Dear CWB - USA Friends,

Thank you for all of your support this past year. Many parts of the world are affected by circumstances that demonstrate the need for our presence. In 2017, we served over 46,000 people—more than any prior year. We continue to develop long-term relationships with partners and enhance our ability to be responsive during unfolding crises.

Our programming is driven by the evidence that laughter is renewing, relieving, and imperative for human connection. Children in areas of crisis need safe outlets for expression and emotional relief. We know that laughter provides social, emotional, physical, and cognitive benefits. In 2017, CWB - USA received its most extensive news coverage yet, allowing us to share our work with a broader audience.

As an organization, CWB - USA continues to grow. In 2017, we welcomed four new board members whose expertise and commitment to advancing our mission is very exciting.

Thank you for helping us provide a place to unite through the power of the arts and laughter.

With deep thanks and appreciation,

David Rosenthal
Board President
OUR MISSION

Clowns Without Borders (CWB - USA) offers joy and laughter to relieve the suffering of all persons, especially children, who live in areas of crisis including refugee camps, conflict zones, and territories in situations of emergency.

2017 AT A GLANCE

10 Tours
13 Countries
42 Clowns
47 Workshops
151 Performances
46,216 People Served

Photo from tour to Lebanon
Thank you to our amazing volunteers, supporters, partner organizations, friends, members, and audiences for inspiring resilience through laughter.

Sipho Mdletshe performs in South Sudan
We only go where invited. We always work in partnership with local organizers. Their contributions include intimate knowledge of the communities we serve. Very often, they also provide logistical support, transportation, and accommodations.

**2017 Partners**

5th Encuentro Internacional de Clown ADES (Cabanas Region)  
Association of Friends of Porteens  
Behind the Beyond Community Theatre Foundation  
Clown Me In  
Clowner Utan Gränser (CWB - Sweden)  
Clowns Without Borders – South Africa  
Future of Sierra Leone  
Life Support Center  
Médecins Sans Frontières - France  
Palhaços Sem Fronteiras (CWB – Brasil)  
Service Civil International  
USAID’s Office of Transition and Conflict Mitigation

Photo: Exgi Keskin, Turkey 2017
OUR HISTORY

Clowns Without Borders originated in Spain, and is now established in 15 countries. All chapters operate independently within their home countries, and collaborate whenever possible. Moshe Cohen founded CWB - USA in 1995.

Clowns Without Borders International (CWBI) facilitates cooperation, supports the common identity, and provides ethical standards for all chapters. One board member from each chapter serves on the governing board of CWBI. Sarah Liane Foster is the representative from CWB - USA.
**CHIAPAS, MEXICO**  
*January 8 - 21*

Since 1996, CWB has performed for indigenous and Zapatista communities in the Free and Sovereign State of Chiapas. This tour celebrated our long relationship with these communities.

“When we arrived in La Linea our host told us the children had been asking every day, ‘When are the clowns going to be here?’”

– Amica Hunter, Clown

**SOUTH SUDAN**  
*April 1 - 19*

Millions of people have been displaced by the ongoing civil war in the world’s newest country. CWB performed in some of the refugee camps.

“We feel forgotten here, but now [during this workshop] we feel important and remembered because you have come to us and made us happy!”

– Workshop Participant

Annabel Morgan performs in a refugee camp in South Sudan
BALKAN ROUTE
May 14 - June 2

Thousands of refugees seek entrance to the European Union between Greece and Slovenia. CWB performed in refugee camps along this route. At many camps, access was denied, and so the clowns performed in the road, with a chain link fence between them and the audience.

SIERRA LEONE
June 2 - 14

CWB performed for communities impacted by the 2014 Ebola epidemic. During the epidemic, touching and large gatherings were prohibited. During CWB’s performances, people gathered without fear, filling the streets with music and laughter.

Tim Cunningham and Eva Neidek perform in Sierra Leone
TURKEY

July 23 - August 1
CWB worked with local artists and performed in refugee camps along the Syrian border.

“Even though it was 104 degrees, as long as we still had our voices, we would perform. It gave me joy to see how laughter is the smallest distance between two, or one thousand, people.”

– Gabi Winters, Clown

EL SALVADOR

September 9 - October 5
We performed for rural communities displaced by the civil war and led workshops for youth impacted by gang violence. In partnership with the El Salvador Ministry of Health, CWB was honored to provide workshops for youth on all sides of the gang conflict.

Noah Veil and CoiCoi perform in El Salvador
LEBANON
October 17 - November 1

Lebanon hosts more refugees than any other country. CWB worked with local artists from Clown Me In and members from different refugee communities.

MEXICO
October 27 - November 5

Moshe Cohen, CWB - USA’s founder, performed for people who lost their homes in the September earthquake. The tour took place days before Day of the Dead, a time of celebration in Mexico.

Moshe Cohen performs in Mexico
CWB toured schools and community centers across the country as part of the recovery from Hurricane Irma. The island’s economy depends on tourism, and so while people’s homes had been rebuilt, their livelihoods remained uncertain.

CWB partnered with Doctors Without Borders to perform in their hospitals and lead workshops for their staff. Aid workers often experience secondary trauma and burnout. The workshops were an opportunity to come together through laughter, a resource that can be abundant when others are not.

Geoff Marsh performs in Haiti
In 2017 CWB - USA took a major step in organizational stability, and set up payroll. With 75% of staff time now dedicated to programming, CWB - USA reduced direct program costs. As always, this work is possible because of the amazing professional circus artists who donate their time and services.

<table>
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<th>Income</th>
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<td>Workshops</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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Naomi Shafer and Kaitlin Kaufman in Haiti
THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 CLOWNS

Abir Fakhry - Lebanon
Albina Matuzko - St Maarten
Alex Feldman - St Maarten
Aline Moreno - El Salvador
Allan Benatti - El Salvador
Amica Hunter - Chiapas
Ana Pessoa - El Salvador
Annabel Morgan - South Sudan
Arthur Toyoshima - South Sudan
Bekah Smith - South Sudan
Carolina Duncan - El Salvador
Desiree Holmqvist - South Sudan
Dima Nashawi - Lebanon
Erwan Groneir - Turkey
Eva Neidek - Sierra Leone
Ezgi Keskin - Turkey
Gabi Winters - St. Maarten, Turkey
Geoff Marsh - Haiti
Güray Dinçol - Turkey
Hannah Gaff - Lebanon
Hisham Nasr - Lebanon
Ivan Smith - St Maarten
Janna Haavisto - South Sudan
Kaitlin Kaufman - Haiti
Layal Ghanem - Lebanon
Leah Abel - Lebanon
Malin Öhrn - Sierra Leone
Mooky Cornish - Chiapas
Moshe Cohen - Mexico
Naomi Shafer - Haiti
Nidal Ayoub - Lebanon
Noah Veil - El Salvador
Rudi Galindo - Chiapas
Sabine Choucair - Lebanon
Samer Sarkis - Lebanon
Sara Berjawi - Lebanon
Sara Corsini - Turkey
Sara Sparrow - Chiapas
Selene Framarin - Turkey
Sipho Mdletshe - South Sudan
Tim Cunningham - Sierra Leone
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moshe Cohen (Founder)
Erin Crites (Vice President)
Gulshirin Dubash
Anne Olivia Eldred
Sarah Liane Foster
(Representative to CWBI)
Cathe Giffuni
Dianna Hahn
Kolleen Kintz (Secretary)
David Lichtenstein
Selena McMahan
Martha Neighbors
David Rosenthal (President)
Sayda Trujillo

STAFF

Molly Levine
(Program Director)
Nicole Loeffler-Gladstone
(Communications Director)
Naomi Shafer
(Development Director)

Sabine Choucair performs in Lebanon