



## **OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER**

**The fields that once produced an edible harvest  
now produce an eternal one.**



# CELEBRATING THE YEARS TOGETHER

It is not an uncommon experience to look back on one's life journey and conclude that life is a mass of disjointed experiences. On closer and more thoughtful examination, there appears to be a 'thread' that runs through it all, tying our actions together into a common focus or cause.

Sacred Harvest Foundation is no different. From the beginning we explored and probed as we cast a wide net to discover what was truly dear to our hearts. Over time, we became more focused. Yet, after looking back to the very beginning, there were common and consistent themes that stood out.

First and foremost, we sought to bring God's shalom, the wholeness of spirit, mind, body, relationship with God and others, to three geographic areas: Orange County, California; Maui, Hawaii; and Mindanao, Philippines.

To achieve our goals and express God's vision for Sacred Harvest, we employ certain values that we feel are essential:

**An endearing presence** — meaningful and sustainable impact begins with relationships. The ministries listed in this book are partners with whom we have forged long-term relationships, sustained through financial support, coaching and mentoring by our staff and board.

**An enduring presence** — bringing God's shalom to these meaningful relationships is built on time. There are no shortcuts to the work God wants to do in the lives of His people. To establish wholeness and health one must be willing to go deep and possess a long-term vision.

In celebration of Sacred Harvest's fifteen years, this book is designed to illustrate the efforts made to touch these communities with the healing presence of God's shalom and an "endearing and enduring" commitment to the friends and partners God has called to be His agents of blessing.



# THE SACRED HARVEST WAY

## FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For the past fifteen years Sacred Harvest has built relationships with local and international ministries. We strive to support and invest in Kingdom leaders who are effectively living out God's purposes in their communities.

We have discovered principles and practices that have helped us provide quality policies, products, and programs. Our strategic practices have helped us determine where we need to make improvements and how we can best achieve high-performance levels.

As we have reviewed and analyzed our work, we have identified five key themes that consistently characterize how we choose what organizations to support, and which projects to fund. We landed on each of these themes through a combination of intuition,

research, trial and error, personal preference, and theological conviction. Today these five guiding principles define and describe how we operate, as well as shape how we function. These five principles have become guideposts for us.



*"He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."*

Psalm 1:3

Our goals are to meet tangible needs and to encourage life-on-life transformation that incorporates God and community. We strive to effect sustainable change and bring shalom to the communities of Orange County, Mindanao and Maui, with the God-given resources entrusted to Sacred Harvest.

Often, those effected by poverty, disability, sin and injustice have lost their dignity. Our understanding of God's shalom can be described as salvation, completeness, wholeness, fullness and harmony. Our

passion is to see the communities we serve experience the fullness of God's shalom, and to help in the restoration and reconciliation of individuals to the image of God, as exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ.

When individuals are transformed by God's shalom, communities will follow. We want to help communities flourish like a tree planted by water as portrayed in Psalm 1:3.

It is our vision that communities will thrive, grow and experience reconciliation. We describe ourselves as "spiritual environmentalists," doing what we can to help create the right environment, for growth that accomplishes God's intended purposes.



# 1. WE VALUE RELATIONAL OVER INSTITUTIONAL.

**W**e are more interested in relationships with the men and women who lead our partner organizations than in institutional connections. We strive to develop and maintain healthy relationships with the people we fund, knowing that “healthy” does not necessarily mean “perfect.”

We treat each partnership as a gift and sacred trust. When problems come up, we deal with them directly to preserve the relationship and provide the best solution. Relationships are the cornerstone of everything we do.

## KidWorks

In 1997, we were introduced to an exciting grass roots ministry taking place in the neighborhood of Santa Ana, California, called KidWorks. Through the use of local apartments and the participation of college students, KidWorks was able to provide after school tutoring and Vacation Bible School through the summer. One of those college volunteers was a young man named David Benavides, who now serves as the Executive Director for KidWorks.

The work that was being done in those two apartments brought broad support from churches as well as civic and corporate leaders. This eventually led to KidWorks having its own 20,000 square foot learning center and three satellite



**We strive to develop and maintain a healthy relationship with organizations we fund.**

centers. Through these locations, KidWorks facilitates a preschool, supports the development of local leaders, provides academic enrichment programs and tutoring to positively impact their community.

KidWorks serves more than 1,000 children, youth and parents. The journey with KidWorks begins in pre-school and continues into college years, which helps them reach their God-given potential.

The secret to KidWorks great success rests upon the deep and lasting relationships that have been formed by staff and volunteers. Over the years, Sacred Harvest has built a lasting relationship with the executive director and the KidWorks board.

We work together training leaders in governance and strategic planning through our Organizational Health Pathway (OHP) process, as well as being an encouraging and supportive friend to Executive Director David Benavides. Our goal is to be an enduring and endearing presence in the lives of those who are our core partners.

At the end of the school year in 2018, 100% of the KidWorks students graduated from High School on schedule. Each graduate was accepted to the college of their choice!

This work is truly monumental but also very demanding. When asked how Sacred Harvest's OHP training impacted KidWorks, David's response was, “as valuable as the train-

ing was for me and my board, what I appreciate most about Sacred Harvest is that it is a safe place for me to talk over the issues I face in leading KidWorks into the future.”





## 2. WE VALUE SLOWER OVER FASTER.

# W

e support more than forty ministries each year. We've partnered with ninety percent of them for more than five years. These numbers clearly indicate our preference to go slow rather than fast.

A few years ago we began working on a training program that would help increase the impact of churches. We call it the Church Health Pathway (CHP). We took the time necessary to thoroughly discover the needs of the local pastors and slowly build the program to meet those needs.

When our program started initially, it did not go low and slow, but high and fast. We started early beta runs with only twelve participants. Then, as word got out, the numbers continued to grow from twenty-four to forty-six, to one hundred and fifty, and swelled to over 2,000 pastors and leaders.

We spent two months going over the logistics and realized we would have a much greater impact if we worked intensely with twelve pastors and leaders instead of 2,000. The long-term growth and impact increased because we slowed down. Our method is to go slow and build relationships that are deep and sustainable.

### Pastor Sam

Pastor Sam started his church planting ministry in one of the most rural areas of Mindanao. He planted churches in small villages as well as in the center of a pineapple plantation! Though these small churches among the rural poor were thriving, the

team still wanted to make an even bigger impact on the world around them.

God opened a way for Pastor Sam to attend the CHP training in Davao. Slowly and faithfully, the twelve pastors and leaders in attendance accumulated wisdom in the art and skill of growing a healthy church.

At the end of each session, Pastor Sam and the others would sit for an extended period of time and ask specific questions about their ministry dreams. After much training and mentoring, the team ultimately committed themselves to apply the biblical principles they had learned in the CHP training. They were taking their learning seriously, going slow rather than fast.

Then, it happened. The Marawi revolt of Islamic militants exploded and a city of 800,000 was gutted, war-torn, and hopeless. That is when Pastor Sam and his church started to move.

They moved out from their idyllic location in the pineapple fields and began to minister directly to those who had been hurt in the Marawi conflict. People were fed, clothed, and ministered to. This certainly slowed down their efforts in growing their church, however God answered their prayers for a deeper ministry. One of their team members acknowledged, "I think it is better to go slower and accomplish what God wills for us, rather than to go too fast and miss out on the mission that He obviously prepared for us."

**Leadership is influence.  
Influence is built on trust.  
Trust is built  
on relationship.  
Relationship is built  
over time.**





# 3. WE VALUE DEEPER OVER WIDER.

**G**oing slow allows us to develop, create and build deep and sustainable relationships. Going deep allows us to grow wider, cultivating relationships that facilitate personal transformation.

## **My Safe Harbor**

There are no short-cuts to achieve personal or organizational transformation. The relationship must be both endearing in its effort to develop supportive personal relationships, and enduring in its ability to establish long and committed partnerships.

No one knows this better than My Safe Harbor, an Orange County organization that trains, mentors, and coaches single moms to be all that they can be for their children. My Safe Harbor invests in the lives of these young moms in very personal ways.

When My Safe Harbor met Sacred Harvest in 2015, they knew what they should do and how to do it. However, they did not have a strong infrastructure to leverage their knowledge for ministry success.

They demonstrated passion but were not able to move forward.

Sacred Harvest showed them how to gather resources and develop a winning strategy. Soon, they were putting what they were learning into practice. Sacred Harvest was there to dig deep into the life of their ministry and stay by their side.

More than 400 families have been served by My Safe Harbor's training program, The Strong Families Institute. The training program transformed more than 1,000 children, making a profound generational impact. To date, more than 154 mothers have completed the eight-month program which boasts an 85% graduation rate. 92% of the graduates

stay connected and 80% are still actively engaged in My Safe Harbor.

More than 425 volunteers have given 25,000 hours of service to make this program possible. This testifies to the quality and depth of the relationships being developed and how these relationships are valued by those being served.

The partnerships that exist provide both man-hours and monetary investments that are successfully disrupting cycles of dysfunction, and effectively modeling stable leadership roles to families in the neighborhoods that surround the ministry center. My Safe Harbor models a deeper over wider approach, rather than a quick fix. We have learned that it takes a consistent commitment to chip away at the problems that face our clients daily.

**When we go deeper  
with individuals,  
the extra time and  
cultivation allows  
personal transformation  
to take root.**

It is apparent that the secret ingredient to the success they have had over the last 10 years, is the deep and trusting relationships that have been nurtured. Becky, the Executive Director of My Safe Harbor explains, "Over these first ten challenging years, we worked diligently to provide a safe place of refuge and support built on mutual respect. We offered dignity and encouragement as each individual's personal capacity is built; to risk change, to make dreams and plans. It is this which builds strength and stability, and most importantly, offers real hope. God is doing more than we could imagine in each of these lives because we have connected to each other, in meaningful community and mutual accountability."

This committed approach digs deep, demonstrating the power of one of our key principles which goes "deeper over wider," both in ministry and in life.



# 4. WE VALUE BETTER OVER BIGGER.

**B**igger is not always better. Doubling an organization's size does not necessarily double its impact.

Some small non-profit organizations are perfect just as they are. They provide a good, manageable service. A misguided attempt to expand can overload the ability and effectiveness of the organization. Many non-profits compromise their ability to serve effectively and remain financially sustainable when they expand. Scale always comes with risk.

Relationships are the key to creating a solid foundation. It is in a relationship that true transformation takes place. We are interested in the transformation not only of individuals, but also of organizations.

We believe leadership is influence, influence is built on trust, trust is built on relationships, and relationships are built over time.

A few years ago, one of our favorite partners came to us with a new grant request. The organization's board decided it wanted to expand the ministry into Indonesia.

After close examination it was discovered that there was a significant budget shortfall. Sacred Harvest suggested they focus on stabilizing the ministry rather than expanding it. When they agreed, Sacred Harvest made a "love gift." As a result the ministry strengthened their financial footing and eventually expanded.

Our primary focus is to grow healthier, rather than bigger non-profit organizations.

## Mission Increase Foundation (MIF)

In 2012, Sacred Harvest made the decision to impact a broader range of faith-based non-profits in our primary target area of Orange County. Of course, we realized it was beyond our capacity and capability to financially support 200-plus faith-based ministries, so we asked the question, "How might we invest in a way that would help them improve their capacity to serve?"

Since a primary focus of Sacred Harvest is to help kingdom leaders flourish in their calling, our emphasis is on getting better, or healthier, not necessarily bigger. One answer to addressing our expanded vision was to partner with MIF by sponsoring an office in Orange County.

What was appealing about MIF was their vision to help Christian ministries grow by offering teaching, coaching, consulting, and matching grants. The MIF approach is rooted in a biblical model of fundraising, with coaching and consulting available at no cost to the ministries.

We have come to learn that leadership, even in Christian ministries, is often a lonely place with few resources to turn to for help and counsel. Our local area director for MIF has the opportunity to become more than just a teacher; they become a trusted, valued, friend and mentor.

During the years of MIF's presence in Orange County, over 160 ministries have either attended a teaching event or have had a coaching appointment. In addition, there have been 48 matching grants made, totaling \$2,074,830, which resulted in raising \$4,869,853 in new funds. Currently, 63 ministries are benefiting from the coaching of MIF.

**A misguided attempt to expand can overload the ability and effectiveness of the organization.**



# 5. WE VALUE LONG-HAUL OVER QUICK FIX.

**M**ost of our granting relationships are not for one or two years; they are for five, ten, even twenty-plus years.

Our mission is to bring God's shalom to those we serve. We have a passion to see communities experience the fullness of God's shalom and the restoration and reconciliation of every individual to the image of God. When individuals are transformed by God's shalom, communities follow suit.

Transformation occurs over the long haul, rather than with a quick fix. Many of the groups located overseas work to help people recover their dignity. Unfortunately, many lack the financial records and governance practices that qualify them to receive grants from Sacred Harvest.

## The Philippines

In 2003, Sacred Harvest's Board of Directors sought to expand our international grant portfolio. They had been convicted of the truth that, "God so loved the World," and not just the United States, that we set out to expand our international presence. We wanted to impact a region of the world by having a long and enduring presence there.

We decided to identify a region in the world where we could make a sustained

investment that would make a big difference. After a few years of searching, we settled on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.

From 2005 to 2012 our focus was to invest in local faith-based ministries. We started by providing grants that would help ministries better serve the needs of their community.

The grants focused primarily in five areas: 1) Construction of multipurpose centers that serve as classrooms and churches; 2) Purchase of farm land to be used for livelihood training; 3) Building clean water solutions; 4) Assisting medical missions; 5) Lastly, we assisted with the purchase of all-terrain vehicles for many of our partners who serve in the remote regions of Mindanao.

In 2012 we made the critical decision to provide our partners with training that would further add to their capabilities to maximize their impact and organizational health. Subsequently, the Organizational Health Pathway (OHP) and the Church Health Pathway (CHP) were developed. Each of these initiatives takes a long view of training, involving a two-year process of teaching, coaching, and mentoring with continued follow-up and support.

Sacred Harvest has made 128 grants to support those whom God has called to serve the people of Mindanao. Tebow Cure Hospital in Davao has completed more than 11,000 outpatient visits and performed 2,300 surgeries in the past

**We've learned from our mistakes and now use trainers to help prepare non-profits for success.**



two years. The churches participating in our CHP process have recorded more than 22,800 first-time confessions of faith in Jesus Christ this year alone. Nearly thirty organizations have gone through the OHP process and have increased their transformational impact.

For more than thirteen years, our enduring and endearing presence in Mindanao has given Sacred Harvest the ability to become a trusted partner and resource that churches and organizations in Mindanao look to for counsel and training.



# FRUITFULNESS AND HARVEST

**T**he work of Sacred Harvest Foundation takes place in three geographic centers around the world. We serve the needs of organizations, non-profits, churches, pastors, and ministries in Orange County, California; Maui, Hawaii; and Mindanao of the Philippines. The choice of these three areas was inspired by God over the past fifteen years. To explain God's guidance, and what we have come to see as His providential plan for Sacred Harvest, we have chosen three symbols to illustrate our ministry in each of these geographic centers.

## The California Orange

Did you know that every navel orange eaten in the USA came from the same tree? That tree can still be found in Riverside, California at the street corner of Arlington and Magnolia! This tree was planted in 1873 and has impacted the entire citrus industry in the state of California and beyond. Navel oranges have no seeds, so the cuttings from the original tree were used to start orchards throughout the Southland.



Likewise, Sacred Harvest has continued to replicate its ministry in three diversified geographic areas. We do not claim to be the purveyors

of any life-giving formula through any “seed” of our own. Rather, we are cuttings from the original — Jesus Christ, and His ministry to the world. Our ministry is based upon the Great Command and the Great Commission as taught by Jesus and we have simply taken cuttings from those original texts and applied them to our ministries worldwide.

## The Hawaiian Coconut

When you see a coconut, you may think of its hard shell as being nearly impenetrable.

If you have ever brought a fresh coconut home, you have probably had to use a hammer to open it up and harvest the soft, white, nut-like meat from inside. It is delicious and naturally healthy. But, did you know that each coconut also contains the seeds and means for its own reproduction?



You will most likely find Hawaiian coconut palms near the ocean's shore. The reason for this is amazing. When the mature coconut falls to the ground it will often roll to the water's edge and is swept away by an ocean wave. Over time, the nut finds itself washed up on another shore where a new palm tree, encouraged by the water, the earth, and the island sun will spring forth from that hard shell and begin to take root and grow.

Sacred Harvest has followed a similar pattern. We have taken root first in Orange County. With God's help, we have embarked on journey's over the ocean to Mindanao and Hawaii where our ministry has once again grown and taken root in the native soil.

We have simply taken who we are, and what we know, and have passed it on to those we have come to love on distant shores. You might have thought that we "are nuts!" In this case, we agree!

## The Philippine Pineapple

It may surprise you, but pineapples do not grow on trees. They grow out of the ground from a leafy plant with sword-like leaves that can grow to be as long as five feet. The plant consists of stocky leaves whorled around a central stem. The pineapple tops take about twenty-four months to fruit. Generally, a pineapple will flower as soon as it is big enough.

In many ways, our methodology for delivering and nurturing the Sacred Harvest Way is the same. Our approach to ministry did not grow on a tree.



Rather, our philosophy of ministry is firmly rooted and each of our guiding principles has been grounded in the Word of God. Our

two-year plan has taken into consideration the needs of our hearers and their own unique culture and priorities.

We have built the materials and tools, the seminars and the talks, the classroom discussions, and the face-to-face interactions into our curriculum and approach in order to deliver the best and most useful content we could imagine.

The relationships, and the constant interaction with others, have made for a healthy and happy approach to our training that has produced incredible fruit in the lives of those we serve!



## Conclusion

To think all of these stories of fruitfulness and harvest started with a tiny lima bean just over a century ago!

From Orange County, California to our numerous ministry locations throughout the world, it is that lima bean farm and its fruitfulness that has continued to reproduce itself in so many marvelous ways.

This is why we say, "That which once produced an edible harvest — now produces an eternal one."

# 2018 GRANTS AND MINISTRY PARTNERS

**S**acred Harvest has partnered with many ministries throughout the world. Together we have passionately pursued God's purposes for those we serve through the distribution of grants and resources we have been blessed with.

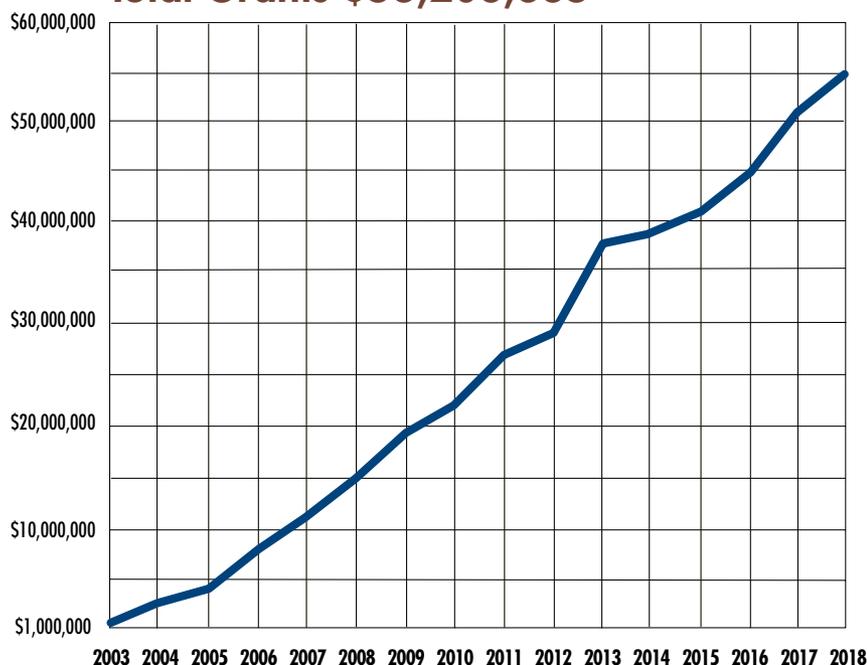
## Grants by Region

Orange County 20%  
 Maui 1%  
 United States 42%  
 International (Non-Philippines) 13%  
 Mindanao, Philippines 14%  
 Program Staff and Administration (US and Philippines) 10%

## Grant Sectors

Church (Building up the Body) 55%  
 Compassion/Evangelism 37%  
 Community (Non-faith based) 4%  
 Coaching (OHP/CHP) 4%

## Total Grants \$56,208,835



## Orange County Ministry Partners

Mission Lutheran Church  
 National Christian Foundation California  
 KidWorks  
 Barnabas Group  
 Masters Program  
 My Safe Harbor  
 Our Father's Table  
 Pathway School



## Maui Ministry Partners

Feed My Sheep  
 Westside Hoops  
 Basketball Maui  
 Salvation Army, Lahaina  
 Young Life

## National and Regional Ministry Partners

Azusa Pacific University  
 Mission Increase Foundation  
 HomeWord  
 Urban Youth Workers Institute

## Philippines Ministry Partners

Mindanao Equipping Program  
 Tebow Cure Orthopedic Hospital  
 International Care Ministries  
 Over 120 Philippines Organizations

## International Ministry Partners

Acres of Love  
 Free Wheelchair Mission  
 Friends of the Orphanage

# FOUNDERS

**T**hroughout our fifteen years as a foundation, Susie and I have leaned upon the assistance, skills and counsel of our board members and staff. Sacred Harvest would not be where it is today without the trusted guidance, talents and godly counsel of these women and men. None of us ever succeeds solely by ourselves. Nor could we have come this far without the support and encouragement of these men and women who believe in our mission. As an African proverb reminds us, “If you want to go fast, you go it alone. If you want to go far, you go together.”

We have come farther than we could have ever dreamed or imagined when we started this adventure fifteen years ago.

Our humblest, deepest thanks and appreciation to each and every one of those listed here for your participation in “Our journey together.”

**Steve & Susie Perry**



*Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers  
they succeed.*

Proverbs 15:22

**"If you want to go fast,  
go alone.  
If you want to go far,  
go together."**

— African Proverb



**SACRED HARVEST**

[www.sacredharvest.org](http://www.sacredharvest.org)