



FRANCIS+BENEDICT NONPROFIT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared together. This year, our hearts resonated with the significance of Jubilee - a year of celebration, restoration, and miracles. It marked not only the 7th anniversary of Francis and Benedict but also the monumental 50th birthday of Francis Avoyi in Togo, West Africa.

Throughout this Jubilee year, we were continually reminded of the power of trust, the beauty of waiting for miracles, and the sheer joy in celebrating every donation and purchase made. It's been a year where faith has deepened, and we've embraced the profound truth that, in our weakness, His strength shines brightest.

Personally and professionally, this journey has transformed us. Josh and I felt led at the start of the year to document daily miracles and provisions from God. Witnessing His faithfulness woven into the fabric of each day has been humbling and awe-inspiring. One crucial lesson emerged - as leaders, we're better together, and the true guiding force of this work is none other than God Himself. His presence has been palpable, leading us on this path of service, guiding our steps, and illuminating our purpose.

We can't wait to share the stories of divine intervention and life transformation in the pages that follow. It's a testament to your unwavering support and the dedicated team of staff, donors, church partners, volunteers, and mission partners who stand with us shoulder to shoulder.

With every purchase and each dollar contributed, lives are being touched and transformed. We're merely seven years into this incredible journey, and in many ways we are just getting started. Through steadfast commitment and an unwavering faith, we're reminded that truly, nothing is impossible for our God.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. We invite you to continue partnering with us, knowing that together, we're making a profound difference in the world.

In His love,

Josh and Katie Walters



Josh + Katie Walters
Founders and Executive
Directors, US Side



Francis + Benedict Avoyi
Founders + Executive
Directors, Togo Side

2023 IMPACT

IN 2023 WE
SERVED THE
TOGO
COMMUNITY
THROUGH



NUTRITION

PROVIDED HEALTHY MEALS
+ CLEAN WATER TO OUR
SEAMSTRESSES FAMILIES +
VULNERABLE CHILDREN



EDUCATION

SPONSORED QUALITY
EDUCATION, SCHOOL
SUPPLIES, + UNIFORMS FOR
35 CHILDREN



TRANSPORTATION

MAINTAINED THE UPKEEP
AND GAVE GAS STIPENDS
FOR 8 SEAMSTRESSES
MOTORBIKES



HEALTH SAVINGS

WE WERE ABLE TO ENSURE
THE PHYSICAL HEALTH AND
SAFETY OF OUR TEAM
THROUGH HEALTH
INSURANCE

SINCE 2017, WE HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO EMPLOY
14 INDIVIDUALS ON TO
OUR TOGO TEAM



Personal transportation in Togo is a luxury afforded to few. Many Togolese people will walk miles to their villages and larger cities such as Lomé for work, supplies, and their children's school. This takes hours out of their day and many women and children have to travel dangerous rural roads. One of our goals is to ensure that everyone on our Togo team has a motorbike for their families.



EMPOWERING EDUCATION

Deborah and her family were renting the apartment behind the new Togo Shop building. After we moved into the new building we gained a relationship with her and her husband, learning that her husband had recently lost his job they were struggling.

Benedict reached out to Deborah to offer any help needed and she learned that Debora was a trained seamstress. She now works for Francis+Benedict and is able to provide for herself and her family.

Francis describes Deborah and her husband as **“the most faithful people (he) has ever met in Togo.”**

Because of Francis+Benedict Deborah’s children are able to receive a quality education and be a part of the small percentage with a high school degree.

EMPOWERING FAITH

Benedict is a wife (to Francis), mother of 3, and the leader of our seamstresses at Francis + Benedict.

Her skills and leadership are invaluable to our team and they started developing years ago. She remembers a time when she would walk 28km each day to learn how to sew. **Every morning before they start their work, she leads the seamstresses in a devotional. She says it's one of her favorite parts of the day. She knows each seamstress intimately and truly cares about them, their families, and their futures.**

It's indisputable that Benedict is known as a loving, generous, and hospitable mother figure in her neighborhood, community and all over Togo. There's no other person we would rather have leading the Togolese team.



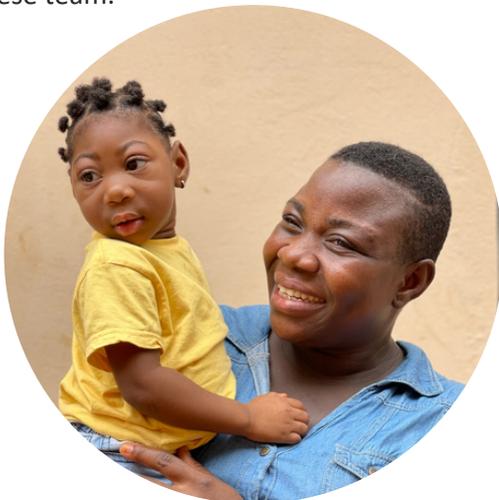
EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Both of **Rose’s** parents died when she was an infant. She stayed with her older sister, who was also young at the time. She was forced to drop out of school.

The only thing she could do was learn to sew. The woman who was willing to teach her understood her difficult situation and taught her without charge.

After her husband died this woman introduced her to Francis + Benedict. Benedict accepted her because of her generosity and her love.

She is now able to provide for her two children. **F+B is the only source they have to survive**





EMPOWERING GENERATIONAL CHANGE

TOGO

LOME



NUTRITION

Studies show that good nutrition is the cornerstone for survival, health and development. Well-nourished children perform better in school, grow into healthy adults and in turn give their children a better start in life. Well-nourished women face fewer risks during pregnancy and childbirth, and their children set off on firmer developmental paths, both physically and mentally. One of the reasons why we chose nutrition as an impact initiative is because about a quarter of the children born in Togo, from ages 0-60 months are considered chronically malnourished.

Our nutrition plan provides meals daily for our seamstresses and their families. Your giving also allows us to hold food drives providing meals to street children and surrounding villages in need. One of our goals for the 2024 year is to sponsor 2 food drops to local villages outside of Lomé. Each food drop cost about \$10,000 USD and will feed a village of about 500 men, women, and children.

Our vision is to provide these funds each year so that our Togo team led by Francis and Benedict would be able to participate in this community outreach.



FOR THE HOPE
AND FUTURE
OF THE
TOGOLESE
PEOPLE

EDUCATION

After ensuring basic life needs are met, access to education for our seamstress and their children is the single most important luxury in Togolese culture to help transform generations.

Your giving provides professional development and opportunity for higher education along with the school and supply fees for their children.

As of 2023, we sponsor 35 children, most living in poverty and several are orphans. In 2024 we hope to raise that number to 50.

Even though financially sponsoring a child is vital we want to provide a culture of encouragement and reassurance as these children progress through their schooling. Why this is so important is due to low retention rates of Togolese schools. About 41% of children that finish primary school, which is 1st-6th grade, continue on to secondary school, 7th - 12th grade. Of the students that make it to secondary school about 32% drop out. Most end up leaving to work to help support their families.

But we know that change is coming! Within the last 10 years the literacy rate has doubled, we are seeing an eagerness in the family unit for their children to finish school. We are seeing the next generation rise up to succeed academically, to go to colleges and trade schools, and to inspire the next generation coming after them.

One example of this is Francis' own daughter Grace. After seeing her own neighbors struggle with receiving quality healthcare, she went to college to earn her pharmaceutical degree. The closest college that offers that degree is in Senegal, which is 1,800 kilometers from the support of her family and friends. She is now in her last year and dreams of being a pharmacist in Lomé; to help her people but to also inspire young students.

“BENEDICT AND I HAVE A DREAM, THAT AT THE END OF OUR LIVES, THERE WILL BE NO MORE STREET CHILDREN IN LOME.”

-PASTOR DR. FRANCIS AVOYI
(pictured below)

TRANSPORTATION

In a country of a little under 9 million people, only 2% of the population own their own means of transportation. A large part is due to the high percentage of citizens that live under the poverty line, another factor is the high cost of transportation. Because Togo has no exports or manufacturing they do not have the infrastructure to build their own cars or motorbikes. This means their only option is to import the motorbikes from China or other countries. This also means the price per motorbike is high, too high for most people.

Aside from taking out a loan with sky high interest rates, putting families into debt for decades, there is little options available to individuals.

Because of our transportation initiative we have been able to bless 8 of our seamstresses with motorbikes and provide annual maintenance to ensure their continued use. This frees their family from debt but it also grants them the gift of time and safety. Many of our seamstresses have to travel 3,5, 7 miles from their village to work. Before receiving their motorbikes, they were walking hours down rural sometimes very dangerous roads with their children. Now their commute is cut to 30 minutes and they are able to safely drop and pick their children up from school.

We have 5 seamstresses currently without motorbikes. It is our hope that by the end of January 2024 we will have the funding to provide our team with this much needed gift.

HEALTH SAVINGS

Currently in Togo there are about 380 registered doctors and medical professionals. For a country of a about 8.7 million that is 1 doctor for every 20,000 citizens. They average daily wage of a Togolese citizens is about \$990 USD, leaving little to pay for healthcare. While there is a national health insurance program in Togo the deductible

is extremely high. Making professional healthcare inaccessible for the majority of the people.

This of course causes many problems but one of the most prevalent is that this situation means a higher child mortality rate and shorter life expectancy compared to the rest of the world. Children that develop the flu or end up having a cut are at risk of a preventable problem becoming a terminal one. Even Francis himself lost the use of his left thumb because of a small injury that became infected when he was a young boy.

The average life span in Togo is 61. Our healthcare savings initiative means that our seamstresses and their families do not have to worry about receiving quality healthcare. This is a privilege we dream of one day being available to ever Togo citizen.



-PASTO DR. FRANCIS AVOYI

CELEBRATING OUR YEAR OF JUBILEE

The Year of Jubilee is what we have called 2023! Pastor Francis turned 50 and we have seven seamstresses who have been with us for all seven of the years we have been a company. Biblically, in the year of Jubilee 3 things happen: property is returned to its original owner, captives are set free and it is a year of simple living. Essentially, it is a fresh start for the people of God and the land in which they live.

This year we were able to celebrate all the goodness and blessing God has given us these past seven years! We began the year with our Togo House of Peace container project, we then hosted a raffle to benefit along with our annual Gala Night to benefit our impact initiatives. With donations from both events we were able to fully fund our initiatives for the year. We were also blessed by our amazing church partners and their generous donations! We are so thankful for Bright City church fully funding our Child Development Center, to Freedom Church funding the generators needed for appliances in the Togo House of Peace, and to Seacoast Church for helping fund our special project focus for 2024! We ended the year with a special thank you night on Daniel Island in honor of our families, friends, donors, and volunteers who have played a part of this mission.

What a blessing it is to celebrate with all of our partners, advocates, churches, and team members in Togo!



THIS THREE STORY
BUILDING IS NOW OUR
TOGO HEADQUARTERS



TOGO HOUSE OF PEACE

House of Peace is the name we've given our headquarters in Togo! By God's grace, it has been and will continue to be a place that ushers peace into the lives of our seamstresses, their children and our guests. This spring we were able to fill a 40 foot shipping container with furniture, bedding, kitchen supplies, and childcare items needed to outfit this building and our child development center. It arrived in Togo two months later where a team of volunteers traveled to Togo to help our local team unload it all. Our hope is that the facility feels like a place that everyone would call home!

The bottom floor of the building is our shop area, a spacious room for all our seamstresses work areas, and a quality control room. It also has a kitchen area where we provide meals for our team and the children we sponsor. The two upper floors include eight bedrooms, nine bathrooms, two office spaces for Francis and Benedict, and family room, porch area, and a very large kitchen. The entire building is outfitted with air-conditioning and has a private well dug to 300ft to guarantee safe drinking water. These floors will house missional teams that come to Togo for their mission projects, or missionary families that are taking a reprieve. When seamstresses, advocates, families, missions teams, or students are at the facility we hope that they find the comfort, refreshment, and resources they need to go out and impact the community.



HOUSING FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

SEAMSTRESSES HOUSING IN 2024

In a developing country, it takes generations to build a home. One generation may lay the foundation and the next inherits the land and builds the walls, another generation may put on a roof etc.

In 2024 our special project focus will be to complete our seamstresses housing project. We have purchased the land; a lot close to the shop, the children's school, and the local police station. We finished the surveying this summer and are currently in the progress of building the homes.

For 24k we can build a 2 bedroom home and in a moment establish the peace of mind and generational impact it usually creates years to establish. Our goal is to keep this a secret and on the 1st week of December in 2024, take all 7 seamstresses to receive a home of their own. We currently have 5 of 7 homes funded, as you are praying through year end giving we would love for you to partner with us by sponsoring one of them and forever changing the life of one of our seamstresses and her family. We are so excited about what is to come and praise God for your prayers and support!

THESE HOMES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE 7 SEAMSTRESSES THAT HAVE BEEN WITH US SINCE THE BEGINNING. EACH HOME WILL BE OUTFITTED WITH MODERN AMENITIES.



WATER

We stand ready with trained staff and emergency equipment to respond when needs arise, including simultaneous disasters in different locations.



ELECTRICITY

We analyze water quality and community needs, ensuring safe water access immediately after emergencies.



FURNITURE

We stabilize solutions to provide for communities' longer-term needs.



HYGIENE

We often remain in disaster-affected communities as they rebuild, working to create sustainable systems that prepare them for the future.





THROUGH THE SALES OF OUR AFRICAN WAX PRINT ITEMS WE ARE ABLE TO TITHE INTO THE NONPROFIT ARM THROUGH THE FOR PROFIT SIDE.

LEADING THROUGH ETHICAL EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We are so excited for what God is going to do in 2024! Along with the seamstress housing project we have goals to expand almost every one of our impact initiatives.

For our education initiative we want to grow from sponsoring 35 children to 50. This year we were able to support Grace in her last year of pharmacy school. In 2024 we would like to sponsor two students college or trade school tuition.

With nutrition we want to be able to sponsor two food drops to a local village. Each food drop will be about \$10,000 and will provide enough meals for 500 people for a week. This project will be a community outreach project for our Togo team, keeping in line with our goal of equipping community leaders to serve the Togo people. This is perhaps our biggest financial jump but we see it as a necessary growth for our nonprofit.

By the beginning of 2024 we hope to have raised funds for the 5 motorbikes we currently need for 5 of our seamstresses. This will mean that each of our seamstresses has a safe and reliable mode of transportation for themselves and their family.

With our health savings initiative we will continue to ensure that our seamstresses and their families do not have to worry about receiving proper healthcare for any concern. We hope to grow this initiative in the years to come to help individuals outside of our Togo team.

Our mission from the beginning was never to step in and be the voice of the Togo people; but rather empower their voice.

We wish to make room on the global stage for the Togo people to display their artistry and joy through our beautiful African wax print items. We wish to amplify their voices that are already announcing that they are here and making an impact in their country. We wish to shed light on this beautiful, joyful, colorful culture that is worth investing in.

What doctors will come out of Togo because you decided to sponsor our education initiative?

Will the first library in Togo be built right next to our House of Peace because you wanted to jump in on a special project?

What will the next generation be able to do because they were able to get quality healthcare and weren't deterred by illness and injury?

There is a beauty in witnessing all the possibilities God can do, and He is doing them in Togo. Many will never go, but that doesn't mean the impact cannot be felt. Our seamstresses are passing on joy and hope to their children because of the stability brought by the growth of Francis+Benedict.

Our dream is that this hope and joy would be a possibility for every Togo citizen. That the world will know of the beauty and joy of the Togo people.

2023

FINANCIALS

Francis + Benedict follows a model of biblical stewardship that recognizes God owns everything. He expects us to steward the time, talent, money, and influence we each have been given to multiply it to accomplish His purposes.

FP2023 NP2023

Transportation Expenses \$8,000

Covers a year of maintenance and repairs of the 8 motorbikes our team has

Nutritional Expenses \$5,000

Program Services Fundraising**
Management and General

Health Savings Expenses \$22,000

Health Insurance for our Togo team

Education Expenses \$24,000

Covers a year's worth of school fees and supplies for our 35 children. Also provided a year's tuition for Grace's college.

Nonprofit Donations \$164,000

This includes donations from businesses/ churches/ individuals/ + value of services

Togo House Of Peace Expenses \$32,000

Container Shipment	Child Dev Center
Utilities	Tile Work/Paint
Generators	Maintenance
Repairs	HVAC

For Profit Skirt Sales \$310,000

Cost of Goods	Fees
Togo Team Salaries	Labels+ Packaging
Shipping Cost	

Tithing from FP to NP \$31,000

Land purchased for Housing Project \$50,000

**35 Children
Received
Educational
Sponsorship**

**Togo House of
Peace Is Fully
Outfitted**

**Opened Our Child
Development
Center + Hired A
Local Teacher**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deb Hopper
Jodi McCall
Jess Connolly
Nick Connolly
Amanda Smith
Jimmy Smith

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Francis + Benedict exists to empower and equip skilled Togolese seamstresses by providing them with dignified and sustainable employment. In addition, our profits are used to resource community leaders in Togo, enabling them to continue projects that benefit orphans, widows, and those suffering in poverty.

Our handmade clothing marries American style with West African wax print textiles in order to create fashion-forward apparel for the modern woman.

We aim to make a lasting global impact by using our love for people and fashion to change communities

... One outfit at a time.



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