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## **INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

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## **Independent Auditors' Report**

To the Board of Directors  
Innovations for Poverty Action  
New Haven, Connecticut

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Innovations for Poverty Action, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Innovations for Poverty Action as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated May 25, 2017 on our consideration of Innovations for Poverty Action's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Innovations for Poverty Action's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C.*

West Hartford, Connecticut  
May 25, 2017

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,916,822	\$ 3,423,497
Grants receivable, net	13,608,406	14,335,371
Contributions receivable, net	2,567,055	269,194
Other receivable	9,228	82,942
Prepaid expenses and other assets	437,626	369,139
Property and equipment, net	<u>90,190</u>	<u>140,709</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 22,629,327</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 18,620,852</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 5,127,319	\$ 3,912,387
Deferred revenue	20,418,872	22,646,030
Line of credit	<u>1,200,000</u>	<u>850,000</u>
Total liabilities	<u>26,746,191</u>	<u>27,408,417</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	(6,138,668)	(8,912,565)
Temporarily restricted	<u>2,021,804</u>	<u>125,000</u>
Total net assets	<u>(4,116,864)</u>	<u>(8,787,565)</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 22,629,327</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 18,620,852</u></b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>		
Revenue and support:		
Grants and contracts	\$ 43,931,255	\$ 35,693,475
Contributions	3,706,867	3,270,122
Interest income	14,470	2,565
Net assets released from restrictions	75,000	75,000
Total revenue and support	<u>47,727,592</u>	<u>39,041,162</u>
Expenses:		
Program services	37,620,029	33,714,500
Management and general	7,090,842	8,609,152
Fundraising	242,824	274,273
Total expenses	<u>44,953,695</u>	<u>42,597,925</u>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	<u>2,773,897</u>	<u>(3,556,763)</u>
<b>Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>		
Contributions	1,971,804	200,000
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(75,000)</u>	<u>(75,000)</u>
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>1,896,804</u>	<u>125,000</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets before Write-Down of Grants Receivable</b>	4,670,701	(3,431,763)
<b>Write-Down of Grants Receivable</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,802,351)</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	4,670,701	(10,234,114)
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>(8,787,565)</u>	<u>1,446,549</u>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ (4,116,864)</u>	<u>\$ (8,787,565)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personnel expenses	\$ 17,047,113	4,090,542	189,431	21,327,086
Travel	5,753,606	149,600	9,697	5,912,903
Subgrants	3,797,287	159	-	3,797,446
Professional fees	2,291,781	1,210,953	-	3,502,734
Other operating expenses	1,422,248	498,583	24,034	1,944,865
Program supplies	1,933,754	525	-	1,934,279
Outside services	1,347,601	1,917	-	1,349,518
Computer/network	702,034	566,571	1,329	1,269,934
Office expense	910,174	140,361	175	1,050,710
Occupancy	780,685	183,344	8,006	972,035
Motor vehicle	799,661	3,634	-	803,295
Conferences and trainings	625,228	22,535	1,452	649,215
Insurance	191,441	65,882	8,700	266,023
Bad debt	9,229	65,000	-	74,229
Depreciation	8,187	56,387	-	64,574
Interest expense	-	34,849	-	34,849
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 37,620,029</b>	<b>\$ 7,090,842</b>	<b>\$ 242,824</b>	<b>\$ 44,953,695</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personnel expenses	\$ 13,535,128	\$ 4,813,378	\$ 155,553	\$ 18,504,059
Travel	3,742,370	424,433	16,837	4,183,640
Subgrants	5,408,602	-	-	5,408,602
Professional fees	2,402,852	651,710	68,991	3,123,553
Other operating expenses	1,782,214	267,004	15,258	2,064,476
Program supplies	1,419,163	1,481	-	1,420,644
Outside services	1,307,635	2,860	-	1,310,495
Computer/network	752,402	404,615	2,944	1,159,961
Occupancy	837,046	170,055	-	1,007,101
Office expense	835,890	142,576	6,248	984,714
Motor vehicle	610,327	4,389	-	614,716
Conferences and trainings	849,988	91,673	8,442	950,103
Insurance	188,651	33,653	-	222,304
Bad debt	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
Depreciation	42,230	75,508	-	117,738
Interest expense	2	25,817	-	25,819
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 33,714,500</b>	<b>\$ 8,609,152</b>	<b>\$ 274,273</b>	<b>\$ 42,597,925</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 4,670,701	\$ (10,234,114)
Adjustments to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	64,574	117,738
Bad debt	74,229	1,500,000
Write-down of grants receivable	-	6,802,351
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:		
Grants receivable, net	652,736	253,139
Contributions receivable, net	(2,297,861)	(92,332)
Other receivable	73,714	105,529
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(68,487)	799,855
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,214,932	1,558,032
Deferred revenue	(2,227,158)	(2,735,424)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>2,157,380</u>	<u>(1,925,226)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Purchases of property and equipment	<u>(14,055)</u>	<u>(13,059)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(14,055)</u>	<u>(13,059)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from line of credit	<u>350,000</u>	<u>350,000</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>350,000</u>	<u>350,000</u>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	2,493,325	(1,588,285)
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>3,423,497</u>	<u>5,011,782</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 5,916,822</u>	<u>\$ 3,423,497</u>
<b>Cash Paid During the Year for Interest</b>	\$ 34,849	\$ 25,819

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

#### Activities

Innovations for Poverty Action (the Organization) is a research and policy nonprofit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. The Organization brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor.

In recent decades, trillions of dollars have been spent on programs designed to reduce global poverty, but clear evidence on which programs succeed is rare, and when evidence does exist, decision-makers often do not know about it. The Organization exists to bring together leading researchers and these decision-makers to ensure that the evidence leads to tangible impact on the world. Since the Organization's founding in 2002, they have worked with over 575 leading academics to conduct over 650 evaluations in 51 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.

#### Accomplishments

In 2016, the organization:

- Worked on over 275 studies across Latin America, Africa, Asia and the United States.
- Saw its research translated into action through the scale up of successful programs, including Living Goods, a community health model that reduced child mortality in Uganda, No Lean Season, a financial incentive program that improved income security in Bangladesh, and TextDirect, an organization scaling up text message reminders to take malaria medication.
- Founder Dean Karlan published a new book, *Failing in the Field*, highlighting lessons IPA has learned over the past decade and a half of conducting field work.
- Published study results in leading academic journals, including *Science*, the *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, *International Journal of Educational Development*, *Global Health: Science and Practice*, *Global Mental Health*, and others.
- Brought experts from top universities around the world to Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ghana, Zambia and elsewhere to share the latest research with local officials, NGOs and community organizations.
- Published and disseminated policy publications, including *Nudges for Financial Health* and *Beyond the Classroom: Evidence on New Directions in Financial Education*.
- Had its work featured in the *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *The Washington Post*, *U.S. News and World Report*, among many others.

### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of Accounting and Presentation

The Organization prepares its financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Net assets, revenues and expenses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

#### Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets represent available resources other than donor-restricted contributions. These resources may be expended at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### **Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

Temporarily restricted net assets represent contributions that are restricted by the donor as to purpose or time of expenditure.

### **Permanently Restricted Net Assets**

Permanently restricted net assets represent resources that have donor-imposed restrictions that require that the principal be maintained in perpetuity but permit the Organization to expend the income earned thereon. There are no permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2016 and 2015.

### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash equivalents are defined as highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. The Organization maintains deposits in financial institutions that may, at times, exceed federal depository insurance limits. Management believes that the Organization's deposits are not subject to significant credit risk.

### **Grants and Contracts**

Other than certain awards to fund capital expenditures, governmental grants and contracts are generally considered to be exchange transactions rather than contributions. Revenue from cost-reimbursement grants and contracts is recognized to the extent of costs incurred. Revenue from performance-based grants and contracts is recognized to the extent of performance achieved. Grant and contract receipts in excess of revenue recognized are presented as deferred revenue.

Grants receivable are stated at the amount management ultimately expects to collect. Management maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts based on a review of specific accounts and general historical experience. Allowance for uncollectible grants as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, was approximately \$1,050,000 and \$1,500,000, respectively.

During the year ended December 31, 2015, management performed a detailed analysis of the accounting practices as they relate to the recognition of certain grants receivable. The Organization conducts multi-year projects in various countries funded by several different grantors under several grant awards. Prior to 2015, the Organization's practice was to recognize excess grant expenditures (expenditures incurred within a particular project that exceeded a current grant award by a current grantor) as receivables based upon the belief that the overages would be covered by a subsequent grant award by the grantors within the same ongoing long-term project. Management had determined such receivables to be fully collectible given prior history and the ongoing relationship with the grantor within the project. However, during 2015, and upon management's review, it was determined that the Organization would only recognize receivables to the extent of the committed grant amount. As a result, management determined that a write-down of \$6,802,351 for the year ended December 31, 2015 was necessary. No adjustments of this nature were required during the year ended December 31, 2016.

# **INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION**

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment acquisitions and improvements thereon that exceed \$5,000 are capitalized at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Repairs and maintenance are charged to expense as incurred.

### **Contributions**

Unconditional contributions are recognized when pledged or received, as applicable, and are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Contributions receivable expected to be collected in more than one year are discounted to their present value. The Organization reports nongovernmental contributions and grants of cash and other assets as temporarily restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit their use. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Contributions received whose restrictions are met in the same period are presented with unrestricted net assets. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met.

### **In-Kind Contributions and Contributed Services and Supplies**

The Organization recognizes donated services at their estimated fair value if they create or enhance nonfinancial assets or require specialized skills and would typically be purchased if not provided by donation. The Organization receives services from a large number of volunteers who give significant amounts of their time to the Organization's programs but do not meet the criteria for financial statement recognition. General volunteer services do not meet these criteria for recognition.

In-kind contributions are reflected as contributions at their fair value at date of donation and are reported as unrestricted support unless explicit donor stipulations specify how donated assets must be used. The Organization benefited from donated professional services, software and advertising that were valued by the individuals providing the services at \$190,767 and \$221,093 during the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. This amount is included in contribution revenue and program service expense on the statements of activities.

### **Income Taxes**

The Organization is exempt from federal and state income taxes as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Foreign Currency Translation**

The Organization uses the functional currency of their country offices. The Organization's reporting currency is the U.S. dollar. Assets and liabilities of the Organization's foreign operations are translated into U.S. dollars at year-end exchange rates. Revenue and expense accounts and cash flows are translated using an average of exchange rates in effect during the period. Exchange gains and losses from transactions denominated in a foreign currency are recognized as a component of support and revenue in current operations.

### **Subsequent Events**

In preparing these financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events through May 25, 2017, which represents the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 3 - CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

Contributions receivable as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, are expected to be collected as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Receivable in less than one year	\$ 1,353,251	\$ 219,194
Receivable in one to five years	1,265,000	50,000
Total contributions receivable	<u>2,618,251</u>	<u>269,194</u>
Less discount to present value	<u>51,196</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Contributions Receivable	<u>\$ 2,567,055</u>	<u>\$ 269,194</u>

Contributions receivable in more than one year are discounted at 1.75% as of December 31, 2016. A discount was not required for the year ended December 31, 2015.

An allowance for uncollectible contributions receivable was not deemed necessary for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

### NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consist of the following as of December 31, 2016 and 2015:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Leasehold improvements	\$ 337,335	\$ 337,335
Computer equipment	256,352	257,885
Vehicles	259,654	244,617
Other equipment	61,043	61,043
	<u>914,384</u>	<u>900,880</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>824,194</u>	<u>760,171</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>\$ 90,190</u>	<u>\$ 140,709</u>

Depreciation expense was \$64,574 and \$117,738 the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

### NOTE 5 - LINE OF CREDIT

The Organization has a line of credit with Citibank in the amount of \$1,250,000. The interest rate on the line of credit is Prime, which was 3.25% at December 31, 2016 and 2015. The line of credit is collateralized by substantially all of the Organization's assets.

The outstanding balance on the line of credit was \$1,200,000 and \$850,000 as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 6 - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets represent contributions that are due over time. Temporarily restricted net assets due in future periods as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, were \$2,021,804 and \$125,000, respectively. Net assets in the amount of \$75,000 were released from restriction during each of the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, by satisfying the corresponding time restrictions.

### NOTE 7 - OPERATING LEASES

The Organization has entered into multiple operating lease agreements for its headquarters that expire at various dates through December 2017. The original leases have been amended multiple times to incorporate additional office space. The Organization leases office space in various domestic and foreign locations, some on a month-to-month basis and others under leases expiring through November 2020. Total rental expenses for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, amounted to approximately \$719,000 and \$731,000, respectively, of which approximately \$463,000 and \$471,000 related to foreign operations.

Estimated future minimum lease payments are as follows:

#### Year Ending December 31

2017	\$	590,106
2018		198,801
2019		113,924
2020		34,569
2021		4,728
	\$	<u>942,128</u>

### NOTE 8 - CONTINGENCIES

The Organization has received grants and contracts for specific purposes that are subject to review, audit and adjustment by the grantors. Such audits could lead to requests for reimbursements to such donors for any expenditures or claims disallowed under the terms of the agreements. Based on prior experience, management believes such disallowances, if any, will not be material to the financial statements.

In connection with its mission, the Organization maintains facilities outside the United States in 18 countries. Compliance with laws and regulations within each of these countries is subject to review by the corresponding governmental agencies. Management has identified potential tax liabilities related to doing business in various foreign countries and has hired an expert for assistance. For countries where estimates are determinable, a liability has been recognized as of December 31, 2016. A liability has not been recognized for countries where management is unable to make a reasonable estimate as of December 31, 2016.

# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### NOTE 9 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Organization maintains a defined contribution plan in which all of the Organization's employees are automatically enrolled once they have met certain eligibility requirements.

Employees are eligible for a matching contribution from the Organization of up to 3% of salary, which will vest immediately after 90 days. Contribution expense recognized by the Organization was \$269,553 and \$259,466 for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

### NOTE 10 - FOREIGN OPERATIONS

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, assets in other countries, including cash, totaled \$994,926 and \$1,617,586, property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation, amounted to \$42,676 and \$88,977 and liabilities in other countries were \$1,209,660 and \$412,458, respectively. Total overseas support and revenue received from foreign sources amounted to \$7,660,779 and \$9,047,098 for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Account balances relating to foreign operations are reflected in the financial statements in United States dollars.

### NOTE 11 - FUTURE OPERATIONS

Due to the significant decrease in net assets as of December 31, 2015, which was mainly due to the write-down as identified in Note 2, management developed a formal action plan that refocuses their activities with the overall goal of strategic and sustainable growth. While immediate action is necessary to manage cash flow through increased contributions and increased indirect cost recovery, the action plan involves changes to occur through 2019. Highlights of this plan include immediate management of cash flow through accelerating invoicing through earlier month-end closes, reducing overhead and country office expenditures, and increased fundraising and collection efforts. Other key factors in this plan include streamlining operations to focus on full recovery of project and country office costs, building robust systems of controls and compliance with real time accounting, which would include strengthening the monitoring of compliance with laws and regulations, generate new products and business models with activities that utilize the existing infrastructure and perform a five-year fundraising campaign with a focus on rebuilding the net assets of the Organization. While management made significant progress on reducing the deficit as of December 31, 2016, with support from the Board of Directors and strict adherence to the above plan, management believes they can reverse the current net asset deficit by the end of 2018.