

# MOST Ministries

Mission Opportunities Short Term | 2021 Annual Report

Impacting the World for Jesus Christ Through Short-Term Missions



Dear Ministry Partners,

At MOST Ministries, we never grow tired of seeing God display His glory as we send short-term mission teams from all over the United States to serve people living in extreme poverty throughout the world. And after 33 years in Great Commission ministry, we remain humbled and honored to share the Good News of Jesus and co-labor with Christ to love, physically serve, and provide hope to people in great need. MOST Ministries' goals have been and will always be to "serve" and "make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:19) And YOU play an important role in this life-saving ministry!

While the pandemic continued to limit international travel to and within many countries in 2021, MOST Ministries, remarkably, sent seven teams into the mission field: a medical team to Guatemala; three eyeglass teams to Guatemala; a combined construction/water filtration team to Mexico; an eyeglass team to Mexico; and a team of 32 senior nursing students from Concordia University Ann Arbor who served and ministered to the homeless, drug addicted, and other impoverished people in Alaska. Our 2021 volunteer missionaries, like everyone else who has ever served on a MOST Ministries mission team, witnessed people living

in extreme poverty who were in great need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

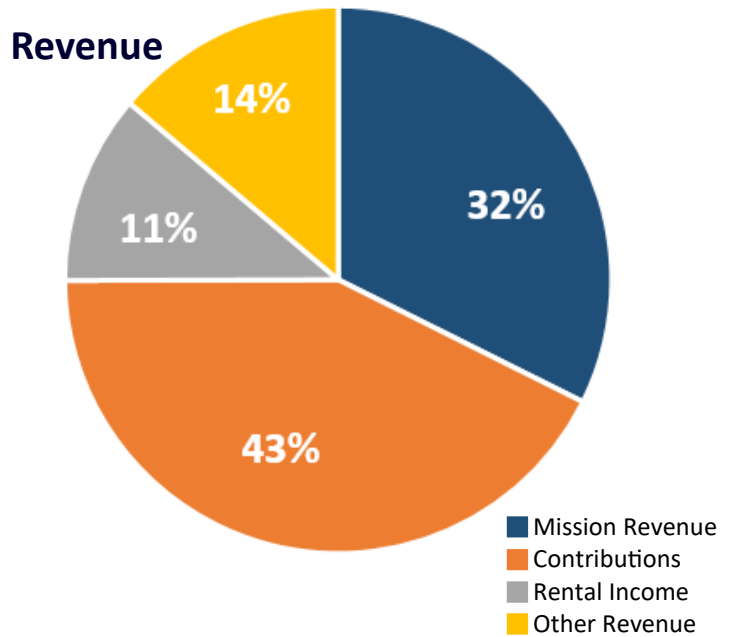
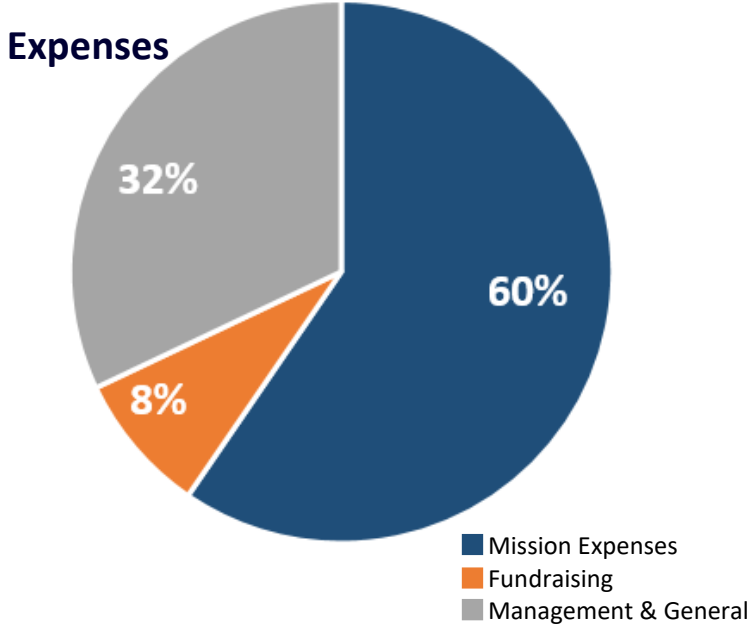
As MOST Ministries turns its attention to 2022, we're excited to continue using this "unique time in history" to significantly re-build our mission team capacity to "near" pre-pandemic levels. Our small, but dedicated staff is currently working towards the goal of deploying 20 teams this year, which is nearly three times the number of teams that we were able to send in 2021, and ten times the number of teams that we were able to send in 2020. And, by the grace of God and with the continued support of our faithful ministry partners - our volunteers, donors, and prayer partners - our goal is to reach "normal" pre-pandemic levels of sending a total of 25-30 short-term mission teams in 2023 over several continents.

We are beginning "to see the end in sight" and ask you to continue providing your time, talent, and treasure to MOST Ministries so that, together, we can continue to impact the world for Jesus Christ through short-term missions!

Continued on page 2

# MOST Ministries Financial Statistics for 2021

Information is taken from the audited financial statements of Mission Opportunities Short Term



**Expenses:**

Mission Expenses	347,688
Fundraising	49,118
Management & General	<u>186,988</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$583,794</b>

**Revenue by Source:**

Mission Revenue	258,509
Contributions	340,080
Rental Income	89,659
Other Revenue*	<u>110,387</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$798,635</b>

\* Forgiven PPP Loans totaling \$105,525

Continued from page 1

For questions about MOST’s 2022 mission trip schedule, how to register for a mission trip, or how to organize a mission team from your church, please visit [https://mostministries.org/team\\_schedule](https://mostministries.org/team_schedule) or contact MOST Ministries’ Team Administrator, Kaleigh Bone at: [kaleighb@mostministries.org](mailto:kaleighb@mostministries.org); or (734) 994-7909 Ext. 3.

To make a donation to MOST Ministries, please visit [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org) and click on “DONATE NOW” at the top of the webpage, or contact MOST Ministries’ Business Manager, Kelly Bone at: [kbone@mostministries.org](mailto:kbone@mostministries.org); or (734) 994-7909 Ext. 4.

Finally, thank you for partnering with MOST Ministries in 2021! We need you and pray that you will continue to partner with MOST Ministries for years to come!

Serving Him Together,

Ruth Richert Martin  
Executive Director

# Celebrating Over 10 Years of Water Filtration Mission Teams

“For I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink...” (Mt. 25:35)

Good health begins with access to clean water. In fact, safe drinking water is essential to healthy living. Did you know that:

- Half of the world’s hospital beds are filled with people suffering from water-related diseases;
- Approximately 80% of illnesses in developing countries are linked to poor water and unsanitary conditions; and
- One out of every five children under the age of 5 worldwide die from water borne illnesses?

The statistics are both staggering and tragic! That’s why in 2010 MOST Ministries sent its first water filtration team to the village of La Joya, Nicaragua. For years, water for the entire village has been drawn from a deep well that originates from ground water mixed with human and animal feces, cooking water, clothes-washing water, bathing water, and garbage. And the water had been typically stored by people in the community in rusty barrels, dirty buckets, and lidless bottles. All of that, of course, can cause diarrhea, dehydration, and death.

In addition to assisting the local church in La Joya with its outreach efforts, that first MOST water filtration team educated members of the community about the importance of drinking clean water and adopting good hy-

giene practices. Back then 31 families received water filtration systems from the team.

Between 2010 and 2014, fifteen additional water filtration teams were sent to other locations in Nicaragua. To evaluate the effectiveness of the water filtration systems that had been previously given to families in seven communities, a MOST “assessment team” was sent to Nicaragua in 2014 to interview those families.

The results of the assessment were amazing! The families reported a 95% decrease in the number of days adults in the home missed work, and a 90% decrease in the number of days their children missed school. The assessment team also discovered that these families had a good understanding of hand washing practices and adopted the hygiene lessons that they had been taught by a previous MOST team.

One discovery that was revealed by the 2014 assessment was the need for additional education on safe water storage and filter maintenance, which MOST immediately added to its health & hygiene curriculum and is still taught to this day.

The 2014 assessment team also interviewed the local pastors in those seven communities to determine if they had benefitted from hosting a MOST water filtration



Nicaragua 2010



Uganda 2020



Mexico 2021

team. Importantly, the pastors reported that families who received a water filtration system had an increased interest in the church, and many of them were still members of their church in subsequent years.

Because there was proof that the water filtration systems provided a health benefit for so many families and the churches had grown after a MOST water filtration team had served in those communities, the Ministry has since sent water filtration teams to five other countries (Belize, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, and Uganda). In fact, since 2010 a total of 39 water filtration teams have been deployed by MOST Ministries and approximately 11,250 individuals have benefitted from having a water filtration system in their own home, which will be a blessing to them for years to come!

To purchase water filtration systems that will be distributed by a MOST water filtration team to families who do not have access to clean water, please visit the MOST Ministries Gift Catalog located on our website at [www.mostministries.org/gift\\_catalog](http://www.mostministries.org/gift_catalog).



Pictures from 2021 teams

## 2021 Legacy Members

MOST Ministries Legacy Members provide a five-year financial pledge of at least \$1,000 per year. In 2021, MOST had a total of 32 Legacy pledge members. They are a tremendous blessing to the Ministry.

## 2021 Board of Directors

Bill Hahn, Chair  
Greg Gessert, Vice Chair  
Pam Bishop, Treasurer  
Charlotte Campbell, Secretary  
Sandy Hardies  
Chuck Hempel  
Susan Jones  
Bethel Larsen  
George Locke  
Fritz Quiltmeyer  
Rev. Joel Sarrault  
Penny Selle  
Janet Stechholz  
Carol Stuhr  
Don Sommerfeld, Emeritus  
Gayle Sommerfeld, Emeritus

## 2021 Team Leaders

Tim Bernthal  
Kaleigh Bone - Trainee  
Kelly Bone  
Kathryn Chrzanowski  
Katie Cowan - Trainee  
Cheri Dennis  
Sarah DePriest  
Kevin Gambill  
Sandy Hardies  
Barbara Hoffmeier  
Dennis Leidel  
Roxann Leidel  
Deanna Leimbach - Trainee  
Alysia Masters  
Debra Selinger - Trainee  
Annette Trelfa  
Craig Watkins - Trainee  
Darcy Zent

## 2021 Staff

Ruth Martin, Executive Director  
Kelly Bone, Business Manager & Volunteer Coordinator  
Kaleigh Bone, Team Administrator & Communications  
Linda Thompson, Ministry Support

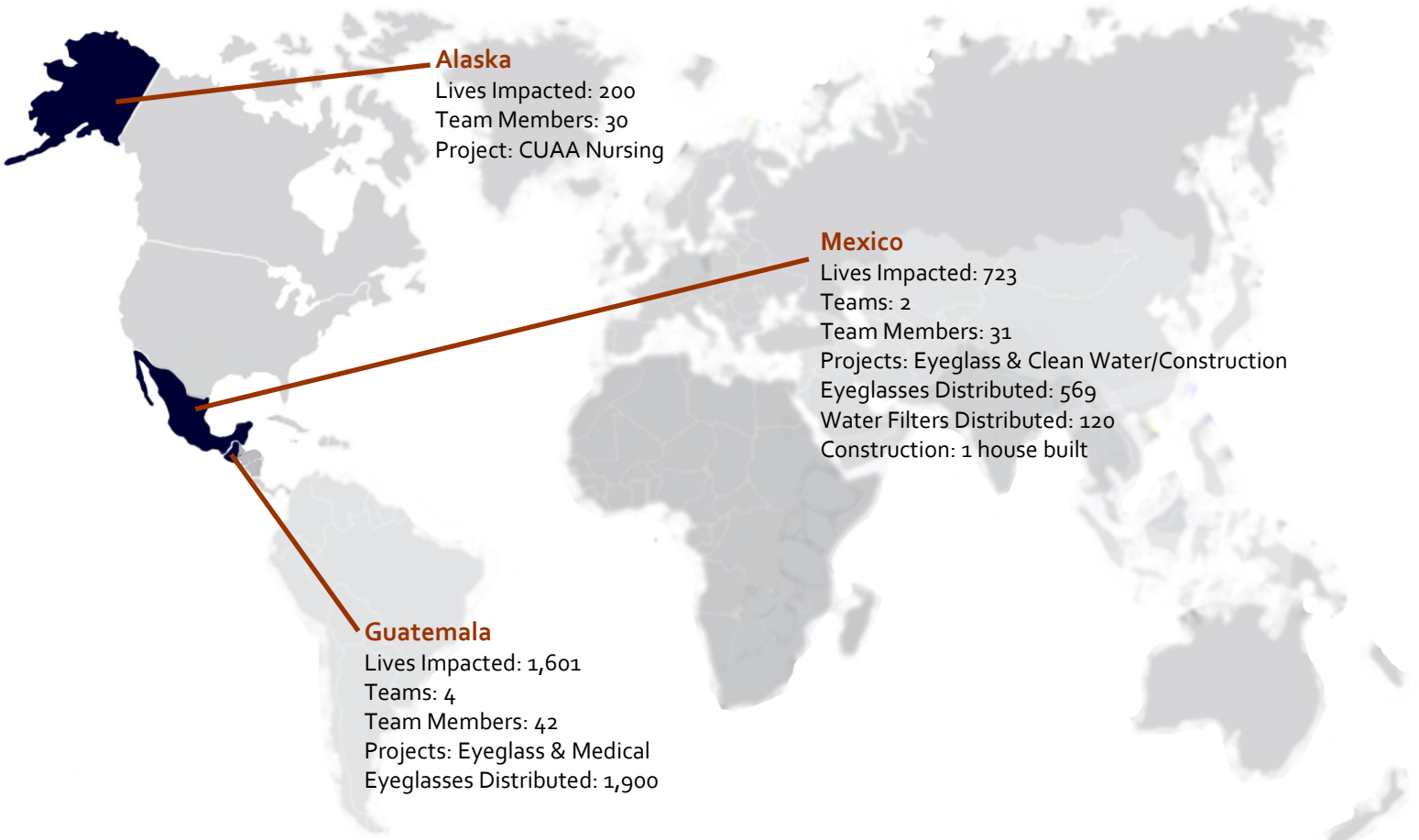
## Team Impact Since 1989

LIVES IMPACTED	COUNTRIES SERVED	TEAMS	TEAM MEMBERS
243,806	52	542	6,393
EYEGASSES DISTRIBUTED	WATER FILTERS DISTRIBUTED		
155,000+	1,820		

## Other MOST Ministries Happenings in 2021....

- The Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Missions (SOE) re-certified MOST as an Accredited Member for another 5 years.
- At the end of November MOST applied for a continuation of its Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for another 5 years.
- The parking lot at MOST's Mission Center was repaired and completely resurfaced and an HVAC unit was replaced, thanks to donations and a grant for capital improvements.
- At the LWML National Convention in Lexington, KY:
  - Executive Director, Ruth Richert Martin, made a presentation about MOST;
  - MOST was an Exhibitor;
  - MOST hosted a Friday Information Luncheon;
  - MOST organized a Servant Event; and
  - MOST was a sponsor of the Golf Outing.

# 2021 TEAMS



Mission Opportunities Short Term  
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