**OUR MISSION IS OUR PASSION**

**Operation Broken Silence** is building a global movement to empower the Sudanese people through innovative programs as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

We create powerful documentary films, photography exhibits, and events that mobilize people around the world to raise support for Sudanese-led programs. Our organization partners funds raised by our movement with local Sudanese change makers to empower education and humanitarian relief efforts.

We also design advocacy campaigns that equip grassroots activists in our home state of Tennessee to successfully engage their communities and political leaders.

Learn more at obsilence.org
THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

Since 1989, the Sudanese people have been oppressed by one of the most violent, racist, and paranoid dictatorships in history.

In 1989, army veteran Omar al-Bashir seized power in a military coup. Wielding a Koran and Kalashnikov rifle, he promised to forcefully create a new Sudan ruled by the Arab identity and severe Islamic law. This is one of the few promises he has kept over the last 29 years, and the results have been horrifying.

WAR CRIMES & GENOCIDE

Ethnic African minorities in the periphery regions of Sudan are besieged in genocidal wars for their own survival. For decades, regime forces have massacred, raped, and pillaged on such a widespread scale that over 2.5 million Sudanese have perished, with millions more fleeing their homes.

TERRORISM & PERSECUTION

Christians and religious minorities in Sudan face some of the most oppressive conditions in the world. The regime also continues providing military training, weapons, and funding to internationally-recognized terrorist organizations operating in Africa and the Middle East.

WEB OF OPPRESSION

Peaceful activists and journalists in regime-controlled areas face torture, forced disappearance, and live ammunition at the hands of Bashir’s security services. Organized peaceful protests are brutally suppressed and civil society activist’s homes are frequently raided.
On Sudan’s southern border sits the country’s resource-rich Nuba Mountains, where roughly 100 African tribal groups have resided for over 2,000 years.

The approximately one million Christians, Muslims, and those who follow traditional beliefs in this part of Sudan live largely in harmony. The Bashir regime views the Nuba people and their way of life as an existential threat to their existence. Regime leaders are trying to rob the Nuba people of their land to further enrich themselves. The Nuba fought off a brutal government-backed genocide in the 1990s, and their existence has been threatened ever since.

**OUR FOCUS**

**NUBA MOUNTAINS**

In 2011, South Sudan became the world’s newest country as part of a hard-won peace agreement. The agreement stipulated that the Nuba Mountains would remain in Sudan, despite many of the Nuba siding with the south during the war due to government atrocities committed against them.

**THE KADUGLI MASSACRE**

The Bashir regime began its latest war against the Nuba before South Sudan’s independence. The opening massacre in the state capital of Kadugli claimed thousands of civilian lives, as regime forces marched through the streets screaming the names of Nuba pastors, intellectuals, and political leaders.

**THE WAR CONTINUES TODAY**

The Bashir regime has targeted churches, medical facilities, and schools for destruction by Sudan’s air force. Hundreds of thousands of Nuba civilians now live in mountain caves or refugee camps just across the border. Armed Nuba fighters have fought regime forces to a brutal and fragile ceasefire.
OUR PROGRAMS & IMPACT
We create documentary films, photography exhibits, and annual events that raise awareness about the crisis in Sudan and mobilize people around the world to join our movement that empowers the Sudanese people.

2018 was an incredible year for our Storytelling and Movement Building program. We introduced over 21,000 people to the crisis in Sudan and how they can get involved. We showed our traveling photography exhibit that tells the story of Yida Refugee Camp to new audiences. Our annual movement-building events continued growing and expanding. We started a weekly newsletter to keep you engaged on the latest news coming out of Sudan.

We used our partnership with a new film to show people what the war in Sudan looks like for those living through it.
STORYTELLING: FILMS & VIDEOS

We released 24 videos in 2018 that inspired you to action. The campaigns these videos were featured in helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and introduced over 18,000 people to the crisis in Sudan. We used our partnership with the independent Heart of Nuba documentary film to inspire hundreds of more people as well.

STAND FOR EDUCATION TRAILER

We launched a new campaign video alongside of our announcement that our education partner is opening a new high school in Yida Refugee Camp, South Sudan.

WATCH HERE

THE HEART OF NUBA FILM

This award-winning, independent documentary tells the incredible story of Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains warzone.

SEE THE FILM
STORYTELLING: PHOTOGRAPHY & EXHIBITS

We took 916 photos throughout the year to document our work and your efforts to empower the Sudanese people. Our traveling photography exhibit raised $16,454 for our on-the-ground programs and introduced over 1,600 people to the crisis in Sudan.

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

The Yida Photography Exhibit is an immersive experience that takes communities into what life is like in the refugee camp. Attendees are inspired to get involved in tangible ways.

LEARN MORE

AN INCREDIBLE SHOWING

From September 24-30, 2018, Christ Church Memphis and Christ Methodist Day School hosted a massive showing. In 6 short days, 1,418 people experienced the exhibit and learned about Sudan.

SEE RESULTS
In 2018, you asked us to provide more regular updates on news coming out of Sudan. We took your feedback seriously and reexamined how we use our email and social media accounts to that end.

**WHAT A WEEK IN SUDAN NEWS**

This e-newsletter highlights an important story from Sudan and is delivered straight to your inbox once a week. It’s a good mix of hard news, some light humor, and context.

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**

Alongside of overhauling how we use our email list, we also started providing more news content through our social media accounts. You can click or tap the button below and scroll down to find us online:
MOVEMENT BUILDING: ANNUAL EVENTS

Our two annual events continued to see success in 2018. We emphasized improving our Gala, which led to incredible growth over the 2017 event. We added a third annual movement-building event into our lineup as part of Giving Tuesday. And we began rebuilding our annual 5k from the ground up.

GOOD PEOPLE GOOD BEER GALA

This marked the 7th year for our most exciting annual event. Not only did the gala grow 36% over 2017, many of the attendees this year were learning about Sudan and getting involved for the first time.

SEE RESULTS

EDEN’S RUN 5K

Our 9th annual 5k fundraising event remained small but effective. This was the second year all of our fundraising-entry runners reached their goals and we had another year of mostly repeat attendees.

SEE RESULTS
We partner funds raised by our movement with local Sudanese change makers to empower education and humanitarian relief efforts.

2018 was a year of changing and saving lives in these on-the-ground programs. The pinnacle of the year came in November, when we announced that our education partner would be opening a new high school in Yida Refugee Camp. When opened, the Renewal High School will roughly double the size of our education program.

We continued providing support to Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains so their staff could save lives every day.

And at the request of one of our partners, we dispatched all remaining funds for emergency aid missions, so we can focus entirely on longer-term healthcare and education needs moving forwards.
THE ENDURE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Since 2015, your support has been used to quadruple the size and impact of the Endure Primary School in Yida Refugee Camp. Every week, twelve Nuba teachers and a support coordinator in ten classrooms teach over 700 students from the Nuba Mountains. Many of the students have lost or been separated from their parents due to the war, making the school one of the only structured places in their lives.

OPENING THE FINAL GRADE
In July 2018, your fundraising and giving was used to add Primary Grade 8 to the school. This means that Endure is now a full-fledged primary school students can graduate from.

REBUILDING FROM STORMS
In September 2018, a bad rainstorm swept over Yida and caused severe damage to most of the school. You quickly rallied: your giving and fundraising not only rallied: your giving and fundraising not only rebuilt classrooms, but also made improvements to the property.
THE RENEWAL HIGH SCHOOL & HIGHER EDUCATION

In 2018, we announced that our education partner was moving forwards with opening a new high school in Yida Refugee Camp, South Sudan. This will allow students graduating from Endure Primary to continue their studies uninterrupted for the first time without having to leave their home in Yida.

Additionally, we continued to sponsor two Sudanese students at colleges in Kenya and Uganda.

PROCUREMENT BEGINS

In December, your fundraising and giving was used to begin procuring supplies in Uganda for the new high school. This includes items that cannot be obtained in Yida like a solar power system, chalkboards, tarps, and more.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE

In 2018, your giving was used to ensure that two Sudanese students could continue their pursuit of higher educations in Kenya and Uganda.

Both students are now over the halfway mark to achieving four year degrees.
MOTHER OF MERCY HOSPITAL
Throughout 2018, the staff at Mother of Mercy Hospital in the war-torn Nuba Mountains continued to save lives every single day. The last remaining medical institution in the region, this critical hospital has only 435 beds for a population of nearly one million people.

FINANCIAL CRISIS
The hospital remained in a financial crisis in 2018 due to the overwhelming needs in the region. Through the creativity of the staff though, the hospital made it through the year.

FEATURED GLOBALLY
Several international media outlets picked up on the amazing story that is this hospital in 2018. CNN's segment was particularly heart-warming and inspiring.
WHY STOP AID MISSIONS?
In 2017, funding requests from our partners for emergency aid missions virtually stopped coming in.

Our current Sudanese partners and Nuba community leaders have made it clear where our primary focus should be: fundraising for education initiatives. The Nuba Mountains faces a massive education crisis due to schools being targeted by government war planes, and the education situation in Yida Refugee Camp is only marginally better. We go where our Sudanese partners tell us to go, hence our move away aid missions.

REMAINING EMERGENCY AID MISSION FUNDS DISPATCHED
In December 2018 and at the request of our last remaining emergency aid mission partner, we released the remaining funds you raised that had been earmarked for food and basic medicine distribution to war-affected communities in the Nuba Mountains. The mission will take place in the first half of 2019.
We design powerful campaigns that equip grassroots activists in our home state of Tennessee to engage their communities and political leaders.

Traditionally, our organization has focused on supporting pieces of federal legislation and policy changes targeting Sudan and other armed conflict-related issues. We continued down this road in 2018 and it led to some big results. It was a hard fought year for our Grassroots Advocacy program.

We saw a major legislative victory after years of committed focus on reforming U.S. government efforts to respond to atrocities on foreign soil. Alongside of other organizations, we protected critical American foreign policy approaches that both save lives and make our own country safer.

And over 450 of our Tennessee activists led the way across the board.
OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNS

Throughout 2018, our grassroots activists in Tennessee played a vital role in moving the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act through Congress and to the President’s desk. We also successfully fought for the Complex Crises Fund, which was placed on the chopping block by the Trump Administration.

THE ELIE WIESEL ACT

This legislation ensures that the U.S. government has the tools, training, and funding needed to save lives and promote peace when mass atrocities are becoming a threat on foreign soil. Our Tennessee activists pushed the bill through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June and secured 7 out of 9 Tennessee House members “yes” votes in December.

THE COMPLEX CRISES FUND

In May 2018, we joined 33 other organizations in successfully fighting for USAID’s Complex Crises Fund, which provides flexible funding to this government agency to respond to unforeseen foreign crises as they emerge.
CALL-IN DAY
In March, we held a statewide call-in day for the Elie Wiesel Act, but focused specifically on our Memphis activists. The day was led by two of our top Tennessee activists at the University of Memphis.

CAMPAIGN REDESIGN
In June, we worked with some of Tennessee’s brightest high school students to revamp our advocacy campaign for the Elie Wiesel Act. Just a few days later, Senator Corker moved the bill through the Senate Foreign Relation Committee.

BEHIND THE SCENES
We are a small organization with limited bandwidth, so we do not always mobilize our entire Tennessee activist network when an advocacy need comes up. Our staff regularly communicates directly with Congressional offices here in Memphis and works through specific activists elsewhere in the state as needed.
YOU MADE 2018 POSSIBLE.

Everything we do to empower the Sudanese people happens because of you. Without you, our Sudanese partners would not get the support and enthusiasm they need to carry out their incredible work.

Some of you gave monthly. Others of you gave once. More of you fundraised than ever before. You advocated and volunteered. You showed up for our friends in Sudan, and you showed up in a big way.

And you grew our movement from 1,710 members in 2017 to 2,606 members in 2018.

Since the beginning, we have been on a mission to empower ordinary people to do amazing things for Sudanese change-makers. This year was no different.

Here is what you accomplished in 2018.
THE RENEWAL FAMILY

The Renewal is our family of monthly givers who never stop fighting for change. This amazing group of top members are at the very heart of everything our movement does. Your effortless monthly giving brings sustainability and consistency to the Sudanese-led programs we sponsor.

THE RENEWAL FAMILY’S IMPACT

In 2018, our recurring donor family grew 42%, from 50 to 71 members. You collectively gave over $32,000 towards empowering the Sudanese people. And you enjoyed your perks of being Renewal members, including free event tickets and a quarterly behind-the-scenes look at our work.

WHY JOIN THE RENEWAL?

This is the best and easiest way to empower the Sudanese change-makers working in their programs we sponsor. You get to choose your own automatic giving amount, and signing up takes less than a minute. After that, you will be effortlessly impacting the lives of Sudanese teachers, students, and nurses. In return, you get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at our work and free event tickets.

LEARN MORE
OUR FUNDRAISERS

In 2018, our community of online peer-to-peer fundraisers grew 218%, from 153 to 486 individuals. Throughout the year, you linked Sudanese stories to your own lives and fundraised for the education and healthcare programs we support in Sudan.

OUR FUNDRAISERS & THEIR IMPACT

You collectively raised $44,103.31 through individual fundraising pages in 2018. The funds you raised went to support the two schools in Yida Refugee Camp and Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains. Your efforts also introduced your friends and family to the crisis in Sudan, many for the first time.

LEARN MORE

ONE MILLION DOLLARS RAISED!

In August, our fundraisers helped us hit a major milestone: one million dollars raised since we opened our doors.

That did not slow you down. Many of you kept on fundraising, determined to help us support even more Sudanese change-makers in the months and years ahead.
OUR GENEROUS DONORS
In 2018, our community of one-time donors grew 70%, from 977 to 1,657 individuals. Throughout the year, you donated through our website and fundraising pages, at events, by check, and through your brokerage accounts.

OUR DONORS & THEIR IMPACT
You collectively gave $313,209.43 in 2019.* Your generosity made possible the results our Sudanese partners achieved on the ground in the Nuba Mountains and Yida Refugee Camp throughout the year.

FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY
The average individual donor gave roughly $100 in 2018. This further shows that when ordinary people come together for something bigger than themselves, extraordinary things can happen over time.

The largest numbers of new one-time donors came to us by word of mouth and through our online fundraisers.

*This metric includes both cash raised and the fair-market value of investments donated to our Endowment Fund. We also include grants and institutional giving in this metric.
OUR VOLUNTEERS
Throughout the year, 163 volunteers came together in Memphis and served a total of 1,386 hours. You were amazingly generous with your time and made our movement-building events possible, improved our communication tools, and spearheaded our grassroots advocacy work.

EVENT COMMITTEES TAKE FLIGHT
In 2018, top event volunteers and newcomers came together to form event committees around both of our annual events. By years end, you had greatly improved both the Gala and 5K, driven early recruitment and fundraising up, and set the stage for incredible events in 2019.

TAKING THE LEAD
Our volunteers used their time with us to drive down program and growth costs, reach new audiences, and create an inviting atmosphere at all of our events. You took initiative, led new supporters when our staff became overwhelmed, and saved our organization an estimated $19,830 during 2018.

OBS Board member Kellee Stokesberry built up and managed our volunteer Gala committee.

OBS Board member Jessica Seebeck designed our volunteer 5K committee.

LEARN MORE
OUR GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS

In 2018, our community of grassroots activists in Tennessee grew 27% from 361 to 460 members. Throughout the year, you signed petitions, wrote letters, and called Tennessee’s Senators and Representatives about U.S.-Sudan policy and atrocity prevention legislation.

ATROCITY PREVENTION IN THE SFRC

During the first half of 2018, all 460 of you successfully joined your voices together in calling on Senator Bob Corker to allow The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act to pass through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. You declared victory on June 26.

SECURING HOUSE VOTES

At the end of the year, you ensured that 7 out of the 9 Tennessee House members voted in favor of the Elie Wiesel Act, with 2 others not casting votes.

The Elie Wiesel Act passed out of Congress in a landslide House vote on December 21 and was promptly sent to the President.
OUR LEADERSHIP
At the head of our movement were our Board members and staff.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Throughout the year, our Board of Directors deepened their engagement, outreach, and oversight of our mission:

- Sarah Greenspon, President
- Ryan Strain, Secretary
- Stephen Hackett, Treasurer
- Mark Hackett, Executive Director
- Kellee Stokesberry, Gala Committee Lead
- Jessica Seebeck, 5K Committee Lead
- Jordan Vrbas, Event Support

OUR STAFF
Our small, full-time team of three worked to grow our movement and support our wonderful Sudanese partners throughout the year:

- Mark Hackett, Executive Director
- Scovia Rushing, Recruitment Director
- Audrey Tetzeli, Development Enthusiast

LEARN MORE
We used the funds, goods, and services you raised and gave in 2018 to empower the Sudanese people and scale to our mission.

Here are our financials from 2018.
IN 2018, WE RAISED: $320,210*

We are grateful to the individuals, churches, businesses, and grantmakers that donated to our work in 2018.

Because of your generosity, we raised 9% more funding than we did in 2017. Our organization would not have accomplished what we did without your support.

*CASH RAISED $319,945

INVESTMENT INCOME $265

Our self-started Endowment Fund grew by 156% to $19,358.

This metric includes both cash raised, merchandise sold, and the fair-market value of investments donated to our Endowment Fund. We also include grants and institutional giving in this metric.
In 2018, companies, churches, and individuals donated their time, space, and services to empower the Sudanese people.

Your generosity not only helped us drive down costs, but also introduce more people to the crisis in Sudan for the first time and further engage our vibrant movement.

The estimated value of goods and services given was down 23% compared to 2017.

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ESTIMATED VALUE OF GOODS AND SERVICES RAISED: $171,330
INVESTED IN PROGRAMS: $161,352

As we mentioned in the Our Programs & Impact and Our Movement sections of this report, our Sudanese partners and our leadership team used your generosity in some truly effective ways.

In 2018, funds invested into our programs decreased by 3% from 2017. This was due to a large chunk of program funding being dispatched in early January 2019 instead of the end of the year, as is customary.

STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING $45,828

EDUCATION & EMERGENCY RELIEF $114,863

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY $661
In 2018, we invested $144,544 into our growth.

2018 marked the beginning of our third year on a growth grant provided by a private foundation. This grant is allowing us to surge past nearly a decade of growing pains by providing the organization additional staff and resources right now. The grant runs from September 2016-September 2019. During this time period, funds invested into the organization will be much higher than previous years.
THE ROAD AHEAD: 2019
2019 will be a difficult but hopeful year for the Sudanese people. The Bashir regime will continue oppressing millions of ordinary citizens so that they can further enrich themselves.

But our Sudanese partners won’t stop standing up for what is inevitable: the renewal of Sudan.

The current system of exploitative and violent governance in Sudan remains unsustainable. Corrupt government officials face heavy armed resistance in the periphery regions of Sudan and a growing, peaceful protest movement in major cities.

We’re determined to make 2019 our biggest and most impactful year yet. Not for ourselves, but for our brothers and sisters in Sudan. Here is what that will look like.
THE OUTLOOK: SUDAN

In 2019, the Bashir regime will become even more corrupt and double down on their violent methods in a desperate attempt to remain in power. This will only further solidify the regime’s demise.

Sudanese citizens will protest in major cities and spread their efforts for peace and justice further across the country. Armed resistance in the heavily oppressed periphery regions of Sudan will dig in as war clouds loom larger. And the dictatorship will begin struggling to shed its status as a dangerous pariah.

WAR CRIMES & GENOCIDE

Although fragile ceasefires existed in some of Sudan’s periphery areas in 2018, the likelihood of violence reigniting in 2019 is high. The dictatorship continues to purchase weapons abroad and has a long history of breaching ceasefires. Regime forces remain deployed in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur.

TERRORISM & PERSECUTION

The Bashir regime will destroy churches, harass Christians and other minorities, and support international terrorist organizations. The international community will struggle to keep paying lip service to these actions, in the hopes of improved counterterrorism and migration cooperation.

WEB OF OPPRESSION

Peaceful activists and journalists will face imprisonment, torture, and murder at the hands of Bashir’s brutal security forces. Protests will grow as younger Sudanese demand a more modern, tolerant, and outward-facing Sudan. And government officials will openly mock those seeking change.
**THE OUTLOOK: OUR PROGRAMS**

In 2019, our core focus will remain on Sudan’s Nuba Mountains and impacting Sudanese living there through current programs.

In 2018, the lack of educational opportunities for Nuba children reached a crisis level. Funding education in Yida Refugee Camp will remain our top priority for this reason. We will reemphasize our fundraising efforts for Mother of Mercy Hospital and introduce new storytelling tools to further build our movement. And we will refocus our grassroots advocacy efforts back to Sudan. We’re digging deeper than ever before in 2019, and your continued support will help make these things happen.

**STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING**

We will release a new documentary film about the education crisis in Yida. Our impactful photography exhibit will continue touring the Greater Memphis area. Our annual events will play a central role in further building up our movement that empowers our friends in Sudan.

**EDUCATION & EMERGENCY RELIEF**

We will open the first three grades of the Renewal High School in Yida Refugee Camp alongside of our education partner. We will continue supporting the Endure Primary School and Mother of Mercy Hospital. We will continue supporting two Sudanese students and their college education.

**GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY**

Our advocacy efforts will shift back to focusing on Sudan, all while keeping an eye on current U.S. administration policies that impact our work and issues attached to what we do. We hope to see the U.S. government better understand the reality of the crisis in Sudan and take appropriate action.
THE BEST WAYS TO EMPOWER
THE SUDANESE IN 2019

JOIN THE FAMILY
The Renewal is our family of monthly donors who effortlessly empower the Sudanese people each and every month. Signing up takes less than a minute and comes with perks.

JOIN TODAY

BECOME A FUNDRAISER
If you can’t give monthly right now, you can start a fundraising page for one of our programs and ask your friends and family to donate. The donations you raise will leave an impact in 2019.

START NOW
OPERATION BROKEN SILENCE

HISTORY IS MADE BY THOSE WHO SHOW UP. DON’T MISS OUT.

OBSILENCE.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT 2018