
Annual Report 2021/2022



A year of change, growth,
and innovation.



LiveDifferent

Those who work and contribute to LiveDifferent are decentralized to many different areas around the world. Being a Canadian organization, we would like to acknowledge that we are based on the traditional territory and homeland of Indigenous peoples. LiveDifferent recognizes that it must work in partnership with all people, in a spirit of reconciliation, reciprocity, and collaboration.



Canada



Haiti & Dominican Republic



Mexico



Thailand



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**Thanks to your unwavering support,
our collective efforts have allowed
for powerful and lasting change—
it's truly remarkable!**



**LiveDifferent
exists to
empower and
engage youth
in a lifestyle of
compassion
and service.**

**It's about the choices we
make every day:**

To pour into at least one social issue or cause
that we are passionate about.

To seek out daily opportunities to show kindness
toward others.

To live simply, because our choices impact our
global community.

A message from Charles Roberts,
LiveDifferent CEO



**Despite last
year's obstacles,
we are proud to
showcase the
incredible progress
we've made as an
organization.**

With the sustained pursuit of LiveDifferent's core mission, we made the decision to pivot some of our programs throughout the pandemic – in doing so, we were able to maintain these offerings to reach youth and communities at a crucial time when they needed extra support.

Because of the generosity of businesses, foundations and individuals, we were able to make an impact on Canadian youth and international communities. Our community chose to LiveDifferent, and for that, we are grateful.

In the following pages, you'll find stories of impact and measurable results from our programs that are based on the fiscal year from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022.

As we reflect on all we've accomplished during this year, we also excitedly look to the future. LiveDifferent is ready to take on new challenges and expand our reach and impact through ongoing youth development initiatives and programming.

Thank you for being a part of this important mission. Together, we are taking action to change futures.

Thanks to the incredible giving of our community, this was a year of immense learning, growth and innovation.

Collective contributions—from donations and partnerships to volunteers and champions—have added to the building blocks for a future with infinite possibilities in which all young people are given every opportunity to reach their utmost potential. It's through this shared ambition that we move closer each day toward our common goal: creating long-lasting change together.



Expanded program hours

Our mental wellness programming options for schools have expanded from a one-hour assembly/presentation to our teams spending a whole day in each school (a LiveDifferent Day), enabling us to make a greater impact on students.

Created a better student experience

Due to feedback from teachers in previous years, we altered our Circles program to create an experience for students that is more interactive. We introduced a student panel (recorded before our teams arrive at each school) so students now get to see and hear from a group of their peers as part of the main assembly. We also incorporated Circles sessions as an option after the assembly to facilitate meaningful conversations and encourage youth to share with their peers and support each other.

Welcomed back in-person volunteers

After two years of connecting virtually, we were happy to finally reunite and welcome back our volunteers in person. During the pandemic, many of our volunteers' Build trips were put on hold, while families patiently waited for their homes to be built. In 2021, we were able to come back together again.

NACY Affiliate Founding Member

LiveDifferent became a NACY (National Alliance for Children and Youth) Affiliate Founding Member to work with its collaborative network to enhance the well-being of children and youth in Canada.

Charitable status in the United States

LiveDifferent is officially a registered 501(c)(3) charity organization in the U.S. This is a strategic move to position LiveDifferent in a larger market where we've seen a demand for our programs and a need for youth development initiatives.

programs programs

Programs — 2021/2022



Programs

“Over this last year, we have had the privilege of seeing thousands of students become more hopeful, resilient and inspired through our Circles program. It’s absolutely incredible what happens when you give students opportunities to share their own lives and experiences with their peers. As the students share, and as they listen, you can see them gaining wisdom and perspective in real-time. Stories are always going to be the thing that lifts humanity up and inspires us to act, and LiveDifferent has the honour of creating spaces where those stories get told.”

Johnny Henderson
Director of School and Community Programs



programs programs



Pink Papi



Juliana



Chrisha

Circles

Our “pandemic-proof” Circles program was created to reach students remotely. Through live-streamed assemblies and online tools, we were able to continue to facilitate mental wellness programming for students throughout the pandemic. Now, with in-person learning back in schools, we’re continuing to offer online programming as an alternative.

Students have come together to develop resilience and use it as a tool for positive change. Through meaningful connections and creative problem-solving, they’ve inspired kindness within their communities while actively making an impact on the world around them.

Feedback from students:



megan

“[I] had a student bring something forward this evening—and they said it was the LiveDifferent assemblies that gave them the courage to bring it up...the work you do is meaningful.”

Vice Principal
St. Josephine Virtual High School

193

Circles Programs were facilitated by LiveDifferent.

1,162

student leaders, youth workers and teachers were trained to help facilitate the Circles program.

36,976

hours of meaningful conversations, powerful youth engagement and heart-warming compassion projects were completed through our Circles mental wellness programming.

A STORY

Investing in Children's compassion projects

Investing in Children is one of many organizations that LiveDifferent has partnered with to engage youth in completing compassion projects within their schools and communities.

The organization collaborates with local communities to provide inclusive opportunities for children and youth to thrive emotionally, physically, artistically and academically. Its programs focus on literacy and numeracy, leadership, proper nutrition and other keys to future success.

Investing in Children began its Circles Program in February of 2021. Two sessions ran for seven weeks—one for students in grades 7 and 8 and a separate one for grades 9 and 10. It was such a success that the program was rerun in April 2021.

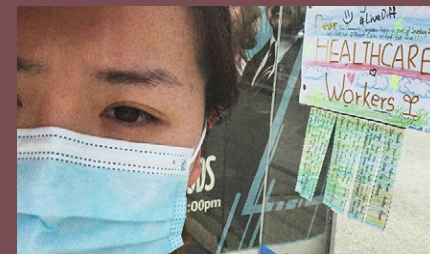
Compassion projects included a book drive, a family commemoration event "chalk for change," thank-you cards, and a sock drive. It's heart-warming to see the thoughtfulness and creativity that went into these projects.

5,000+ books donated
3,846 pairs of socks donated



"I mean, in my experience as a student I feel like it's just kind of talked at you like these are values you should have, instead of asking, you know, critical thinking of how can you implement this in your life with others and how can you be kinder to yourself."

Amy
Student leader,
Investing in Children





Builds

After careful consideration and new policies and procedures in place – abiding by Canada’s COVID-19 public health guidelines – the Builds program was resumed in November 2021 in Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Not long after we resumed Builds, another wave of COVID-19 caused increased restrictions affecting our programs. The additional setback was devastating for the people who had signed up for Builds as well as for the families who had to wait patiently for their homes to be built without knowing when that day would come. It was an uncertain time, but our team was able to pull together, support one another and be hopeful for the future.



“After over 18 months of not having volunteers with us internationally, a highlight of this year was the relaunch of our Builds Program with the ‘Welcome Back Build.’ The energy created by bringing together our LiveDifferent partner, donor and volunteer community alongside a local family and community in the Dominican Republic was undeniable. It was the perfect way for us all to reconnect, be inspired and generate some momentum for our International Programs as we closed out 2021 and looked forward to the new year.”

10
Homes built

15
Children beneficiaries of housing

111
Volunteers

16
Adult beneficiaries of housing

Alison Willis
Interim Director of International Programs



A STORY

Welcome Back Build

Nov 27, 2021–Dec 4, 2021

After a challenging period throughout the pandemic, the “Welcome Back Build” provided a long-awaited opportunity to connect in person. Not only did it signify a return to normal operations, but it was also a reminder of the strength and resilience of our team spirit.

The Build was celebrated by a selected group of people within the LiveDifferent community, including partners, educators and community leaders. The event was truly a joyous occasion that we will remember fondly for years to come—representing not only the hard work of our team and the family we built alongside but also the ever-present hope that things can get better.

For Lucila, Maria and Daniel, that hope was fulfilled.

In March 2020, this family was next in line for a Build, but unfortunately, when Covid hit, plans changed. After patiently waiting all of this time, they were ecstatic to be included in the very first Build after restrictions were lifted.



A few changes were made within the Builds program while resuming on-site operations:

- Reduced the team from 5 full-time staff down to 2 full-time staff.
- Added pre-departure and post-build online meet-ups as part of the Build experience.
- Updated our debriefings to include a more conversational approach with the opportunity to experience a Circles session.

We wanted to use the “Welcome Back Build” to bring volunteers back into communities, reconnect those who typically organize student/volunteer groups with our programming and help build motivation and enthusiasm for returning with their teams while introducing new debriefing and Covid protocols.





Academy

“What’s that saying? When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Despite the sour news that the Academy program was unable to launch this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were determined to make the most of the situation.

We took this pause as an opportunity to reimagine how the program could evolve for future students. We were able to create

a fresh, mobile and more dynamic Academy Program as it moved from being hosted entirely in Mexico to now including immersive programming in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as well. So with an optimistic outlook, we are confident our Academy Program will be the sweetest yet!”

Alison Willis
Interim Director of
International Programs





Emergency Relief and Community Development Fund

LiveDifferent's Emergency Relief and Community Development Fund (ERCDF) has helped hundreds of families in Mexico and the Dominican Republic when they needed extra support.

Seeing volunteers over-fundraise for their Builds and wanting to do more, we knew we could use these funds to help meet critical needs while also investing in long-term sustainability. After working in these communities for nearly twenty years, we understood how unexpected challenges bring about

additional hardships to families and communities working hard to get ahead.

Some of the challenges the ERCDF helps with include restricted access to medical care, food insecurity, school fees and funeral costs (costs which can total one year's worth of wages). The fund also goes toward community initiatives like building recreational facilities, roads, bridges and water cisterns as well as rebuilding after natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and major storms.



A STORY

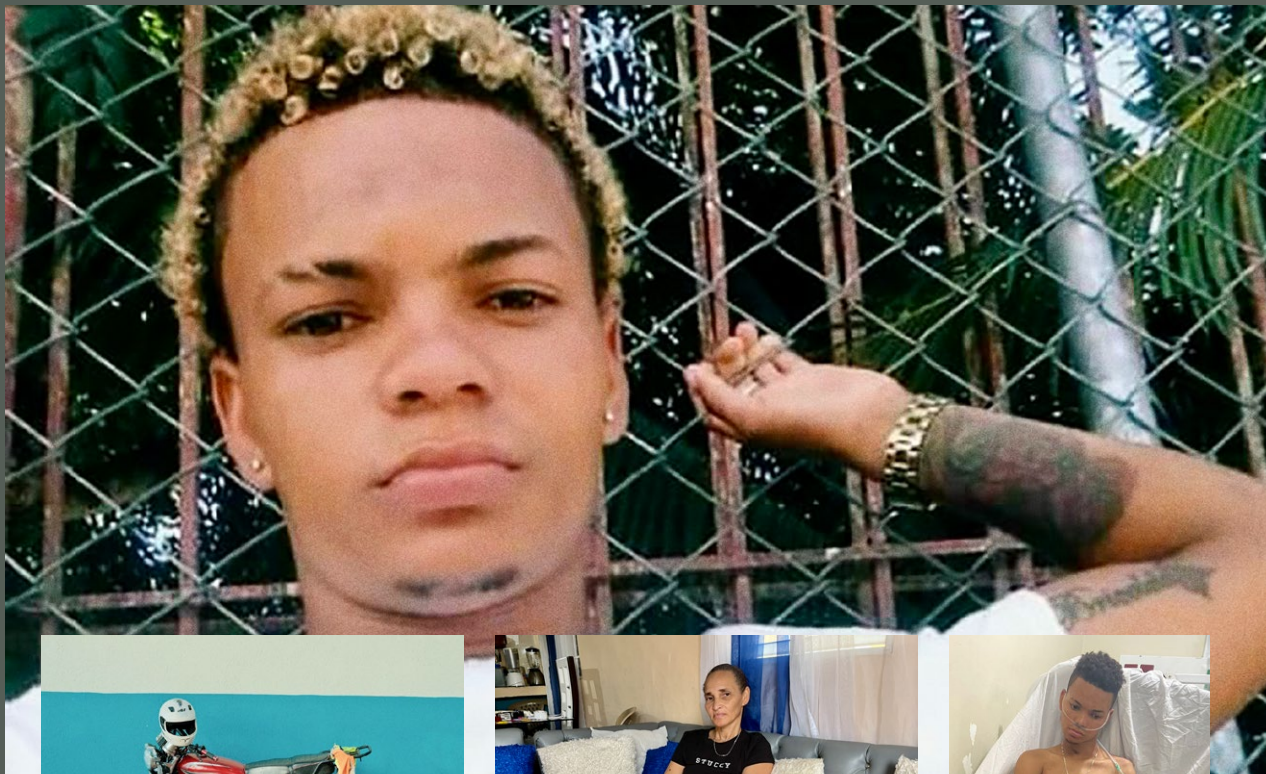
The Martinez family

Starling Martinez is a young man from the Dominican Republic. In November 2021, he got into a terrible motorcycle accident that almost cost him his life. He suffered a broken arm, leg, skull, jaw and throat, and needed multiple surgeries to save his life.

But because Starling doesn't have a birth certificate, doctors were unable to treat him without payment upfront.

Having little money to begin with, Starling's family started borrowing money from friends and family and asking for donations on the street. They then had to prioritize which surgeries to do first since they couldn't afford to do them all at once.

Word about the accident reached LiveDifferent and, using funds from the Emergency Relief and Community Development fund, we were able to help with the medical costs to help Starling recover from his injuries. We provided financial support for pre-surgery tests, blood transfusions, as well as surgeries for the throat, jaw and leg.



"The foundation helped in many ways," said Starling's mother, Ines. "They helped me figure things out because I didn't have the resources to get through this and, because of them, I received the help [I needed for my son]."

Starling is still facing many challenges along his road to recovery, but we are so grateful for the improvements he has made over the last year. Because

of generous contributions to the Emergency Relief and Community Development Fund, we were able to step in and help this family in their time of need and are hopeful we can continue to support even more families in the years ahead.

Costs for supporting Starling and his life-saving surgeries:
\$1,143 CAD

Compassion projects

Compassion Projects — 2021/2022



— Compassion Projects

“The members of Association Evangelique pour les Enfants Deminus Haitens (ASEEDH), along with the administrators of École L'Union school and the LiveDifferent team, are on a mission to develop and implement a quality education strategy in which children are placed at the heart of all activities.”

Michelle Guillaume
Manager of Operations, Haiti



projects compassion



École L'Union

École L'Union, like many schools in Haiti, faced a troubled journey to re-open amid violence and unrest. In order to ensure the safety of parents, teachers and community members, the school remained closed after the school year wrapped up in June 2022 and didn't re-open until December 2022.

One of the main impacts on École L'Union was that fuel was completely unavailable, which greatly affected operations. Ensuring the well-being of students and staff is our number one goal, so we stayed vigilant in monitoring developments. Before the school closure, operations were as usual, and we were able to provide food with proper nutrition while students went to school.

Education is a major tool in ending the cycle of poverty, and we consider it a privilege to work with the families and community members of Calvaire to build a safer and stronger future together.

37,493
Total meals served

289
Students registered



Freedom Village

LiveDifferent's Freedom Village in Northern Haiti is a refuge for girls between the ages of 6 and 16 who have experienced abuse, offering a safe and caring home for them to live in. It's a place for them to heal, learn and plan for their futures.

With contributions from our With Love Gala community in Winnipeg as

well as many generous individuals, the Freedom Village is 99% complete with the exception of the solar panels as the last portion of the project. Up to thirty girls will finally know what it feels like to stay with someone who cares about them while having access to education, counsellors, life-skills training, and the support needed to thrive.



A glimpse of the Freedom Village completion:

99%
Complete

Partners

Thank you for helping us do what we do.

We couldn't do it without you.















Board of Directors



Kerry Brandt
Chairman of
Board of Directors



Will Bergmann
Board Member



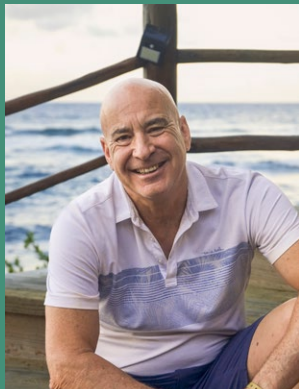
Ace Burpee
Board Member



Devin Hollis
Board Member



Rob Hooper
Board Member



Brad Mason
Board Member



Renée McGurry
Board Member



Kim McIntyre-Leighton
Board Member

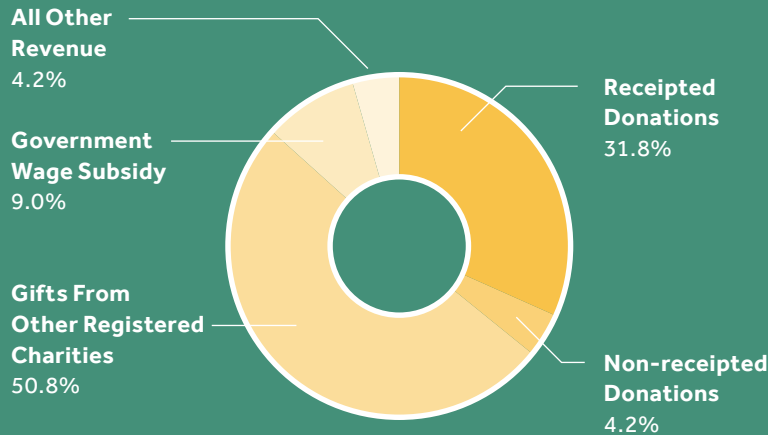


Sheila North
Board Member

Our volunteer board of directors helps to provide oversight to all that LiveDifferent does. We are thankful for their commitment, encouragement, professional contributions to help make LiveDifferent what it is today.

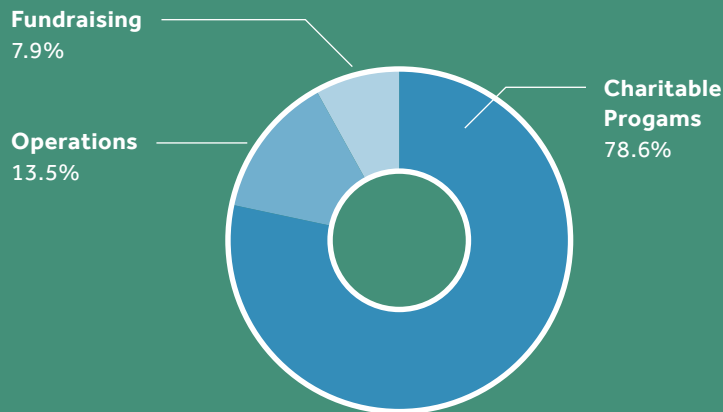
Revenue

Total
\$2,137,709



Expenditures

Total
\$2,205,432



11 points of interests regarding LiveDifferent's finances

1. To facilitate a LiveDifferent Circles school program, our hard cost is \$4,500 per day.
2. The average donation we received from schools was \$1,000 per day of programming.
3. LiveDifferent's partners subsidized our Circles programming by \$3,500 per day.
4. It cost between \$10,000–\$15,000 to build a house in Mexico and the Dominican Republic.
5. It cost \$1.00 per meal at our school in Haiti.
6. It cost \$750 per year per child to receive an education and a daily healthy meal at our school in Haiti.
7. The Freedom Village in Haiti cost \$2.5m to build.
8. We are estimating that it will cost \$1,000 per month to support each girl living in the Freedom Village (safety, education, health care, hope for their future!).
9. In 2021–2022, LiveDifferent employed 25 Canadian and 50 international staff.
10. In 2021–2022, 74% of LiveDifferent's total revenue was donations. THANK YOU!
11. In 2021–2022, 26% of LiveDifferent's total revenue was generated through our programs.

As we feel a resurgence post-pandemic, our passion for making a difference has not waned; rather, it is stronger than ever before. Knowing that we can have a positive impact on so many lives is an inspiring thought and a driving force that will guide us through 2022–23.



We will continue striving to do what we love best—empowering young people with knowledge and experiences that create lasting transformation in their lives and those around them. With dedication and enthusiasm, our (growing) LiveDifferent family is looking forward to continuing this journey together with our valued partners, volunteers, donors, educators and community leaders.

Thank you!



LiveDifferent

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