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EDUCATION - MOTIVATION - TRANSFORMATION

The 2017 Annual Impact Report includes activities during January-December, 2017.

Our Mission:

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

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"Travel far enough, you meet yourself"

-David Mitchell

2017 was a very successful year for Children of Uganda and we owe much of this to the many visitors and dedicated volunteers we received, including Terry and Kevin Knight, their daughter India Knight (*pictured right*), Maria and Celso White, Timothy Kolschowsky, Ron Braselton, Anna Frost, and Liz Holmes. *Check out their full feature on the next page*.

We were equally delighted to have a remote volunteer, Sarah Alger, as well as help from former students Agnes Nakintu and Henry Jjemba (*who were both hired by COU after their great work as interns*). Graduates Carol Namujuzi and Resty Nalwadda also volunteered in our Rakai office, while COU's Alumni Association was more engaged in providing valuable mentorship to the younger children.

The time, talents and resources dedicated to our mission from these incredible individuals—*and the generosity of friends like you*—truly made a big impact this year!

Their support enabled our staff to focus on exciting new changes and initiatives; most notably, *The 100 Women Club*.

We kicked-off this brand-new donor group in March and as a result raised over \$11,000! These funds were immediately invested into Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for guardians (primarily widowed or impoverished mothers, grandmothers and aunties) in our Family Empowerment Program. *This has been the realization of a dream many years in the making* and we thank everyone for believing in this cause.



Volunteers like Liz Holmes (*who you can read more about on the following page*) found her heart among the people of Uganda.

Moreover, we established 2 new Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and trained guardians in budgeting and business management. In partnership with various local organizations, we were also able to expand access to medical and dental care for community members, facilitate youth empowerment camps for our students and provide psycho-social counseling support for families across Uganda. *See pages 6-7 for more even more highlights*.

We hope that our 2017 report will encourage even more potential visitors like yourself to visit our beneficiaries in Uganda and to see first-hand the far-reaching impact of your support.

On behalf of our children, their families and our entire staff—we thank you for playing such a tremendous role in our ability to be on the front lines educating, motivating and transforming the lives of vulnerable children and their families. We look forward to witnessing many more triumphs together in 2018.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Theye E. Hargrow

Cheryl Hargrow, Board Chair

Gamefa Erannon

Pamela Brannon, Executive Director

Cross-Continent Connections...



India Knight (*center*) with her parents, Kevin and Terry who also volunteered on the ground, embrace one another and the breathtaking beauty of Uganda.

"Africa changes you forever, like nowhere on earth. Once you have been there, you will never be the same." - Brian Jackman



is a remarkable, young India volunteer who spent 6 months in Uganda this vear teaching English to our P5 and P6 sponsored students, as well as community children at Sabina Primary School. India said that even though she was teaching the kids, she learned so much about life, forgiveness and compassion. India recalls, "Early on in my trip, when I wanted to go for a walk, some of the kids saw me walking and said, 'Ab, you can't walk alone!" They then joined her on the path, talking about life and sharing experiences. It's one of her favorite memories. India certainly left a profound impact on the children; in fact, many wrote to their sponsors saying how incredible she was and that they miss her. For those considering a trip to Uganda, India shares: "I would definitely recommend coming here. It's a beautiful country and I'll never forget it for the rest of my life."



was welcomed by Program Director, Ritah Namakula, and our staff in September for a brief visit—*in which he accomplished a great deal of good!* Our P6 and P7 students were privileged to hear Timothy give a motivational speech at Kamuli Primary School during their holiday tutoring session. He also visited the school health clinic supported by COU in 2016, the homes of 2 IGA beneficiaries to see their progress and ended his time by visiting our central office to show his appreciation to our staff for a job well done.

Tim Kolschowsky (*pictured left*) motivates and encourages students to work hard in school.

2017 IMPACT REPORT

Change Lives Forever

Ron & A are a dynamic duo who-on their way to conquer Mt. Kilimanjaro-made a stop in Uganda to visit Ron's sponsored student of many years, Jessica Nanziri. There were many tears of joy shed by all during this once in a lifetime meeting. After

spending the day with Jessica, Ron and Anna offered to purchase and hand-deliver mathematical sets and undergarments for students at Sabina Primary School.



A gift of mangoes was bestowed upon Anna, Ron and our staff in thanks for their support. Ron was particularly moved by the kind gesture—especially from someone who had so little to give.

Ron recalls their day at Sabina as "just magical" adding that the children were "some of the most grateful, sweetest and well-behaved kids I have ever met." They also had time to visit 5 different families who we support with IGA projects. They were impressed with the progress and saw first-hand how small investments can completely transform a family's economic welfare. We are so Ron and his sponsored student, grateful for their visit.



Jessica Nanziri, hug for the veru first time!

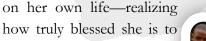


Liz (*center*) had an amazing experience as a COU intern and said it was due in large part to "the wonderful staff" seen here.

have a family that could always afford food, clothes, bedding and other necessities. Liz shared, "I am so thankful for my internship with COU. I have enjoyed every day working with this organization and being able to see a new culture and part of the world."

interned with Children of Uganda this past June. She worked closely with Henry Jjemba (Communications & Sponsorship Assistant) on filming, editing and

producing video projects. Liz spent many hours in the field recording interviews with sponsored students and their families. She was also able to visit the VSLA groups where she was invited to speak words of encouragement-which were greatly appreciated by the women. Liz said one of the most rewarding experiences she had was handing out school requirements and mattresses to students. All of the students she met were so appreciative of the work she was doing to make their lives better. This experience led her to reflect





Your Measurable Impact

Ugandans (64 COU sponsored kids, 62 COU guardians and 155 other atrisk community members) received free medical, dental and counseling services thanks to our partnership

with the Medical Dental Missioners Africa (MDMA). The common ailments found and treated were: malaria (191 tested positive), ulcers, cough, joint pain (among the elderly), skin diseases and tooth decay.





171 students were gifted with new undergarments and the older girls also received sanitary napkins.

35 secondary students were facilitated to attend a 6-day transformation, leadership and career guidance youth camp from Aug. 28th—Sept. 2nd in collaboration with New Generation Transformers.



guardians attended a practical skills training in making herbal jelly and reusable sanitary towels (*which if properly cared for can last 6 - 12 months*).

Two house mothers were also trained to teach our young ladies who run The Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) Club to make the sanitary towels so they could share the technique with fellow students.



guardians and 157 children attended meetings in Rakai and Mukono organized by

COU. We had various speakers come to talk with parents about their responsibilities and on issues concerning child protection. Rewards were also distributed to our top students in an effort to motivate them and encourage other students to improve their academic performance and good character.

2017 IMPACT REPORT

By The Numbers!

home visits were carried out by our social workers and program assistants to monitor the welfare of sponsored children and their families across the Rakai, Kyotera, Mukono and Kampala districts. Counseling sessions were also conducted to address new or ongoing concerns related to physical and mental health, home-life, food security and child safety.



\$11,315

18



of our most vulnerable families were chosen to

receive emergency food supplies in response to Uganda's prolonged drought. The food baskets contained maize flour for posho, beans and rice.

was raised by **The 100 Women Club** charter members. These funds were immediately invested in 26 guardians to initiate Income Generating Activities (IGAs), become self -sustaining and provide for their families.



17

COU guardians were given support for their IGAs and were also trained in both business and financial management. Long-term, sustainable skills will help our guardians become more selfsupporting and better able to care for themselves, their children and extended relatives in the home.



8 S6 (*high school senior*) students were sponsored to began their first year of university or advanced diploma studies in 2017.

students completed their university and vocational courses successfully graduating from our program. 2 graduates were also hired this year: Henry Jjemba, Sponsorship & Communications Assistant and Agnes Nakintu, Finance Administrative Assistant.





In 2015, Children of Uganda established **The Leadership Circle** to commemorate our 20th anniversary year of service and to recognize our most loyal and generous donors beyond sponsorship.

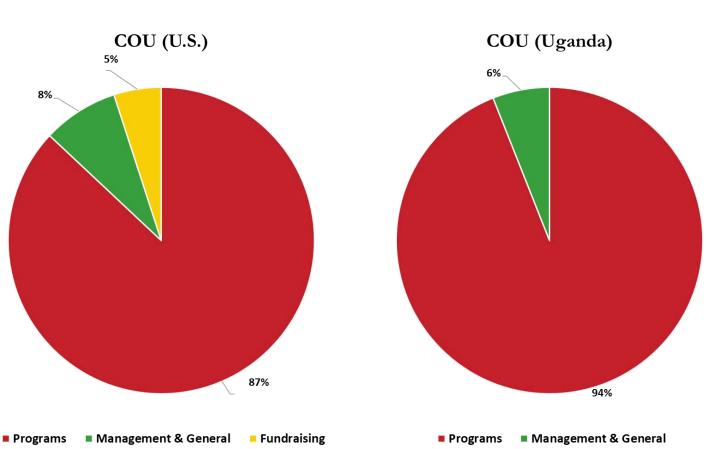
Each organization or individual you see listed here on the right (*in order of greatest contribution*) has demonstrated time and again their unparalleled generosity on behalf of our children, their families and vulnerable communities across Uganda. All of the success stories and impact figures contained within these pages and throughout our now 23 year history would not have been possible without this special group of people.

They are truly leaders who have paved the way for remarkable good in the lives of those we serve and the world as a whole.

We thank every single one of our beloved Leadership Circle members for sustaining us and playing such a vital part in our growth. On behalf of our entire community—*we love you and we owe it all to you!*

We Love You!

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*Audited Financial Statements are always available upon request..

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