

Children
of Uganda



2014

IMPACT REPORT



The 2014 Annual Impact Report includes activity during January—December 2014. To learn more, we invite you to visit www.childrenofuganda.org or connect with us on social media.

Our Mission:

Give a hand UP to vulnerable youth by providing access to quality education and skills training for self-reliance.

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Children of Uganda

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A Year Of Many Thanks

As 2014 comes to a close and we enter into our 20th year of loving service, it is astonishing to think of all the lives that have been positively impacted—in Uganda, the U.S. and abroad—through Children of Uganda’s mission.

This year in particular, the 2014 *Tour of Light* established countless life-changing connections between our children and communities across the U.S. We would like to take this opportunity now to extend a special thank you to our incredible City Coordinators who dedicated their time, talents and resources to ensure the success of the tour in their beloved communities. From booking performances to organizing homestays and arranging meals to planning once in a lifetime activities for the kids, our City Coordinators did it all!



Many memorable moments were made with our Denver family (pictured here) and in every city the 2014 *Tour of Light* visited!

We are also tremendously grateful to our homestay hosts who opened up their hearts and homes to our dance troupe and tour staff members. Homestay arrangements are a vital way to cut costs on the tour, so we thank you for every dollar saved—which in turn, helped more and more children and their families in Uganda.

And finally, we thank our wonderful volunteers who assisted with the tour and those who made visits to Uganda this year. In particular, we acknowledge the Christ Episcopal Church youth group, Ann Davis, Emma Davis, John Harrison, Tami and David Hoffman, Julie Melton, Charles Hoke, Madeline Rhodes and Adam Ben-David for making a profound impact on the ground. Donations of school uniforms, sweaters, sports outfits, scholastic materials, shoes, musical instruments and more were received thanks to their generosity.

We always seem to run out of space to thank our supporters—and what a blessing that is!

In addition to a successful tour, our key achievements in Uganda this year include the following: 263 youth (120 male, 143 female) supported via our sponsorship program at the primary, secondary, vocational and university levels, 5 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) initiated in Mukono district under the Family Empowerment Program and National Social Security Fund (NSSF) project, and the 195 (80 female, 115 male) children who were withdrawn from child labor and offered psychosocial support under the Community Response to Child Labor (CR2CL) project. *You can learn more about these exciting programs in the pages that follow.*

Your generosity and the dedication of our supporters, has helped to lay the foundation for these advancements – improving education for orphans and vulnerable youth, expanding the success of small businesses in impoverished villages and protecting the welfare of abused children.

We hope that readers will find the information in this report impactful and that it might inspire more people like you to take action in building a better future for children, their families and communities.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Pamela Brannon,
Executive Director

Ellen Boudreau,
Board Chair

Education and Sponsorship Program

Did You Know?

Uganda has the 2nd highest primary school dropout rate in the world – with only 1 out of 3 students expected to graduate. And despite the government's efforts to provide free access via the Universal Primary and Secondary School system, education in Uganda remains largely inaccessible and ineffective. It is not uncommon for classes to hold well over 100 students with very few resources to share. Teachers are over-worked, under-qualified and unmotivated. Therefore, those who are able, turn to private schools for a better education.

At private boarding schools, a child's guardian must pay tuition in addition to many extra requirements. From brooms to school books and uniforms to new shoes, each child must arrive with everything asked of them, or else risk being sent home. This is usually not affordable for the very poor family living on less than \$2 per day. As a result, many children are left sitting at home waiting in the hopes of returning to school.

How We Help

Children of Uganda is committed to helping kids beat these odds by eliminating barriers and opening doors of opportunity. In partnership with select primary and secondary schools, vocational institutes and universities, we have increased access to quality education for thousands of orphans and vulnerable youth over the years.

In 2014, 263 (120 male and 143 female) youth were supported at all levels of learning. **100% of our sponsored P7 (6th grade) candidate students successfully graduated and went on to secondary school.** Of our S4 (10th grade) students, 50% advanced to A level (S5 & S6) in preparation for university; the other half qualified for vocational school or teacher's training college. 7 students graduated from A level in 2014 and are now applying to various universities and institutes in Uganda to pursue either a degree or diploma level course next year.

Our most vulnerable students were also given school and personal requirements – with every girl receiving feminine hygiene products. Additionally, 14 vocational students were supported with tools and training materials throughout the year, while 3 additional students completing teaching courses received materials for their teaching practice. 11 vocational students successfully completed their course in 2014.



Standout Students

2014 was marked with many accomplishments from our students—at the primary, secondary and higher education levels. **Learn more about some of these exceptional individuals and their goals for this year:**



Kellen Nassozi performed with both the 2012 and 2014 *Tour of Light* music and dance troupes. She is an exceptionally talented singer and dancer. The youngest of 12 children, Kellen joined us in 2000 after her father tragically passed away in a car accident. This year, Kellen was accepted to Butabika School of Psychiatric Nursing where she is now pursuing a certificate program in Mental Health Nursing.



Francis

Muyonjo received an award for the best English speaking pupil in his class at Sabina Primary School. He is a well-behaved boy who always guides his peers and helps Sabina's matrons lead the younger children.



Derrick Ssentongo completed his final year at Makerere University and formally graduated in January, 2015 with a bachelor's degree in medicine. He is currently in a year-long post baccalaureate internship program at Nsambya Hospital (one of Uganda's largest and most recognized of all hospitals).

Christine

Babirye is one of only 3 of our students who qualified to join university in 2014. While awaiting admissions, she worked at the Ssanje Community Resource Center & Library on the grounds of Sabina Primary School. She is now a first-year student at Kyambogo University in Procurement and Logistics Management.



Visit our website at www.childrenofuganda.org, e-mail info@childrenofuganda.org or call (800) 531-9612 if you would like to become a sponsor today!



Antonia

Kisakye underwent a 10+ hour surgery in 2013 to remove a tumor that had spread around her carotid artery—a vital network that supplies oxygenated blood to the head and neck—an area so delicate that only one hospital in Uganda was able to operate. Despite many health set-backs and ultimately being diagnosed with osteosarcoma, Antonia is now strong enough to return to her beloved classmates and teachers at St. John's Senior Secondary School next year.

(We are deeply saddened to report that Antonia passed away on October 22, 2015 after a long battle with cancer at the age of 17).

It Takes a Village...

Working in the communities where our children and their guardians live, we support small businesses through microfinance, provide counseling, protect and advocate for child rights and much more:

Family Empowerment Program (FEP)

By the end of 2014, over 140 men and women in two sub-counties (Nama and Goma) of Mukono district had established 5 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) with Children of Uganda's support. Each group took ownership by electing officials and naming the associations, as follows: Gakuweebwa Munno, Kisowera Mpoma, Mukama Afaayo, Agali Awamu and Kyosimba Onanya. Participants were trained for 6 weeks and equipped with tool kits for conducting their business activities.

Now able to save and access low interest loans, guardians are financially in a position to provide basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care and school fees for the children in their care. Over a 10 month period, they saved 20 million shillings (\$7,150 USD) in shares. In addition, two VSLA's received funding to embark on their own mushroom growing projects, while another is starting a water supply project in January, 2015. By December, the VSLAs wound up their business for the year—graduating to maturity stage. All outstanding loans were recovered before the share-out.



Gakuweebwa Munno VSLA members

Community Response to Child Labor Project (CR2CL)

In partnership with the Independent Development Fund, Children of Uganda's CR2CL project has made significant strides over the past year in protecting child rights in Kasasa and Kakuuto sub-counties (*see next page for specific facts and figures*). Most notably, 195 child labourers were identified and registered as vulnerable with urgent need for intervention. All of these cases were reported to the respective Community Development officers.

In addition, Children of Uganda helped facilitate an operation on September 16th with Kakuuto sub-county leadership whereby 108 school-aged children in Mutukula town were identified as out of school. The children were counselled and guardians or employers were either arrested or warned to stop employing children. Two more operations were conducted in Katovu and Kisuula parishes. 120 children (56 girls, 64 boys) and 121 guardians (69 female, 52 male) continue to receive counselling and psychosocial support—visited at least once every month. Together, they discuss child protection issues, education and the effects of domestic violence on a child's wellbeing. They advise guardians on alternative income sources, government development programs and health matters. All of the children were referred to schools and are now enrolled.

The CR2CL project has also drastically aided in the dissemination of information and materials on child rights issues with community posters and public radio messaging. Moreover, Children of Uganda supports and monitors the work of 20 child protection committees to unite communities, schools and local government authorities.



Children participating in a campaign against child labor at Kakuuto headquarters

Our Impact By The Numbers



Vulnerability starts in the home—empower a guardian and you transform their children's lives.

400

children benefited from their guardian's participation in FEP's Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLA's). With support for their small business, guardians were able to pay for food, clothing and school fees for their other children.

1,250

posters with messages on the dangers of child labor and guardians' responsibilities were distributed by Children of Uganda counselors, child protection committee members, partner schools and Community Development Officers in Kasasa and Kakuuto sub-counties.

10 student-led child rights clubs were established at Children of Uganda partner schools. Educational debates and quiz competitions were organized and held throughout the year.



Students make their voices heard by standing up for child rights!

959

people were reached with messages on child rights, child protection and existing laws on the welfare of children during 9 community dialogue meetings.



Child labor victims transporting goods.

5 VSLA's were initiated in Mukono district. Over 20 million shillings (\$7,150) was saved between 140 participants.



COU Project Officer proudly hands IGA funds to the GMVSLA chairperson.

195

youth (80 girls, 115 boys) were removed from a variety of child labor activities and offered psychosocial support under the Community Response to Child Labor project.



Children of Uganda staff join child rights activists on Radio Buddu's talk show.

54 spot messages and 24 talk shows via Radio Buddu were facilitated to increase awareness and promote child rights.

Children of Uganda **T**OUR *of* **LIGHT**

The 2014 *Tour of Light* traveled for 10 weeks across 12 states. Highlights include a sold-out show at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, a joint performance at the 2nd annual World Music Festival with the world-renowned Chicago Children's Choir and performing for an audience of over 5,000 at the Potter's House Church in Denver, CO. Our music and dance troupe also engaged in cultural exchange programs and put on spectacular events at churches, schools, universities and community centers across the United States. In addition to entertaining audiences and raising awareness, the troupe helped to secure funding for Children of Uganda's life-saving programs on the ground, as well as sign-up over 40 new child sponsorships.

Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming *Tour of Light*

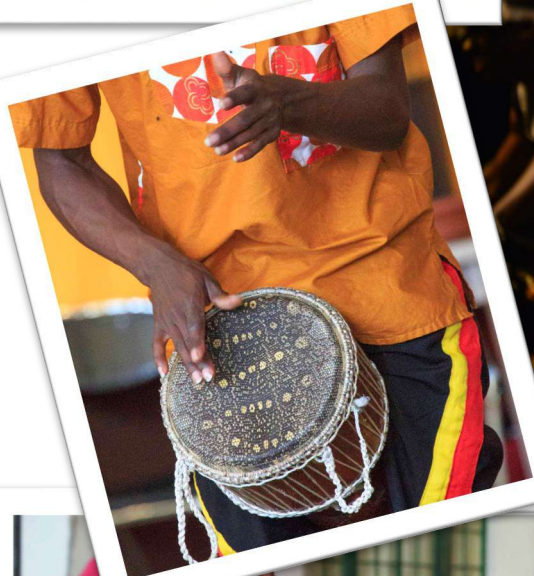
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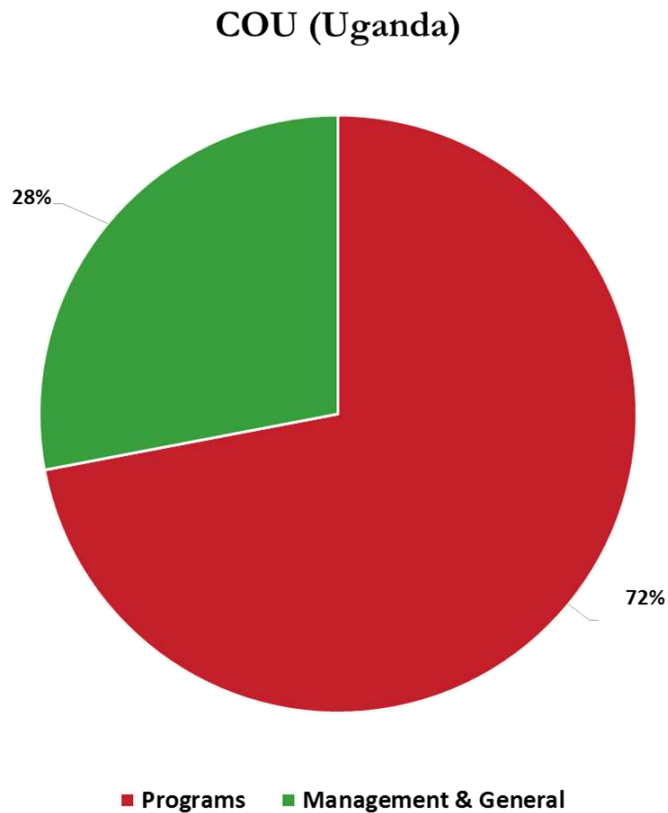
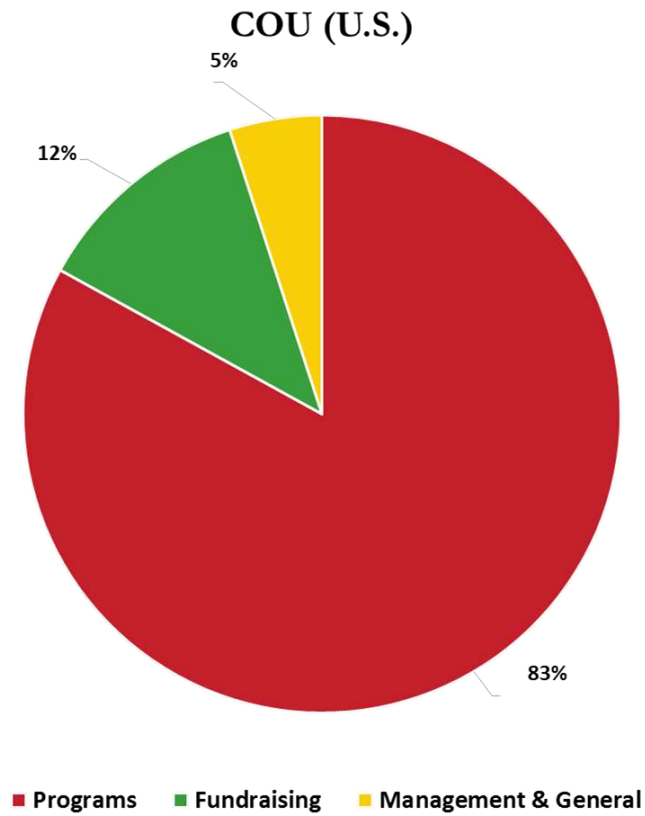
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(\$68,487 of the Uganda salaries and administrative costs were allocated under Management & General when they would have normally been allocated to Programs)

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