



**CONNECT.  
ENGAGE.  
THRIVE.**

**Elim**   
**We are Elim.**



**2018-2019 Annual Report**



**ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES EQUIPS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO PURSUE THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.**

- MISSION** Elim equips people with disabilities to pursue their God-given potential by offering person-centered services and partnering with their communities.
- VISION** People with disabilities thriving in their communities.
- CORE VALUES** We are Christ-centered.  
We all have value and purpose.  
We are a learning and sharing community.



**YOU ARE HELPING ELIM STUDENTS AND ADULTS TO THRIVE.**

The Elim of Exodus 15 was a place, an oasis, but it was also much more than that. The twelve springs and seventy palm trees in the desert oasis of Elim were a manifestation of God moving in the world through his provision for his chosen people, the Israelites.

Fast forward some 3,500 years, and Elim is indeed a place – an oasis – where connections, engagement, and thriving happen every day. But it is also much more than that. Elim Christian Services is a manifestation of God moving in the world through the collective efforts of so many amazing people...including you!

In this report, I hope you'll note how each story and picture is evidence of God's kingdom advancing, not only at Elim, but in our communities and around the world!

As a Christ-centered ministry, Elim is deeply committed to the mission of equipping people with disabilities to pursue their God-given potential. Alongside you, our vision is to see people with disabilities thrive in their communities. Elim's mission and vision come to life when there is connection, engagement, and thriving. That's why this report shows how connections are happening and where engagement and thriving are taking place.

What makes all of the connecting, engaging, and thriving possible – under the umbrella of God's grace – is the involvement of so many people. Some are involved as recipients of service, others as caregivers, teachers, and service providers. And so many others are supporters, volunteers, and prayer warriors.

In 2019, God once again graciously provided, and this report is a testimony of that. On behalf of Willie and Tori, and many, many others, thank you for partnering with Elim to manifest God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven!

  
Bill Lodewyk | President



## 2018-2019 Elim Christian Services



### JULY & AUGUST:

Elim's adults partnered with 67 churches to supply HOPE Packs of school supplies to over 8,000 Chicago-area kids in need.



### SEPTEMBER:

Elim Learning introduces EduChats to initiate conversation and share expertise, providing special education resources for other educators so they can best support all learners, including children in your community.



### OCTOBER: 70 Years!

God's faithfulness and your support have transformed Elim's ministry from serving two students in a church basement in 1948 to impacting the lives of nearly 500 students and adults on its Illinois campuses in 2018. Hundreds more were also impacted during this past year through local and international partnerships.



### NOVEMBER & DECEMBER:

Your partnership provides learning opportunities for individuals with disabilities at Elim and beyond its walls. Students and adults participate in community outings throughout the year, visiting restaurants, parks, stores, and more, providing opportunities to build on life skills and engage with others in the local community.



**JANUARY:** Elim's Pathways Program continues to collaborate with the Autism Assessment, Research, Treatment, and Services Center (AARTS) at Rush University Medical Center, providing additional support for students with autism and their families.



### FEBRUARY:

In support of life-long learning, Adult programming provides electives, such as computer classes, music, art, and fitness activities, to give adults with disabilities increased opportunities to engage in areas of interest and to expand on their skills and knowledge.



### MARCH & APRIL:

The nursing station is remodeled, improving our ability to serve our increasing population of children and young adults with significant medical needs.



### MAY: The Exit Skills Rating Scale (a tool designed by Elim to measure program effectiveness) is implemented

to ensure every student is equipped to pursue their God-given potential.



### JUNE:

Elim's summer school session and year-round Adult Services programming supports our students and adults in maintaining gained skills. Your generosity ensures that our programs can run in full force year round!





## CONNECT

When Willie first began volunteering at World Vision in Chicago, he was tasked with removing labels from donated products and then sorting them into bins. Then one day his team ran out of things to sort and needed a new skid to keep working. Willie knew Elim's team had an important job to do so, he simply got up, grabbed a jack, and retrieved another skid so they could keep working. Impressed by Willie's skills and initiative, World Vision's team increased his duties. Now, he works all over the warehouse, moving the skids of product to the work teams. He does such a great job that World Vision requests Willie as a volunteer every week.

It's not just Willie's vocational skills and work ethic that make him such a prize. Willie also loves engaging with the other volunteers and they likewise love working with him and talking with him each week. Willie knows he's making a difference in his community and he loves it!

"Before Elim's team arrived, many of World Vision's volunteers had never worked alongside adults with disabilities," explains Elim's La Toya Tyrone. "They've been blown away by what our adults can do!"

## ENGAGE

Students in Elim's school have been volunteering with All God's People for the last four years. There, students fold socks, label clothing, fill toiletry bins, and make encouraging cards – all in support of their mission to serve the homeless community of Chicago.

"I love when the Elim students come. They are some of my favorite volunteers. They are eager to help any way they can and always serve with a smile and joyful hearts," shares Doreen, president of All God's People.

"I pray that everyone would realize that just because someone does something or communicates differently than you, it doesn't mean they aren't capable of being a huge asset to serving and volunteering."

Elim's vision is to see people with disabilities thriving in their communities. By engaging with organizations throughout the Chicago area, Elim students and adults are actively growing in their job skills and working towards their personal goals. Even more, through these partnerships they are given opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to share His love.

## THRIVE

At the age of 6, Tori fell ill and began screaming uncontrollably. She was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a rare form of late-onset autism. She left the hospital with no memory and no ability to verbalize.

Tori started at Elim in August of 2018 and participates in a variety of therapies here. Tori uses a walker to get around Elim's campus but is provided with a wheelchair on days she doesn't have enough strength. In physical therapy, Tori loves spending time in the mobility stander as it bears her body weight, allowing her to relax and stretch muscles in her legs that she can not normally stretch on her own.

Elim's staff helps Tori communicate, too. She's paired with a podbook, and her paraprofessional helps her identify ways to express her needs and desires using that communication device.

In her short time at Elim, Tori has made huge gains. "Tori struggled when she first came to Elim, but now she participates in all of our lessons and takes turns at the Smartboard," her teacher explains. "She is a very happy and joyful girl."



# WE ARE ELIM.

“The minute Christopher enrolled at Elim, we felt an instant relief. We knew Christopher was in great hands with all the staff that worked with him. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE KNEW HE WAS LOVED.** It was so evident by his demeanor and attitude. Christopher gained confidence as he formed relationships with his beloved teachers, therapists, and para-professionals. We had never experienced such devotion to him and commitment to bringing out his best self.”

~ Christopher’s mom

“Being **CHRIST-CENTERED** means that in our collective core, we are committed to seeing people with the same eyes and heart that **JESUS** saw people with.”

~ Sherry, an Elim teacher

“I like supporting children and families locally and around the world. It makes me feel good because **THIS IS WHAT GOD HAS CALLED ME TO DO.**”

~ Brett, a HOPE Packs participant

“I wish I could have the chance to meet you guys in person to personally congratulate you guys for getting your organization out to the world and **GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY.** I am so appreciative for the gift of supplies. I am so glad to know that someone was thinking of me, even though you never met me and you don’t know me. I give the biggest thanks to you guys. Thank you Elim!”

~ Kili, a HOPE Packs recipient

**144,132**

HOPE Packs sent to provide food, school supplies, and messages of HOPE – locally and around the world

**220+**

adults served on Elim’s Crestwood and Orland Park campuses

**81**

school districts that Elim students come from to receive essential services

**100%**

of Elim’s students and adults rely on the year-round, life-changing programming you help provide!

**16**

worship services in churches and schools that Elim’s Worship Team partnered in leading

**280+**

students reached on Elim’s campus and hundreds more through partnerships and HOPE Packs

**20**

partnerships through Elim Learning with schools and ministries in the US, India, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, and South Africa

**40+**

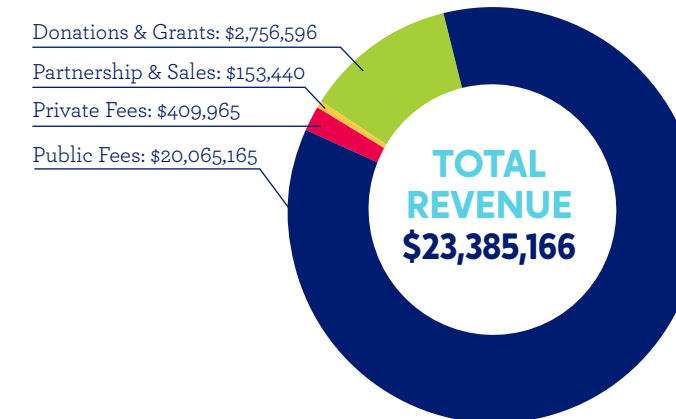
places at which Elim’s students and adults volunteer, blessing our communities



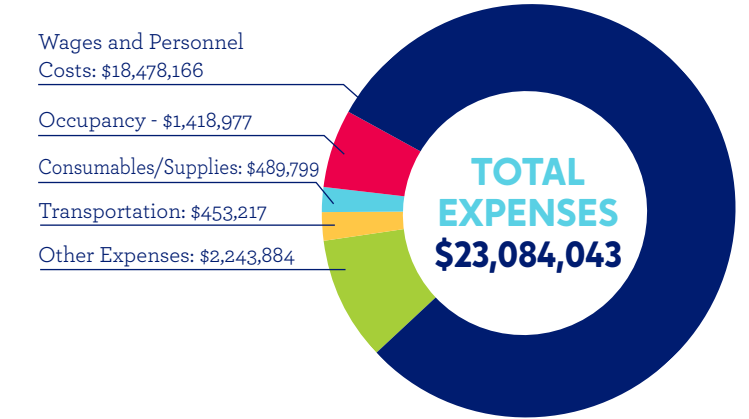


Visit [www.elimcs.org/AnnualReport](http://www.elimcs.org/AnnualReport) to find a list of all gifts made in honor or memoriam. Thank you for your generosity in support of this mission!

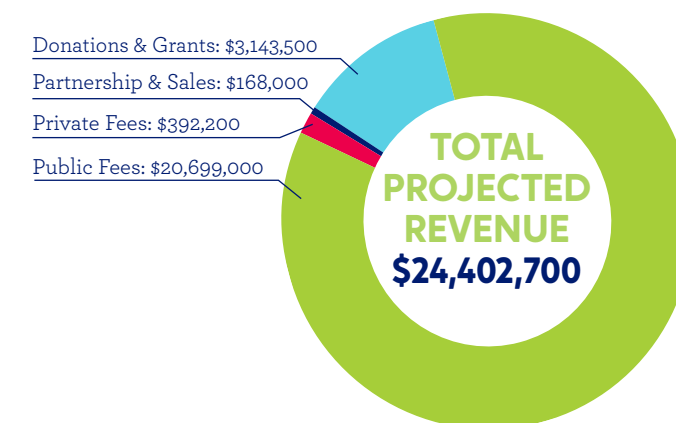
## OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018-2019



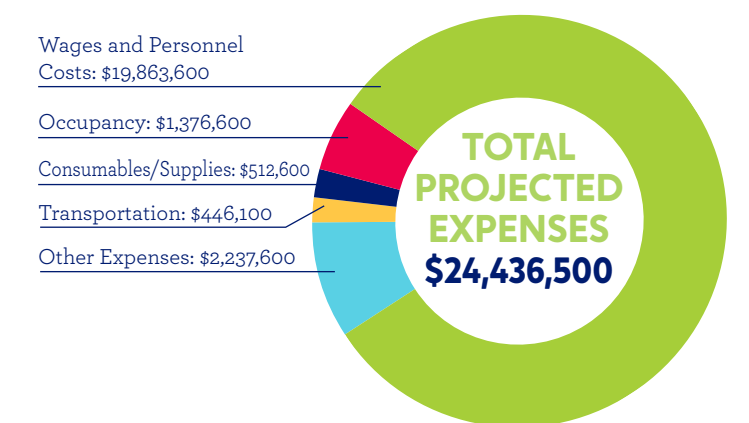
2018-2019 REVENUE



2018-2019 EXPENSES



2019-2020 PROJECTED REVENUE



2019-2020 PROJECTED EXPENSES

# WE ARE **Elim**

Thank you for your partnership in Elim's mission! Because of you, children and adults with disabilities at Elim, in your community, and worldwide are being equipped to reach their full potential. Here are other ways to get involved in this life-changing work:



### VOLUNTEER

Join us for a one-day event or for a weekly opportunity and experience Elim and its mission in a whole new way! Learn more at [www.elimcs.org/volunteer](http://www.elimcs.org/volunteer).



### GET YOUR CHURCH, BUSINESS, AND SCHOOL INVOLVED

Get involved in a HOPE Packs campaign, support your students through our Learning resources, or explore other opportunities at [www.elimcs.org/get-involved](http://www.elimcs.org/get-involved).



### GIVE A LEGACY GIFT

If you're interested in giving a planned gift or naming Elim Christian Services as a beneficiary in your will, please contact Bob Marsh (708-293-6513) or Dan Vander Plaats (708-293-6518), or you can contact Elim's partner agency, the Barnabas Foundation. The Barnabas Foundation can help you plan your gifts for maximum impact. Call toll-free at 888-448-3040 today!





# TOGETHER, WE ARE ELIM.

And your partnership is crucial to Elim's mission. Please give today. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



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