

2017/18

# ANNUAL REPORT



questscope

putting the last, first.





## FOUNDER'S LETTER

Thirty years ago, Questscope officially registered as a non-profit charity. We were a small bunch of people with big vision and miniscule funds. So we started with relationships. With "left out" communities of children and families. With frustrated, gifted young people. With donors who cared about the voiceless. With agencies that supported our mandate to *put the last, first*. And we grew.

Thousands of youth have mentored other thousands in trouble with the law. Tens of thousands of youth have been educated in our alternative learning program. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons have been sheltered, fed, and befriended. Jordan. Syria. Iraq. Sudan. Yemen. Germany. These places, these numbers, our "footprints," are far beyond what we imagined when we signed those papers on that rainy day in October 1988.

Our long-term strategic partnership with the Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) put us smack in the center of networks of relationships in Syria to rehabilitate, protect, and enable the dignity of restoration of lives disrupted by conflict, homelessness, and unimaginable loss. Their director, Roy Moussalli, and I met first in Beirut in 1981! This Annual Report reflects the financial size we have grown into since those early days.

We recruit external evaluators to talk truth to us: are we having impact or only talking impact? We foster mature, national leadership to carry us forward in significant directions for people. We listen to moms and dads and young people who thought they would never be heard. We grow more.

*Celebrate with us* these 30 years of listening, loving, acting, reflecting, making change. Always seeking second chances for those left out, left behind, left alone. Long-term trust and relationships are the "secret sauce" of our growth. Your relationship with us makes the vital difference!

*Putting the last, first* was once a good phrase to use. Now it is a good force for good in a world distraught by fear, violence, and anger. I would like a good friend, a real neighbor, beside me in times of trouble. I think you would too.

A small bunch of people, no more. A big vision, absolutely. Impact far beyond budgets – amazing.

*Let's celebrate.* People. And relationships with them. I can't wait to see what the next 30 years will bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curt'.

Dr. Curt Rhodes

**FOUNDER & INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

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# YEAR IN REVIEW 2017/18

## GERMANY

Unprecedented numbers of Syrian newcomers/refugees have put incredible stresses on hosts and newcomers alike.

But we also have incredible opportunities for supporting Syrian newcomers – 300 of whom were staff or friends in Syria and Jordan – and channeling their tremendous energy into positive action.

We're creating a first-of-its-kind Syrian newcomer-led organization designed to help Syrians identify and encourage leaders in their new communities in Germany.

## NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

2,800 youth attended 120 NFE centers in Jordan.

**Our Participatory Learning Methodology (PLM) is now the standard practice for all organizations implementing certified non-formal education in Jordan.**

PLM introduces new kinds of classroom relationships – the teacher becomes a facilitator of learning and a personal mentor to students – and everyone learns together. We rethink why young people want to learn and create a classroom experience where all children can thrive.

### Evidence-Based Practice

Questscope designs for impact and for the evidence that what we do causes the change we want to see. In 2011, the University of Oxford proved that our learning methodology (PLM) caused reduction of violent conduct within 4 months – a key step in creating a safe learning environment. In their 2018 external review of our non-formal education program, USAID evaluators commended Questscope for positive impact on youth, an unprecedented outcome in their 15 years of experience assessing youth programs.

## REFUGEE MENTAL HEALTH

An important growth area for Questscope is refugee mental health, as there are few resources to assist the 65 million displaced persons in the world, most of whom have suffered great loss and have witnessed unspeakable horror. We're developing social technologies for people to experience healing inside themselves and to accompany others in their healing.

## SYRIA

**Our team in Syria served over 1 million people in 100 locations across the country.**

A network of 3,000 staff and volunteers offer critical aid for food, medicine, water/sanitation, and shelter. They also provide psycho-social counseling, protection care for the most vulnerable, and education for out-of-school children. Over half of this team is young women – courageously driving reconciliation and reconstruction in a country torn apart by eight years of war.



[www.questscope.org](http://www.questscope.org)

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# MENTORSHIP

40 Syrian young adult leaders led outreach to 300 participants daily at our Youth Center in the *Za'atari* Refugee Camp in Jordan.

At the startup of the *Za'atari* Refugee Camp in 2012 our answer to a single question made all the difference in our experience there for the next 6 years: Are refugees a problem or a solution? We chose the latter – refugees are people, like us, with solutions. They just don't live at their usual home anymore.

We dreamed up very ambitious plans for youth-led activities in a Youth Center (that we would have to build!) in *Za'atari* Refugee Camp – a place where everyone already knew resources were scarce. Impossible! Really?

We put our heads and hearts together. Ideas. Designs. Piles of sand, concrete, and cement blocks. Sweat. Joy. These young leaders have the vision, spiritual stamina, and drive desperately needed in the destructive violence of war. Today our Youth Center is a tangible sign of how people can find abundance when we give up believing in scarcity.

**Reliance on youth leadership is an enduring commitment in Questscope.** We listened. We learned. We introduced mentoring relationships that demonstrate every person is a worthy, lovable human being.

We invested in them – 40 young adult refugees who now lead, design, innovate – and brought our Youth Center to life.

This core team of Syrian young adult leaders now invest in others – mentoring and reaching out to thousands of younger youth in the camp, deepening these values of worth and love. Young people now bring ideas to their peers in a Creativity Fund so that together they design and fund projects to help others.

Youth go out into their community. They listen. They discover problems that cause people pain. They design projects together to solve those problems. They pour love into others, just as their mentors poured love into them.

**Take a look at some of their recent creative projects →**



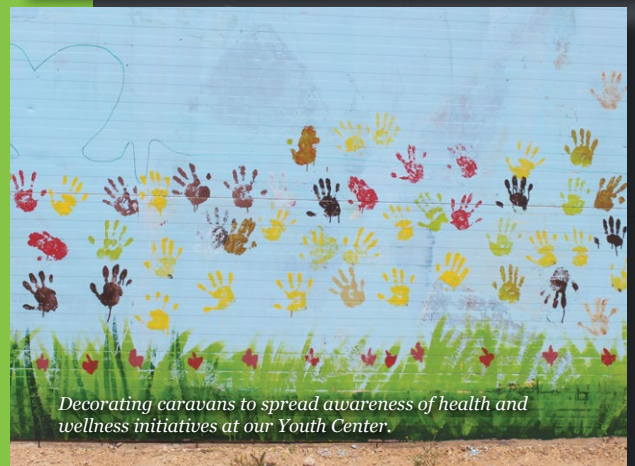
*Providing a safe and private bathroom for Miriam and her mom.*



*Building a privacy fence for Fatima, to protect against roaming dogs and the harsh wind and rain.*



*Providing a comfortable bed for a 7-year-old boy with cancer.*



*Decorating caravans to spread awareness of health and wellness initiatives at our Youth Center.*



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/2018



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الجمعية السورية للتنمية الاجتماعية  
SYRIAN SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

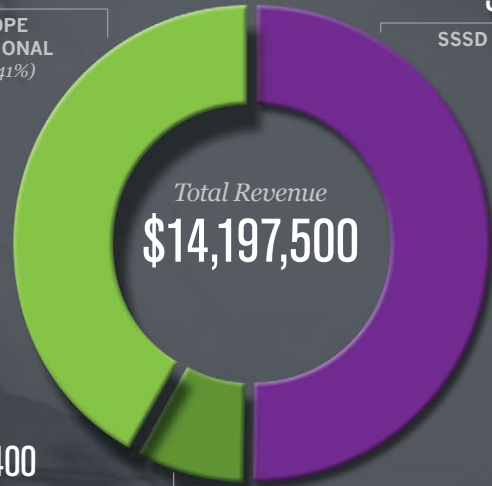


\$5,832,400

QUESTSCOPE  
INTERNATIONAL  
DONORS (41%)

\$7,166,700

SSSD DONORS (51%)



\$1,198,400

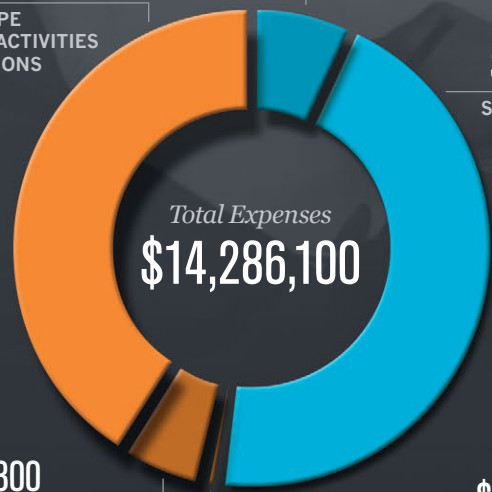
QUESTSCOPE US DONORS (8%)

\$5,873,000

QUESTSCOPE  
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES  
& OBLIGATIONS  
(41%)

\$997,700

SSSD  
ADMINISTRATION (7%)



\$795,300

QUESTSCOPE  
ADMINISTRATION (6%)

\$25,500

QUESTSCOPE FUNDRAISING (0.2%)

Questscope and the Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) are autonomous organizations operating in a long-term strategic partnership under a formal Memorandum of Understanding since 2009. Graphic representations of revenue and expenses of Questscope and SSSD summarize consolidated revenues and expenses of Questscope, Ltd. (a 501c3 organization incorporated in the State of Illinois, USA) and Questscope (a U.K. charity operating in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and other Middle East countries); and separately, revenue and expenses of SSSD, a Syrian national non-governmental organization operating solely in Syria.

Questscope, Ltd. accounts are audited by Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, Bethesda, Maryland. Questscope UK accounts are audited by Tom Carolan and Co., Republic of Ireland. SSSD accounts are audited by Mustafa Kamal Almalah, Co. Copies of audited accounts are available upon request from Questscope offices. Contributions to Questscope for activities in or outside the Middle East are fully tax-deductible.

## LEAD PARTNERS IN JORDAN



JORDANIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



## LEAD PARTNERS IN SYRIA



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.







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