**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 short videos as an avenue for the Sudanese people to speak out through. Their stories are used to inspire and mobilize people around the world to action through giving and fundraising.

Funds raised by our movement are used to empower Sudanese-led education, emergency relief, and medical operations in the Nuba Mountains region, which has been besieged in a genocidal war by the dictatorship since 2011. These life-changing programs extend from Sudanese refugee camps deep into the warzone itself.
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 in the last three decades, 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.
OUR FOCUS
NUBA MOUNTAINS

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 in harmony. The Bashir regime views the Nuba as an existential threat to the dictatorship’s existence. Key regime leaders have long sought to rob the Nuba people of their land to further enrich themselves. The Nuba barely survived a brutal government-backed genocide in the 1990s, and their existence has been threatened ever since.

SIDELINED IN THE PEACE DEAL

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 Yida Refugee Camp just across the border. Armed Nuba fighters have fought regime forces to a brutal and fragile ceasefire.
OUR PROGRAMS & IMPACT
We create stunning documentary films, photography exhibits, and short videos that raise awareness about the crisis in Sudan and mobilize people around the world to join our movement that empowers the Sudanese.

2017 was an amazing year for our Storytelling and Movement Building program. We introduced over 20,000 people to the crisis in Sudan and how they can get involved. We built our first traveling photography exhibit that tells the story of Yida Refugee Camp. Our annual movement-building events continued growing and expanding.

Our 4th documentary film, which remains in post-production, has now become the largest storytelling project in our history. We’ve already clocked in 1,574 hours on this powerful project and have hundreds of more hours left to go.

And these are just a few of the highlights.
STORYTELLING: FILMS & VIDEOS

We released 23 videos in 2017 that educated the public and inspired you to action. The campaigns these videos were featured in helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and introduced over 17,000 people to the crisis in Sudan. Our fourth documentary film will be released at the end of 2018.

THE ENDURE CAMPAIGN TRAILER

Our campaigns and events that empower the primary school we sponsor in Yida Refugee Camp, South Sudan got a powerful new story that goes to the heart of our work.

WATCH HERE

THE RENEWAL SHORT FILM

Our Recruitment Director shared her journey from Sudan to the United States in a powerful and creative way. This short film is now at the center of our recurring donor family.

SEE THE FILM
STORYTELLING: PHOTOGRAPHY & EXHIBITS

We took 2,453 photos throughout the year to document our work and your efforts to empower the Sudanese people. Our first traveling photography exhibit raised over $21,000 for our on-the-ground programs and introduced nearly 3,000 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 11-15, 2017, the University of Memphis hosted what ended up being a massive showing. In 5 short days, 2,339 people experienced the exhibit and learned about Sudan.

SEE RESULTS
MOVEMENT BUILDING: ANNUAL EVENTS

Our two annual events continued to see growth and success in 2017. Our primary emphasis was revamping our summer beer gala, which led to some amazing results that will carry over into 2018 as well. And we began early planning to add a third annual movement-building event into our lineup beginning in 2019.

GOOD PEOPLE GOOD BEER GALA

This marked the 6th year for our most exciting annual event. Not only did the gala grow 524% over 2016, most of the attendees this year were learning about Sudan and getting involved for the first time.

SEE RESULTS

EDEN’S RUN 5K

Our 8th annual 5K fundraising event remained small, but saw positive trends. This was the first year all of our fundraising-entry runners reached their goals and we had the largest number of repeat attendees to date.

SEE RESULTS
MOVEMENT BUILDING: MONTHLY RECRUITMENT EVENTS

We noticed throughout 2017 that new and potential supporters were searching for additional ways to get involved, get their friends involved, and have the opportunity to spend more time with our team. In November and December, our staff completed test runs of small recruitment events at our office to meet these needs. Moving into 2018, we will continue testing various versions of monthly recruitment events to discover what best empowers new and potential supporters.

HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN SEMINAR

On November 9, we invited previous and potential fundraisers to our office to get an early look at our annual holiday campaign and to get plugged in early. Several individuals started their fundraising pages on the spot and were receiving donations by the next morning.

TOGETHER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On December 9, we invited current and potential members of our annual holiday campaign to our office for a pancake breakfast and to learn more about our work. Several donations and increased fundraising followed the event.
We partner funds raised by our movement with local Sudanese change makers to empower education and humanitarian relief efforts.

2017 was a year of changing and saving lives in our on-the-ground programs. The pinnacle of the year came in July, when the primary school we sponsor in Yida Refugee Camp became one of the top-performing schools in the area and was celebrated by thousands of Sudanese.

We continued providing support to Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains so their staff can continue saving lives every single day. At the request of our Sudanese partners, we completed our final emergency aid mission so we can focus entirely on longer-term healthcare and education needs.

And alongside of our education partner, we began preparations for opening the first high school in Yida Refugee Camp.
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 and 930 students from the Nuba Mountains. Many of the students have lost or been separated from their parents.

AN EXCITING YEAR

In July 2017, the students at the school scored high marks on standardized testing in English and Mathematics. Nearly 6,000 Sudanese in Yida came together to celebrate.

PREPARING FOR GRADE 8

At the end of December 2017, we asked our education partner to finish laying the groundwork for opening the final grade at the Endure Primary School. The grade is slated to open in 2018.
MOTHER OF MERCY HOSPITAL
Throughout 2017, American Dr. Tom Catena and the local staff at Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains continued to save lives every single day. The last remaining medical institution in the region, this critical hospital has only 400 beds for a population of nearly one million people.

FINANCIAL CRISIS
The hospital remained in a financial crisis in 2017 due to the overwhelming needs in the region. Through the creativity of the staff though, the hospital made it through the year.

LEARN MORE

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE
In 2017, we opened up a new position on our Board of Directors that will focus solely on building monthly support for the hospital. The position will be filled in 2018.

LEARN MORE
EMERGENCY AID MISSION TO NUBA REFUGEES IN NORTHERN UGANDA

In March 2017, your donations were used to help bring over 22,000 lbs of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) nutritive supplement to more than 500 Nuba refugees in great need in northern Uganda. CSB is a fortified-blended food rich in vitamins and minerals used extensively by humanitarian agencies in emergency situations.

OUR FINAL AID MISSION

This aid mission marked our last official relief effort in this capacity. We have not received another funding request for continued work in this area, and our Sudanese partners have made it clear our priority should be funding education and healthcare initiatives.

SEE RESULTS

EMERGENCY AID FUNDS REMAIN

Our organization is holding $10,000+ that was raised specifically for emergency aid missions. We will retain these funds until they can be used for their intended purpose.
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 U.S. federal legislation and policy changes targeting Sudan and other armed conflict-related issues. While we continued down this road in 2017, we were also forced to play our part in speaking truth to power with regards to the current U.S. administration’s targeting of refugee populations.

We also released a disturbing report documenting massive violations of the U.S. government’s sanctions-lifting agreement with Sudan’s dictatorship.

2017 was the hardest year yet for our Grassroots Advocacy program. We saw few legislative victories, despite our growing movement advocating in bigger and better ways.
OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNS
We launched a single public advocacy campaign in our home state of Tennessee calling on Senator Bob Corker to cosponsor the The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (S.1158). Throughout the year, 361 of our activists in Tennessee signed the petition and dozens more called the Senator’s local offices. Despite these efforts, Senator Corker did not cosponsor the bill, nor did he allow this critical legislation to have it’s day in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

PRIVATE IN-DISTRICT CAMPAIGNS
Our staff met privately with Representative David Kustoff’s Memphis office about the House version of the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act bill (H.R.3030). We continue communicating with his office about the bill and his potential cosponsorship. We did secure Representative Steve Cohen as a cosponsor of H.R. 3030.

SUDAN SANCTIONS REPORT
In June 2017, we released a 43-page report detailing the Bashir regime’s massive violations of the sanctions-lifting agreement it entered into with the U.S. government.
SPEAKING OUT AGAINST ANTI-REFUGEE POLICIES
Throughout the year, we took a stand both publicly and privately with millions of other American citizens against the Trump Administration’s poorly implemented anti-refugee policies. From marching in our home city of Memphis, TN against the first travel ban (which included Sudanese) to voicing our concerns behind the scenes to our Representatives and Senators, we aggressively stood up for the oppressed and marginalized.

MARCHING IN MEMPHIS
On February 1, 2017, our staff and local supporters joined our fellow citizens in marching from the historic Clayborn Temple to the National Civil Rights Museum in protest of the Trump Administration’s travel ban.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC
While our Yida Photography Exhibit’s main goal is to directly empower the Sudanese people through giving and fundraising, we were excited to see churches and a major university also use the project to educate the Memphis community about refugee issues.
OUR MOVEMENT

OPERATION BROKEN SILENCE
YOU MADE 2017 POSSIBLE.

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


And you grew our movement from 1,064 members in 2016 to 1,710 members in 2017.

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

Here's what you accomplished in 2017.
**THE RENEWAL FAMILY**

In 2017, we relaunched our recurring donor program as *The Renewal*. This amazing group of movement members are at the very heart of everything we do. Their effortless monthly giving brings sustainability and consistency to the programs we support in Sudan.

**THE RENEWAL FAMILY’S IMPACT**

Our recurring donor family doubled in size to 50 members in 2017. They collectively gave $23,000 towards empowering the Sudanese people. And they enjoyed their perks of being Renewal members, including free event tickets and a quarterly behind-the-scenes look at our work.

**THE RENEWAL SHORT FILM**

*The Renewal* story is told in a beautiful short film created by Aaron Baggett and Jacob Geyer, two of our storytelling volunteers who have been with us to document life in Yida Refugee Camp, South Sudan.

*The Renewal* family would not exist without their hard work and creativity. A big shoutout to these two volunteers!

**WATCH THE FILM**
OUR FUNDRAISERS

In 2017, our community of online peer-to-peer fundraisers grew from 105 to 153 members. Throughout the year, they linked Sudanese stories to their own lives and fundraised for our empowering work in Sudan.

OUR FUNDRAISERS & THEIR IMPACT

Our fundraisers collectively raised $143,115.73 on our platform in 2017. The funds they raised not only went to support the primary school in Yida Refugee Camp and Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains, but their efforts also introduced their friends and family to the crisis in Sudan for the first time.

Fundraiser Natalie Elsberg raised $2,009 for Mother of Mercy Hospital through the Heart of Nuba campaign.

Fundraiser Mandy Campbell raised $500 during our annual holiday education campaign.

LEARN MORE

AN AMAZING FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE

In 2017, our fundraising platform received a beautiful overhaul and new campaign features, such as multi-currency giving, to help our fundraisers more easily reach their goals. We also updated and added to our arsenal of online resources our fundraisers use to accelerate their efforts.

LEARN MORE

Fundraiser Natalie Elsberg raised $2,009 for Mother of Mercy Hospital through the Heart of Nuba campaign.
OUR GENEROUS DONORS

In 2017, our community of one-time donors grew from 793 to 977 members. Throughout the year, they donated through our website and fundraising pages, at events, by check, and through their brokerage accounts.

OUR DONORS & THEIR IMPACT

Our one-time donors collectively gave $275,743.81 in 2017.* Their generosity made possible the results our Sudanese partners achieved on the ground in the Nuba Mountains and Yida Refugee Camp throughout the year.

LEARN MORE

AN AMAZING GIVING EXPERIENCE

In 2017, our online donation pages were updated to provide a more streamlined and enjoyable giving experience. Initial feedback from our donors included that they like being able to watch a short video on most of our donation pages, as well as having the option of giving monthly on most one-time donation pages as well.

*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, 167 volunteers came together in Memphis and served a total of 1,804 hours. These amazing individuals made our movement-building events possible, improved our communication methods, and spearheaded our grassroots advocacy efforts.

"THE BEST VOLUNTEERS"
Several attendees to our annual Good People Good Beer Gala thought we had hired outside help for the event. They were surprised to learn that the gala was run entirely by our staff and volunteers, and feedback was that we have some of “the best volunteers” they had ever seen at a nonprofit event.

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. They took initiative, led new supporters when our staff became overwhelmed at events, and saved our organization an estimated $47,888 during 2017.
OUR GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS

In 2017, our grassroots activists in Tennessee grew from 148 to 361 members. Throughout the year, they signed petitions, wrote letters, and called our Senators and Representatives about U.S.-Sudan policy and atrocity prevention legislation.

FIGHTING FOR ATROCITY PREVENTION

During 2017, 361 grassroots activists from across Tennessee joined their voices together and called on Senator Bob Corker to cosponsor The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (S.1158) and allow the bill to pass through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Their grassroots work will continue in 2018.

THE SUDAN SANCTIONS REPORT

Throughout the first half of 2017, our two advocacy interns Alexis Gilbert and Jesse Spain spearheaded the creation of a 43-page report detailing reported Sudanese government violations of the U.S.-Sudan sanctions-lifting agreement. Together, Alexis and Jesse put in 144 hours on this project that raised serious concerns about the agreement and its poor implementation.
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Throughout the year, our Board of Directors planned, engaged, and supported our movement and staff to continue empowering the Sudanese people.

In 2017, our Board of Directors restructured to deepen board engagement around events, specific campaigns, and oversight of the organization’s activities. All Board members now have a priority focus related to the organization’s work, as well as fundraising goals related to specific campaigns and events.

In July, our Board completed our next three year strategic plan that guides the organization each and every day. Current Board members are:

Mark Gosney, President
Mark Hackett, Executive Director
Dr. Brandon Rushing, Secretary
Stephen Hackett, Treasurer
Emmanuel Amido, Sudanese Board Member
Kaile Pippin, Beer Gala Lead
Jessica Seebeck, Eden’s Run 5K Lead
Jordan Vrbas, Peer-To-Peer Fundraising Focus

Moving into 2018, there are only two remaining open positions on our Board of Directors.
OUR STAFF

Our talented full-time staff of three remained committed to empowering our movement and Sudanese partners throughout the year. We forged ahead with new storytelling and movement building projects, walked alongside of new supporters to inspire them, and made preparations for our breakout year in 2018.

Current staff members are:

Mark Hackett, Executive Director
Scovia Wilson, Recruitment Director
Audrey Tetzeli, Fundraising Enthusiast

Much of our staff’s focus in 2017 revolved around preparing for rapid growth that will occur over the next two years. We restructured and simplified internal tracking systems, moved into more conducive offices, further solidified our partnerships on the ground in Sudan, and honed down on our top priorities in our Storytelling and Movement Building program.

It was a busy a year as we completed our move from startup to established.

MEET OUR TEAM

Operation Broken Silence Recruitment Director Scovia Wilson at the 8th annual Eden’s Run 5K.

In October 2017, we welcomed Audrey Tetzeli to our team as the organization’s new Fundraising Enthusiast.
OUR FINANCIALS
We used the funds, goods, and services you raised and gave in 2017 to empower the Sudanese people and scale to our mission.

Here are our financials from 2017.
IN 2017, WE RAISED: $296,210*

We are grateful to the individuals, churches, businesses, and grantmakers that donated to our work in 2017.

Our organization would not have accomplished the things we did without your generous support.

*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.

CASH RAISED
$296,120

INVESTMENT INCOME
$85

In 2017, our self-started Endowment Fund grew by 304% to $7,559.
Throughout 2017, a number of companies, churches, and individuals donated their time and services to empower the Sudanese people.

Their 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.

Estimated value of goods and services given was up 136% over 2016.
INVESTED IN PROGRAMS: $167,095

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

In 2017, we increased the amount of funds invested into our programs by 37% from 2016. This represents an additional $45,048.27 used to empower the Sudanese people throughout 2017.

STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING $48,158

EDUCATION & EMERGENCY RELIEF $118,703

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY $234
In 2017, we invested $129,611.94 into our growth. 2017 was the beginning of our second 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, we expect funds invested into the organization will be much higher than previous years.

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THE ROAD AHEAD: 2018
2018 will be another hard year for the Sudanese people. The Bashir dictatorship will continue oppressing millions of ordinary citizens so that key regime leaders can further enrich themselves.

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

The current system of exploitative and violent governance in Sudan remains unsustainable. The big question is no longer *if* change will happen, but *when* and *how* it will happen.

We’re determined to make 2018 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 2018, the Bashir regime will continue using violence, massive corruption, and manipulation to stay in power.

Sudan’s dictatorship will continue its international campaign to shed its status as a pariah regime despite virtually zero improvements in Sudan. Millions of Sudanese citizens will remain oppressed. Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese living in refugee and displacement camps will be denied the ability to return home by the dictatorship. Anger and dissatisfaction with the regime will spread.

WAR CRIMES & GENOCIDE

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

TERRORISM & PERSECUTION

The Bashir regime will continue destroying churches, harassing Christians and other minorities, and supporting international terrorist organizations. The international community will continue paying lip service to these actions, hoping for improved counterterrorism and migration cooperation.

WEB OF OPPRESSION

Peaceful activists, opposition politicians, and journalists in regime-controlled areas will continue to face brutal crackdowns, imprisonment, and torture at the hands of Bashir’s security forces. Protests will grow as the country’s economy continues spiraling due to severe mismanagement.
THE OUTLOOK: OUR PROGRAMS

In 2018, our focus will remain on Sudan’s Nuba Mountains region and impacting the Nuba people through our current programs.

This year, the lack of educational opportunities for Nuba children will continuing moving towards a crisis level. Education, specifically 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 forms of visual storytelling to further build our movement. And, despite the uphill battle, we will continue our grassroots advocacy efforts. We’re digging deep in 2018, and you will be at the center of making everything happen.

STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT BUILDING

In 2018, we will introduce new forms of storytelling and movement building that include Sudanese communities in the United States. The Yida Photography Exhibit will continue touring the Greater Memphis area, and our fourth documentary film will be completed by the end of the year.

EDUCATION & EMERGENCY RELIEF

This year we will add the final grade to the primary school in Yida Refugee Camp and continue preparations alongside of our education partner to open the first high school there as well. We will continue supporting two Sudanese students and their college education in east Africa.

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

Our advocacy efforts will continue to focus on federal legislation that improves genocide prevention work, updating Congressional offices about the situation in Sudan, and speaking truth to power about refugees, who they are, and why America should continue welcoming the most vulnerable.
GET INVOLVED: 2018
THE BEST WAYS TO EMPOWER THE SUDANESE IN 2018

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 money you raise will leave an impact in 2018.

START NOW
OPERATION BROKEN SILENCE

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

OBSILENCE.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT 2017