

2020 Annual Report

Global Alliance for Community Empowerment

The Alaffia Foundation





Working for our future.

Students of the Armandé Primary School in Babadé, Togo



We are a Community.

Dear Alaffia Foundation Community,

It is my hope this note finds you well and in good health. I am writing to present my gratitude and thanks for all you do in support of our mission.

Given the global pandemic conditions, our maternal health activities were delayed this past year. This program requires in-person visits of GACE team members with pregnant mothers and their families, which were prohibited by the Togolese government during the pandemic.

Our team was able to work hard and courageously on our reforestation program, and we were also able to make several bicycle distributions. 828 more bikes are now in the hands of girls and boys so they can stay in school and continue their educations. With these donations, we now have over 10,000 bicycles in distribution in Togo, a great milestone in our collective efforts to bring equal chance for girls in school.

Furthermore, we were able to complete our 16th school. I remember growing up in Togo and sitting in lean-to structures for school. It is simply impossible to learn in such conditions, and I can't tell you the feeling in my heart when today, simply because of your support, we can give a change to learning to kids who are so like me.

Peacefully Yours,

Olowo-n'djo Tchala
President

The Global Alliance for Community Empowerment (GACE), also known as The Alaffia Foundation, is the nonprofit partner of Alaffia, a social enterprise empowering women through fair trade of indigenous African resources.

Olowo-n'djo with student recipients of bicycles, Lama Tessi, Togo.

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Mission

Our mission is empowering African communities through the advancement of fair trade, education, sustainable living, and gender equality. We do this by building the capacities of women's fair trade organizations in Togo and by executing programs that target exclusion from education, maternal and infant deaths, and harmful deforestation in rural farming and wild recollection zones.

IN THE USA

We are a community of volunteer individuals and organizations on a common mission to alleviate poverty and advance gender equality. We serve as a model for other organizations who wish to empower their communities.

IN WEST AFRICA

We promote a sustainable and ethical standard of living through community programs focusing on education, health, and environment. Our programs have touched hundreds of thousands of lives.

Olowo-n'djo with students at the Lama Tessi Kindergarten, completed in 2019.

2020 IMPACT



BICYCLES FOR EDUCATION

828 Distributed

HEALTH

2,834 Eyeglasses Distributed

REFORESTATION

6,955 Trees planted

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

1 School built

Cumulative Impact on Real Lives

GACE's empowerment programs are designed to empower communities cumulatively over time. Our approach is to attack the issues of poverty and gender inequality with manageable programs that have significant sustainable community impact. GACE also has impact by being an employer, providing not only jobs, but a chance for young people to use their educations for the greater good.

Our programs in Togo are carried out by a dedicated team of 16. The following profiles introduce you to some of the individuals who spend their days improving the lives of others.



TCHALA Ibada Deputy Country Director

After finishing high school, Ibada was trained as a midwife through the national midwifery school.

Ibada has worked at GACE Togo for nine years. She started as a coordinator for the maternal health program, using the skills she learned as a midwife to set up the expectations and operating procedures for the program.

Today, Ibada is the deputy country director, dividing her time between managing and monitoring the health-related programs and covering the role of National Director when needed.

Ibada's goal is to expand the maternal care program to cover the health and nutrition of children from 0 to 5 years in the most impoverished communities.



BASSIM Makliwe Education Coordinator

Before joining GACE, Makliwe was a field agent supporting a local non-profit organization.

After receiving her high school diploma, Makliwe trained as an office secretary. With this training, she successively did internships in office automation at the Center of Human Rights, the RED CROSS and in a local nonprofit supporting women and underprivileged children in Sokodé.

At GACE, Makliwe oversees and manages all the activities of the Education component: management of donations of bicycles, school supplies and the construction of school buildings.

Through GACE, Makliwe is able to provide for her family's daily needs and contribute to her mother's care. Because of her steady salary, Makliwe qualified for a loan, and was able to purchase land for a farm..



IGBELEOU Essowazina Bike Mechanic

Essowazina has been the head bike mechanic at GACE Togo for 7 years.

Before joining GACE, Essowazina had a small bicycle repair shop in downtown Sokodé. Within GACE, he assembles and repairs bikes as soon as they arrive from the USA, and he also takes care, in collaboration with the Head of Education, of donating bikes to the poorest students.

Essowazina learned bicycle mechanics certificate after three years of training, despite not having gone to school.

Because of his work at GACE, Essowazina has gotten to know Togo and visited hundreds of villages during the missions of donating bikes to students. In his words, "my job goes a long way in supporting my family of 12. I have just built a two-bedroom house where I currently live with my family thanks to GACE."

Recognition in Togo

The Togolese foundation Agir Ensemble pour l'Afrique (Acting Together for Africa) or AEA was founded by Mrs. Marie-Jo TRENNOU, who fights in Togo for women's entrepreneurship, support for maternity services, maternal and child health, education for young girls, access to drinking water, and hospital access. In this context, the AEA Foundation rewards several organizations in Togo each year by region for their actions undertaken for the empowerment of women, girls and children.

It is for this reason that after the work of its field teams and deliberation in committee, the AEA Foundation, in 2020 selected GACE Alaffia to be awarded for its actions in the Central region.



Ibada Tchala and Hortense Adjoavi Santos represented GACE at the AEA Gala and received the award on behalf of the organization.

On March 8, 2020 Alaffia's community empowerment partner organization received an award for our work with women's health and education by the Togolese foundation Agir Ensemble pour l'Afrique (Acting Together for Africa) or AEA.

The award was presented at AEA's annual gala and charity evening 'Woman's Night' at the Hotel 2 Fevrier in Lomé.

The fourth annual 'Woman's Night' was dedicated to the celebration of women and to equality with the theme "I am of the Equality Generation: Stand up for women's rights."

RESULTS: Health

The **Eyeglass Program** has a mission to reduce maternal mortality and neonatal mortality in our Togolese communities by providing free prenatal and delivery care to our lowest-income mothers.

We partner with Alaffia retail customers in the United States. Each summer, our retail stores put our collection boxes across the country, where individuals can drop off their gently used prescription, reading and sunglasses.

SUMMARY TABLE OF SUNGLASS DISTRIBUTIONS, 2020

Prefecture	Recipient Description	TOTAL
Tchamba	Primary and middle school students of Talaba, Armande, Hezoude, and Goubi.	1,412
Tchaoudjo	Primary and middle school students of Kolowari and Kpaza	445
Bassar	Middle and High School students and children of Alaffia shea kernel collectors in Bomble, Nayido, Kekpang, and Kolado.	400
Doufelgou	Children of shea kernel collectors in Tchore and Tenega.	200
Kpendjal	Children of shea kernel collectors in Kpenkankandi, Bissingbingong, and Sankarthogou.	258
TOTAL		2,715

In addition to Sunglass distributions, 119 reading glasses were given out in Sokodé and surrounding villages. A plan has been initiated to read the prescriptions of the stock of prescription glasses in Togo so they can be donated over the course of the next two years.

SUMMARY TABLE OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS, 2020

Prefecture	Recipient Description	TOTAL
Tchamba	Primary school students of Talaba, and Armande.	546
Soutouboua	Primary school students and children of Alaffia shea kernel collectors in Sossossi.	445
Bassar	Children of Alaffia shea kernel collectors in Bomble, Nayido, Kekpang, and Kolado.	200
Doufelgou	Children of shea kernel collectors in Tchore and Tenega.	200
Kpendjal	Children of shea kernel collectors in Kpenkankandi, Bissingbingong, Sankarthogou, Blamonga, Nanissonge, Tambonga, Kpembonle, Kpembonle, Tolankatiga, Nadano.	400
TOTAL		1,791

Clothing was donated by Nugget Markets in northern California in 2019.

RESULTS: Education

Bicycles for Education is a major part of our education program. We collect used and unwanted bicycles in the US Pacific Northwest and ship them to Togo, where they are donated to students to help them get to and from school.

Over the 14 years of this program, we have found students with bicycles have a 91% chance of finishing high school. The overall graduation rate for rural students in Togo is 10%.

BICYCLES FOR EDUCATION 2020 DISTRIBUTIONS

Establishment	Beneficiary Type	Bikes
CEG GOUBI	Middle School Students	192
CEG HEZOU	Middle School Students	70
CEG KOULOUWARI	Middle School Students	50
CEG KPAZA	Middle School Students	25
CEG TCHAWANDA	Middle School Students	26
CEG VILLE 1 and LYCEE SOUTOUBOU	High School Students	60
Children of Shea Kernel Collectors in BASSAR Prefecture	Middle School Students	148
Children of Shea Kernel Collectors in DOUFELGOU Prefecture	Middle School Students	57
Children of Shea Kernel Collectors in KPENDJAL Prefecture	Middle School Students	200
Total		828

Although COVID-19 delayed bicycle distributions, we were able to meet our goal of 800 bikes to students by the fall.



Middle school student beneficiaries of 2020 Armande, Tchamba prefecture, Togo.

2020 BICYCLE COLLECTIONS

Donor	Bikes
Portland Police Dept	189
Seattle Police Dept	172
Aberdeen Lions Club	12
Lacey Police Dept	63
Total	483

We are grateful to US Pacific Northwest police departments and other organizations for ongoing bicycle donations.

Rather than go to the metal recyclers or landfills, abandoned and otherwise unused bikes find a second life in Togo, providing transportation for a student and their family.

We also welcome donations from individuals and are always open to organizing community bike drives.

RESULTS: Education

Building Schools is also a huge focus of our Education program. Since 2011, we have been building schools in low-income communities that show a dedication to the education of their girls and boys.

Many of our schools are built with Alaffia retail partners, such as Whole Foods Market, Sprouts Farmers Market, and Mother's Market.

EPP ARMANDE, Primary School in Kaboli, Togo



The Armande primary school was partially funded by Sprouts Farmers Market through an Alaffia sales promotion in 2019. This promotion and donations from Sprout's employees contributed over \$25,000 towards the school building costs.

Communities also participate in building and funding schools. Typically, the community will contribute five percent of the cost of the school with in-kind donations of local building materials, water, and labor.



EPP Armande in July 2020 before construction, and new walls going up in October 2020.

The community erected a temporary structure for their children in 2012 which was recognized as a public school by the Togolese government in 2015. 104 children were enrolled at the Armande primary school last year, 56 girls and 48 boys.

The new building is made of durable and naturally-cooling laterite concrete bricks. It contains two classrooms and an office.



Community members help with school construction, bringing sand and water from nearby river.

RESULTS: Environment

Togo is within the African Sahel, which forms a vulnerable “green wall” against encroaching deserts of North Africa and is a critical carbon sink for mitigating climate change. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of international attention on savanna tree cover losses, and without support for solutions, deforestation will continue.

Since 2006, Alaffia has been planting trees to help slow tree loss and bring awareness to the issue in our communities.

TREES PLANTED 2020, BY PREFECTURE

Préfecture	Establishment	Tree Species	Qty
Tchaoudjo	Shea Kernel Collectors, TCHAVADE	Shea, Khaya, Moringa, Neem	400
Tchamba	EPP Armande	Cassia, Khaya, Acacia	130
	JEP Djama	Cassia, Khaya, Acacia	500
Tone	Shea Kernel Collectors, TIBRE	Eucalyptus, Shea	620
	Shea Kernel Collectors, NAMARE	Eucalyptus, Khaya	720
	Shea Kernel Collectors, NANDJAK	Eucalyptus	350
Tone	GACE Namare, Nursery	Acacia, Eucalyptus, Moringa, Shea, Khaya	1235
Tchaoudjo	GACE Sokodé, Nursery	Acacia, Neem, Moringa, Shea, Khaya	3000
	Total		6,455

SURVIVAL MATTERS

Many organizations plant "millions" of trees, but how many survive? Our reforestation project is about survival. We increase chances of tree survival by choosing species that are suitable for the environment and by planting them with community groups, such as schools, organized farmer collectives, and shea nut collector groups.

Groups are more likely to provide irrigation needed to get seedlings through the first dry season and protect the young trees from grazing livestock and wildfires.



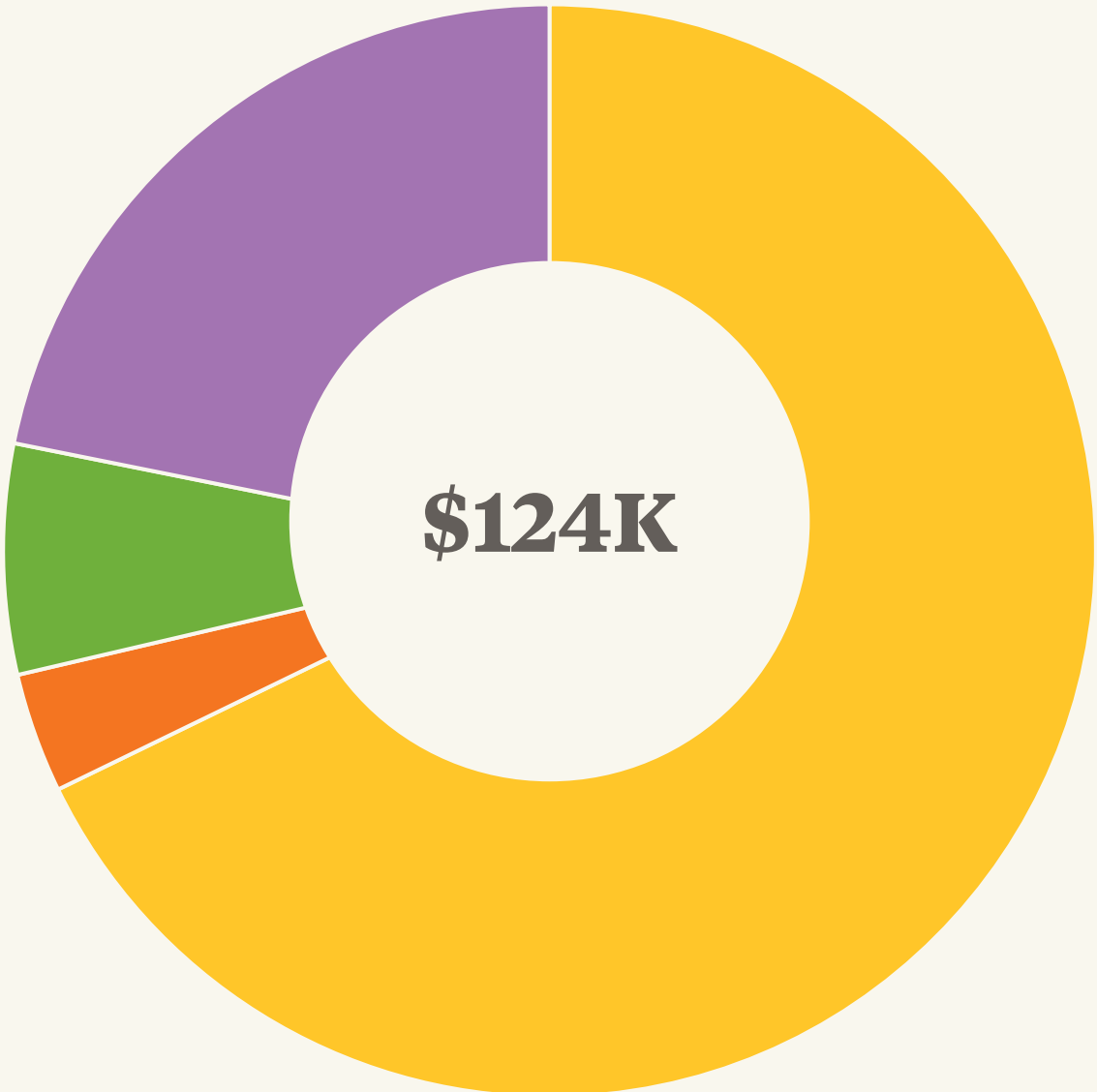
President Olowo-n'djo Tchala helps Abdouraziz Gado plant a tree at EPP Armande

Financials

The Alaffia Foundation is proud to report a strong year of support from our customers and communities in 2020. We received two large donations from Alaffia customers and brokers, and individual donor participated more than ever before with web donations.

Looking forward, we remain committed to our existing programs, and will continue to ensure sustainability and high-quality programs in all the communities we serve.

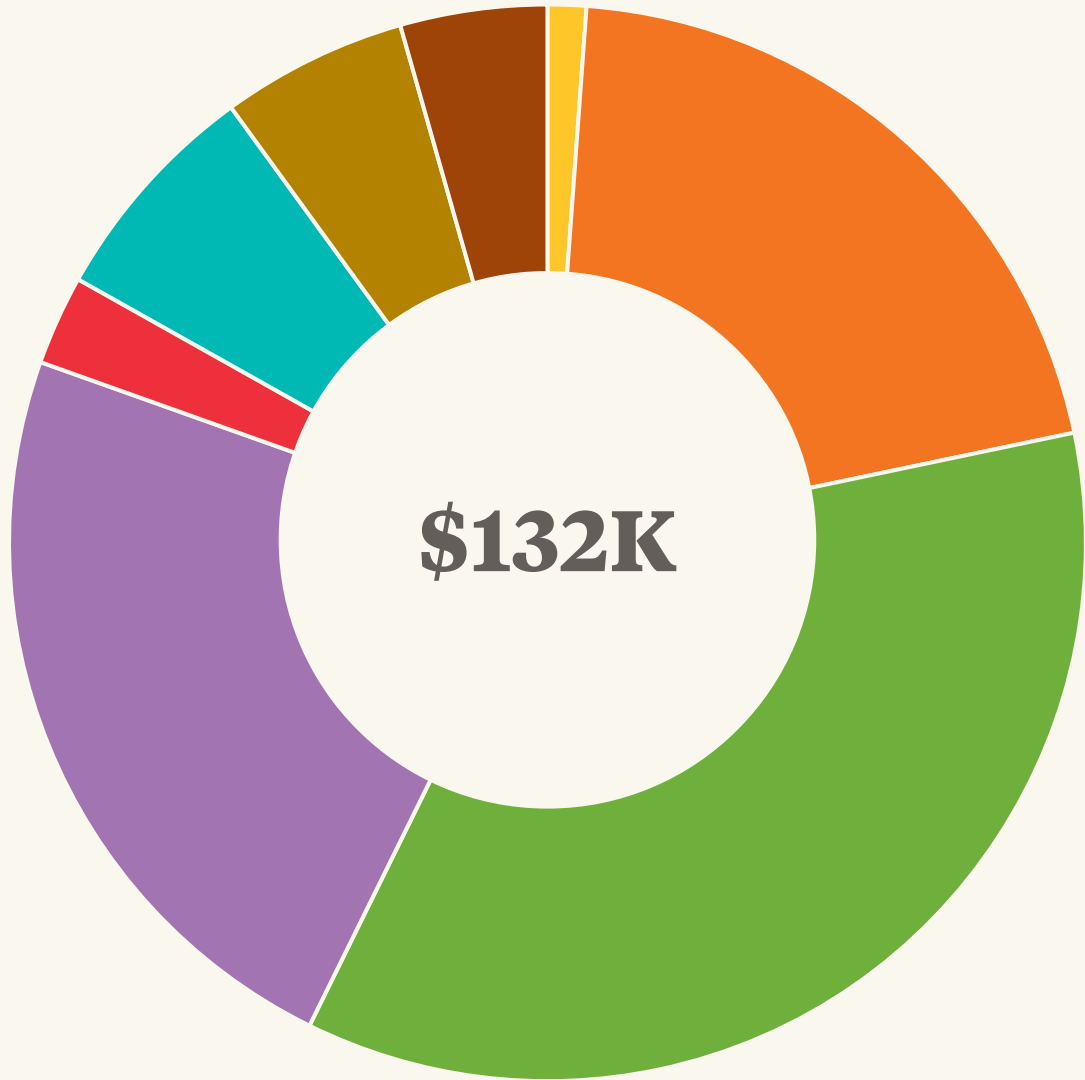
2020 CASH INCOME



- Alaffia Support.....68%
- Alaffia Customers.....3.5%
- Alaffia Broker.....6.5%
- Individual Donors.....22%

This does not include in-kind donations of bicycles and eyeglasses which make up an important part of our budget. Bicycle donations mean we can spend funds on delivering bicycles rather than buying them.

2020 EXPENSES



- Maternal Health.....1%
- Administration Togo.....35%
- Administration USA.....3%
- Reforestation.....6%
- Bikes for Education.....21%
- School Construction.....23%
- Education, Other.....7%
- Eyeglasses.....4%

Expenses do not include cost of inventory donated (bicycles and eyeglasses). Maternal health program was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank You

Alaffia provides up to 67% of program funding, but your support is critical to ensure our work continues. Thanks to your generous support in 2020 and despite a global pandemic, over 11,000 individuals in some of the most impoverished communities in West Africa realized their rights to a safe pregnancy and childbirth, education, or a healthy place to live.

Your donation has not only improved these people's lives but helped strengthen their families and communities for years to come.

2020 DONORS

\$15,000+

Alaffia Fair Trade Premium Fund

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Presence Marketing

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mabee Family Foundation
Craig Hille
Sarah Johnson
Thrive Market

\$100 - \$999

Rebecca Poole
Rebecca Knockemus
George Ohrstrom
Josiane Faubert
Nicole Jerome
Mo' Payette
Sis' Shula
Washington State Combined Charities Fund

Bicycle Donations

Portland Police Department
Lacey Police Department
Aberdeen Lions Club
Seattle Police Department

Eyeglass Donation Drive

Apple Crate Naturals
Basics Cooperative
Brattleboro Food Co-op
Bubbltree Roots
Community Co-op Market
Down to Earth

Edson Farms
Food Fantasies
Fresh Thyme Farmers Markets
Fruitful Yield Health Foods
Good Earth Food Co-op
Goodwinds
Grain Train Natural Foods Market
Hampden Park Co-op
Harvest Health Foods
Healthy Focus
HollyHill
Jimbo's
Lakewinds Natural Foods
Lifesource Natural Foods
Metcalf's Market
MOM's Organic Market
Natalie's Natural Health
Natural Health Center
Natural Healthy Concepts
Natur-Tyme
Nutrition World
One World Shop
Puget Consumers Co-op
Peoples Food Co-op
People's Food Cooperative
PFC Natural Grocery & Deli
Seward Co-op Friendship Store
Skagit Valley Food Co-op
Sugar Beet Food Co-op
Sunspot Natural Market
Takoma Park Co-op
The Merc Co-op
The Turnip Truck
The Turnip Truck Natural Market
To Your Health
VC Natural Grocers
Village Market
Wheatsville Food Co-op
Whole Earth Center
Whole Foods Co-op

LEADERSHIP



Togo Team (left to right)

Back row: Yawa Agbogon (Accountant), Mele Abbey (Secretary Bookkeeper), Abina Batchatiko (Health Manager, Tchaoudjo), Madabouwe Takema (Secretary Bookkeeper, Dapaong), Hezouwe Takounadi (Health Manager, Tchamba), Hortense Adjoavi Koffi (National Operations Director), Larba Monne (Coordinator Dapaong Office), Ibadatou Tchala (Assistant National Operations Director), Makliwe Bassim (Education Manager)

Front row: Winiga Hrahouta, (Driver), Salissou Hama-Bagui (Nurseryman), Essowazina Igbeleou (Bike Mechanic), Abdouraziz Gado (Environment Manager), Sadikou Morou (Bike Mechanic)

Not Pictured: Kokou Adji (Security Guard, Dapaong), Ayouba Ouro-Djobo (Nurseryman at Namare, Dapaong)

US Team

Olowo-n'djo Tchala (President), Prairie Rose Hyde (Vice President), Kate Cissna (Board Member, Bike Program Coordinator), Maria Mason (Board Member), Melissa Jones (Board Member)

Looking Forward

Due to the undeniable need, Alaffia will continue funding ongoing programs in our West African communities.

Together, we can do even more. Your support will enable us to reach more communities, more individuals, so they can reach their potential and be sustained for generations to come.



It will take a village.

Our success is the result of a collaboration of many partners. You too can be part of this journey.

VOLUNTEER. We are always looking for energetic volunteers to prepare bicycles for shipping or sort eyeglasses.

DONATE. Since Alaffia's support covers all administrative costs in US and in Togo, all donations go 100% to program costs.

PARTNER with us. Join our team of likeminded organizational partners to make a lasting impact through opportunities like building a school, sponsoring a specific program, or hosting a bike drive.

For more information on how to **DONATE**, **VOLUNTEER**, or **SPONSOR**, visit our site at <https://alaffia.foundation>

or email us at foundation@alaffia.com