other charity-giving solutions available through WaterStone, please contact us at acts@unbridledacts.org.



This year, UnbridledACTS joined forces with His Kingdom Funding to create a new way of giving. By creating an account with HKF, you can link your debit or credit card so that each purchase you make automatically rounds up to the nearest dollar. Your spare change becomes a helpful contribution to UnbridledACTS.

Please visit <http://unbridledacts.hiskingdomfunding.com/> to find out more about this giving tool.



CONCLUSION

Live Unbridled



Stan & Cindy Bullis

In 2001, Stan Bullis founded UnbridledACTS on the same day that he established Unbridled Solutions, LLC. Unbridled Solutions is a full-service event production and management agency specializing in intentionally-crafted experiences for corporate meetings, conferences, trade shows, and incentives. Today there are five Unbridled companies that contribute 20% of their annual profits to underwrite the administrative costs of UnbridledACTS: Unbridled Solutions, Unbridled Travel, Unbridled Contractors, Unbridled Media, and Unbridled Connect. All administrative costs are covered by annual contributions from the Unbridled family, creating an environment where 100% of individual, church, and corporate donations go directly to the ministry.

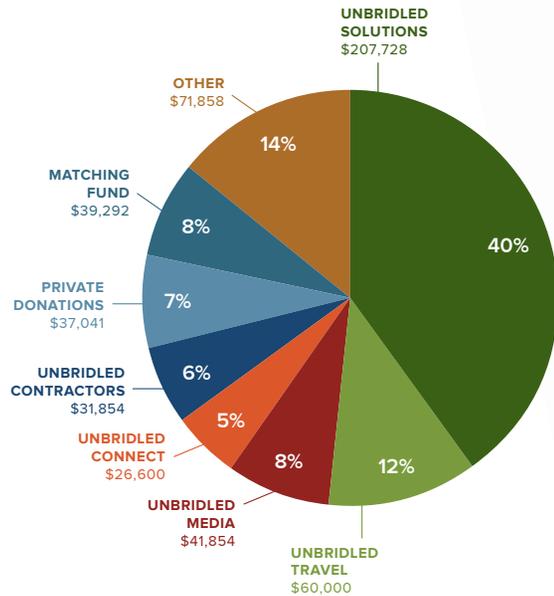
Thanks to their commitment to character, change, credibility and community, the amazingly talented and selfless Unbridled community contributed approximately \$368,036 to the UnbridledACTS mission. This contribution, coupled with the generosity of our many private donors, yielded over \$516,220 in revenue for UnbridledACTS.

We are thankful for your partnership!

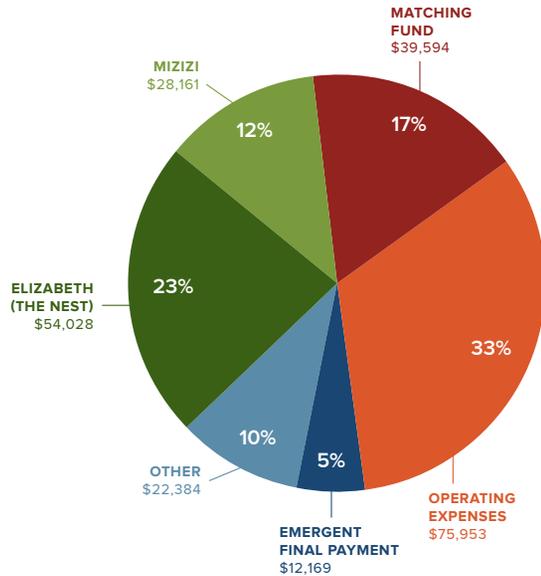
May 2017 be a year that we all live *unbridled*.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE



EXPENSES



REVENUE

Unbridled Solutions	\$207,728
Unbridled Travel	\$60,000
Unbridled Media	\$41,854
Unbridled Connect	\$26,600
Unbridled Contractors	\$31,854
Private Donations	\$37,041
Matching Fund	\$39,292
Other	\$71,858

TOTAL \$516,227

EXPENSES

Elizabeth (The Nest)	\$54,028
Mizizi	\$28,161
Matching Fund	\$39,594
Operating Expenses	\$75,953
Emergent Final Payment	\$12,169
Other	\$22,384

TOTAL \$232,288

PARTNER WITH UNBRIDLEDACTS

If you would like to partner with us to continue the work of UnbridledActs locally, regionally, and around the world, please send donations to:

UnbridledACTS
 1115 Grant Street
 Denver, CO 80203

STAY IN TOUCH

Email: acts@unbridledacts.org
 Phone: 303.957.9172
 Web: www.unbridledacts.org

UNBRIDLEDACTS

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