



NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kevin Tordoff, HOPE International

717.464.3220, x233 ktordoff@hopeinternational.org

Tim Glenn, Compassion International

719.272.5377, tglenn@us.ci.org

HOPE International Partners with Compassion International to Equip Compassion Church Partners through Savings Group Programs

LANCASTER, PA/COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—July 5, 2018— HOPE International announced today that it has partnered with global child development ministry Compassion International. Starting this summer, HOPE will work with Compassion International to launch savings group programs with Compassion's network of church partners. The program will further equip churches to care for its community members living in poverty and, ultimately, help break the cycle of poverty.

Starting in Thailand, HOPE will launch savings group programs with Compassion church partners, with the hope of expanding to additional Compassion churches and countries where the global ministry works within the year. The savings groups will serve both caregivers of sponsored children as well as sponsored youth with increased leadership opportunities, financial literacy training, improved household economic stability and discipleship through the program's biblically integrated curriculum.

Compassion is one of the largest holistic child development and child advocacy organizations in the world, serving over 1.8 million children in 25 countries through more than 6,700 international church partners. HOPE is a network of Christ-centered microenterprise development programs working to alleviate poverty in 15 countries serving over 850,000 clients.

Since 2007, HOPE has been partnering with churches around the world to promote savings group programs. It now supports a network of over 500,000 group members in 10 countries. Savings groups are a holistic financial tool that combines savings and lending with discipleship and a community of support. These groups have proved extremely valuable to individuals who lack safe places to save, often due to their remote location. Groups are self-governing; they make their own policies, elect leaders, receive ongoing training, and meet on a regular basis. Group members also agree on an amount to save each month/week, and after a few months, members can apply for loans from the group's pooled savings—a valuable service for many group members who would otherwise not be able to access small loans elsewhere. Facilitated through the local church, savings groups allow group members to grow in relationship with one another as they study the Word and share one another's burdens.

"We're thrilled with the opportunity to serve and partner with Compassion, a like-minded, mission-aligned organization, in pursuit of their mission," shares Phil Smith, senior director of savings group



programs. "We look forward to participating with Compassion as they seek to equip their local church partners with this holistic ministry tool."

"I'm truly excited for this partnership with HOPE," said Herb Ehresman, complementary interventions program director at Compassion. "Integrating savings groups into our programs will allow the local church to better practically minister to families and sponsored youth by combining discipleship with financial literacy and leadership skills. It can also help strengthen the church's impact, giving them a new tool for both discipleship and in the fight against poverty."

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About HOPE International

HOPE International is a network of microfinance institutions and savings group programs operating in 15 countries around the world. Its mission is to invest in the dreams of families in the world's underserved communities as they proclaim and live the Gospel. HOPE International works to empower men and women to break the cycles of physical and spiritual poverty through discipleship, biblically based training, savings services, and loans. The HOPE International network has a loan portfolio of more than \$40 million through microfinance institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. In addition to microfinance programs, HOPE International partners with thousands of local churches worldwide to form and train savings group programs. Learn more at www.hopeinternational.org.

About Compassion International

Founded in 1952, Compassion International is a Christian child development organization that works to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion revolutionized the fight against global poverty by working exclusively with the Church to lift children out of spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty. Compassion partners with more than 6,700 churches in 25 countries to deliver its holistic child development program to over 1.8 million babies, children, and young adults. Its child sponsorship program has been validated through independent, empirical research.