





# **From the President**

The Whole Person

In his landmark and best-selling book *Good to Great*, Jim Collins posits that "breakthrough results come about by a series of good decisions, diligently executed and accumulated on top of one another." The 2014-2015 Elim Impact Report, which I am pleased to present to you, highlights some of Elim's breakthrough results for the last year. That said, Elim's breakthrough results are much more than a function of good decisions, diligently executed and accumulated on top of one another, they are results that God has ordained and graciously allowed us, including you, to play a role in accomplishing. He is using us to do His good works.

The theme of this 2014-2015 impact report is "The Whole Person." Our efforts to reach and engage *the whole person* reflect our belief that every person is "God's handiwork" as written by the apostle Paul. And we believe that each one of the adults and children we serve was "created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which were prepared in advance." This is not optional. It is God-ordained. And it results in breakthrough results reflected in the lives and testimonies of Brendan, John, Darius, Don, Kaylee, and so many others who are directly or indirectly impacted by the Christian love and care that Elim provides.

While the breakthrough results in this impact report speak for themselves, they do not occur in a vacuum. Each result and each testimony is a manifestation of God's grace as Elim is faithful in living out its three core values – we are Christ-centered, we all have value and purpose, and we are a learning and sharing community.

And there is more! God has graciously included Elim in equipping others to engage "the whole person." Not only have we been blessed with the opportunity to serve hundreds of families in Chicagoland, but He has extended our call to serve Christian schools domestically and ever-more to ministry partners internationally. In this light, this impact report is also an encouraging update on our collective response to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

As you read about the breakthrough results in this report, I pray that you will be:

- affirmed in the knowledge that you are an important part of "the Elim Difference,"
- encouraged by Elim's commitment to Christ-centered decision-making,
- humbled by the way that Brendan, John, Darius, Don, and Kaylee are living out their value and purpose in the kingdom of God,
- and inspired by the opportunities that God is giving Elim to learn from and share with others.





# Almost 1,000

lives are touched each day by Elim, each one impacted by

# 3 Core Values

We are Christ-centered. We all have value and purpose. We are a learning and sharing community.

Each person at Elim is a *whole* and unique person, defined not by disability, but as a *handiwork of God*, created in Christ Jesus with purpose and value.





"Elim provides a safe, loving Christian environment for Ben. Ben enjoys going. There is no fight to get him out the door. His communication has improved. He is confident and much calmer. Elim provides Ben with a challenging yet loving place to learn not only academics but also daily living skills and social appropriateness."

- Ben's mom

# **The Whole Person: Mind, Body, and Soul**

Each of us, modeled in the image of God, is fearfully and wonderfully made, shouting the majesty of our Creator.

At Elim, we know each of the 1,000 people we serve is a masterpiece. Elim's children and adults have each been created with unique gifts, talents, and abilities. Every single one receives a call on their lives to bless others and serve our Creator!

Elim strives to go beyond the basics as it equips individuals with disabilities to achieve their God-given potential. Our staff is dedicated to meeting each person where they are and supporting them to achieve more than they, and their families, dreamed! We get to witness spiritual growth, see the development of daily life skills, the achievement of academic milestones, and experience things as simple, and as profound, as first steps. We invite you to share our mutual joy at the beautiful sound of a child who speaks, "I love you, Mom!" for the very first time.

**The Whole Person.** Our students and adults are so much more than a disability and we know you agree. Thank you for helping Elim cultivate the precious minds, bodies, and spirits of those we serve. Your partnership provides the training and programs Elim's individuals need to become all God created them to be.

Read on. Learn the power of your gifts. Join us in celebrating!

# 414,720

hours of education, training, and services provided to 275 children and young adults in our Christian school program.

# 340,080

hours of programs and services provided to 226 adults who live with disabilities



# **Elim Christian School**

Elim Christian School: No Ordinary School

Bright, joyful artwork and murals shout from the walls proclaiming the hope and joy found within this place. Elim's students frequently and enthusiastically run – and roll – their way into a teacher's arms for a warm morning greeting after a weekend away. Staff members cheer as they watch their students smash through barriers – big and small.

While Elim's students receive individualized instruction in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, and more, Elim Christian School goes beyond just academics. Each day at Elim, 285 students join with Elim's high-quality staff members to learn about their Creator and the world He made. They push themselves in physical, communication, and occupational therapies to strengthen their bodies. They determinedly accomplish life skills like dressing themselves, following a schedule, and greeting friends and family. They work. They achieve. They celebrate!

Elim's students not only smash through personal barriers but they are pushing beyond the expectations of those around them, too. Each day, teams of Elim students and staff members mobilize in the local community to stock food pantries, work in area businesses, and participate in daily activities like shopping and recreation. They demonstrate the value and capability of individuals with disabilities to all those they meet!

Elim's staff members know they have a big job in preparing the hearts, minds, and spirits of children with disabilities. They strive to teach the skills these chidren need to transform the world around them. Will you help us fulfill this mission?

Brendan loves to learn about the Bible at Elim. Each day, Brendan and his peers gather for prayer and devotions in his classroom. While this was first unfamiliar to Brendan, he quickly began to express interest in learning more.

His teacher, Kristi DeJager, was so excited to see Brendan's interest in Jesus that she sent him home with several devotional books tailored for young men. Brendan's faith grew and his whole family–at Elim and at home–recently celebrated when Brendan made his public confirmation of his faith!

DeJager is excited to see how God works through Elim to cultivate Brendan's heart saying, "I hope Brendan continues to seek Jesus, continues reading the Bible stories, and encourages his family to continue to grow in their faith."

## **BRENDAN** GROWING IN FAITH



# Pushing Beyond the Communication Barrier

Elim offers a variety of therapies in order to encourage physical, emotional, and communication growth at all ages. Because many of Elim's individuals have physical challenges, Elim's physical therapists offer individualized therapy and equipment to improve circulation, strength, comfort, and general health.

Many individuals at Elim cannot communicate with their voices and rely on therapy and technology provided by Elim's speech pathologists and assistive technology staff to help them communicate their needs and desires. Through improved communication, relationships grow, learning flourishes, and independence skyrockets!

# Teaching Life Skills for Independence

"Darius loves helping out in the classroom! He learns best through imitation and consistency. It has been amazing to watch him grow and learn over the past three years."

When Darius first came to Elim, he preferred to take several breaks and sleep during the day. He wasn't inclined to participate in planned activities. Through a consistent schedule, encouragement, and individualized education, Darius often enjoys learning new life skills and classroom chores. During swimming class, Darius loves to help wash and fold clothes. In the classroom, he helps pick up after class activities and responsibly cares for his own materials. His life skills, like hand-washing, have even become so thorough that he's a role model for others.

New challenges, like a change in schedule or even classroom environments, can have a significant impact for each student at Elim. But Elim's teachers and staff work closely with students and families to address these changes in a positive way that is encouraging for each student.

Now, equipped to perform a wide variety of vocational tasks, Darius is well-suited for office work, cafeteria work, or a wide-variety of other positions. His teacher proudly explains, "Darius is so easy-going and picks up on skills so quickly that I see a great future for Darius doing wonderful things!"

# JOHN PUSHING BEYOND

"Last year, John was difficult to understand and would become frustrated when others couldn't understand him. This year, he has learned to speak in four-word sentences and uses his device to repair misunderstandings. He loves to pray for more than one person now because he's learned to use the word 'and.' We've learned that John has so many great insights to share!"

- Elim teacher

### **SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Total number of students served: 285
- Number of students in Pathways school program for children with autism: 78
- Number of Crossroads students: 55
- Number of school staff members: 330
- Number of students in Bridges school program: 152



"My son, Brent enjoys going to Elim each day. He loves to go shopping and on field trips. I love knowing that Brent is participating in local ministries and helping in local churches. Elim gives Brent an opportunity to participate in outreach through its Worship Team. My son is so happy at Elim and that makes me happy, too. Elim is exactly who they say they are. They build up the individual and prepare them for everyday life!"

- Brent's mom

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do."

- Ephesians 2:10

# 211,698

HOPE Packs of school supplies, food, and military care packs assembled by Elim adults, none of which is possible without donations from generous supporters

# **Elim Adult Services**

Truly Making a Difference

Elim's adults are making a difference, and their joyful impact goes so far beyond Elim's campus. Elim's adults are using their gifts to transform their homes, our community, and our world!

Each day, spring, summer, winter, and fall, over 200 adults with disabilities gather on Elim's Palos Heights and Orland Park campuses and start building – and using – their gifts! They spend their days enthusiastically and determinedly learning valuable life skills, completing vocational tasks, and participating in service-learning projects. They exercise in Elim's fitness classes. They encourage each other, laugh with each other, and support each other because they are a family!

Elim's adults love to bless others, and through Elim's "Making a Difference" program, they make a direct, positive, and personal impact! Elim's adults change lives by assembling school supplies into HOPE Packs that are then distributed to children in need in the Chicago-area and around the world. They encourage military personnel by packaging Military Kits. They build food packs filled with beans to feed the hungry locally and internationally.

Our staff knows the value of Elim's adults – and they are determined to equip them with the skills they need to let their light shine! Elim's Adult Services program equips the whole person –mind, body, and spirit – to transform the world around them!



# JOHN CELEBRATING GOALS

# **Pushing Through the Physical Barrier**

Elim's staff is committed to the health and fitness of its students and adults. Elim Christian School offers gym classes, a swimming program, and a multitude of sports teams for its students, and its adults also have fitness opportunities in order to bolster good health! Elim's Adult Services program offers a fitness program, complete with treadmills and stationary bikes, so adults can improve their health and wellness. When Elim's John Wrenn rolled over the finish line at this year's Chicago Triathlon, he was celebrating more than a personal accomplishment. Elim's Team TRI swam, biked, and ran to provide almost 5,000 HOPE Packs filled with school supplies for inner-city kids.

Volunteers, Elim staff, and some of our adult friends formed a determined team in order to make this accomplishment a reality. Each week, Elim's team met to build up their fitness levels and endurance. By June, some adults were ready to pick up their pace so an additional "running group" was formed. Elim's adults loved cheering for each other while spending some time improving their fitness outdoors.

Elim's fitness programs are just one way that our staff focuses on serving the whole person!

# **Providing a Voice!**

Twelve years ago, Don communicated mostly through gestures and limited vocalizations. Frustrated and discouraged, Don gave up his attempts to communicate his desires and needs.

Fortunately, Elim's assistive technology program worked alongside Don, encouraging him and equipping him to use a communication device. Assistive technology provided Don with a voice! Don now uses his device to greet others, express his thoughts, and make requests. No longer frustrated and trapped without a method of communication, Don initiates conversation and expresses his thoughts!

#### ADULT SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Total number of adults served: 224
- Number of Adult Services staff members: 44
- Adults using a communication device: 22
- Number of adults in Autism Comprehensive Training Services (ACTS): 15



"No one has taught our church more about what joy-filled worship looks like than the Elim Adult Worship Team. Their love for Jesus is authentic, their passion for praising Him is contagious, and the testimony they bring of God's goodness is beautiful."

- Local church member

## **DON** FINDING HIS VOICE



# **Elim Outreach**

Elim extends its commitment to serving individuals with disabilities beyond its campus through Elim Outreach. Through Elim Outreach, we equip individuals with disabilities to achieve their God-given potential in their local communities and internationally.

> Elim's Discovery Network Services, part of Elim Outreach, provides academic support and testing services within local Christian schools for students with learning disabilities. Discovery enables students to remain in their general education classroom alongside their peers, while visiting the Discovery Center for additional reinforcement,

tutoring, and resources. The program provides individualized instruction tailored to student's individual learning style.

"Our resources in Nicaragua are limited because of the poverty that surrounds us. However, with the help of God and partners like Elim Outreach Network, we are able to offer strategies that enable children with disabilities to reach their full potential." - Wendy Gomez, ministry leader in Nicaragua "The Discovery Center has given Kaylee the confidence to read out loud in class. She's learned that it's ok to stumble over words sometimes and that not everyone works at the same pace. She's a very social child and a very sweet, caring little girl. I believe without the Discovery Center, her spirit and determination would not be what it is today. She does not let school work frustrate her!"

-Kaylee's mom

## ELIM OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

- Discovery Center programs: 18
- Number of students served: 400+
- Number of Discovery Center teachers: 30
- Number of Elim International Outreach Partners: 5

# **International Outreach**

In many parts of the world, there is a serious lack of programming for children and adults with disabilities. A lack of public understanding about the value of individuals with disabilities coupled with scarce resources leads to poor conditions for individuals with disabilities.

Elim shares the resources and knowledge it has accumulated in 65+ years of special education ministry on a global scale through International Outreach. Elim continues to partner successfully with Michelle Adams in Nicaragua, Geeta Mondol in India, and Lucia Mambure in Zimbabwe and Margaret in Kenya by providing resources that improve the acceptance of individuals with disabilities.

This year, Elim Outreach expanded to welcome two new International Outreach ministry partners:

• Lucia Mambure and her husband Davis are working to expand their current support to children and adults with disabilities and their families (Chenga Ose Association, COA) by offering a formal education and vocational training program in Zimbabwe. Elim is working with the



Margaret Njuguna

for children with disabilities. Elim Outreach is helping Margaret to equip leaders in Kenya with the training and resources they need to access and develop individualized plans for its students.

Elim's International Outreach program seeks to multiply its impact–training educators so that they can, in turn, train others. Elim's knowledge spreads exponentially and powerfully!

Mambure's to develop this proposal and program vision which could be launched in 2016

• Margaret Njuguna works in Kenya where she founded the *En-Gedi Children's Home* 

### **Operating Fund Details, 2014-2015**

Undesignated Net Assets as of July 1, 2014 599,570
Revenues
Public Fees 19,803,136
Private Fees
Partnership
Sales 14,050
Gifts 3,303,674
Other Support 27,796
Elim Foundation 130,000
Total Revenue      24,161,822
Expenditures
- Wages & Employees
Occupancy
Consumables 414,106
Transportation 411,913
Other 1,575,635
Total Expenditures21,571,592
Result from Operations2,590,230
Fixed Asset Activity
Restricted Gift Activity (212,445)
Undesignated Net Assets as of June 30, 2015

### **Operating Expenditures by Program,** 2014-2015

Total	21,571,592
Advancement	352,309
Management & General Office	2,302,246
Outreach	633,248
Residential Services	. 614,407
Adult Services	2,852,653
School	14,816,729

#### **Operating Fund Projections, 2015-2016**

#### Revenues

Public Fees	19,653,400
Private Fees	. 419,500
Partnership	458,400
Sales	6,600
Gifts	2,060,000
Other Support	30,600
Elim Foundation	100,000
Total Revenue	22,728,500
Expenditures	
Wages & Employees	18,542,200
Occupancy	1,119,500
Consumables	361,800
Transportation	426,600
Other	1,444,700
Total Expenditures	21,894,800

#### **Operating Expenditure Projections by Program, 2015-2016**

School	15,421,200
Adult Services	2,964,000
Residential Services	. 61,700
Outreach	630,100
Management & General Office	2,363,600
Advancement	454,200
Total	21,894,800

# What will your legacy be?

Do you know how your estate would be divided among your heirs, taxes to the government, and your favorite charities if you were to die this year? Assets in your estate can only go to these three places. As the popular saying goes, "You can't take it with you." Have you asked yourself recently, "What would God want us to do with the assets He has entrusted to us?"

Changes in estate tax laws in recent years have impacted many estate plans. Also, growth in tax deferred assets such as IRA's, 401(k)'s and 403(b)'s may result in significant income taxes due if those assets are passed on to children. Your planned gift to Elim Christian Services can provide great tax savings and bless individuals with disabilities! Consider a gift of:

- Stock/other securities
- Real Estate
- Business Interests
- Farm Commodities
- Life Insurance
- Tangible personal property

Call Elim's partner agency, The Barnabas Foundation, for more information today at 1-888-448-3040.

## Honor and Memorial Gifts 2014-2015

Estelle Bosma Ms. Geneva Van Kampen

In Honor of Cornelia Bronsema Mr. and Mrs. John W. Bronsema

In Honor of Lester Bundrick Mr. Jacob Venhuizen Mr. & Mrs. Jack Vos

David Burgwald Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Gist

In Honor of Megan Burke Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Collins

In Honor of Melanie Chionis Melanie Lynn Chionis

In Honor of Spiro Chionis Melanie Lynn Chionis

Rebecca Collins Mr Todd Conway Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Gist

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Dennis De Leeuw Patricia Zandstra

60th Anniversary Fred and Joanne De Ruiter Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schuurman

In Honor of Timothy De Ruiter Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schuurman

John Vries Mr. and Mrs. Robert Loerop

Nikki De Vries Mr. and Mrs. Brian L. Gesch

Cornelia De Young Mr. Paul De Young Ms. Dorothy Hruska Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Iwema Mr. Mark Schilling Russell and Lee Anna Sturkie Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Verbeek

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Scott De Young Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey J. Fennema Clarence Deckinga Mr. & Mrs. Owen Deckinga

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The Wedding of Becki Dokter and Jason Hoekstra Mr. & Mrs. Mark Dokter

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In Honor of Peter Ferini Ms. Antoinette Sri

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Jane Frens Mr. Gary Frens

Nathan Frigo Mr. Donald Alyea

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Ms. Kathleen Palla

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Ray Zaagman Mrs. John Geertsema

Anna Zandstra Mr. & Mrs. John Boersma Mr. and Mrs. John Parr Mr. and Mrs. Jay L. Zandstra

90th Birthday of Shirley J. Zylstra Mr. and Mrs. Burton Van Prooyen

"Our's is a story of transformation in Robert's life and in the lives of the people he touches. God can do mighty things, but we're not sure it would look the same without Elim in the equation. For Robert, Elim is not just a school. It is community for him. It is in the context of the body of Christ. That's his part of the body of Christ where he is thriving." - Robert's dad

# Where Elim is Having an Impact

### **UNITED STATES**

- · 285 children served in Elim's School program
- 224 adults served in Elim's Adult Services
  program
- 400+ children reached through Discovery outreach programs around the country
- 18 Discovery programs with 30 teachers in 6 different states
- 150 HOPE Packs of school supplies distributed through By the Hand Club for Kids
- 4,400 Inner-City HOPE Packs distributed through 16 school systems by Elim adults to students from economically-disadvantaged areas
- 56,346 food packs distributed to Chicagoarea residents through Lampstand Ministries, Children's Hunger Fund, and Christ Cares
- 1,600 Military Kits are sent around the world, assembled by Elim adults, and blessing American troops wherever they serve
- 23,544 food packs are distributed to San Antonio and Texas residents through Children's Hunger Fund
- 23,616 HOPE Packs of food supplies are distributed to residents of California through Children's Hunger Fund
- Elim Outreach Team participates in Global Access Conference in California and in Summer Institute on Disability & Theology in Georgia
- Elim's *The 5 Stages* resource shared in dozens of churches and several conferences throughout the year
- Elim Worship Team leads worship at 12 different churches throughout the Chicago area

#### Palos Heights (Main Campus)

13020 S. Central Avenue Palos Heights, IL 60463 (708) 389-0555

## ALBANIA

• *The 5 Stages* is shared with local church and ministry leaders through a volunteer from Joni and Friends

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- 10,336 HOPE Packs of school supplies distributed through Food for the Hungry
- 210 HOPE Packs of school supplies are distributed through a partnership with First Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn

### ETHIOPIA

• *The 5 Stages* is shared with local church and ministry leaders through representatives of the Chicago office of Joni and Friends

### HAITI

- 47,232 HOPE Packs of food supplies distributed through Global Aid Network, Lifeline Christian Ministries, and Love a Child
- 443 HOPE Packs of school supplies distributed through Food for the Hungry and Haitian Support Ministries

### INDIA

 Geeta Mondol is developing training materials that will engage churches in welcoming people with disabilities into their communities

## KENYA

 Elim establishes International Outreach partnership with Margaret Njuguna of En-Gedi Children's Home

### NICARAGUA

- Michelle Adams continues to grow Tesoros de Dios and connects with Elim for support of specific student needs
- Utilizing Elim's *The 5 Stages* tool, Tesoros de Dios has facilitated the development of disability ministries in 3 local churches
- 210 HOPE Packs of school supplies are distributed through our partnership with Teoros de Dios

### PERU

 5,489 HOPE Packs of school supplies distributed through Food for the Hungry

### ZIMBABWE

- Through Chenga Ose Association, Lucia Mambure serves over 100 members who are caregivers of individuals with disabilities
- Elim has begun working with Imelda Tsuma as she develops "Pool of Bethesda," to serve children and adults with disabilities



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