



Annual Report

Compassion brings
us together.

**Together we can
change the world.**

2025

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Photo Credit: Yasser Booley

“What the GCC changed was the scale and context in which I understood compassion. Through the GCC, **I feel connected to a global community that shares a common goal.** What once sometimes felt like a heavy personal responsibility - caring for the world with compassion - now feels shared and lighter. **I no longer feel alone in this work.”**

Community Voices

In 2025, we undertook a deep effort to listen to and learn from our global community of nearly 150,000 members. Through an eight-question survey, we invited reflections on how compassion practices are shaping lives, impacted relationships, and communities.

The response was both robust and resonant—offering a wide range of insights, experiences, and personal stories from across the world. These voices reflect the lived experience of the GCC's work in ways that data alone cannot capture.

In recognition of their importance, we have chosen to share many of these testimonials throughout this report. Together, they offer a powerful, collective narrative of compassion in action. All quotes are in the authentic voice of those who offered their stories and opinions.

Let this be our gift to you the reader throughout this report - ENJOY!

"I feel a greater requirement for compassionate people to find each other and grow their skills, knowledge, and understanding to **be a counter weight to the forces of division, hatred and ugliness in the world today.**"

"I was really inspired hearing various **Connectors relating how they have been impacting people struggling within their communities**, those who also visit prisons, and also those who impact the lives of out of school children just like myself."

"What really changed was having **a community to converse with** and interesting lectures to attend. I especially appreciated the **interactive dialogues.**"

Our Vision

A world where people and the planet are valued, respected, and cared for.

Our Mission

To help establish compassion and justice at the foundation of all societies.



With Thanks

In this Annual Report from the Global Compassion Coalition, as we both look back and look forward, we would like to offer our deepest thanks to these three remarkable individuals - each of them crucial in the funding and operations of the GCC.



Lilli Ross

Lilli is a writer, mindfulness teacher, classical singer, and movement practitioner. She attended the University of Virginia and Columbia University and has studied the work of developmental psychologists and social scientists. Assisting others to prevent and heal trauma is her life mission.



Mamphela Ramphela, MD

Mamphela has had a celebrated career as an activist, medical doctor, academic, businesswoman and thought leader. She was co-founder of The Black Consciousness Movement with Steve Biko that reignited the struggle for freedom in South Africa. She is co-founder of ReimagineSA, honorary president of The Club of Rome, Chair at the Desmond Tutu IP Trust, Commissioner at The Global Commission of the Economics of Water, and a member of the Planetary Guardians. She has received numerous awards for her role in promoting the empowerment of women, youth and other oppressed people in South Africa and globally.



Felicia Huppert, PhD

Felicia Huppert was a psychologist with a long-standing research interest in the science of well-being and the promotion of human flourishing. Her work brought together approaches from cognitive psychology and neuropsychology with a population perspective derived from epidemiology. Felicia advised governments and international bodies on the measurement of well-being, and on policies to enhance well-being. She spent part of the year in the UK, where she was Founding Director of the Well-being Institute at the University of Cambridge, and Emeritus Professor of Psychology. She provided a generous bequest to the GCC - "which represents so actively her passionately held belief in making the world a better place."

A Message from our Founder

RICK HANSON, PHD



When we started the Global Compassion Coalition three years ago, we were guided by a remarkable fact.

Over millions of years, our hominin and then human ancestors evolved a unique way of living together. Scientists call it caring-and-sharing, in other words, compassion and justice. This way of life is our true nature; it is humanity's home base.

This understanding guides our mission at the GCC: to help establish compassion and justice at the foundation of all societies.

We accomplish this by promoting the study, cultivation, application, and advocacy of compassion. We support individual well-being while also helping to bring people together at larger and larger scales in order to make the world we long for.

In a short time, the GCC has reached hundreds of thousands of people worldwide through programs, partnerships, and digital offerings that foster resilience, compassion, and emotional well-being. These are not abstract ideals. They are practical skills — ways of working more effectively with our own minds and more constructively with one another for the greater good.

In 2025, our Board conducted a deep review of our activities and resources, resulting in more streamlined operations focused on donor-funded initiatives. During the year, we hosted a three-day Festival of Compassion in South Africa, advanced development of the HomeGround online community platform, and expanded collaborations across sectors and regions. And much more - as you will see in the pages of this Report.

At this moment in history, few tasks are more important than intentionally widening the circle of "us" to include all humanity, and ultimately, all life itself.

This is a bold and challenging vision. So I'm happy to say that the GCC is supported by a deeply committed Board, a dedicated team, and a growing community of partners and supporters. We are a young organization, and just getting started!

This first comprehensive Annual Report represents more than a record of accomplishments. It reflects three years of laying the foundations of our programs, partnerships, and ways of serving that will become increasingly vital in the years ahead.

I am deeply grateful to our team, board, partners, donors, and supporters. You help people build inner resources that no one can take away, resources they carry into their families, workplaces, and communities . . . while changing the larger world in ways seen and unseen, and gradually accumulating.

Real change begins inside us, one mind at a time.

**Compassion brings us together.
Together, we can change the world.**

Thank you for your compassion - and for your own efforts toward a better world.

Respect and warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick".

A Message from our 2025 Chair

MAURICIO CONEJO, PHD



If there is one thing this year has made clear, it is that compassion is not optional. It is foundational.

We are living through a time of polarization, rapid change, and rising mental health challenges. And yet, alongside these realities, I see something else growing: a deep aspiration for connection, for wisdom, and for practical tools that help people navigate a complex, conflicting world.

This is where the Global Compassion Coalition matters and shines. We move this work forward because of the generosity of our donors and the vision of our board, whose continued support ensures that compassion remains not just an ideal, but a living force for change in the world.

As a neuroscientist and educator, I have spent many years studying how we cultivate the conditions for human flourishing. The science is clear: compassion, emotional regulation, and mindful awareness are trainable capacities that bring about both inner growth and social transformation. They strengthen resilience. They improve leadership. They transform relationships. When practiced at scale, they shape cultures.

What inspires me most about the GCC is that we are not simply praising compassion. We are building the infrastructure to teach it, measure it, and integrate it into everyday life. Across countries and professions, we are equipping educators, healthcare professionals, organizational leaders, and communities with evidence-based tools that foster clarity, courage, and care. This is how meaningful change happens: through sustained engagement, facing the roots of suffering, and helping to relieve it.

This year brought growth, and along with it, inevitable challenges. What gives me confidence is how the GCC continues to respond: with sincerity, adaptability, and a steady commitment to its long-term vision. We are strengthening our foundation so we can expand our reach and deepen our impact.

I genuinely believe the GCC stands at a pivotal intersection of science, education, and global service. The world certainly needs wise policies and advanced technologies. But it also needs inner development, the kind that ensures those policies are guided by ethical clarity and those technologies are used responsibly. It needs leaders and citizens who can pause, reflect, and choose the path of compassion.

I am hopeful, not naively hopeful, but grounded in research and in what I witness in our global community every day. Human beings can grow. Systems can evolve. Culture can shift. Compassion, practiced intentionally and collectively, has the power to change the trajectory of our world.

I am deeply grateful to our team, board, donors, partners, and supporters, whose trust and commitment make this work possible.

It has been an honor to serve as Board Chair of the Global Compassion Coalition and to walk alongside all of you who are helping build a wiser, more compassionate future.

With gratitude and conviction,

Mauricio

A Message from our Chief Operating Officer 2025

MICHAEL GAYNER, PHD



I joined the Global Compassion Coalition in 2025 during a period of transition to support stability and growth in operations, and as of March 2026, I took on the role of President and CEO. I have enormous gratitude to the team, the board, and the impressively fascinating coalition of individuals and organizations that contribute to and support the GCC.

Having worked in and studied education and meditation for much of my career, from a PhD focused on the interplay of meditation and classroom teaching, to running a retreat center in Colorado USA for 12 years, working at the GCC feels like a natural next step.

The commitment to advancing compassion through collaboration, research, and community engagement strongly resonates. It is a privilege to contribute to work that brings people together around shared human values, deep exploration of what it means to be human and in community, and in turn to apply these core experiences to practical action in the world.

With enthusiasm,

Michael

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a hand holding a camera lens. The lens is held horizontally, and its circular opening frames a landscape scene of a body of water and distant mountains. The background is blurred.

"The **inclusive, democratic, unselfish motivation** behind all of the GCC's initiatives inspires me to be similarly unselfish in my own activities."

Our Journey So Far

In just three and a half years, the Global Compassion Coalition (the GCC) has grown from a bold idea into a rapidly expanding international movement dedicated to advancing compassion in individuals, communities, and systems. Through education, advocacy, scientific partnership, grassroots organizing, and direct service, the GCC has built a global ecosystem connecting practitioners, scholars, organizations, and changemakers across 119 countries.



150,000+

Members of the
compassion coalition

177

Countries
represented

750+

Founding Supporters &
Founding Organizations

3,800+

Connectors

29

National
Coordinators

250+

Scholars &
researchers in the GCC
Scholars Directory

700+

Mindfulness and compassion
teachers directly supported
through Compassion Corps
initiatives

100+

Free online events &
workshops offered with
scholars and teachers

122,000

Unique visitors to
the GCC's website
in 2025

800+

HomeGround members & 2,800+
contributions within months of launch

3,000+

Advocacy signatures mobilized
in support of humanitarian aid &
global stability

Timeline of Growth & Impact

2022

FOUNDATION &
GLOBAL LAUNCH

- The GCC **officially launched** as a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit in September 2022
- **Advisory Council formed** with leaders including Jack Kornfield, Sharon Salzberg, and Thupten Jinpa
- Supportive relationships established with:
 - [Action for Happiness](#)
 - [Greater Good Science Center](#)
 - [Charter for Compassion](#)
 - [Center for Mindful Self-Compassion](#)
 - [CCARE at Stanford University](#)
 - [Breathworks](#)
- Initial international membership growth begins

2023

BUILDING THE
COMMUNITY

- Membership **surpassed 25,000**, then **exceeded 100,000** within just over one year
- **Connectors Program** launched to train global changemakers
- Compassion Circles **expanded to 35 groups** across 14 countries
- **Men and Boys Compassion** Panel launched
- **Compassion Corps** integrated into the GCC operations
- First Compassion Corps **micro-grants established**
- **365 individuals supported** across 6 countries through Compassion Corps

2024

FROM COMMUNITY
TO ACTION

- Membership **reached 130,000**
- **Toolkit for Leaders** and **Campaign Toolkit** launched
- **7 Steps to Compassionate Living** course launched with 400+ registrations
- Australian Connectors **raised \$2,270 USD** to support education for 41 students in Uganda
- The GCC members **mobilized support for prison reform** efforts in Nigeria
- Compassion Corps **supported 375 individuals** across 7 countries

2025 -PRESENT

ADVANCING
SYSTEMIC CHANGE

- **Membership reached 150,000+** across 177 countries
- Connector network **expanded to 3,800+ trained leaders**
- **Activism Toolkit** and **Resilient Parent Initiative** launched
- **Prosocial Mindfulness Network launched** in partnership with [Oxford Mindfulness Foundation](#)
- **HomeGround digital platform launched:**
 - 700+ members joined within weeks
 - 2,800+ contributions generated in first months
- Cape Town hosted the inaugural **Festival of Compassion**
- **Intergenerational Healing Summit** with Jamie Lynn Tatera and Chris Willard reached 2,000+ registrations
- Advocacy campaign **mobilized 3,000+ petition signatures** supporting USAID and humanitarian aid protections
- The GCC **featured by BBC World Service** and international media outlets covering the Festival of Compassion

"In all honesty, I have always desired and longed to belong to any Organization that has passion in serving humanity. So when I came in contact with the Global Compassion Coalition, I was extremely glad after discovering that their vision also revolved around selfless service to humanity. "

Program Highlights & Impacts

Our Coalition

In 2025, the GCC expanded its coalition-building efforts, growing its global community to more than 150,000 members. This growth reflects a strategic focus on outreach, partnerships, and communications designed to strengthen engagement and deepen collective impact.

A key driver of this expansion was the GCC's coordinated outreach strategy, which activated new audiences through digital campaigns, thought leadership, and mission-aligned storytelling. The organization's revamped newsletter has been a central communications tool—sharing program updates, partner highlights, and opportunities for engagement while reinforcing a shared sense of purpose across a geographically dispersed network.

Partnership development was another cornerstone of coalition growth in 2025. The GCC cultivated relationships with nonprofits, educators, mindfulness practitioners, and community leaders worldwide, creating a diverse ecosystem of collaborators. These partnerships enabled the co-creation of events, programs, and initiatives that extended the GCC's reach into new regions and populations, while ensuring that offerings remained locally relevant and culturally responsive.

In parallel, the GCC advanced the development of cooperative programs—bringing together partners and community members to design and deliver initiatives that align with shared goals around compassion, resilience, and well-being. This collaborative model strengthened both program quality and scalability.

Collectively, these efforts transformed the GCC's coalition into a dynamic global network—one that not only connects individuals, but actively mobilizes them to build a more compassionate and resilient world.

Photo Credit: Yasser Booley



"As a leader in the Global Compassion Coalition's network, I'd want donors and supporters to know that their **contributions are empowering communities to break cycles of vulnerability and build resilience.**"

Compassion Corps

The GCC's Compassion Corps program in 2025 operated as a targeted global micro-grant initiative, funding evidence-based compassion trainings for underserved and stressed communities. Through a competitive application process, certified teachers were awarded grants—typically ranging from \$800 to \$1,500, depending on local context—to deliver full eight-week programs at no cost to participants. We are deeply grateful to collaborate with program founder Dr. Margaret Cullen, whose vision continues to guide the work, in close partnership with Maria-Paula Jimenez, who leads implementation and global coordination.

In 2025, Compassion Corps supported a diverse cohort of grantees across multiple continents, including the United States, Chile, Peru, Kenya, Azerbaijan, India, and Brazil. Programs were delivered in both in-person and virtual formats, significantly expanding geographic reach. Notable U.S. sites included DeKalb County, Georgia; Georgia Gwinnett College; California State University, Fresno; and Chicago, Illinois, where an international LGBTQ+ cohort was served. Internationally, trainings took place in locations such as Lima (Peru), Santiago and Valdivia (Chile), Thika (Kenya), Mumbai (India), Baku (Azerbaijan), and São Paulo (Brazil).

"From my own experience as a Compassion Corps grantee, I have seen how that support multiplies outward. **When you resource one leader, you indirectly strengthen the many lives and communities they serve.** That ripple effect is why this work truly matters."

Grants supported programs serving frontline and underserved populations, including healthcare professionals, social workers, educators, caregivers of chronically ill patients, marginalized youth, and community mental health workers. Each funded program typically engaged cohorts of 20–30+ participants, prioritizing those experiencing burnout, trauma exposure, or limited access to well-being resources.

"One experience that deeply stayed with me was being selected as a Compassion Corps grantee through the Global Compassion Coalition. The **grant enabled me to set up a Compassion Cultivation Training (CCT) class for my community**, mostly young people involved in non-profit work. Many of them care deeply about social impact but are also vulnerable to burnout. **Being able to offer structured, evidence-based compassion training felt deeply meaningful.** More than the funding, it was the sense of trust and collective support that stayed with me. I no longer felt like I was carrying this responsibility alone. **I felt backed by a global movement committed to strengthening compassion in action.**"

Collectively, Compassion Corps in 2025 strengthened the GCC's global impact infrastructure—seeding localized "compassion incubators" that build resilience, reduce burnout, and create ripple effects across institutions and communities worldwide.

Connectors

The GCC's Connectors program is the grassroots core of our international movement, mobilizing individuals to translate compassion into practical, community-based action. In 2025, the program continued its rapid expansion, growing to more than 4,100 active Connectors supported by approximately 30 National Coordinators across regions including Africa, North America, Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Connectors operate as a decentralized network, empowered to design and lead initiatives responsive to local needs while aligned with the GCC's shared mission of reducing suffering and strengthening social connection. Participants commit to daily acts of compassion and collaborate through local groups, national structures, and global platforms, supported by training resources, toolkits, and community infrastructure.

In 2025, the program demonstrated tangible, on-the-ground impact across diverse contexts. For example, in Nigeria, Connectors launched nutrition outreach campaigns addressing child malnutrition and partnered with government agencies to deliver leadership and rehabilitation programming in correctional facilities. In Burundi, teams distributed essential food and household supplies to elderly populations, strengthening local care networks. In Uganda, cross-border support enabled school fee funding for 41 students, while additional initiatives delivered vocational training, youth empowerment, and refugee support.

Collectively, these efforts illustrate how the Connectors model functions as a scalable "compassion infrastructure"—activating thousands of individuals to generate localized solutions with global reach. In 2025, Connectors significantly deepened the GCC's impact by transforming small, consistent acts of care into coordinated movements that address systemic challenges and foster resilient, compassionate communities worldwide.

"I took the Connectors training and started a circle of compassion. Meeting with people online from all over the world, from different cultures, to share our intentions, challenges, and successes broadens my perspective. **We are very different culturally. Our hearts are not different.** I am more intentional and more determined to be a force for good in difficult circumstances in my country. Part of what that means to me is to also try to **be a force of calm and caring.**"

"I find that when I do reach out to the Connectors **I feel more grounded.** I continue to learn as much as I can about the work of the GCC."

HomeGround

Built and managed by Lauren Sunshine in response to rapid expansion and increased grassroots activity, HomeGround serves as a digital hub where individuals and communities can collaborate, share ideas, and take collective action around compassion-driven initiatives.

At its core, HomeGround strengthens community by creating a space where participants feel seen, heard, and empowered. The platform enables users to engage with one another across geographies, organize local gatherings, and coordinate global efforts aligned with shared values of kindness and social impact. It also provides access to tools, training, and resources that enhance the effectiveness of community-led projects.

In 2025, HomeGround played a critical role in amplifying the impact of the broader mission of the GCC, helping individuals move from intention to action. By facilitating storytelling, idea exchange, and peer support, it fostered a sense of belonging and momentum within the movement.

Ultimately, HomeGround represents a strategic investment in infrastructure for collective compassion—transforming dispersed individual efforts into a more unified, visible, and scalable global force for positive change.

"Home Ground has been a great way to **expand my knowledge** of the wonderful things people are doing to **uplift and bring aid and comfort in this time of division and suffering**. I am grateful to be a part of it."

"Immeasurable gratitude to all who created and supported this project. Our meditation group is growing and spreading the love. **There's more good in the world than we realize!**"



Compassion Café

Our Compassion Café program continued to serve as an accessible, entry-point offering in 2025—creating welcoming, low-barrier spaces for individuals to gather, reflect, and connect through guided conversations on compassion. Hosted regularly online, the Compassion Café provided consistent opportunities for participants to pause, share experiences, and build meaningful human connection across cultures and geographies.

As both a standalone experience and a gateway into deeper engagement with the GCC programs, the Compassion Café played an important role in strengthening community cohesion. It fostered a sense of belonging while encouraging participants to translate reflection into action—supporting the GCC’s mission to cultivate compassion at both individual and collective levels.

“With this Compassion Café, **my joy and happiness grows day by day**. I get the chance to speak with a lot of people who are from different countries and I feel like some people are willing to listen to me and advise me as well. The last one we had, I was talking about nature to my group members in my country, Ghana.”

“During a Compassion Cafe conversation, **I was struck by how quickly defensiveness dissolved when people felt genuinely heard**. Positions softened, and curiosity deepened.”



“**Transformation begins when people experience being truly seen and heard**. The Compassion Circle created that field. And from that field, new networks - and new ways of thinking - naturally emerged.”

Resilient Parenting Initiative

The GCC's Resilient Parent Initiative (RPI) continued to evolve significantly in 2025, advancing from foundational program development into a more structured, scalable model of support for caregivers. Designed to address a critical gap in parenting resources, the initiative focuses on strengthening the inner lives of parents—recognizing that emotional resilience, self-compassion, and well-being are essential to healthy families and child development.

In its earlier phase, RPI established a research-informed framework centered on six core capacities—awareness, self-care, emotional balance, compassion, teamwork, and community—delivered through an accessible digital platform of tools, guidance, and reflective practices.

Phase 2, developed and refined in 2025, focused on expanding this foundation into a more robust content ecosystem and user experience. This included deepening educational resources, strengthening partnerships through a growing “Network for Resilient Parenting,” and enhancing digital delivery to better meet parents where they are—particularly those experiencing stress, burnout, and isolation.

Building on this momentum, we are now moving into Phase 3, which centers on scale and impact. This next stage is designed to expand global reach, activate partnerships, and translate RPI from a resource hub into a broader movement—embedding resilient parenting practices into communities, organizations, and systems of care.

Altogether, the Resilient Parent Initiative demonstrates a key aspect of the GCC's approach: building coalitions (e.g., groups, networks, alliances) that tackle systemic sources of suffering, such as in this case the lack of accessible online ways for parents on their own to grow the inner strengths needed for parenting that promotes secure attachment in infants and toddlers. Besides the specific benefits of these initiatives of the GCC, they serve the broader purpose of functioning as living laboratories in the development of best practices in tapping the power of compassion to foster effective collective action - so needed in our world today.



Men and Boys

In 2025, our Men and Boys program continued to build momentum as a critical impact area that promoted a model of masculinity rooted in empathy, connection, and care, and increased compassion both from and for men and boys.

Led by Daniel Ellenberg, PhD - Past President of the Society for the Psychology of Men and Masculinities (Division 51 of the American Psychological Association) - we convened global thought leaders, practitioners, and community members to address rising challenges facing men and boys—including isolation, mental health struggles, and restrictive social norms. For example, the GCC hosted high-profile conversations such as Growing Compassion for Men & Boys, bringing together leading voices in psychology and mindfulness to share research, practical tools, and pathways for cultural change.

“I feel encouraged and a sense that there is power in numbers. Many, many people in the world value compassion but it can feel lonely when faced with the great weight of difficulties in the world. **The GCC is like a beacon of inspiration and solidarity.**”

“I feel like **I'm part of a larger community of people who have compassion at the center of their values.** Clearly, not everyone does. A highlight was probably organizing and participating in the Men and Boys Compassion Coalition online conferences.”



Board Governance

In 2025, the GCC Board of Directors demonstrated a significant evolution in governance, marked by a proactive and uncommon commitment to self-assessment for a young global organization. Through a comprehensive internal evaluation, the board critically examined its structure, effectiveness, and alignment with the GCC's rapidly expanding mission.

This process led to a series of strategic decisions that strengthened the organization's foundation. The board streamlined operational overhead, sharpened its focus on donor-funded and impact-driven initiatives, and initiated a broad overhaul of internal systems, communications, and digital infrastructure, including the website. These changes reflect a shift toward greater efficiency and scalability—key attributes for a growing global movement.

Composed of an internationally diverse group of leaders spanning fields such as psychology, mindfulness, academia, and social impact, the board brought both subject-matter expertise and global perspective to this transformation.

For example, a task force of the board developed the Framework for the GCC Stands and Actions for final adoption in 2026. Drawing on many excellent analyses from others (e.g., the Club of Rome, ProSocial World, EcoCivilization Coalition), this is a far-reaching statement of our worldview, values, critique of systemic sources of suffering, and recommended policies to alleviate that unnecessary suffering. In this framework, in 2026 we will focus on specific efforts of the GCC with partners, such as those aimed at improving the welfare of children, reducing global warming, and strengthening the institutions of civil society.

"Being part of a global network of practitioners, scientists, leaders, and activists strengthens my sense of solidarity. **It reassures me that compassion is not a niche interest, but a growing global movement.**"



Photo Credit: Yasser Booley

Global Festival of Compassion



There are moments when gathering itself becomes an act of courage.

Amidst overlapping global crises - ecological instability, social fragmentation, and economies that deepen separation - we convened the first annual Global Festival of Compassion in South Africa: a three-day international convergence that asked a quietly radical question: What becomes possible when compassion is treated as infrastructure for living together?

Attended both in person and virtually, the festival unfolded less as a conference than as a shared field of experience. Participating artists, scholars, clinicians, educators, policymakers, movement builders, and seekers - all carrying different languages, disciplines, and histories - arrived from across continents recognizing a common longing - to belong again to a shared human story.

Photo Credit: Yasser Booley



"The minute I heard of the Festival and the gathering of minds, hearts and people, I felt a surge of hope that the world will be a better place."

The gathering moved with the rhythm of a living organism. Conversations expanded outward and folded inward again. Formal talks gave way to listening; listening gave way to recognition. Between sessions, connections formed in hallways, chat windows, and quiet exchanges: small moments that accumulated into something larger - a temporary community practicing the world it hoped to build.

In South Africa, history was not a backdrop but a true presence. The land itself held memory - of rupture, resistance, and renewal - lending gravity and clarity to the conversations unfolding there. The participation of the GCC Board member, anti-apartheid leader, physician, and thinker Mamphela Ramphele grounded the festival in lived moral experience. Speaking with both urgency and steadiness, she framed compassion as an act shaped through struggle and not a retreat from reality, but a disciplined engagement. Her reflections bridged generations, reminding participants that societal healing requires imagination paired with responsibility.

Across the program, speakers illuminated compassion from multiple vantage points. Researchers explored the science of human flourishing; clinicians examined trauma and resilience; artists translated complexity into feeling; educators and policymakers considered how systems themselves might embody care. Rather than offering singular answers, the festival cultivated conditions for inquiry and an ecology of perspectives where knowledge met vulnerability.

What emerged was not consensus but coherence: a recognition that compassion can function as a civic practice, a cultural practice, and a personal discipline simultaneously. Participants described moments of unexpected emotional resonance, the experience of being witnessed by strangers, of recognizing shared fears across distant geographies, of rediscovering hope not as optimism but as participation.

Online attendees joined with those gathered physically, dissolving distance and reinforcing a central insight of the festival: community is an action, not a location.

Echoing the words of the GCC Founder Rick Hanson, that early human societies survived through compassion and justice, the festival invited participants to remember compassion as an ancestral intelligence rather than a modern invention. In doing so, it reframed progress not as acceleration, but as reconnection.

By the festival's close, something subtle yet unmistakable had shifted. The event had become less about programming and more about practice, a rehearsal for a different way of inhabiting the world together. Compassion moved from abstraction into embodiment, from idea into relationship.

The Global Festival of Compassion marked a significant milestone for the GCC, not simply the launch of an annual gathering, but the emergence of a global cultural space where people could come home, to themselves, to one another, and to the shared responsibility of shaping a more humane future.

"A good moment to promote compassion in different ways."

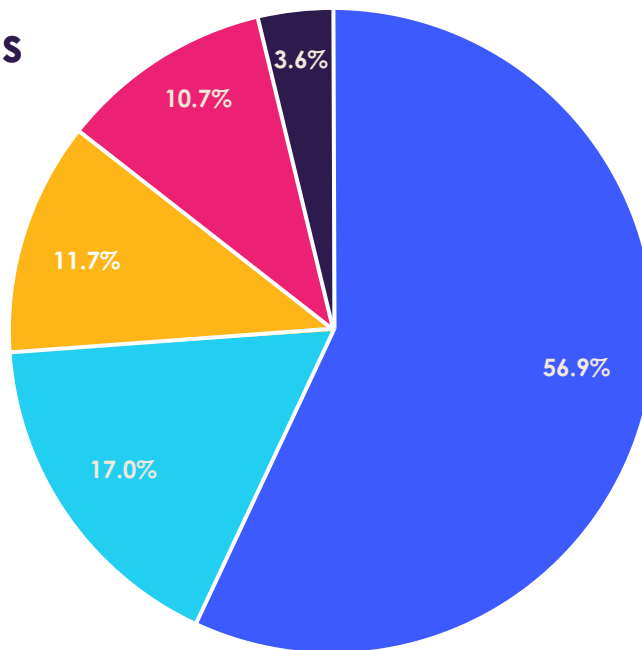
Financial Summary

2025 marked a year of focused growth for the GCC, as we invested in strengthening our programs and the team and volunteers who power our work. We pursue a disciplined approach to resource allocation—prioritizing mission delivery while building the infrastructure needed for long-term impact.

Our 2025 financials demonstrate careful stewardship and strategic decision-making, with the great majority of funds directed toward programs and coalition engagement. At the same time, we began to broaden our funding base, signaling early progress toward a more diversified and sustainable revenue model.

As the GCC enters its fourth year, our financial practices reflect both rigor and ambition. We are building the systems, partnerships, and funding pathways necessary to support the next phase of growth—positioning the organization for increased institutional capital while remaining grounded in our appreciation for our grassroots community and donors.

2025 Expenses

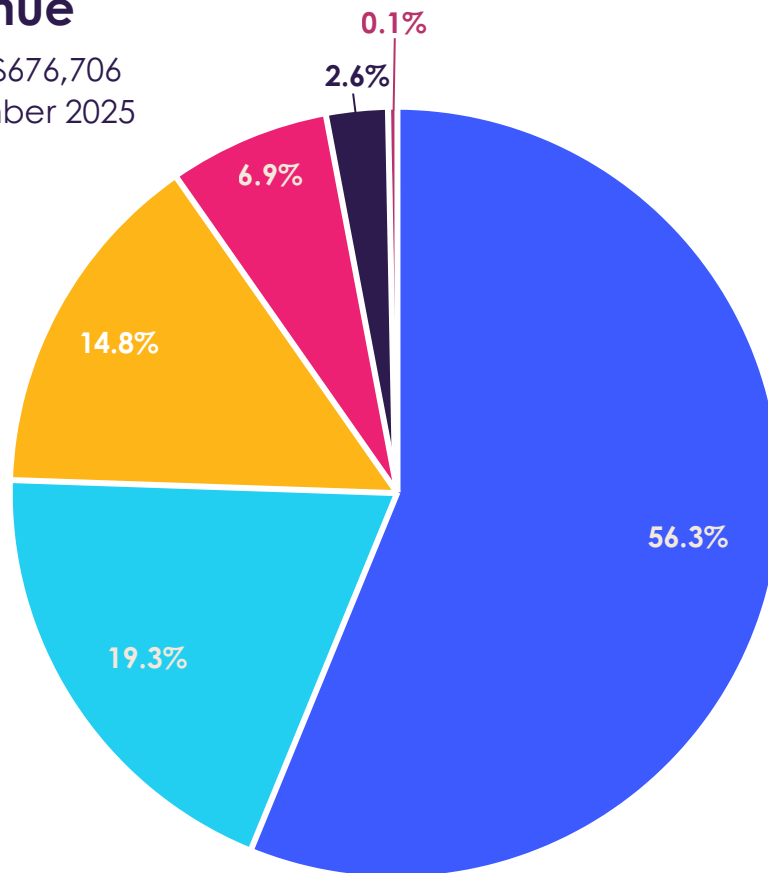


■ Programs & Initiatives		\$445,076	■ Professional Services		\$133,115
• Festival of Compassion	\$191,958		■ Comms & Public Engagement	\$91,889	
• Coalition Building	\$88,474		■ Operations & Administration	\$83,566	
• Compassion Corps	\$34,774		■ Fundraising Development	\$28,455	
• Compassion Connectors	\$27,358				
• HomeGround	\$27,503				
• Programs General	\$19,098				
• Resilient Parent Initiative	\$11,540				
• IT & Website (programs share)	\$44,372				
Total Expenses					\$782,100

Financial Summary^{cont.}

2025 Revenue

Total Revenue: \$676,706
January-December 2025



■ Individual Contributions	\$380,791
Donations received from individual donors via online platforms and direct giving programs, including recurring and one-time gifts.	
■ Bequest	\$130,356
Charitable estate gift received in 2025.	
■ Family Foundations	\$100,000
Grants received from family foundations in support of programs and initiatives.	
■ Program Enrollment	\$46,415
Revenue from the sale of courses, publications, and related products.	
■ Other Income	\$17,824
Net of Expense Refunds (\$21,044) and Payment Processing Fees (-\$3,220); includes miscellaneous non-donation receipts.	
■ Events Income	\$1,322
Ticket sales and event-related income from programs and convenings.	

Family of Contributors

The Global Compassion Coalition is sustained by a remarkable community of individuals, families, foundations, and organizations who share a commitment to building a more compassionate world.

In 2025, this collective generosity powered our global work—enabling programs that expand empathy, strengthen communities, and advance compassion in action across sectors.

We are deeply grateful for the leadership of our major donors, whose significant investments provide critical momentum and stability. At the same time, our work is equally energized by a vast and growing global community of supporters.

More than 800 individuals contributed gifts under \$500, forming a powerful “ocean” of generosity. These contributions—given from around the world—reflect a shared belief that compassion is a collective endeavor. Together, they represent not only financial support, but a global movement.

A Genuine Collective Effort

This distribution tells a clear story: while transformational gifts provide scale, it is the combination of leadership and widespread participation that makes our work possible.

Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a vital role in advancing compassion worldwide.

Your Impact

Total Contributed Income
(Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025): \$611,146

Our funding model reflects both leadership giving and broad-based participation:

41%

LEADERSHIP GIFTS

(\$100,000+)

A small group of visionary donors provided essential anchoring support

36%

MAJOR GIFTS

(\$25,000-\$99,999)

A committed circle of donors accelerated program growth and reach

8.7%

MID-LEVEL DONORS

(\$5,000-\$24,999)

Strategic contributions

3.1%

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

(\$500-\$4,999)

Dedicated supporters help sustain ongoing initiatives

11.2%

GLOBAL GRASSROOTS GIVING

(UNDER \$500)

800+ donors contributed—a powerful demonstration that collective action drives meaningful change

Looking Ahead

How does the Global Compassion Coalition sustain its work year after year?

The foundation of our work is community.

We are shaped by care, strengthened through connection, and moved to act on behalf of one another. The GCC has been created and sustained by people choosing, again and again, to invest their time, resources, wisdom, and hope in each other and in the shared future they are making together.

Our donors provide the financial foundation that makes long-term vision and meaningful impact possible. Their support allows the GCC to plan thoughtfully, respond to emerging needs, and invest in work that strengthens compassion across individuals, institutions, and communities worldwide.

Our volunteers contribute essential expertise, leadership, and presence across every part of the organization. Our supporters amplify the mission, sharing the GCC's work, convening conversations, and helping expand global understanding of compassion as a practical force for personal and societal transformation.

This work is sustained through collaboration. Partners across education, science, healthcare, social impact, and philanthropy extend our reach and deepen the real-world application of compassion across cultures and disciplines. Together, we are building something larger than any single program or organization: a living ecosystem of care in action.

At the heart of the GCC is a growing global network of practitioners, educators, researchers, and community members whose commitment brings compassion from idea into practice. Together, this community makes possible what no individual or institution could achieve alone.



Photo Credit: Yasser Booley

"During a small group discussion someone courageously opened up about struggling. Others began sharing similar experiences, and what started as hesitation turned into connection."

Expanding into 2026 - Compassion in the 21st Century

The expanding paradigm of compassion is actually not new...it is a return. Human beings evolved to care, to share, and to belong. When everyone is included, when we make fierce commitments to one another and act together, we rediscover something deeply familiar.

This is the normal human condition. Our task is simply to remember it.

While compassion is a return to our origins, it is also a path forward. The challenges of our century call for a wider circle of care and new forms of collective action:

- Individuals who care beyond themselves, speaking out against injustice and actively supporting what sustains life and dignity.
- Small groups organizing around real projects that create tangible change.
- Prosocial organizations forming alliances at scale to address complex global problems together.

To support this expanded paradigm, across individuals, groups, and alliances, we established the Global Compassion Coalition. The GCC promotes the study, cultivation, application, and advocacy of compassion as a guiding principle for human flourishing.

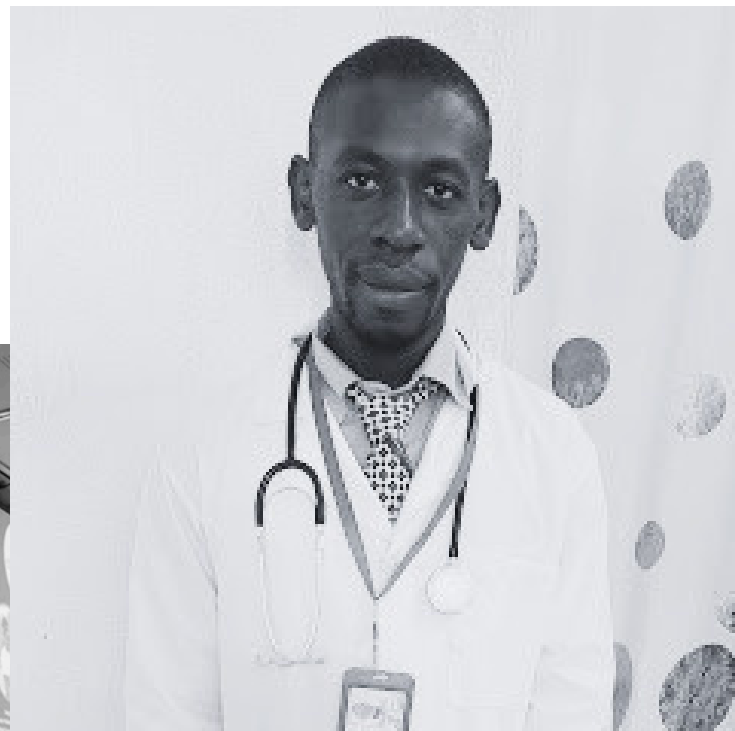
We are young and growing, and this moment invites participation!

Each of us has been loved into being by one or more people. In the same way, we can help love others into being, nurturing resilience, dignity, and possibility. And by joining together at a global scale, we can help bring into being the world we long for: a world with compassion at its heart.

Thank you for being part of this work.



Photo Credit: Yasser Booley



"The kind and compassionate words and sense of togetherness helped me out of depression a lot."

The People Who Make It Happen

Board of Directors

We are deeply grateful to the GCC Board members for their leadership, wisdom, and ongoing stewardship of our mission. Their guidance has been especially vital during this year of growth and organizational maturation. As of May 2026, they are:



**Haifa
Dia Al-Attia**



**Mandar
Apte**



**Claudio Araya,
PhD**



**Jaskaran Basran,
PhD**



**Michael Yellow
Bird, MSW, PhD**



**Yi Heng Cheng,
PhD**



**Mauricio Conejo,
PhD**
Past Chair



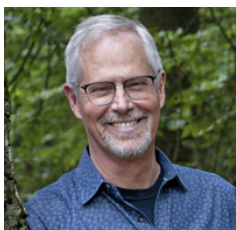
**Diana Divecha,
PhD**



**Daniel Ellenberg,
PhD**
Treasurer



**Elissa Epel,
PhD**



**Chris Germer,
PhD**



**Rick Hanson,
PhD**
Chair



**Johnny Hon,
PhD**



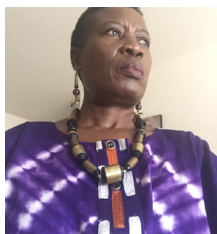
**Reggie
Hubbard**



**Jeremy Lent,
MBA**
Secretary



**Myriam
Mongrain, PhD**



**Loyce
Ong'Udi**



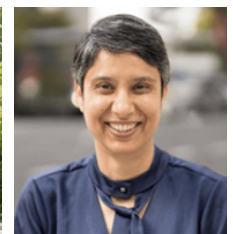
**Niki Petrocchi,
PhD**



**Gonzalo Brito
Pons, PhD**



Lilli Ross
Vice Chair



**Baljinder K.
Sahdra, PhD**

Additional Board members in 2025 included: Jim Doty, Paul Gilbert, Donna Kerridge, James Kirby, Crystal Lim-Lange, Marcela Matos, Jennifer Nadel, Lobsang Negi, Mamphela Ramphele, Lynne Reeder, Tania Singer, Tho Ha Vinh, and Michael West.

Advisors

Our heartfelt thanks to our Advisory Council for lending their support to the cause of compassion, through their global perspectives and deep expertise.



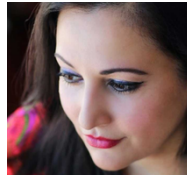
Jude Addo



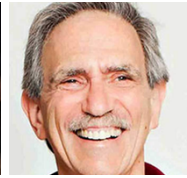
Abeer Al Saud



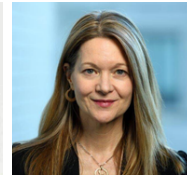
Izzeldin
Abuelaish



Saadiah Ali



James Baraz



Christina
Bethell



Bhante
Buddharakkhita



Vidyamala
Burch



Imee Contreras



Margaret Cullen



Simon Cohen



Andrew Dreitcer



Gaylon
Ferguson



Andrew Flather



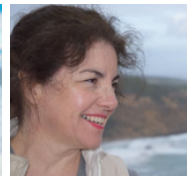
Anna Friis



Ananta Kumar
Giri



Tony Fernando



Liz Grant



Hailan Guo



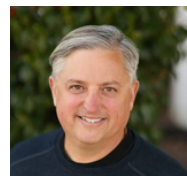
Lori Gottlieb



Thomas Hübl



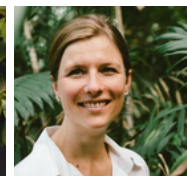
Thupten Jinpa



Carson Kelly



Jack Kornfield



Olga Klimecki



Anouk Lorie



Arlene
MacDougall



Julie Matthaei



Vasimalai
Marimuthu
Paramasivam



Leah Penniman



Lakiba Pittman



Sharon Salzberg



Judith
Simmer-Brown



Jeff Snipes



Ha Tran



Katherine
Trebeck



Barbara
Doeleman-van
Veldhoven



Michael West



Christine
Wamsler



Ruby Wax



Magdalena
Whoolery



Monica Worline

Team

The dedication, creativity, and care of the GCC's international team make everything possible. Thank you for your heartfelt service, bringing plans to life, supporting community, making meaning, and building connections across the world. As of May 2026, our team includes:



Dutonne Chong
Communications Specialist



Marina do Pico Schor
Connectors Program Administrative Lead



Rachael Ebanks-Gold
Events & Administration Manager



Fabiana Fondevila
Newsletter Editor



Michael Gayner
President and CEO



Ayden Heim
Digital Support



Michael Juberg
Science Support and Podcast



Michelle Keane
Comptroller



Maria Paula Jimenez Palacio
Head of Compassion Corps



Eric Schuman
Growth Marketing Advisor



Lauren Sunshine
Community Architect



Cat Swartbooi
Social Media Manager



Stephanie Veillon
Creative + Tech Consultant



Rachel Perera Weingeist
Chief Advancement Officer

Additional team members in 2025 included Meg Foulkes, Matt Hawkins, Caylim Isaacs, and Alex Wilks.

Volunteers

Our volunteers lend a significant amount of time, talent, and spirit to the Compassion Movement. From live to virtual event facilitation to community support and outreach, your effusive generosity amplifies the work of the GCC every day. We honor all who offer their time and attention to our coalition building. In particular, we are so very grateful to the wonderful hostess of our Compassion Cafe, Kathryn Lovewell (also founder of the KindMind Academy).

Funders

We are grateful to the individuals, foundations, and institutions whose financial support sustains this work. Your belief in this mission enables the GCC to grow, innovate, and reach more people with tools for compassion, resilience, and connection.

Partners

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Thank you to the many organizations, coalitions, and networks that partner with the GCC. Together, we weave compassion into education, healthcare, community building, and systems change initiatives around the world.

To everyone in the GCC space named here, and to those whose impact is felt even when names are not listed-- thank you! You are building the inner capacities of people and communities worldwide, and that work ripples outward in ways seen and unseen.

Please see this beautiful video of gratitude for so many largehearted people who have helped to birth the GCC into being:



Community Appreciation

Thank you for being part of another meaningful year!

The work of the Global Compassion Coalition is made possible by a growing community of supporters who believe in a more compassionate, just, and connected world. Whether you contributed your time, expertise, voice, or financial support, you are an essential part of this movement.

Together in 2025, we expanded programs, deepened partnerships, and reached communities across the world. This progress reflects a shared commitment to placing compassion at the center of how we live, lead, and relate to one another.

We are deeply grateful for your continued engagement and trust.

The Global Compassion Coalition is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States. Our Tax ID (EIN): 88-3545167

Stay Connected & Support our Work



To learn more or support the GCC's mission, please visit

globalcompassioncoalition.org



To discuss your contribution or for any donor inquiries, please contact Michael Gayner

michael@globalcompassioncoalition.org

You may also give by mail or get in touch about legacy planning!

The Global Compassion Coalition
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566 S. McCaslin Blvd.
Superior, CO 80027-9998, USA



"I believe we can change the world."