



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

This report illustrates the impact of SPOON's programs on thousands of vulnerable children, families, and communities in Fiscal Year 2021 (October 2020 – September 2021).

We're proud of our service to SPOON's families and children this year, which is made possible by the support of partners, donors, volunteers, staff, and Board members who share a belief in our mission.

SPOON is committed to ensuring that **ALL** children have the chance to grow and thrive, especially in these times of heightened and prolonged instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPOON's mission is to nourish children who are highly vulnerable to malnutrition by empowering their caregivers around the globe.

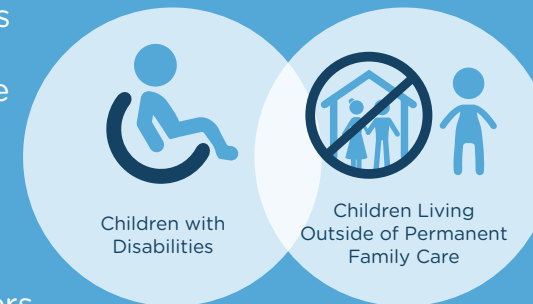


THE NEED

SPOON serves two groups of vulnerable children who sometimes overlap: **children with disabilities and children living outside of family care.**

SPOON estimates that as many as 250 million of these children worldwide could benefit from our programs.^{1,2}

These children are much more likely to experience malnutrition than their peers.



SPOON IS NEEDED NOW, MORE THAN EVER.

6.7 million children have lost their primary caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³

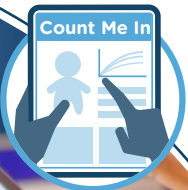
In addition, the pandemic has made it harder for families who have children with disabilities to access housing, food, employment, and specialized services.⁴ SPOON's work ensures that these children are not further left behind.

OUR MODEL



TRAINING

Develop nutrition and feeding capacity of caregivers and local partners through consultation and in-person and remote training



DIGITAL HEALTH APP

Provide customized support for trainees to apply newly learned skills to improve nutrition and feeding for vulnerable children through our app, *Count Me In*



ADVOCACY

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



OUR MODEL: TRAINING

SPOON trains professionals who work with children and caregivers on topics related to nutrition, feeding, and disability.

SPOON impacted nearly
14,000 children

..... by training
352 people
in 8 countries.

REMOTE TRAINING SYLLABUS

Introduction

Introduction to Nutrition & Feeding for Children
Nutrition for Children
Developmental Feeding Skills
Disability, Feeding & Nutrition

Feeding & Nutrition

Foods for Healthy Growth
About Iron-deficiency Anemia
Best Practices for Mealtime
Screening for Feeding Difficulties

Feeding Strategies

Skills for Mealtime & Specialized Feeding Techniques
Strategies for Feeding Infants
Positioning for Mealtime

Nutrition Assessment

Measuring Growth
Interpreting Growth
Measuring Hemoglobin



OUR MODEL: DIGITAL HEALTH APP

Count Me In is SPOON's digital health app, which is used to identify and treat nutrition and feeding problems in children around the world.

3,582 assessments
on **GROWTH, FEEDING, and ANEMIA**

..... were completed by

127 Count Me In users
on 1,071 children.

These children came from 47 sites across 5 countries.

“Whenever information is entered in the app, the recommendations come and we are able to get instant feedback. It is easy to monitor the children's growth. Before, it was overwhelming but now it's like I have my own personal assistant.”

SPOON trainee in Lusaka, Zambia

Children in
Count Me In
experienced a

29% drop
in wasting rates



..... and a

46% drop
in anemia rates



OUR MODEL: ADVOCACY

Together with our partners, SPOON advocates for children with disabilities and children without family care to have access to the nutrition and feeding support they need to thrive.

We work with policy makers, program implementers, advocates, and caregivers to champion every child's right to a strong start.

BELARUS

SPOON provided our partner, UNICEF, with recommendations for strengthening national policies that govern feeding and nutrition services in early child intervention centers and baby homes to help promote inclusive services for children with disabilities.

ZAMBIA

With our partner, Catholic Medical Mission Board, we assessed the nutrition and feeding needs of a national sample of children with disabilities and children without family care. We also partnered with CSO-SUN Zambia, a nutrition advocacy alliance, to share calls to action for inclusive nutrition directly with government officials and media.

GLOBAL

At the United Nations Day of General Discussion on children's rights and alternative care, SPOON advocated for a greater focus on nutrition and disability inclusion in all efforts to fulfill children's rights. We also joined four other child-focused organizations to call for a supportive ecosystem for children with disabilities and their families.

SPOON STORY

Gordon is a six-year-old with cerebral palsy who lives in the Buikwe District in Uganda, about 50 miles away from the capital city of Kampala.

When he first came to the Nkokonjeru Providence Home, a childcare center that partners with SPOON, he was significantly underweight and short for his age. His father carried him in blankets like a baby, and he couldn't sit upright or stretch his arms.

Fortunately, staff at the center had completed SPOON's trainings. By using our digital health app, *Count Me In*, Gordon's caregiver improved his feeding position and increased his consumption of nutrient-dense foods to ensure that he had the best and safest mealtime experience.

With commitment and consistency, Gordon gained weight steadily and began reaching important developmental milestones, such as sitting upright. He even made steady progress toward walking, much to the surprise and delight of his father. Gordon is now a much happier and healthier child, with caregivers who feel empowered to help him reach his full potential.

It is because of stories like Gordon's that the community now embraces these trainings, tools, and assessments. They see other children improving and they want that for their children too.

SPOON trainee in Nkokonjeru, Uganda



The knowledge and skills we gained during SPOON's training are very useful when working with patients in our center. In addition, we used information from the training to help other childcare institutions prepare appropriate meals for children with special needs.

Dr. Zhanna Bezler
Vice Head of the Belarusian Clinical Center of Palliative Care for Children in Minsk

OUR IMPACT IN 2021



UNITED STATES

- Began designing and adapting remote training materials to allow foster care partners to use and disseminate our training content
- Supported Oregon State University to adapt remote training content in order to broaden our reach from foster care to include caregivers of children who have experienced trauma



ZAMBIA

- Integrated nutrition & feeding training into a national program that helps children with disabilities seamlessly transition between community-based care and clinical care
- Piloted the use of our digital health app, *Count Me In*, in clinical settings
- Worked with local partners to conduct an assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on children with disabilities



BELARUS

- Enhanced the national system of early childhood intervention centers with age- and disability-appropriate nutrition & feeding services
- Integrated specialized nutrition & feeding support for children with disabilities during home visits



UGANDA

- Expanded to eight additional institutions nationwide
- Master Trainers incorporated nutrition & feeding into community outreach, influencing key stakeholders to improve care for children with disabilities at risk of family separation



TANZANIA

- Supported local partner to conduct nutrition & feeding assessments, allowing them to improve outcomes for children living outside of permanent family care and train families at greatest risk of separation



VIETNAM

- Supported Master Trainers to disseminate training to 14 institutions
- Built nutrition & feeding support teams to aid in reintegrating children with disabilities back into their families



HAITI

- Supported new child care reform and national accreditation to improve level of care in nutrition & feeding for children in residential care institutions

SPOON CHAIR

A low-cost, practical seating solution to improve feeding and nutrition for children with disabilities in low-resource settings.



- Tested the second prototype of the chair in the US with children with disabilities
- Worked with partners to identify evaluation tools and determine research design for testing the chair prototype in Uganda



THE GLOBAL CHILD THRIVE ACT: A WIN FOR ALL CHILDREN

In 2021, SPOON celebrated the passage of the Global Child Thrive Act.

As a member of the Thrive Coalition, led by Catholic Relief Services and the American Academy of Pediatrics, SPOON supported the Thrive Act and pushed for it to become law.

As part of the Thrive Coalition, SPOON met with the bill's original co-sponsors, Representatives Joaquin Castro and Brian Fitzpatrick, to discuss the implementation of the Act and the need for inclusive early child development globally.

We know it will take a global effort to reach all children with the basics they need for a strong foundation, and the Global Child Thrive Act is critical to making this possible.

James Bever

SPOON Board Member and Retired US Senior Foreign Service Officer

This new legislation will ensure that US foreign assistance programs provide children with holistic early child development support, including good nutrition, clean water, responsive caregiving, and protection from violence. It also emphasizes the importance of reaching vulnerable children, including children with disabilities and children without family care.



DONORS & PARTNERS

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Altrusa
American University
Association of Religious in Uganda
Catholic Medical Mission Board Zambia
CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital
CORE Group
CSO-SUN Zambia
Fuling Kids International
InterAction
International Social Service
Keystone Human Services
Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and
Social Affairs of Vietnam

OneSky
Oregon State University
Extension Services
Rapha International
St. Catherine University
Shonaquip Social Enterprise
Smile Train
The Small Things
Thrive Coalition
United Aid for Azerbaijan
UNICEF Belarus
USAID Advancing Nutrition
UTENSILE

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

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

Accredited Investors
Allen Foundation
The Autzen Foundation
C.M. Bishop Jr. Family Fund
Carlson Family Foundation
Chow Now
Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation
Enkel Foundation
Everidge
The George Family Foundation
GHR Foundation
H.W. Irwin and D.C.H. Irwin
Foundation

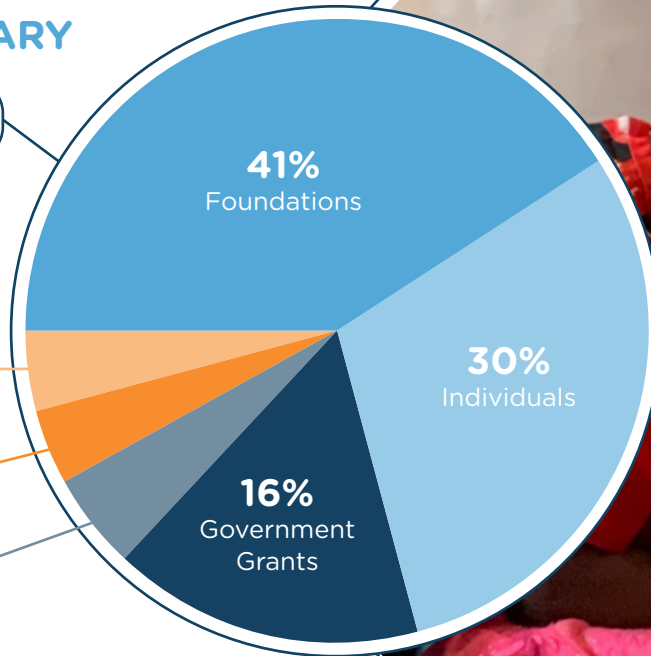
Happy Family Brands
Harbourton Foundation
InterAction
International Social Service
Koerner Camera
Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund
Rachel Cole DDS
Small Business Administration
So Hum Foundation
Spirit Mountain Community Fund
Storms Family Foundation
UNICEF Belarus
The Waitte Foundation



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$1,519,545 REVENUE

\$1,446,320 EXPENSES



4% Earned Income

4% Corporate

5% In-Kind

OUR TEAM

Thank you to SPOON's committed staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers for dedicating their time **in service of our mission.**

STAFF

Stephanie Auxier, MA
Program Officer

Aaron Babbie
Director of Engagement

Jon Baldvieso
Technology Program Manager

Emily Brod, MBA
Director of Finance & Administration

Alicia Burr
Development & Communications Associate

Lauren Hughey, MPH
Program Officer

Anna Julius
Administrative Assistant

Zeina Makhoul, PhD, RDN
Nutrition Scientist

Kate Miller, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC
Feeding & Disability Specialist

Carolyn Moore, MPH
Policy & Advocacy Advisor

Samhita Reddy, MPA
Director of Development

Mishelle Rudzinski, MA, CCC-SLP
Executive Director

Tammy Teske, MBA
Director of Programs & Partnerships

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cindy Kaplan, MS, Chair

Martha Deevy, MBA, Vice-Chair

Susan Shank, CFA, Treasurer

Audrey Heffron, AAMS, CDFA, Secretary

John Ordway, Chair Emeritus

John Himes, PhD, MPH, Trustee Emeritus

Judith Shank, MD, Trustee Emeritus

Mark Addicks

Robert Barnette

James Bever, MS, SFS-CM

Leela Black, MS, CRC

Astrid Castro

Pip Denhart

Eric Evans

Susan Hayes, MA

Dana Johnson, MD, PhD

Michele Meyer

Ana Rau, MPA

Mishelle Rudzinski, MA, CCC-SLP

Tessie San Martin, PhD

Douglas Taren, PhD, MS

Ellen Wartella, PhD

N. King Zed

PORTLAND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Aaron Babbie

Pip Denhart*

Sue Harrison

Michael Koerner

KEY VOLUNTEERS

Mary Helen Carruth

Kate Fairchild

Tobey Fitch

Jocelyn Goodall

Mary Hearst

Angie Kephart

Jaleh Kermani

Jamie Magoon

Paula Rabaey

Teresa Viola

Lauren Zimmerman

**also serves on Board of Trustees*



Contact

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

LEARN

www.spoonfoundation.org

GIVE

www.spoonfoundation.org/donate

FOLLOW



@spoonfoundation

*SPOON's vision
is a world where
ALL children
are valued and
nourished.*

