



2020
ANNUAL REPORT



SPOON nourishes children who are highly vulnerable to **malnutrition** by empowering their caregivers around the globe.



DEAR FRIENDS OF SPOON,

This year brought new challenges for all of us. So many have found themselves in greater need than ever before, and the children we serve at SPOON are no exception. Because of the pandemic, poverty rose, food became scarcer, services became harder to access, and children with disabilities were even more likely to be separated from their families. In short, vulnerable children were even more at risk of being left behind.

Though the situation is dire, SPOON is continuing to have impact on the health and growth of children around the world. This year's Annual Report highlights how we have leveraged our existing technology and developed new training methods to reach even more children and their caregivers, despite the most difficult of circumstances. It is our wish that you, too, will feel hopeful as you read about the biggest wins for SPOON's children in FY2020 (October 2019 – September 2020).



At a time when fear and isolation have caused many to focus inward, we are deeply grateful that you, our SPOON community, have continued to care about the children of our world who are most often overlooked. From our in-country partners and our Board members who help ensure our programs are the best they can be, to our volunteers and donors who give so generously of their time and resources, thank you for making it possible for us to deliver on our mission and serve the children who need us most.



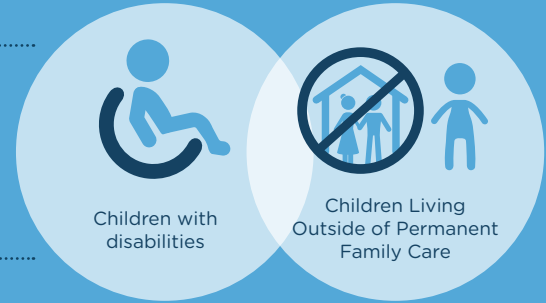
Mishelle Rudzinski
Co-Founder & Executive Director



Cindy Kaplan
Co-Founder & Board Chair

THE NEED

SPOON serves two groups of vulnerable children who sometimes overlap: children with disabilities, and those living outside of family care.^{1,2}



These children are highly vulnerable to malnutrition.

Rates of malnutrition can be as high as **91%** in **childcare institutions**, according to SPOON's research across 17 countries.

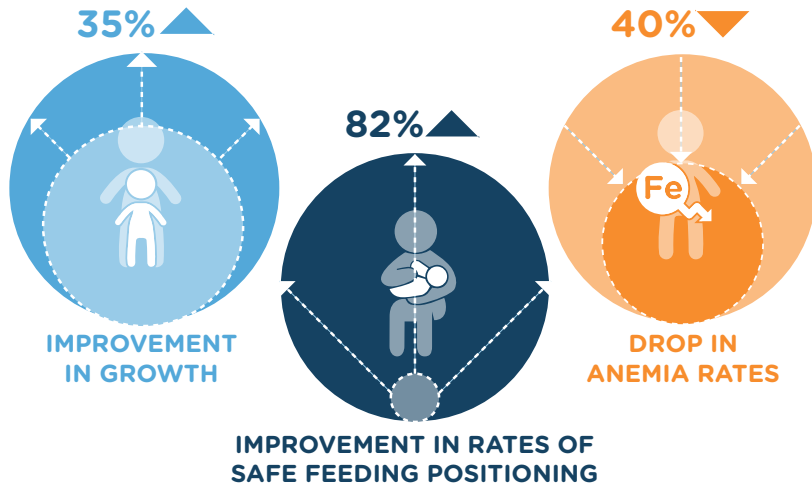
Children with disabilities are **3x as likely to be malnourished** and **2x as likely to die from malnutrition during childhood.**³

80% of children with disabilities **have feeding difficulties.**⁴

Because these children are typically not served by existing nutrition and health systems, **SPOON** makes sure they're included and given a chance to thrive.

OUR IMPACT

Children monitored through our nutrition and feeding app, *Count Me In*, show improved health and nutrition.



SPOON STORIES

Hang is a 4-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who lives in a childcare institution near Hanoi, Vietnam.

Due to his disability, Hang's parents lacked the knowledge and skills to properly care for him at home. When we first met him, he was underweight and malnourished. Mealtimes were unpleasant and dangerous, as he struggled to swallow food and often choked. With training from SPOON, caregivers at the institution learned to feed Hang safely by giving him smaller bites, positioning him at eye level, and communicating with him during meals. Now, Hang is gaining weight

steadily and is now on track to meet growth goals. With additional training from SPOON for his caregivers and parents, Hang and his family have a chance of living under the same roof again. Although Vietnam was one of the first countries to prohibit travel when the pandemic hit, distance learning has allowed SPOON to continue to ensure that Hang and many other children like him have access to safe and healthy feeding.





We never really thought about how we were feeding our children before this program. Now we have new skills to recognize, identify, and respond better to feeding and nutrition challenges. As we, the carers of children, learn and practice, our children watch and learn new skills too.

Nasilele Mulemwa

House of Moses in Zambia

With training from SPOON, caregivers in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have learned many techniques for safely feeding children, some of whom have severe disabilities. This program has made a difference for so many caregivers and the children they serve.

Nguyet Trinhthi

Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs in Vietnam

OUR MODEL



Build nutrition and feeding capacity of caregivers and local partners through training, consultation, and our distance learning courses



Provide customized support for childcare institutions and community clinics to improve nutrition and feeding for vulnerable children through our app, *Count Me In*



Use data from *Count Me In* to advocate for changes in policy and practice, so that all children with disabilities and children without family care have a chance to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential



2020: A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SPOON'S CHILDREN

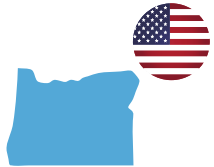
- Further limited access to food and critical services, leaving them at greater risk of falling behind
- In some countries, children living in institutions were more likely to be sent home to families who were unequipped to care for them; in other countries, children were more likely to be separated from their families, due to loss of income, inability to travel, and limited at-home services
- Longer-term impacts are inevitable; SPOON will continue to adapt in response to these changing needs

SPOON'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Converted caregiver trainings to online courses, launched in May 2020
- Provided support to global partners to address COVID-19 specific needs for the populations we serve
- Leveraged technology to maintain contact with in-country partners, ensuring that caregivers continued to receive nutrition and feeding guidance

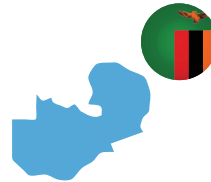


OUR IMPACT IN 2020



OREGON FOSTER CARE

disseminated trauma-informed training to local partners through a training toolkit to empower foster parents



ZAMBIA

improved nutrition and feeding practices in childcare facilities for children with disabilities and advocated for national policy change



VIETNAM

integrated nutrition and feeding practices into a government-supported network of care providers



BELARUS

developed the capacity of childcare professionals in early childhood institutions to provide feeding and nutrition guidance to parents of children with disabilities to prevent family separation



UGANDA

expanded proven programs in institutions and reached new children at risk of family separation



TANZANIA

built capacity of local staff in nutrition and feeding assessments and interventions for children living outside of permanent family care



HAITI

launched partnership to support new childcare reform and improved level of care in nutrition and feeding for children in residential care institutions

THE SPOON CHAIR: A SOLUTION TAKES FORM

In 2020, we developed a prototype of the SPOON Chair — a low-cost, practical seating solution to improve feeding and nutrition for children with disabilities in low-resource settings.



When we tested the SPOON chair with children with disabilities here in Oregon, we were really excited by the results. Parents and caregivers love how easy it is to use and store, not to mention how affordable it is. The SPOON Chair offers a safe and comfortable option for children to sit up and eat in a way that keeps them healthy.

Jocelyn Goodall, SPOON Volunteer
Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy

What makes the SPOON Chair innovative?

- Allows caregivers to feed children with disabilities upright instead of on their backs in cribs
- Portable, lightweight, and practical for low-resource settings
- A fraction of the cost compared to other adaptive seating

Special thanks to UTENSILE, a Portland-based product development company, for going above and beyond to bring the SPOON Chair to life.



OUR DONORS

Thank you to the generous individuals, foundations, and corporations that believe in our mission to **nourish ALL children.**



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Ann & Bill Swindells Charitable Trust	General Mills Foundation	Roddenberry Foundation
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CSO-SUN (Zambia)	Portland State University	UTENSILE
Department of Human Services Child Welfare Office in Columbia County	Child Welfare Partnership	
	OneSky	
	Oregon State University Extension Services	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$1,010,466 REVENUE

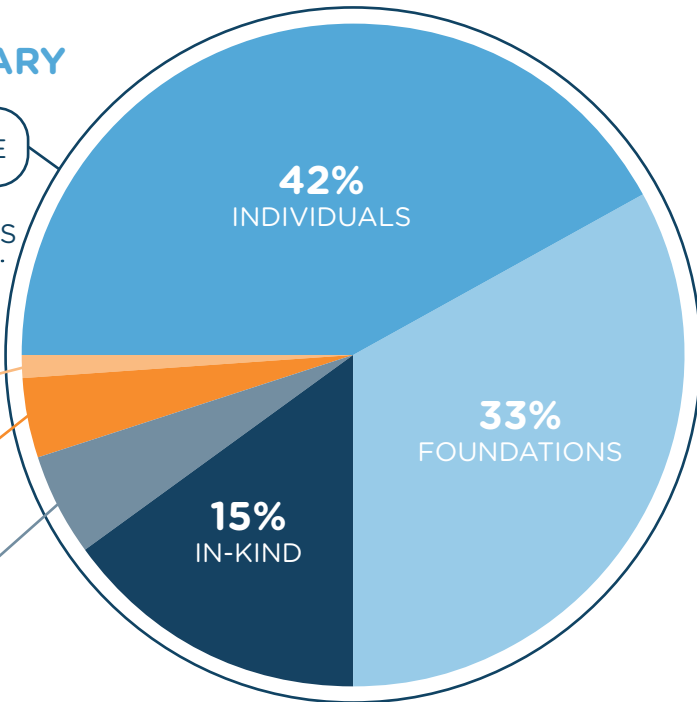
\$1,320,973 EXPENSES

Expenses exceeding revenue was Board-approved and planned for FY20 to invest in programmatic growth.

1%
EARNED INCOME

4%
CORPORATE

5%
GOVERNMENT
(UNICEF)



FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

- Expenses diverted from travel to distance learning to minimize interruption to services
- Existing foundations continued and/or increased their support; new foundation funding was limited
- Many individual donors continued to give generously during this uncertain time; others shifted funding to their local communities

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Thank you to SPOON's dedicated staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers who committed their time in 2020 to ensure that our work **continued to grow.**



CONTACT

135 SE Main Street, Suite 201
Portland, OR 97214 USA
1.503.954.2524
info@spoonfoundation.org

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