# **IMPACT REPORT**

**Education - Motivation - Transformation** 

Children

of Uganda

ANNIVERSARY

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The 2015 Annual Impact Report includes activities during January—December, 2015. To learn more, we invite you to visit **www.childrenofuganda.org** or connect with us on social media.

#### **Our Mission:**

To confront poverty and social injustice in Uganda, through the education and empowerment of its most vulnerable children.

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#### Children of Uganda PO Box 659 Charles Town, WV 25414 (800) 531-9612 (toll-free) info@childrenofuganda.org www.childrenofuganda.org



# A Visionary Year

With my background as a pediatrician and a career in antimalarial drug development, I have always felt a calling to Africa. Travel to East and West Africa from the late 1980's to late 1990's opened my eyes to the great need and

untapped potential of these countries. Working in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana, and Cameroon, I also witnessed the devastation of the AIDS epidemic first hand, as it plagued all levels of society with fear and discrimination. With disbelief, I saw the numbers of doctors and nurses decrease as the disease took its toll. I observed the numbers of unattached street children grow and the despair of the community become palpable.

I knew then and now that education and loving support was needed to bring hope to deteriorating communities and to preserve the social fabric of each country.

Influencing the education of children has always been important to me, which is what drew me to Children of Uganda (COU). I learned about the organization through close friends at my church. They had been deeply involved with the organization for many years, as members of the Board of Directors, in sponsoring children and by stocking a library for Sabina Primary School in 2008. In



2010, I began sponsoring a remarkable young lady named Josephine, who is now in secondary school and is astounding me with her humility, high marks and determination to succeed. The *Tour of Light* also opened my eyes to the spirit of these remarkable children, their joy, their gratitude and their friendship to all.

I am proud to serve as COU's Board Chair, especially as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. Over 1,300 students have participated in our programs since its inception, producing many teachers, nurses, craftsmen, engineers, and doctors. COU partner schools have provided a superb framework for developing minds, where children are encouraged and coached to reach their full potential.

Now, with the adoption of a new 3 year (*January 1, 2015—December 31, 2017*) Strategic Plan, we are looking to build on our successes and move our mission forward in the direction of our vision: *To realize a future for Uganda where all HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children have access to quality education, skills training and livelihood support to fully grow and develop into self-reliant, responsible citizens.* 

The 225 students currently enrolled in our program share this vision—they are vibrant, hardworking and striving for a life with purpose and achievement. Each sponsor gives hope and a promising future to a child. As Thomas Merton stated, "Compassion is a keen awareness of the interdependence of all humanity, all a part of one another and all involved in one another."

Thank you for allowing us to serve the people of Uganda over the last two decades and for many years to come.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Ellen Boucheau

Ellen Boudreau, Board Chair

Gamefa Erannon

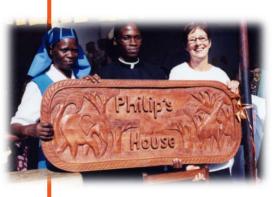
Pamela Brannon, Executive Director

#### **20 Years of Loving Service**

1995 Children of Uganda (then known as Uganda Children's Charity Foundation) was formed in response to the country's AIDS orphan crisis and to support the efforts of Sister Rose Muyinza, founder of the Daughters of Charity orphanage in Uganda. From 1972, Sister Rose took in street children during Idi Amin's brutal regime providing them with shelter, food and love. Her legacy lives on in the thousands of lives she touched and in our continuing mission to provide vulnerable youth access to quality education, nutritious food and healthcare.



**2002** Philip's House in Mukono Smart in memory of her brother to provide living requirements, health services, physiotherapy and education to young adults with varied mental and physical disabilities.



**1996** The launch of our first official *Tour of* Light – a music, dance and story-telling tour of the United States to raise money and awareness for AIDS orphans in Uganda. The troupe performed in 7 cities (Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Amarillo, New York, and Washington), paving the way for future tours in 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2012 and 2014.



## 2002-2006

Awarded 5 year grant funding via i2 Foundation's i2 Cares program in the sum of over \$265,000 to sponsor 150 children living at the Kiwanga Home orphanage.



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**20000**The Tour of Light troupe was invited to perform for The First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, made an appearance on the David Letterman Show was then invited to perform as part of Macy's Passport later that year.





**20008** Peace Corp volunteer, Sarah (Cowan) Farster, and our friends at Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia, MD helped build and establish the Ssanje Library and Community Resource Center on the grounds of Sabina Primary School in Rakai to give students and the wider community access to educational books and computers.

12 The Family Empowerment Program (FEP) was initiated to empower child guardians by assisting them with knowledge and skills training, Income Generating Projects Village (IGPs), Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), as well as counseling and psychosocial support.



**2014** To kick off the 2014 *Tour of Light*, we unveiled a new website at www.childrenofuganda.org with more interactive features to connect friends like you to the heart of our mission.

**2010** A Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) Course was led by Rosemary Morrow at Sabina Primary School with students and teachers to strengthen the Food and Water Security (FWS) Program. FWS has helped expand the school's vegetable gardens, fruit trees and chicken rearing. Students now benefit from a more nutritious and varied diet, while learning valuable agricultural skills.





**2013** We successfully secured a grant via the Independent Development Fund (IDF) to initiate the implementation of a 2 year Community Response to Child Labour (CR2CL) project in Rakai District. The project's aim is to increase community awareness regarding the adverse effects of child labour and to support community action in protecting child safety and rights.

**20115** marks Children Of Uganda's 20th anniversary of educating, supporting and empowering orphan and vulnerable youth. We thank everyone who has embarked on this remarkable journey with us!



#### **2015 Impact By The Numbers**

1,800

youth—both COU sponsored and community children—who attend Kamuli Primary School are now receiving improved healthcare thanks to our supporters who helped raise the funds needed to renovate and restock the school's health clinic.



6 year-old Matia was a victim of child labour, but is now sponsored.

2225 students were enrolled at various partner schools and institutions in 2015: 124 in primary school, 56 in secondary school, 19 in vocational and 26 at the university or college level.

11

university and teacher's training college graduated students from the program in They received 2015. degrees, diplomas and certificates in the of following areas study: Medicine, Arts with Education.



Our 2015 COU graduates are beyond thankful for your continuing support which helps to make dreams come true!

Procurement and Logistics Management, Development Studies, Journalism, Grade III Teaching and Early Childhood Education. 2015 IMPACT REPORT



Children of Uganda delivers vital medical supplies to Kamuli School Headmaster and Nurse.

children were freed from child labor and strong partnerships were formed among district leaders and community members in Rakai via the Community Response to Child Labour Project (CR2CL) as a result of the successfully completed 2-year Independent Development Fund (IDF) grant.



Students in school have so much to smile about.

21 university, advanced and basic level vocational students were supported to undertake industrial training or an internship in the areas of electrical installation, tailoring and mechanics. Training materials and tools were also provided for vocational students.

## 2015-2017 Strategic Plan

Over the past 21 years, Children of Uganda has provided thousands of vulnerable youth and their families with access to quality education, life skills training, improved nutrition, vital healthcare and more. And yet, there is so much more work to be done. The urgent needs of OVC's continue to grow given the socio-economic challenges that face Uganda today.

And so, we have developed a new 3 year (*January 1, 2015—December 31, 2017*) Strategic Plan to guide us in better serving Uganda's most vulnerable children, their families and the communities where they live. In accordance with this plan, we are currently striving for excellence in the following interconnected objectives:

• Education: Maintain quality education and increase sponsorship for more than 200 orphans and other vulnerable children in Uganda in the Kampala, Mukono and Rakai areas.

•Health Services: To improve access to basic health care services, counseling and psychosocial support programs for sponsored and local community children.

## •Advocacy and Empowerment Programs: To develop

consistent programs that improve the livelihood of families and that raise the community's commitment to the welfare of vulnerable children.

# • Sustainability: Strengthen institutional capacity for organizational development and growth.

To receive a copy of COU's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, please contact Pamela at (800) 531-9612 or e-mail pamela@childrenofuganda.org. We are happy to share our vision with you!



### **Education**

In 2015, 100% of our P7 students completed their primary education, compared to Uganda's national P7 completion rate of only 61.6%. Beyond primary school (*where other charities in the region end their assistance*), we support students on to secondary school, vocational training, teacher training college, university and/or other tertiary institutions of learning. In addition to maintaining the quality education we now provide for over 200 OVC in Kampala, Mukono and Rakai, our Strategic Plan has set forth the following objectives:

- Provide scholastic materials, beddings, and other related requirements for our most vulnerable children with no parental support (30% of children apply for this additional support)
- Establish career counseling programs for secondary, vocational, and university students, as well as require career guidance, mentorship and life skills talks for graduating students to prepare them for the work place
- Organize an annual motivational speaker to promote Health and Educational program objectives
- Analyze educational outcomes via report cards, student evaluations, and feedback from partner schools on a termly basis starting in Spring, 2016 to identify students in need of additional academic or behavioral support
- Provide counseling, psychosocial support and tutoring services to students identified with behavioral issues and/or poor academic performance (In 2016, support students with an end of term average below 50%.; In 2017, support students with an end of term average below 65%)
- Recognize and reward top performers and best improved students, as well as leadership from parents and guardians (More involved guardians will lead to increased engagement with COU's program and their students)
- Provide volunteer opportunities for students at COU offices. Each year, provide 4 part time (six-month term) volunteer opportunities to COU advanced level students
- Establish "textbook bank" at secondary partner schools to be used by sponsored students (to remain property of COU) in an effort to increase access to study materials and enhance academic excellence



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## Health

Children of Uganda's goal is to build on the successes of our work in the healthcare field this year. In early 2015, our board visited the health clinic at one of our main partner school's— Kamuli Primary. And immediately, they identified a vital project. A once robust facility - Kamuli's health clinic was in need of significant upgrades and improvements. Not only did they lack enough medical supplies and equipment, beds, mattresses, benches and chairs for patients, but the structure itself was in desperate need of painting and repairs.

Thanks to a generous outpouring of support (most notably from our dear friends, Kristi and Shawn McLaughlin) we began renovations in late 2015. Shortly after the start of the new academic year, the clinic was formally dedicated and operational. We are proud of the ability to offer vital medical services not only to our sponsored students, but to more than 1,800 community children who also attend Kamuli.



Board members and our team in Uganda join forces to improve the health of Kamuli's kids!

To expand our impact on health, we are already in the process of working on or planning to:

- Identify health professionals and clinics to carry out medical check-ups, hearing tests, dental and vision care
- Require annual medical check-ups for all primary and secondary sponsored children to monitor their health status for optimal well-being and school performance
- Ensure student vaccinations are up to date and overseen by professional health care providers (provide transportation costs to obtain vaccination records as needed)
- Support additional primary and secondary partner school health clinics with basic medical supplies and/or equipment
- Stock-up on vitamins (A, Iron and Folate), medicine to treat intestinal parasites, as well as HIV testing kits
- Work with professionals from partner NGO's and trained educators from the district's Director of Health Services to establish health education seminars for children at their schools (on issues ranging from preventative healthcare to reproductive health services)
- Establish an emergency health fund to support a minimum or 10 vulnerable children per school term that otherwise have no access to medical treatment



Partnering with local HIV clinic to help students receive proper medical diagnosis, care and treatment for HIV/AIDS.

## **Advocacy and Empowerment**

With over two decades of service, we understand fully that the vulnerability of a child starts in the home. And so, a sustainable path of transformation for orphan and vulnerable children must also include their guardians (parents, relatives or older siblings), other community members, local authorities and the relevant government ministry.

Our hope for the future is to expand family and community initiatives that improve the livelihood of vulnerable children, promote positive attitudes toward education and help overcome the challenges of equal access to education for OVCs. We also seek to develop programs and partnerships that support local Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and facilitate the formation and management of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) for COU selected parents and guardians.

We have set forth to do the following:

- Expand partnerships at the local and community levels of government to strengthen planning, coordination and implementation of care and protection services
- Encourage children to engage and participate in government sponsored international days focused on child equality and protection (Day of the African Child, World Day against Child Labor, World AIDS Day)
- Support family and community initiatives to promote positive attitudes toward education, and to overcome the challenges of equal access to education of OVC
- Develop program and/or partnerships to support Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for COU selected parents and guardians Establishment of sustainable IGA programs (Identify a total 20 COU parents and guardians to benefit from IGAs and then hold preliminary meetings in 2015)
- Train and support COU parents and guardians in Income Generating Activities (IGAs), which improve their family's livelihood
- Facilitate formation & management of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) for COU supported parents and guardians



Our Family Empowerment Program is helping to feed families, build small businesses and send a message of hope.



"Children of Uganda has instilled a savings culture in my life through the VSLA program. I didn't know how beneficial saving was and I used to not save at all until I joined the VSLA. The savings and interest I get has helped me start constructing my own house."

> -Ms. Margaret Nansubuga (Mother of sponsored child, Simon Patrick Lusiba)

## **Sustainability**

In order for our programs to grow, we must maintain a solid framework to build upon. Therefore, we are also focused on the following fundraising and outreach efforts:

- Plan and prepare for the 2019 *Tour of Light* in Uganda and U.S. (Fundraising efforts begin for dance troupe training, costumes and instruments in Q2 of 2017)
- Support COU's dance troupe to conduct local concerts and shows aimed at raising awareness and fundraising (2 concerts per year)
- Expand public awareness of COU's program and the challenges affecting OVCs in Uganda (Utilize social media and website, annually publish brochures, Impact Reports, event calendars, and newsletters to publicize COU's achievements)
- Secure thoughtful partnerships through networking with other NGOs, Government institutions, International Development Organizations and Corporate Community Outreach Programs (Work with organizations who can help expand our health services, counseling, and psychosocial support)
- Proposal for COU to purchase land and existing buildings for a school, farming and life skills training program



# LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

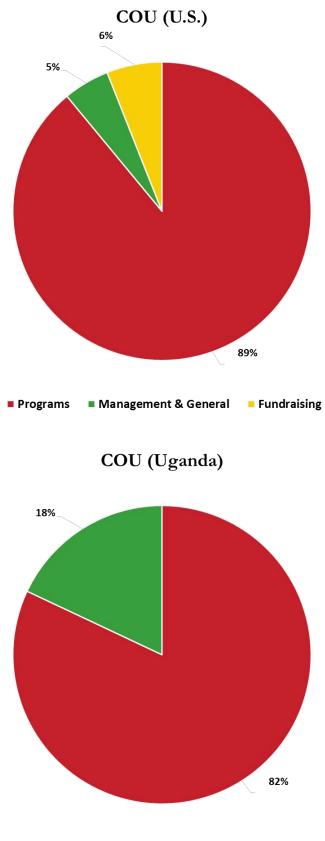
We would like to extend a special thank you to the following members who lead in their giving, love and service:

> Cynthia Anthony Richard Baks Robert and Susan Bell Deborah Blanchard Jane Brannon Patricia Burdick Christ Episcopal Church Emily Dial Tim and Marsella Fults Georgetown Presbyterian Church Michael and Kathryn Hanley

Richard and Emily Heard Rob and Mary Logan Hoxton, IV Shawn and Kristi McLaughlin Jana Olson Baker Keith and Pat Orme George Rutherford Nathan and Alison Webb Celso and Maria White Douglas Wietbrock Tom and Elise Wilkes

If you would like to join our most generous and loyal supporters in the Leadership Circle, please contact Pamela Brannon at pamela@childrenofuganda.org or call (800) 531-9612 for more information.

#### **Financial Overview**





\*Audited Financial Statements are always available upon request..

## **Special Thanks to our Impact Makers**

#### Platinum (\$10,000+)

Patricia Burdick Georgetown Presbyterian Church Brett and Jenine Cravatt Emily Dial Michael and Kathryn Hanley Rob and Mary Logan Hoxton, IV

#### **Gold** (\$9,999-\$5,000)

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Our records indicate the following donations received from January - December, 2015. Thank you so much for your support! If you believe there is an accidental omission or if you would prefer your name be removed, please contact us so we can issue a correction in the online edition of our report.



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