



Victoria
Hand Project

2024

Impact Report

Canadian Registered Charity
814164323 RR0001

501(c)(3) Nonprofit
EIN: 98-1416095





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Our Mission

Victoria Hand Project's mission is to promote health and relieve poverty by providing prosthetic arms to amputees in-need, who have limited or no access to prosthetic care. **Receiving a Victoria Hand is transformative**, helping recipients regain independence, hope, and opportunities to live happier and more fulfilling lives.

Our Core Values

Our Vision

We envision a world **without barriers** to prosthetic care.





Empowering Amputees

Focus on providing life-changing prosthetic care to those in need.

Knowledge Sharing and Creation

Dedication to learning, creating, and sharing knowledge to advance prosthetic care globally.

Equitable Healthcare

Commitment to making high-quality, affordable prosthetic care accessible to all.

Innovation and Integrity

Continuously innovate while maintaining transparency and integrity in all operations.

Collaboration

Foster a sense of ownership and responsibility within the team and with global partners to deliver impactful results.



A Year of Growth

A MESSAGE FROM VICTORIA HAND PROJECT'S LEADERSHIP

Dear Valued Donors, Supporters, Volunteers, Partners, and Community Members,

2024 has been a year of incredible impact and growth for the Victoria Hand Project. Thanks to unwavering community support, we provided prosthetic arms to 100 individuals, trained more clinicians worldwide, and expanded our capacity to meet growing demand. This year also marked the launch of our pilot project in Rwanda, a key step in expanding prosthetic care in the region.

Innovation for the greater good remains at the heart of our mission. We introduced new technologies, including our partial hand prosthetic, and collaborated with other manufacturers to share expertise and enhance accessibility. Our work in Ukraine has been especially impactful—61 people, including many injured service members, received prosthetic arms. These advancements demonstrate our commitment to high-quality, affordable prosthetic care worldwide.

None of this would be possible without our incredible community. This year, we saw overwhelming generosity through initiatives like the Hands for Ukraine fundraiser for Giving Tuesday. Volunteers in Victoria and across the world played a crucial role, donating their time and skills to further our mission, and we welcomed more monthly donors. As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited to expand our reach, develop new technologies, and transform even more lives. Thank you for being part of this journey—we can't wait to see what we accomplish together!

With immense gratitude,

Michael Peirone
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Nick Dechev
Founder and Board Chair



Our Impact in 2024



Our Impact in 2024

 **100**

Amputees received a Victoria Hand

 **27**

Clinicians received training

 **80**

Community members volunteered





Need for Care





Need for Care

A vast range of causes result in alarming rates of upper-limb amputations worldwide – armed conflict, accident, disease, and lack of healthcare infrastructure. An estimated **2.3 million upper-limb amputees worldwide do not have access to a prosthetic arm** and face extremely limited access to care. [1,2,3]



*80% of upper limb amputees live in developing countries and **only 5%** of this population has access to care* [1,2,3]





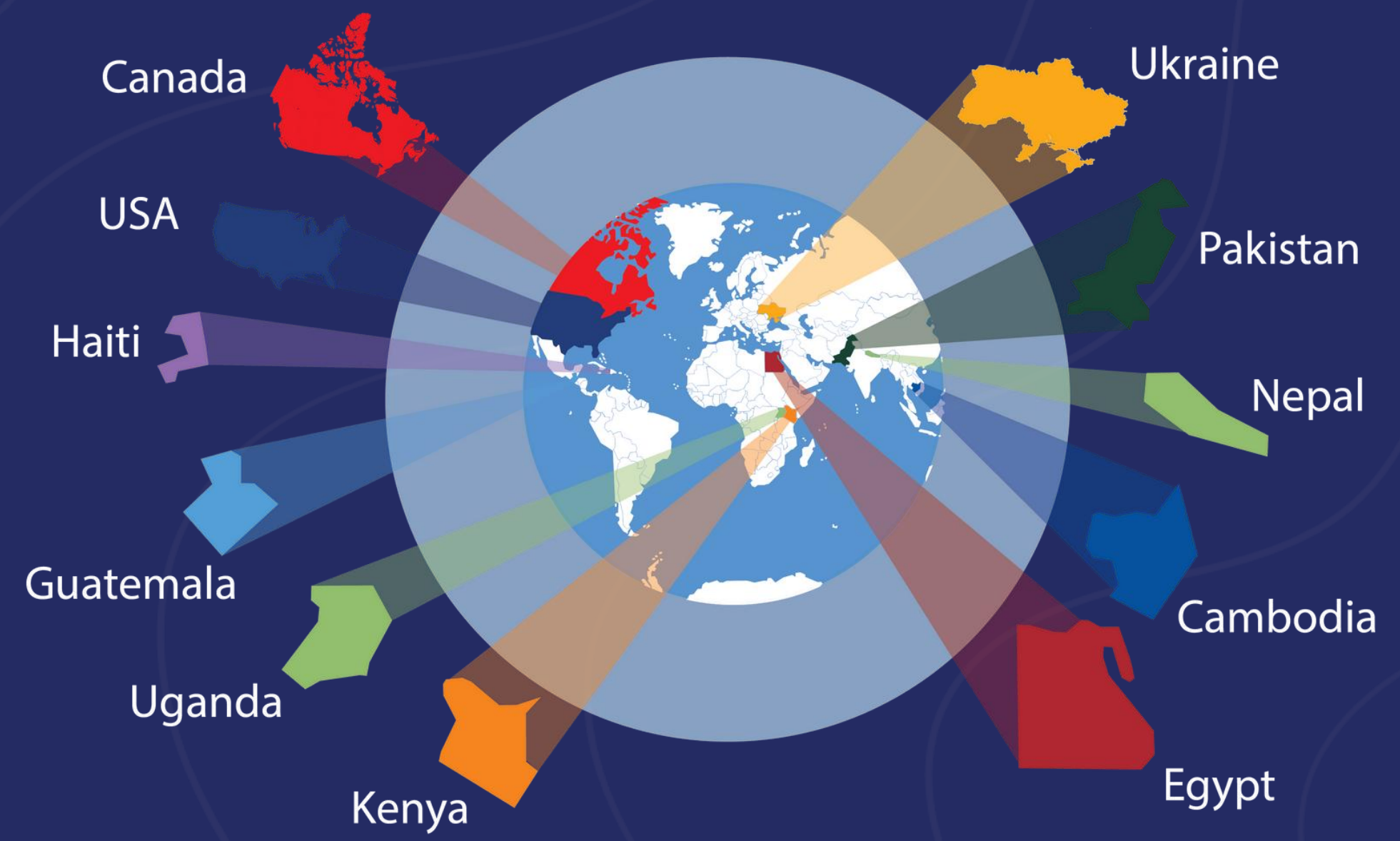
Where We Help





Where We Help

Victoria Hand Project has operated in **eleven countries internationally**, steadily expanding our reach to offer vital prosthetic care to more people in-need. VHP **partners with prosthetic clinics on the ground**, relying on their clinical expertise to provide top-of-the-line care.





Ukrainian Resilience





Ukrainian Resilience

We continue to be inspired by the resilience and commitment of our Ukrainian partners, as well as the strength of the Ukrainian amputees who are enduring the challenges of the ongoing war. It is a privilege to support them in the best way we can, by providing prosthetic arms that aid in their rehabilitation journey.

In 2024, our partners at Arol Plus in Lviv, and government facility Vinnytsia State Experimental Prosthetic and Orthotic Enterprise in Vinnytsia fitted a total of 61 Ukrainians with personalized prosthetic arms, averaging more than one person helped per week. Many more people are requiring care, as the waitlist continues to grow.





Hands of Hope in Egypt





Hands of Hope in Egypt

In April 2024, Dr. Nick Dechev, Victoria Hand Project's CTO and Founder, traveled to Egypt to provide updated training to our partners at CEH. During the visit, four amputees received custom prosthetic arms, and the CEH staff was trained on creating new above-elbow prosthetics.

Established in 2017, the Egypt clinic was founded to provide greater access to prosthetic care for local amputees. Over the years, Victoria Hand Project has strengthened the program through remote training, in-person visits, and improved designs and software. CEH and Victoria Hand Project have begun discussions with Palestinian doctors to train and equip them to help amputees in Gaza when the time is right. Please reach out to the team if you are interested in supporting or learning more.





Marins Med Collaboration





Marins Med Collaboration

In Spring 2024, Victoria Hand Project partnered with Marins Med, a Delaware-based company redefining the traditional prosthetic hook. Marins Med has developed a new hook to fill an important gap for prosthesis users who need heavy-duty prostheses. Through this collaboration, Victoria Hand Project created a unique prosthetic system by combining our custom-designed socket with Marins Med's prosthetic hook.

This integrated system enhances the available prosthetic options to our users and furthers our mission to provide accessible, high-performance prosthetic solutions to amputees around the world. Once Marins Med finalizes prototyping, they aim to offer their prosthetic hook as an option to select international partners of Victoria Hand Project.



Partial Hand Development





Partial Hand Development



In Spring 2024, Victoria Hand Project announced the development of an innovative partial hand prosthetic through collaboration with a Canadian Paralympian, addressing a critical gap in prosthetic care. Individuals with partial hand loss often struggle to find affordable solutions, as existing devices can cost thousands of dollars per finger - making them inaccessible for those without insurance coverage. We have made significant strides in creating a functional prosthetic while also pioneering the development of a semi-functional cosmetic device. By utilizing a new material and colour matching techniques, we aim to establish a scalable, replicable process that will allow for widespread use by our global partners. If you are interested in learning more or would like to support this project, please reach out to the team via our contact page or indicate in your donation that you would like to support the partial hand development.



Rwanda Pilot Project





Rwanda Pilot Project

In September 2024, Victoria Hand Project traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, for a week-long pilot project in collaboration with Bridging Afrika. The initiative introduced high-tech skills and 3D printed prosthetic arms to the Kigali region. During the pilot, two amputees received custom prosthetic arms, showcasing the process to Bridging Afrika, the University of Rwanda's Center of Excellence in Biomedical Engineering, and members of the Rwanda military.

Fundraising for the full expansion of Victoria Hand Project's services in Kigali is ongoing, with plans to return in 2025 to establish sustainable long-term operations. If you would like to help make this initiative possible, please reach out to the Victoria Hand Project team.





Growing Kenya's Capacity





Growing Kenya's Capacity

St. Luke's Orthopaedic Hospital is one of Victoria Hand Project's strongest partners, fitting 25 recipients in 2024. In October 2024, the team received in-person training on updated workflows and welcomed two new 3D printers, generously donated by Prusa Research and the Czech Development Agency. These advanced printers will help the team produce more prosthetic arms in less time, expanding access for amputees in need.

Lewis, a past recipient, was presented with his new custom-painted prosthetic arm. Designed and painted by the Victoria Hand Project team, Lewis' arm was transformed into a vibrant, personalized piece, showcasing his unique style and personality. His excitement and gratitude were a powerful reminder of how technology and creativity can come together to change lives.





*Thank you for attending our Evening of Impact,
you make this mission possible!*

Giving Tuesday Success





Giving Tuesday Success

In October 2024, Victoria Hand Project launched our 6-week Giving Tuesday campaign to support our Ukrainian partners and provide vital prosthetic care for Ukrainian amputees in need. Giving Tuesday, on December 3rd, 2024, is a global movement that inspires radical generosity, bringing communities together to create real impact. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and supporters, we capped off the campaign with an ‘Evening of Impact’ fundraiser, celebrating the power of collective giving. We were thrilled to announce that together we raised \$67,299.86, far surpassing our \$50,000 goal. This success was only possible because of our dedicated community, whose kindness and commitment are helping transform lives.





Supporters





Major Supporters

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the many corporations and foundations who made significant financial and in-kind contributions to Victoria Hand Project in 2024.

Thank you for your profound impact!

TD Bank (TD Ready Commitment -Better Health)

Autodesk Technology Impact Program

Stuart and Susan Bird Family Foundation

Nelson Arthur Hyland Foundation

Think Communications Inc.

Foord Family Foundation

BASF Forward AM

University of Victoria

Prusa Research

BC Rehab Foundation

Wee Waifs Worldwide Trust

Alberni Valley Rotary Club

Sure Grip Controls



Community Partners

Arc'teryx Victoria

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Ballet BC

BC Lions

Best Coast Distillers

Block Kitchen and Bar

Butchart Gardens

Chateau Victoria

Cobble Hill Puzzle

CRAFT Beer Market Victoria

Driftwood Brewing Company

Earls Kitchen & Bar Victoria

Float House Victoria

Hotel Zed

Little Piggy Catering

Mackenzie Beach Resort

Malahat Sky Walk

Pagliacci's

Quantum Yoga Club

Sheringham

St. Michaels University School

The Keg - Quadra

Thrifty Foods Hillside

Ukrainian-Canadian Cultural Society
of Vancouver Island

Underground Donut Tours

Unsworth Vineyards

Victoria Butterfly Gardens

Victoria Party Rentals

Victoria Symphony

Wild Renfrew



Financials





Financial Impact

418

Individual donations

\$210K

Donated to our mission

460%

Increase in monthly donations

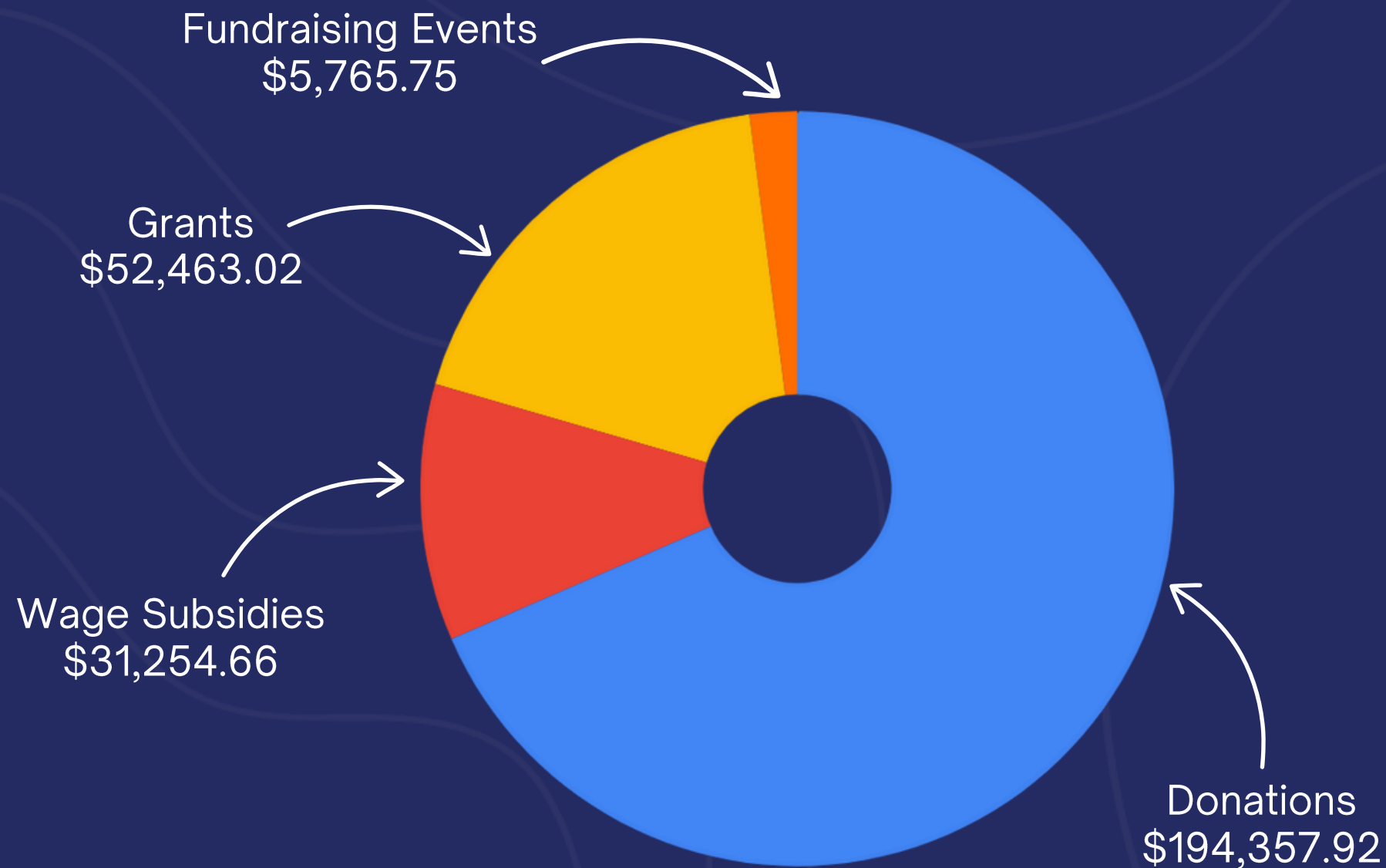


All values in Canadian Dollars (\$CAD)
Please go here ([LINK](#)) to view detailed 2024 Financial Statements.
2024 Financial Statements were internally prepared.



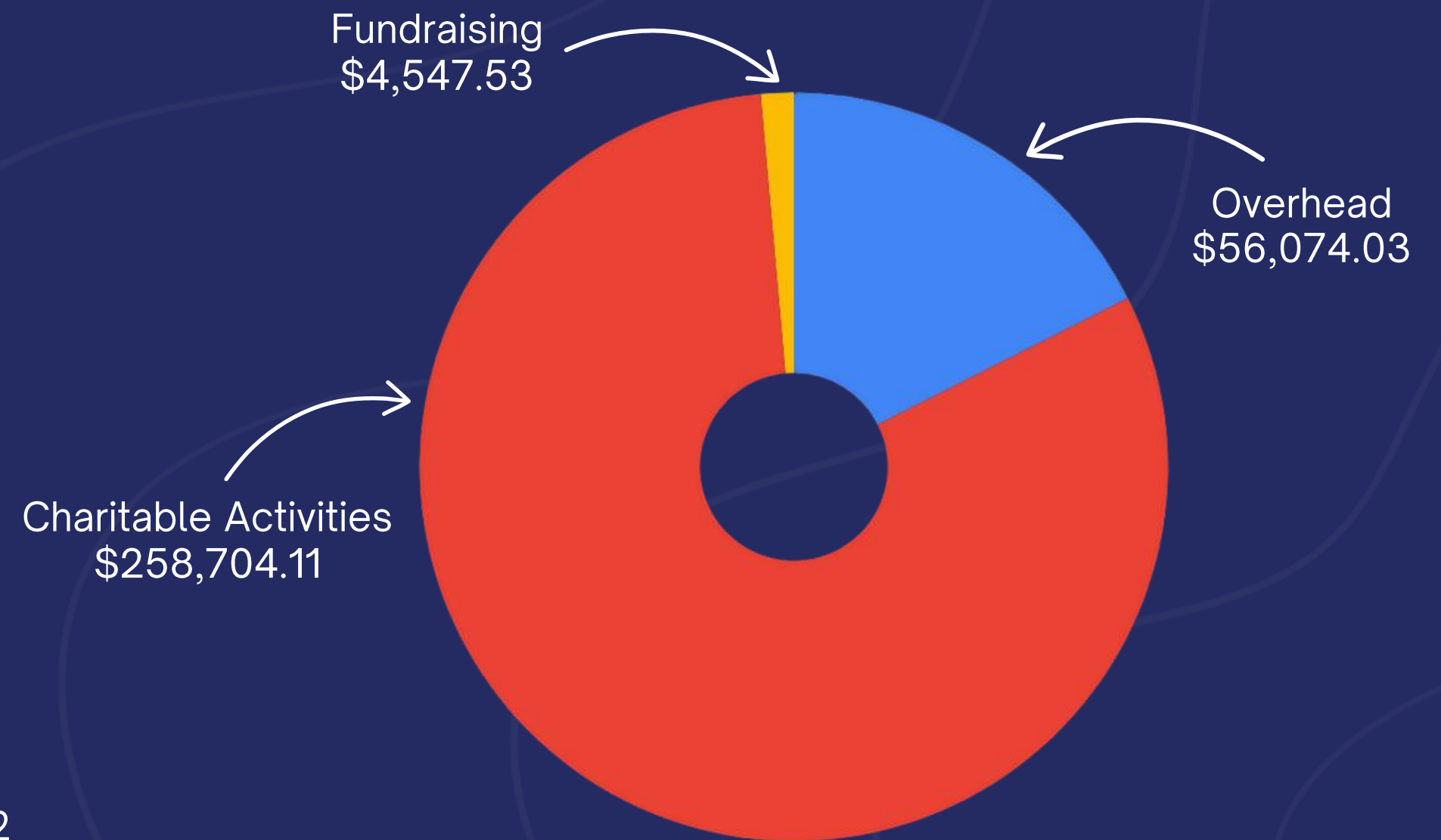
Financials

Sources of Revenue



2024 Total Revenue: \$283,840.95

Allocation of Expenses



2024 Total Expenditure: \$319,325.67



Recipient Testimonials





Isaiah

Kenya Recipient

When Isaiah was young, he fell from a tree while playing, breaking his arm in three places. After a long journey to a hospital, he was told his arm had to be amputated above the elbow. He would often wear heavy jackets in 43°C to hide his missing limb, until being provided his first prosthetic arm in 2023 from Victoria Hand Project! It was a life-changing moment, he regained confidence, independence, and could focus on his education while proudly showing his new arm. As he grew, his prosthetic arm needed resizing, and while it was being adjusted, he missed it dearly! Isaiah was constantly asking, “When will my prosthesis be back?” It has truly become a part of him!





Abd-elrahman

Egypt Recipient

Abd-elrahman, a 20-year-old business administration student in his final year, faced a life-altering injury in 2022 while working at a rock factory.

A devastating accident with a rock-cutting machine led to multiple surgeries and, ultimately, the amputation of his arm above the elbow. Now, as he prepares for his graduation, he has turned to Victoria Hand Project with the hope of receiving a prosthetic arm. His goal is to feel more confident and proud as he celebrates this important milestone, wearing his suit and stepping into the next chapter of his life with renewed strength.





Andriy

Ukraine Recipient

Andriy was first provided his Victoria Hand in 2023, after losing his arm while courageously fighting for his country. Now, over one year later, he's known as a 'super user' and continues to find new ways to use his Victoria Hand - preparing food in the kitchen, playing with his two sons, working in the yard, and fishing!

In 2024, Andriy was the first recipient of Victoria Hand Project's latest elbow mechanism which allows for internal and external rotation of the forearm. With Andriy's previous experience with the arm, he flawlessly integrated the new elbow into his day-to-day use. "Thank you for the opportunity to feel confident in myself and independent again." - Andriy Kramer





Safari

Rwanda Recipient

Safari, 25, lost his left arm in an accident ten years ago and was among the first recipients of a prosthetic arm through the Bridging Afrika-led expansion in Rwanda. For the first time since his accident, Safari was able to appear in public feeling whole. “While it may not be a real arm,” he said, “it gives me comfort and confidence.”

The prosthetic arm not only improved his self-esteem but also made daily tasks easier, requiring less energy to complete. His story reflects the powerful impact that access to affordable prosthetic care can have on restoring dignity and independence.





Partners





Partners

We are incredibly grateful to our global clinical partners, who make this work possible. Our mission wouldn't be a success without their hard work and dedication.

- Arol Plus (Ukraine)
- Vinnytsia State Experimental Prosthetic and Orthopedic Enterprise (Ukraine)
- St. Luke's Orthopedic And Trauma Hospital (Kenya)
- Canadian Egyptian Hand Company (Egypt)
- ProPhy Care (Haiti)
- Limb Care Nepal Pvt. Ltd (Nepal)
- CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital (Uganda)
- Custom Prosthetic Services Ltd. (Canada)
- Fauji Foundation Rawalpindi Hospital (Pakistan)
- Innovative Prosthetics & Orthotics (USA)
- Prosthetics At Home (USA)





Thank you for helping us keep
#prostheticswithinreach

Contact Us

For any questions or clarifications.

Website

www.victoriahandproject.com

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Social Media



Victoria Hand Project





REFERENCES

- [1] B. Phillips, G. Zingalis, S. Ritter, and K. Mehta, "A review of current upper-limb prostheses for resource constrained settings," 2015 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC), 2015
- [2] M. LeBlanc, "Give Hope - Give a Hand - The LN-4 Prosthetic Hand," November 2008. [Online]. Available: <https://web.stanford.edu/class/engr110/2011/LeBlanc-03a.pdf>.
- [3] Adegoke, B., Kehinde, A., Akosile, C., & Oyeyemi, A. (2013). Quality of Life of Nigerians with Unilateral Lower Limb Amputation. *Disability, CBR & Inclusive Development*, 23(4), 76.