

2019

# IMPACT REPORT



## Note from the President

One of the things that marked 2019 in our world was the ‘Greta Thunberg phenomenon’. A world in which children were empowered to influence and lead change on a worldwide scale. For Freedom Tree, that was no different. We received a grant from the Calgary Foundation to implement a city-wide program for children between the ages of 7 and 16. The aim of the program was to increase the level of empowerment that children have to make a difference in causes that they have in their hearts. That program, in addition to our existing projects at Freedom Tree, served to advance our mission of reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality through a people movement of passionate individuals.

Thank you for your continual support of what we do at Freedom Tree. We could not do this without you!

## Note from the Board Chair

Twelve years ago, a small group of us (who would later become the Freedom Tree board) joined Tara in Sierra Leone before the organization even existed. A few years later as we dreamt alongside Tara, the words ‘people movement’ began to shuffle to the surface of our discussions.

Fast forward to today, and it brings me joy to see the beginnings of this reality. Relationships with the ever growing team in Sierra Leone has worked through both success and challenges – and grown deeper; the team of committed volunteers in Canada and worldwide has grown in exciting ways. The investment in local youth through the Global Initiatives Program has been especially close to my heart as I have seen my own children respond with love and action as they become aware of the realities globally that affect children in Sierra Leone and all over the world.

This Impact Report shares evidence of people stepping into their own giftedness to then reach out. These initiatives did not come out a board meeting but came about because Freedom Tree has made a place for people to respond – perhaps the makings of a people movement.



## The Freedom Tree

People often ask about the origins of the name Freedom Tree. At the inception of the organization I had a picture of a large spreading tree, similar to an acacia tree. In the heat of the hot sun, young and old found shelter and respite underneath the tree. They came to a place where they found peace and freedom. Hence the name, Freedom Tree. One day as we drove up to a community in Eastern Sierra Leone I observed as young, old, male, female were gathered underneath a massive tree in the village learning the intricacies of birth and women’s health. Even the kids were enamoured with the speaker and topic. I had tears in my eyes as I realized that Freedom Tree was living up to its name. A living, breathing organization made up of people moving toward life.

To date, Freedom Tree has impacted almost 1 million individuals in Sierra Leone.



In November of 2019, a 14 member team of volunteers, half of which came from Eugene, Oregon and the other half from Canada spent two weeks in Sierra Leone, serving 15 communities through mobile clinics and also hosting a children's camp for 100 children.



14  
volunteers



2400  
meals

Children's Camp  
Scholarship Kids

2400 meals were served over the course of four days at our children's camp. Our sponsored children came from all over the country to attend four fun-filled and packed days of games, activities, and teachings.



The Global Initiatives Program



"I really enjoyed learning about the things happening around the world and I just really want to help other children in the world who don't have the same opportunities as me."

Adam, 9 years old  
Program recipient



350  
children

We were privileged to partner with local schools in Calgary as well as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, where our program was implemented to a total of 350 children.



Girls Advocacy – an important step in promoting maternal health.

The Freedom Tree staff in Sierra Leone and some of the volunteer teachers from Canada had an exciting co-vision this year. The creation of materials for teachers to use to lead weekly girls empowerment clubs.

The pilot project in which 30 teachers will lead sessions for 300 girls on topics such as Healthy Friendships, Sexual Health, Menstrual Hygiene, and Managing your Emotions.



Opening of  
our 3rd Clinic

4K  
babies

38K  
visits



There's nothing more heartwarming than receiving a picture of a newborn healthy from one of our clinics. To date, 4000 babies have been born in our clinics and 38000 members have accessed our clinics.

We began to work with three new people groups this year: the Fulani Tribe, the Kuranko, and the Limba in the northernmost part of Sierra Leone. The Fulani are a Nomadic tribe and keep us on our toes!



Our People

We cannot do what we do without our dedicated staff and volunteers. They make up our people movement.

