



UNBRIDLEDACTS
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For many of us, a single year has never embodied more emotions, caused such deep reflection, and uncovered our truest core needs. The entire world was impacted by an invisible foe. Everything we thought we knew shifted, priorities changed, and the unknown became our uncomfortable norm.

It hurts. It's allowed to hurt. Many of us hurt. But the truth is that the best way for all of us to rebuild and recover is to take a moment to be grateful. Like a homeowner searching through the ashes of their destroyed house, we're going sift through the mess and find the treasures to celebrate. Not all is lost, and beauty will come from the ashes.

It's this beauty that UnbridledACTS had the privilege to discover on a regular basis throughout the year. We rapidly launched an assistance fund to help those suddenly impacted by the economic impact of the pandemic. International trips were canceled, but virtual trainings picked up. Our friends at Transforma in Costa Rica shared their experience and best practices with the operations of Mizizi in Uganda. More people accessed counselors virtually through the Unbridled Identity Fund. Now we're preparing for expansion and growth in our core programs.

Gratitude fills our sails with momentum as we prepare for another season. May the stories in our 2020 Annual Report bring you encouragement and hope with the knowledge that you aided in making these stories possible. Thank you for joining us on the journey and helping us truly *love people to life*.

With thanks,

Olivia McGraw
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION

To love people to life

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

THE 2020 ASSISTANCE FUND

Stories of Hope





THE 2020 ASSISTANCE FUND

An Introduction

For many families, the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was the first place of pain. They may not have been ill, or known anyone with the virus in March, but suddenly their jobs were frozen without a thaw in sight. Recognizing the signs of a storm, UnbridledACTS created a specific fund to prepare for the impact. We invited the Unbridled companies to keep their finances inside ACTS so we could issue \$200,000 in grants to those in need. Gig workers, musicians, chefs, wait staff, and bartenders were among the first to ask for help. The bulk of our budget and time was committed to hearing stories from the applicants. For some, we were the first people they'd talked with in weeks. For others, we were the last hope before pending evictions.

This journey and rapid response defined our 2020 calendar. As November approached, we decided to share some of the good news on social media and highlight twenty stories from the year through the 20-in-20 Campaign. It was a labor of love—showcasing the amazing people and programs we have the honor to serve. The campaign's purpose was to inspire and encourage through stories of hope. We highlighted overcomers of cancer, defeaters of hopelessness, and warriors for a new outcome. **The following is just a sampling of the stories of some we were privileged to journey alongside.**

A STORY OF CARING

by Ginna Huston

I once heard somewhere that a certain percentage of Americans was not financially prepared for an unforeseen emergency expenditure, such as medical bills, home or car repair, and so on. If you take that and add in all that has happened since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic – loss of jobs, closure of small businesses, a virus that lands plenty of people in the hospital for weeks with not much outside relief – that figure is now a scary reality for a lot of Americans.

I have had the pleasure of working with UnbridledACTS for almost 10 years now, providing Accounts Payable assistance (processing invoices, issuing checks, bank transfers) to the team and seeing firsthand how much of an impact the grants, relief funds, and therapy stipends have helped employees, our local community, and individuals near and far. I have always been humbled and in awe of the work they do and am proud of the small administrative contribution I get to provide, but nothing compares to what I have witnessed within ACTS since early March.

I received instruction earlier this year that UnbridledACTS would be providing relief funds to any individual or family affected by COVID-19 who applied and received approval by

the board. I knew our country and community were hurting, but wasn't sure what our contribution to this pandemic would look like or how many payments I would actually initiate. Every week, my co-worker and I received invoices, each with a name, address, and dollar amount. We were the final stop before the check or bank transfer left the building into the hands of needy and deserving recipients. I don't know their backstory or their struggles or even their connection to UnbridledACTS, but that didn't matter to me. What mattered is, each time I entered an invoice, cut a check, rushed a payment, or ran to FedEx for an overnight delivery, it meant that a family could buy groceries, an individual could pay their rent, or someone could simply live without financial worry for one more month.

I can't recall how many invoices we processed, checks we cut, families were positively impacted by the ACTS 2020 Assistance Fund for COVID-19 relief, or even the final dollar amount distributed in 2020 (it's quite important, but not my place to share or shout from the rooftops). I can tell you that in a time when we all felt helpless to a virus that quickly took hold of our community, I was profoundly honored to assist the three women and board of UnbridledACTS to provide our families, friends, co-workers and, often, complete strangers some relief during an uncertain time.

A STORY OF PURPOSE

A Letter from Esmé

I lived my life up until this March feeling really lucky that I never had to search for a sense of purpose. I would see friends and family struggling through an existential crisis that I couldn't really imagine because my purpose had always been so clear for as long as I can remember. I have been able to rest, in a way, letting my love for music consume me and my life.

I have dedicated all my time on Earth to studying, singing, writing, and performing music. I have been a professional musician for 14 years now. This year has been the strangest and most difficult experience; one I never dreamed I'd have to face: losing my sense of purpose. The loss of connection through live music, my particular skill, has disappeared and I have felt the loss like a polar bear trying to survive in a warming world.

It was beautiful to have help from UnbridledACTS. It felt like a guardian angel swooping in and telling me that my purpose was intact and supported. I can't tell you how important it was for me to hear a message of hope in that moment and to be financially supported. I felt as though my life and work mattered, even if just to one other person, for a few minutes, and that was the part of the process that had the biggest impact on opening my heart to receive the help I have been often too proud to accept or acknowledge needing. This grant process has been transformational for me, personally.

Thank you so much for reading.

I close this letter with all my gratitude and love,

Esmé



A STORY OF REASSURANCE

A Letter from Daniel

With our international work fully funded by donations, we knew COVID might take a pretty big hit on us. From the get-go, we lost multiple supporters and as a family, we were holding to faith to make our mortgage payments without having to drain our savings. That said, we were completely taken aback when those at UnbridledACTS encouraged us to apply for a grant, which in the end, got us through the year without going into the red! We are incredibly grateful for their help lifting the burden from the start of the pandemic. It has made all the difference for us to continue to be able to work with hundreds around the world in the community development work we do. They didn't give us a grant and then say, "Hope that helps...bye." They actually committed to checking back in on us and continued to be available for other needs in the future.

We can't tell you how different the support offered by UnbridledACTS felt. Thank you for being so willing to listen and really walk with us in our needs. It has been a testimony to us of God's faithfulness that we have shared with so many!

A STORY OF ADVOCACY

A Letter from Adam

The assistance the ACTS Assistance Fund provided was beyond money. The UnbridledACTS grant helped my family in our most dire financial hour. I freelance in the entertainment industry and we were one of the first industries to close and to remain primarily unopen. Recognizing that my work was about to halt, potentially for an extended period of time, we knew our rainy-day funds would not last.

By April 2020, the threat of losing our house was horrific to deal with while wondering where and when I would go back to work. I had minor panic attacks, could not sleep, and my confidence was at an all-time low. Any financial assistance would have been helpful.

The kindness of UnbridledACTS and our ACTS advocate, Lorelei Thorne, showed in their assistance to our family through a generous grant, as well as in Lorelei's reassurances at a time when there were few. She listened with a comforting ear and recognized my own mental strain with the impact of COVID-19 on our quality of life.

My family was immediately impacted by the generosity of UnbridledACTS. It provided us with a few months of mental and financial sta-

bility by allowing us to catch up on late payments and hold on until we were able to work out a mortgage forbearance with our home lender. The kind financial act was uplifting and heartening. It stimulated my confidence and restored my hope. When combined with Ms. Thorne's inspiring words, the ACTS Assistance Fund was more than just money to pay bills and keep our house. It energized me and inspired a refreshing new approach to the pandemic that stimulated me into action. New work endeavors began shortly after receiving the grant and I don't think I would have been prepared to be a part of them if it weren't for their help.

I would also like to share how grateful I am to Ben Lamb of Unbridled Media in St. Louis. It was Ben who suggested I contact UnbridledACTS to seek some financial assistance. His recognition of how freelancers were impacted shows his compassion and wisdom. I am thankful Ben felt compelled to reach out to me at a time when he had his own concerns about the pandemic and an uncertain future.

Thank you, UnbridledACTS. You changed my outlook and shifted my spirit during difficult times. Lorelei impacted a stranger's life by listening, caring, and then assisting. Your team is a shining example of how good this world can be.

Adam



A STORY OF RENEWED HOPE

A Letter from Phillip

I'd love to share a little about my experience. We are extremely grateful for the generosity you guys shared with us. We are doing very well. Finances are rebounding and I have paid down most of our medical debt, which feels great! It also gave me a renewed hope and energy and desire to help those around me. I'm still trying to figure out the best way to do that and I'm not fully in a position to be a great help to others, but I'm more aware and look for any little or medium-size (about as big as I can offer right now) ways to help those around me. This is because of the feeling I got from the help and belief from you guys. With your boost, I feel like I shed about half of the weight I had.

Thank you!

Phillip



COMMUNITIES

The Nest • Mizizi • Transforma • Love Hard
Fremont County • Intermission

THE NEST

The beautiful ACTS home in Eastern Colorado has not sat empty. It is continually a resting place for those needing a bed for the night, a few weeks, or months. We were able to help one family looking for something other than a hotel while their son had surgery at Children's Hospital.



"We live in Idaho, and when our son needed to be sent to Children's Hospital of Colorado in Denver, we had no idea how we could make this happen with taking time off from work and bringing three small children with us.



"We were referred to UnbridledACTS and The Nest through a friend, and their staff was so accommodating, encouraging, and reassuring that they would provide a place to stay for our family and help provide for our needs.



"I cannot express what a blessing this home was to our family during such a stressful situation for us. When having to deal with a chronically sick child, having a nice, cozy place to stay and a stable situation for the other kids is such a relief and comfort to us.

"It felt like a home away from home during this challenging time, and we are so grateful!"



MIZIZI

*by Dave & Bev Harris
with Sarah Ray*



Mizizi is a Swahili word meaning **rooted**—a word that has served as a particularly appropriate depiction of what has been accomplished in the lives of our staff, directors, and community over the past twelve months.

The unforeseen challenges posed by 2020 have tempted many organizations to scale back, throw in the towel, or lower their expectations. For Mizizi, we are encouraged that the opposite has occurred; that the time directors, Bev and Dave Harris, spent apart from their "family" in Uganda has not been wasted. Instead, it has been an intentional time to pursue more authentic relationships, spiritual development, and personal growth. A season to develop a strong root system that reaches ever deeper into the soil of community, watered by love.

The Houses

Mizizi has three main programs focused around different "Houses" that support this rooted value system.

These programs include activities that promote **mentorship, education, and the meeting of physical needs.**

All of Mizizi's homes are located in Uganda and create intentional spaces for carrying out the organization's vision of being **rooted, impassioned, and committed to families and their holistic transformation.**

The Jinja House is managed by Esther, a Mizizi staff member, who lives on site with her seven children, next door to Directors Dave and Bev Harris. Living side-by-side for months out of the year allows the two families to learn from one another via mutually transformative relationships. During the times they are together, Dave and Bev mentor the family in relationship-building, parenting skills, stewardship, accountability, life-skills, money management, identity, purpose, and spiritual development. Meanwhile, Esther and the kids are teaching Dave and Bev more about life and family dynamics in Uganda.



The **Jinja House** is not only a home, it is also a beautiful gathering space for those in the greater community. This past year, it has been utilized as a school, employment center, training facility, maternity home, music venue, retreat center, guest house, place of worship, dining hall, garden center, football field, and much, much more.

The **Mizizi House**, managed by Moreen, is located in the city center of Kayunga between Kampala and Jinja, and is Mizizi's primary outreach to marginalized communities in the area. This multi-room building is being rented out to members of the community for the purpose of income generation. Rental income

is then re-invested to make improvements to the building in the hope that it can be used as a future training facility and volunteer hostel.

Moreen, her four children, and her mother live nearby at **Mizizi Home**, and are using the land as a means of influence within their rural community to model effective stewardship, ethical business, high-yield agriculture, good sanitation, and neighborly generosity. The completion of a proper septic system, outdoor kitchen, water-catch system, and chicken coop has added value Heal & Thrive Global to the property and enabled it to serve as a model for others living nearby.



Training & Equipping

This past year began with two opportunities for Moreen to travel and develop her leadership capacity and skills. The first was a trip to Soroti in early February, a nearly 8-hour journey to the northeastern part of Uganda, where she and several Mizizi staff and students participated and helped lead a Business Training hosted by.

As a result of the training, Mizizi's sponsored student, Jackson, was hired to help run his friend's clothing business, and Moreen received certification as a Facilitator of the Elemental Business Development Course.

The following week, Moreen and Bev were able to introduce this course to a cohort of emerging female entrepreneurs near Mizizi House in



Soroti Training

Kayunga. Here, the village chairman opened his personal property as a training facility, welcomed Mizizi, and applauded their approach to sustainable development:

“You are outsiders, but I tell you that this is your village. You are welcome here. You are bringing to us something that is even better than money. You are bringing knowledge. Money gets finished, and then what are we left with? But this training will give us the ability to earn our own money, over and over again. We are grateful.”

The first day of training was met with an eager response—more than 50 individuals arrived for the initial lessons and participated fully in all of the discussion opportunities. Moreen stated

her passion for this training and its potential impact, saying:

“I love to teach purpose and reason for being. I wish to help people first identify the real purpose of their life before engaging other activities—otherwise they may fail and fail over and over.”

Shortly after initiating the Kayunga training, Moreen traveled for a second time, departing north for Gulu. There she learned techniques from an organization that teaches “Farming God’s Way,” which results in high crop yields on small plots of land.

Moreen applied this knowledge first to the garden she manages at Mizizi Home, investing a lot of time and en-



Training in Kayunga



Moreen Teaching

ergy in preparing the land in accordance with the training she received. Her neighbors looked on dubiously, not understanding why Moreen would deviate from traditional farming techniques. Meanwhile, her onion crop flourished, producing more bushels than she ever imagined! Moreen sold her excess crop and used the profit to invest in seeds, as well as make improvements to the property she stewards. When the villagers witnessed her success, others began to request that Moreen teach them her approach so their gardens could also yield more fruit during the next growing season.

Moreen’s generous spirit and passion to see the people of Kayunga thrive has led to continued opportunities to encourage her community. Between facilitation of training, mentorship, and gifts of food and crops, Moreen grew her relationships in the

village despite the initial religious and tribal persecution she faced. Her unconditional love inspires us! When neighbors encroach on her land or steal her crops, her response is to bless them in return. She freely offers to share what she has, encouraging those who would seek to steal from her to come instead and ask for what they truly need.



Moreen’s Garden

The COVID-19 Impact on Uganda

Unfortunately, Moreen's formalized training initiatives in Kayunga were postponed, as gatherings became prohibited during the onset of COVID-19. Bev and Dave returned to the United States and the Ugandan borders were closed. Many of Mizizi's typical activities momentarily slowed while everyone took time to understand how best to respond to the current situation.

One immediate challenge was to find a creative way to address the impact of school closures on Mizizi's sponsored students. Because Mizizi supports eleven children attending primary, secondary, and university level schooling, it was essential that they find a way to sustain their education in the midst of lockdown.

As Uganda did not have a ready option for remote learning, Bev and Esther worked together to hire a dedicated tutor from the children's school who could travel to Jinja House each day. Initially, Teacher Morris came three times a week to help the primary students, and later when homeschooling became an option, the Jinja House transitioned to a remote learning site, allowing two small classes to meet during the week under Teacher Morris's continued instruction.

The children truly flourished, thanks to their tutor's personalized attention, and were able to shore up deficits in



difficult subject areas, such as math and science.

Mizizi is so thankful for Teacher Morris's educational gifting and the way he has taken time to get to know each child and their unique learning style. In return, he received meals and a consistent salary that would have been missed during the mandatory school closures. As a result of his incredible impact, he has been invited to tutor the older children as they return to a more normalized school environment.



As the pandemic progressed, other community needs were presented and Mizizi's leadership agreed to open their doors several more times. The Jinja House provided lodging for a pregnant woman in need, as well as four Sudanese men and women attending a nearby training. It later extended a welcome space for a local Savings Group to meet and pursue their goals of greater economic stability.

Meanwhile, Dave and Bev's biggest challenge became finding ways to maintain their close connection to Esther, her family, Moreen, and their sponsored students while living an ocean apart.

Thankfully, technology allowed Bev to speak with Esther daily, continuing their mentoring relationship, and providing oversight for the Jinja House activities. Dave and Bev met consistently with the family and some of their friends three evenings per week in order to share fellowship, music, readings, and relationship. This gift of intentional time yielded more "fruit" than anyone would have expected.

Healing and Wholeness

For Esther, living in the Jinja House these past two years removed her from a chaotic home environment and created space to face her painful past—to grieve and to vocalize the effect on her and her family. She is beginning to see a way forward beyond mere survival and to view her past mistakes as learning tools that can lead to future growth.

As Esther matures, she takes on more management of the Jinja House along with those who are living or employed there. She shows initiative and gains confidence as a single mother to her seven children. As a result, her family will gain an opportunity to break through cycles of generational poverty and lack. They are responding well to the weekly fellowship gatherings, learning to play keyboard and lead songs, and sharing more authentically in group settings. In addition, they are learning to work together managing the home, sharing various responsibilities, such as cleaning, taking care of the chickens and dogs, gardening in the yard, and learning to cook.

Transnational Training

Meanwhile, Dave and Bev have also been learning! Through a mentorship with UnbridledACTS partner organization, *Transforma* in Costa Rica, they were encouraged to walk more confidently in their leadership of Mizizi, to be free from comparison, and to faithfully live out their specific purpose each day.

Perhaps most importantly, they have learned to see people through a lens of love—choosing to focus on the *potential* of those they mentor rather than their possible deficits. This creates an opportunity for Mizizi constituents to move forward in life, envisioning a better future for themselves as they learn to dream, foster identity, and heal from past traumas that could hinder future success.

Next Steps

Looking toward the future, Mizizi plans to continue investing intentionally in developing rootedness in their community. They will pursue deeper relationships and ongoing **mentorship** opportunities as virtual communication improves and restrictions are lifted, looking forward to the time when community members can once again gather together for the acceptance, love, wise counsel, and encouragement they need. They will continue to foster **education** by providing school fees, tutoring, support for local teachers, university scholarships,



business training, life-skills coaching, and promotion of income-generating activities. Lastly, they will continue meeting **physical needs** as they arise in order to help individuals overcome momentary crises and move toward greater sustainability.

As each root systems become more and more established, the Mizizi community will yield fruit in the form of increased Identity, Authenticity, Legacy, and Generosity. UnbridledACTS looks forward to watching this amazing part of the community grow!

TRANSFORMA

by Vanessa Pavely



After the 2019 service trip to San Jose, Costa Rica, Transforma became part of the ACTS family. We primarily support their online fundraising efforts, and they've become a valuable member of our community. Their wisdom and experience make us stronger for being together and we're inspired by how they've adapted to the needs of the most vulnerable women in their community.

Transforma and COVID

Transforma's programs and processes continued to help women redefine their lives from the inside out, even during this crisis. Teaching our women to embrace change, develop educational growth plans, gain entrepreneurial skills, and start micro-businesses is ongoing and thriving, even though much of it is virtual. Additionally, our processes have aided participants in gaining the resources needed to keep their children in school to raise them in more resilient, healthy families and teach Christian values that transform their lives.

Our priority during COVID-19 was (and will continue to be) preventing women from falling behind permanently because of the pandemic. We actively address the significant issues the pandemic highlighted including:

- *occupational challenges disproportionately affecting vulnerable women (30.2% of women in Costa Rica are without jobs)*
- *inadequate access to affordable childcare causing many women to leave the workforce due to the childcare responsibilities that come with the homeschool necessity of quarantine*
- *mental health assistance as the pandemic has increased stress and anxiety*



The Food Bank

We have also grown our social protection measures, as most women who participate in our educational programs work for low wages (\$2.50—\$4 an hour). This is without the essential benefits needed now more than ever—including sick leave and, in some cases, health benefits.

A majority of refugees and head-of-household mothers, who were already making a huge effort to begin start-ups for survival, are now unpaid caregivers. Caring for their health and well-being and that of their families became our main priority. We helped through our food bank—donating food to more than 500 families on a regular basis.

Our commitment was to not just provide the humanitarian aid needed, but also continue providing quality, affordable education in entrepreneurial-technical skills to help our women figure out new ways to economically empower themselves amidst a global health crisis. We pride ourselves on our advocacy work with local government to create opportunities for stability, both during this crisis and in the recovery to follow.

The inter connectedness of alleviating poverty, eradicating domestic violence, educating women with soft and hard skills, and securing childcare, health services, support systems, and spiritual-emotional growth is not always noted. Transforma is working, more than ever, at eradicating, not just poverty, but violence, to build a more secure future.



A Transforma Family

An Encouraging Opportunity with Mizizi

Though COVID-19 shifted many of our priorities and changed many plans for 2020, an encouraging outcome from all of this was the opportunity to train Mizizi's leaders, Bev and Dave Harris, via Zoom for the last six months. This chance was encouraging, not just because they are incredibly smart, Godly people with a long-term commitment to loving and serving vulnerable families in Uganda, but also because they share our passion to help social-impact leaders clarify and retool for important work in community transformation. Our work is even more important now, as recent data from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) shows that this pandemic will push another 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021—47 million of whom are women and girls. This will increase the total global number of women and girls living in extreme poverty to 435 million, with projections showing that this number will not revert to pre-pandemic levels until 2030. Yes, the work Transforma and Mizizi do is more important than ever before. Having the UnbridledACTS team—Bev, Dave, Lorelei, Sara, and Sarah Ray—in the trainings was a fun, challenging, and encouraging experience. It helped refine our training for others in poverty alleviation while giving the opportunity for our organizations to mutually support one another in our endeavors to assist people during such a difficult time in history. We look forward to great reports of transformation in the future.

Muchas gracias, UnbridledACTS, for supporting our growing work in Costa Rica.



LOVE HARD

by Jen Kamins

During what proved to be a very difficult year for nearly everyone, the Love Hard campaign focused its efforts toward its continued mission of fostering love and community through local grassroots charities, groups, and individuals in our local communities. Love Hard organically identifies families that have experienced a sudden and unexpected loss. Whether the loss of a child or a parent of young children,

our goal is to help guide them through the grief and help alleviate even just a minute of burden at a time when the grief is so strong they're not able to think straight.

This past year, Love Hard helped several families who experienced a sudden family loss and many others through our long-standing relationship with the San Diego Ronald McDonald House. Love Hard was one of the top fund-raising organizations in San Diego for the 2020 Red Shoe Day and shared an incredible Zoom call with family, friends, and Ronald himself!

With the promise of a brighter year ahead, Love Hard will continue our support of local families in need. We hope to hold our first inaugural 5k run fundraiser in honor of Cash's 6th birthday this coming June. Please continue to follow us and, above all, to LOVE HARD.



FREMONT COUNTY

Lorelei's move to Cañon City, CO in January was an exciting endeavor. She met with various local actors in and around the nonprofit sector and saw encouraging potential for partnerships. Having someone physically present in the community solidified UnbridledACTS as a welcomed addition to the area. The first two months of 2020 strengthened pre-existing relationships and brought on many new connections. Though the rest of the year did not go as planned, with the delay of the local Unbridled companies and a need to shift the focus of ACTS toward COVID relief, the relationship-building and more thorough introduction of UnbridledACTS to the community proved to be very rewarding.

At the start of the lockdowns, ACTS joined forces with multiple nonprofit coalition groups created to care for those most vulnerable to the virus. Staying on high alert to specific COVID needs in the area and coordinating with other organizations to see those needs met was the highest priority. Seeing such a tight-knit community become even stronger during a time of isolation was beautiful to be a part of and revealed just a glimmer of the capacity we have to change lives for the better in Southern Colorado.

Our 2020 Assistance Fund for COVID relief helped alleviate financial burdens caused by the pandemic for multiple Fremont County residents who applied for grants. Being present and available for local individuals and families in need was our greatest contribution this year, which our response to COVID made



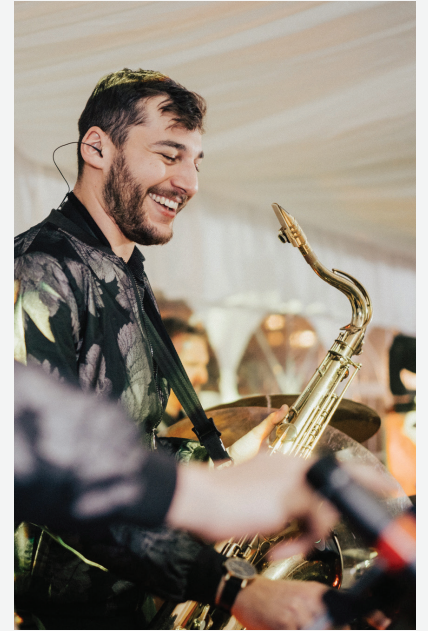
possible. Becoming a known and trusted organization in Fremont County has been a wonderful outcome from such a difficult year.

Outside of our COVID relief efforts, the most encouraging part of the year was discovering the local, community-specific needs and the organizations active in those areas that we can partner with in the future to see significant change. These needs include areas that are already near and dear to ACTS, that we've worked in before, such as women and youth in crisis, homelessness, food insecurity, education, and human trafficking. In an otherwise unpredictable and inconsistent year, it's very exciting to find that our presence in Fremont County is not only welcomed but will also bring alleviation to areas of need.

2020 may not have given us 20/20 vision, but it certainly gave UnbridledACTS a chance to grow relationships in Fremont County. It's an honor to support locals through a global pandemic, to be present for partnerships that keep the community safe and strong, and to begin serving those most in need in Southern Colorado. We look forward to not only helping revitalize Cañon City, but to know and be known throughout the community.

INTERMISSION

Intermission is a dedicated portion of ACTS that supports the charitable efforts of Mannequin the Band. Mannequin is part of the Unbridled family of companies and gives the first 20% of their profits to ACTS. This year, their contribution went toward the 2020 Assistance Fund, and Mannequin referred musician applicants in need to us for grants. In the future, Intermission will support Colorado musicians and the arts community by offering grants, scholarships, and emergency aid. We're excited to continue our partnership and see their ongoing positive impact on artists.





CARE

Unbridled Identity

Unbridled Response Fund

UNBRIDLED IDENTITY

Employee Counseling Program

Unbridled Identity continues to grow into one of the most significant and impactful parts of UnbridledACTS. We're increasing our capacity to offer more services, seeing more people take advantage of the program, and as a result, more people are discovering hope and freedom on the other side of therapy. Below are just a handful of stories from those who benefited from the program in 2020, as well as some thoughts about virtual therapy from one of our providers.

Taking the Plunge

First and foremost, I want to say a huge thank you to UnbridledACTS for providing the Identity Program because this has been one of the best things I have been a part of since being with Unbridled.

I began my journey a little over a year ago when some changes happened in my life. Naturally, I was one of those individuals who thought I didn't need therapy because I didn't have any huge traumas. Let me say that I couldn't have been more wrong in that mindset. When UnbridledACTS helped match me with one of the providers and I met with my therapist for the first time, I wondered why I hadn't taken advantage of this opportunity sooner. By seeing my therapist, I was better able to understand where there were old wounds and how to heal them, as well as making sure that I'm taking care of myself in the present moment.

Needless to say, my therapist has been nothing short of amazing. I truly look forward to our monthly appointments because I am fully transparent with someone who has an outside and unbiased point of view. She also helps find where some healing or attention needs to be centered emotionally and mentally so that I am the best version of myself. Especially during a pandemic, I couldn't ask for more.

I will say that it can be a little nerve-racking to take those first steps in this program, but it will also be one of the best things you can do to take care of yourself. If you are someone who is on the fence about therapy, like I was initially, please know that I am always open to talking about my experience and the benefits.

- Hannah Yermasek



Mental Health First

The Identity Program has impacted my life by giving me a greater sense of self. The encouragement I received to join the Identity Program was the push I needed to invest in getting to know myself better. It has been a goal of mine to understand my motivations and reactions, both professionally and personally, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to do so.

When interviewing with Unbridled, I remember feeling so inspired by the company's deep interest in their people. This program has allowed me to open up and dedicate some much-needed time for myself. Thank you for being so invested in our well-being and for putting mental health first.

- Anonymous



Teletherapy

I cannot even begin to express my gratitude for what the UnbridledACTS Identity program has done for me for the past six months. I struggled at the beginning of this year to find a provider I really connected with and was able to afford financially. It is not an easy task to find someone you can connect with and feel comfortable sharing your vulnerable side with, but the UnbridledACTS Identity program made it a seamless process. When I was matched with a provider, I was eager to meet them and start my journey with the program. Since I am in Boston and was matched with someone in Denver, I was curious how the remote therapy experience would be.

Fast forward six months and I could not be happier with how much attending therapy through Unbridled Identity has positively affected my everyday life. Not meeting in person with my provider has not hindered the relationship or experience that I have with therapy. Frankly, it is kind of nice to have your appointment in the comfort of your own home without having to go anywhere. You gotta love technology, huh?

Attending therapy has taught me about self-care, self-confidence, and self-identity. I learned so much about myself in the past six months. It helped me get through some rough patches and grow as a person. I have always been an advocate for therapy and would recommend it to anyone. You do not have to have something specific to discuss to go to therapy; sometimes it is nice to talk to someone with a different perspective about things happening in your life. I want to give a HUGE thank you to the UnbridledACTS Identity program for bringing happiness, self-identity, and healing into my life.

- Emily Harrington



A New Perspective

When I started Unbridled Identity just over a year ago, I had no idea how much therapy would make a difference in my life. While I knew it would help me understand confusing situations and struggles I was facing, I didn't expect that therapy would change the way I view myself entirely.

Throughout this last year, countless challenges have brought things to the surface that I pushed down long ago and had forgotten were even there. Although confronting aspects I don't love about myself has been trying, it's taught me to encourage and accept myself for who I am, where I am, as I am. On my own, this year would be a different story without having wise counsel to help me approach life from a different perspective, both externally and internally.

After a year of going to therapy (often every two weeks), I feel like a completely different person than I did a year ago. Not because I've changed, but because I'm starting to understand and appreciate myself for who I already am and am continually becoming. That being said, I can't say enough great things about therapy and the impact it's had in my life — and also can't thank UnbridledACTS enough for making it accessible and redefining the meaning of identity.

- Cole Zander



AN INTERVIEW WITH MARC LAFLEUR

An Unbridled Identity Provider

What are the differences between in-person and virtual sessions?

At the beginning of the shutdown, I went to 100% virtual sessions, which lasted for five weeks. The first week was a huge adjustment, getting myself and my clients familiar with Telehealth, looking at a screen all day, and missing the face-to-face connection, which is perhaps one of the most important elements of therapy.

However, after that initial week, I found that the work we did was just about as impactful, if not as impactful, as in-person sessions. So, despite the big adjustments, the work that was done felt pretty much the same, which was a pleasant surprise.

Why has 2020 been different than other years?

Wow! Let me count the ways.

1. Working from home. Those five weeks at home were probably the best weeks I've ever had with my family. I had so much more time to be home. I had no commute. I couldn't go to my gym, so that alone (with travel time) saved three hours! We went on so many long walks as a family. At the end of the five weeks, the weekend before going back to the office, I wept because the sweet season at home with the family was over.
2. Greetings and goodbyes have been weird and a bummer. I'm still not used to not shaking people's hands or giving people a hug on the way in or out.

3. Wearing a mask.
4. Clients coming in due to their fear of the presidential election outcome. Many couples on both sides of the aisle are in complete chaos.
5. Just to name a few.

What is your perspective as a mental health provider on 2020?

Here are a few thoughts about 2020.

2020 has made us realize...

- how fragile we are and how strong we are.
- how afraid we are and how courageous we are.
- how much despair is in the world...and how much beauty.
- how much we need and how much we have.

What good things have you seen this year?

- higher awareness of what's important and what's not
- more family time
- seeing beauty in the midst of chaos (I can't tell you how many sunsets have stopped me in my tracks and have brought me to a place of peace, hope, and gratitude for what I do have in my life rather than fear for what I don't.)

And perhaps most important... this year has heightened my awareness of my need for God and reliance on His goodness regardless of what does or doesn't happen in my life.

- Mark LaFleur



RESPONSE FUND

A Letter from Stefanie

Hi, my name is Stefanie Mullen and I am writing today to talk about the angels that helped my husband when he was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Sean was abruptly diagnosed with this disease in February of this year. To say it was devastating would be

an understatement. So many things flood your brain all at one time. A whirlwind of new doctors, treatment options, and financial responsibilities. Sean was given less than a year to live and with this diagnosis, we knew we had to find the best doctors to treat him. We found one of the top 10 pancreatic cancer oncologists in the country at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. We knew this was where we had to be for Sean to have the best chance at life. Un-



fortunately, the Mayo Clinic was not part of our insurance network. I knew this was going to be a huge financial strain on us, but I would move heaven and earth to keep Sean alive. I set up the first appointment and prayed that we would find a way to make it work.

Insert our angels.

Tammy Longenecker from Unbridled Productions heard about our story and reached out to me and asked for my mailing address. I had no idea what she was sending. I figured she was going to send a card and I thought that was super sweet. Fast forward a week later and I received Tammy's letter, but it wasn't just a card saying, "Get Well Soon." Nope, it was a check from UnbridledACTS. It was enough money to pay for an entire round of chemotherapy. Instantly, I had tears running down my cheeks. I could not believe that a company could be so selfless and help a couple they had never met. It was a moment I will never forget. A moment when I didn't feel alone.

It has now been six months since I received that letter and Sean is still here. He just finished his 11th round of chemotherapy and the doctors are happy with his positive progression. Sean started out with eight tumors spread throughout his pancreas, liver, and lungs and is now down to just a small tumor on his pancreas. He no longer has tumors visible on his liver or lungs, and we could not be happier.

Our cancer experience has been a journey. We do not know what the future holds, but I get the biggest smile knowing that Unbridled Productions has helped Sean make it this far. Thank you to everyone at Unbridled Productions for your support and love. We are just two people, but your gift made us feel like we had an army standing behind us. We are forever thankful for your generosity and love.

Cheers to all of you for what you do. Thank you for making a difference.

All my love,
Stef



CONNECTIONS

Matching Fund: Indian Health Alliance

MATCHING FUND:

Indian Health Alliance

Our first connection in Cañon City was with a gentleman named Rahul Mehra, the founder of the Indian Health Alliance, an organization that seeks to make comprehensive health education mandatory in every school and at every grade level in India. Rahul, who is originally from New Delhi, India, moved to the States after college to get his master's degree in engineering. Since retiring from work as a health engineer, he has spent the last six years in Cañon City creating a comprehensive health curriculum for individuals in India. UnbridledACTS agreed to a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$5,000 to assist Rahul in funding a first-year pilot of his curriculum in a New Delhi school for 150+ sixth graders.

More than 66,000 children in India, between the ages of five and 14, die every year from diarrhea and other infectious diseases. That's over 220 times the number in the United States. Most Indian children grow up with poor hygiene, an unhealthy diet, high tobacco use, minimal exercise, and high risks of injury. When these children have poor health habits, the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, rapidly increases later in life with an average life expectancy of only 68 years. Add in the danger of COVID-19 that grew into a global pandemic a mere month after the launch of this matching fund, and it is clear that India is in dire need of health education now more than ever before.

Hand Washing Class



Rahul Teaching

Our matching funds helped cover the first two months of salaries for the student teachers in charge of the day-to-day work during this pilot year, as well as the workbooks for the students. Lal PathLabs Foundation, an Indian organization dedicated to building a healthy nation, also approved a grant for this curriculum that covers the rest of the pilot year's cost.

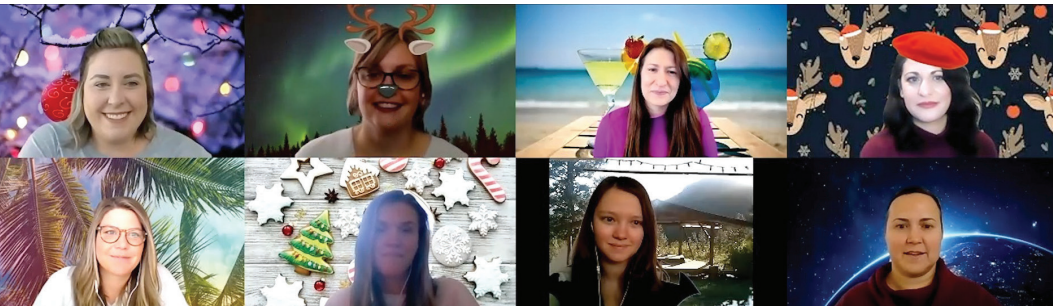
Despite the lockdown, the project at one large school in New Delhi was a success. For one hour a week, students studied the health curriculum workbook online alongside student teachers. Rahul was present for each class, via Zoom, to assist the teachers. He also conducted monthly hour-long parent engagement sessions for the families. Approximately 60 to 90 parents regularly attended these sessions, and the two employees hired for the program gave even greater support.

Ironically, the coronavirus increased the awareness of the need for health education in India. Though difficult, the pandemic proved helpful in highlighting to families in Delhi how important health education is for their children. This is wonderful news for the Indian Health Alliance as more schools in New Delhi are looking forward to integrating this new curriculum in the coming years.

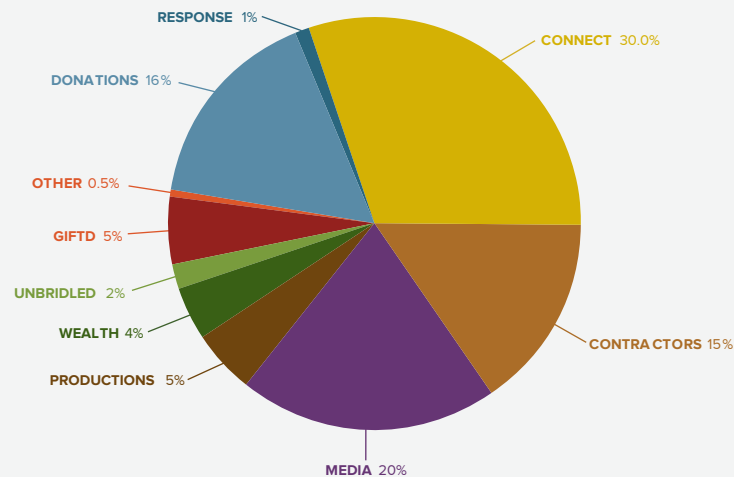
"I could not have started this program without the two employees in Delhi that ACTS allowed us to hire with their matching grant. Because of the success of our pilot-year, I can look forward to seeing my curriculum change the course of health in India." -Rahul Mehra

CONCLUSION

UnbridledACTS is significantly supported by the generosity of the 24 Unbridled companies that give the first 20% of their profits to charity. We extend a massive thank you to these companies, their employees, and all the contributors who funded our 2020 efforts. Your belief and support for what we do makes our work all the more rewarding. Thank you for keeping your 20% within UnbridledACTS so that we could extend our impact. You are our heroes for 2020!

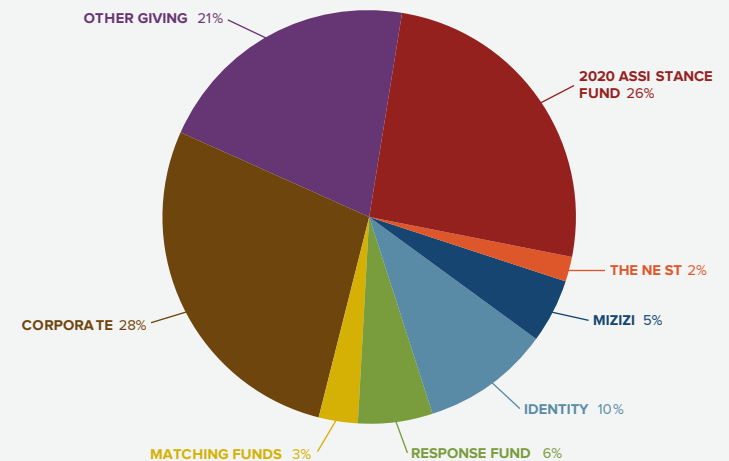


REVENUE



Donations	\$152,022
Unbridled Response Fund	\$13,702
Unbridled Connect	\$280,000
Unbridled Contractors	\$145,000
Unbridled Media	\$190,000
Unbridled Productions	\$50,000
Unbridled Wealth	\$40,000
Unbridled	\$20,000
Gifted	\$50,000
Other	\$4,385
TOTAL	\$945,109

EXPENSES



2020 Assistance Fund	\$200,071
The Nest	\$13,668
Mizizi	\$35,000
Unbridled Identity	\$77,225
Unbridled Response Fund	\$44,407
Matching Funds	\$19,779
Corporate Expenses	\$213,181
Other Charitable Giving	\$162,280
TOTAL	\$765,611

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:

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Denver, CO 80206*

STAY IN TOUCH

Email: acts@unbridledacts.org

Phone: 303.957.9172

Web: www.unbridledacts.org

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