

Children  
of Uganda



# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



**Our Vision:**

We envision a world where children and their families are equipped with the critical resources to thrive.

**Our Mission:**

To impact children and families in an effort to address economic disparity and social injustice.

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**Children of Uganda**

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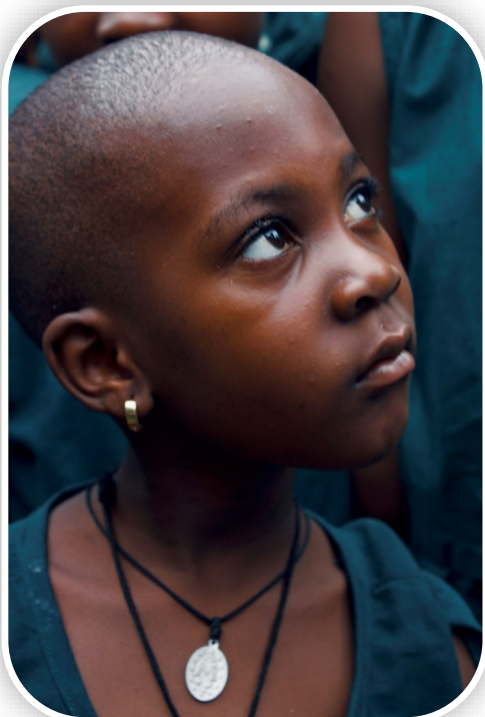
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# Looking Ahead On The Path To Empowerment

Children of Uganda (COU) has a longstanding and successful history of educating and empowering youth. Over 1,000 students have gone through our program from primary level all the way up to university in some cases.



Without the support of our generous sponsors, the 200+ children and teens thriving in our program today might otherwise be caught up in child labor or sitting at home without the ability to pay school fees. And yet, 2019 was a challenging year - having lost over 20 child sponsors, we recognize that sponsorship alone is not sustainable.

We have also come to see that women are capable of doing what individual child sponsorship cannot: creating lasting sustainability for entire families and communities. **Ugandan women – and specifically those who love and care for children, biological or not – are the key to unlocking the chains of poverty.**

2020 will mark COU's 25th year of service—*our silver anniversary*—and it is sure to be a defining year for us. This is because we recently updated our Strategic Plan to focus on 3 core areas of support: **Family Empowerment; Education** (for children and their surviving relatives) and **Community Outreach**.

Shifting our focus to the women who care for our sponsored children will allow them to actively participate in and lead their family's social and economic transformation. Eventually, this will break the cycle of dependency and give our guardians – *women who are carrying the nation on their backs* – hope beyond merely surviving.

Vulnerability starts in the home – from the death of one or both parents, lack of basic necessities, health crises, food and water insecurity and inequality. By educating a child *and* investing in that child's guardian, we can uplift entire families and address poverty from its root cause. By growing women-run Income Generating Activities (IGAs), small businesses and Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs), we can also strengthen the fabric of the communities in which our supported children and families live.

Your belief in our mission has left a lasting legacy and the gratitude we have for your support can't be overstated. Thank you for allowing us to be on the ground for nearly a quarter century and for playing such a significant role in providing the resources we need to continue this vital work.

*We hope you will continue to walk this journey of empowerment with us.*

Our Deepest Gratitude,

Cheryl Hargrow,  
Board Chair

Pamela Brannon,  
Executive Director

# A Savings Culture

Equipping women with knowledge and skills training in the formation of Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs) empowers mothers, aunts and grandmothers to be active and leading participants in their development. COU guardians and fellow community members who participate in these groups learn to adopt a saving culture, which encourages them to work hard and boost their own businesses. Through the acquisition of loans, many are also able to expand or start-up new projects. The impacts have been far-reaching in the community and have affected women in very personal and profound ways.

For example, before Annet Namusisi joined Kisowera VSLA, she had lost hope in everything. Her husband had passed away suddenly leaving her and her children with very little to survive on. Annet's neighbors told her about a saving group in the community and after some consideration, she decided to give it a try. She never looked back and is now the most dedicated member! Thanks to all of the knowledge she gained and connections she made in her VSLA group, Annet is now able to educate all of her children and put three meals on the table every day.



“ I APPRECIATE CHILDREN OF UGANDA FOR INTRODUCING SUCH SAVING GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY. I AM NOW A LADY WITH NO WORRIES ON HOW TO FULLY SUPPORT MY FAMILY. ”

-Annet Namusisi  
Member of Kisowera VSLA

VSLA Group Name	COU Gardian Members	Total Members	Cost Per Share	Total Savings	Social Fund
<i>Blessed</i>	12	40	\$1.30	\$4,764	\$99
<i>Bagalana</i>	17	43	\$1	\$918	\$26
<i>Tusuubira</i>	11	103	\$0.50	\$14,045	\$517
<i>God Bless Us</i>	10	20	\$1.30	\$1,546	\$164
<i>Gakuwebwe Munno</i>	2	110	\$0.90	\$14,219	\$748
<i>Agali Awamu</i>	1	70	\$0.90	\$3,375	\$382
<i>Kyosimba Onnanya</i>	2	53	\$0.90	\$7,657	\$477
<i>Kisowera</i>	0	78	\$0.90	\$10,852	\$354
<i>Twezimbe</i>	8	38	\$0.50	\$1,933	\$232
<i>Kwewayo</i>	5	40	\$3.00	\$18,889	\$489
<i>Balimi Twesitule</i>	3	33	\$0.50	\$446	\$201
<i>Tusekimu Kangabwa</i>	6	30	\$1.40	\$976	\$92
<i>Ssimba Eyeterekera</i>	5	32	\$0.50	\$600	\$142
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$80,220</b>	<b>\$3,923</b>

# IGAs & The Women Behind Their Success



**ABOVE:** “None of my 6 children had ever come back with an academic termly report [due to unpaid school fees], but this time round all of them came back with their reports,” shares Loyce Atwiine, mother of sponsored child Ronah Akankunda. Loyce has grown her business and the profits from her vegetable stand are being invested in the education of all her children.

**RIGHT:** Jane Nakitende is the guardian of Blessing Mirembe and was chosen for IGA support a year ago. She operates a beauty salon, so with the investment she purchased cosmetics and hair extensions to expand her customer base. She went from a profit of nearly a dollar a day to making upwards of \$14-\$22 a day! She is now able to cover rent, school tuition and food for her family of 5.



SMALL INVESTMENTS  
BIG IMPACT



**LEFT:** Flavia Nasaazi began receiving support earlier this year and is already making great progress. She sells charcoal and vegetables with a daily profit of \$4-\$7. She has two children, including sponsored child Christine Namiwanda; however, their father is an alcoholic and has neglected the family for years. Now, she is able to better provide for her children and has even been able to cover her son’s school fees in \$4. She is also saving \$6 to \$10 weekly as an active member of two local VSLAs.

**RIGHT:** Hadijah Nalumansi, mother of sponsored student John Ssewakambo, was given \$139 to boost her existing crop farming IGA and with the support was also able to start-up a new brick laying business. The success of these two projects has paid for her 5 other children to attend school, as well as meet the family’s basic daily needs. This was not possible before Hadijah joined our Family Empowerment Program.



**BELOW:** Sarah Nabwire (sponsored child Elizabeth Kisaakye’s mother) stands proudly in front of her newly constructed pigsty where she has begun rearing piglets.



# Our Impact By The Numbers

**555** family members (child guardians, COU sponsored students, siblings and other live-in relatives of the home) are now directly benefiting from IGAs in the Kampala, Mukono and Kyotera districts.



**Members of Tusuubira VSLA in Lukojjo receive technical training and support during a recent group savings session.**

**3** day summer camp was held between August 29th – 31st in partnership with Universal Sporting Bridge (USB) – a local Ugandan NGO established by a group of athletic coaches committed to helping communities solve their own challenges and live with dignity through sports. The theme for the camp was “Knowing My Boundaries”.



**USB coach leads students in a series of games and engaging activities centered on developing positive relationships, decision making and community building.**

**300** guardians participated in a basic business management training session led by COU staff and local leaders.

**1,300** individuals have benefited from the 13 COU established Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs). Members testify that they have been able to overcome many financial challenges because of their VSLA participation.



**Vocational student, Ritah Nalukwago shows us the sewing skills she’s learned at St. Kizito Technical School. She is pursuing a certificate in Fashion and Design.**



**90**

Income Generating Activities (IGAs) have been established or supported in retail (clothing, shoes & grocery), agriculture production (coffee, seasonal crops & vegetables), traditional mat weaving, crafts, piggeries, small-scale restaurants and more.

**20** sponsored students were enrolled this year in various vocational institutes and universities, while another 9 vocational and university students officially graduated including: Allen Nabiwemba, *BA in Industrial Fine Art*; Fred Ssekamatte, *BSC in Pharmacy*; Godfrey Mugisha, *Certificate in Nursing*; Allan Mugabe, *Certificate in Electrical Installation*; Francis Wasswa, *Certificate in Plumbing*; Joseph Kateregga, *Certificate in Tailoring*; Cate Nassiwa, *Certificate in Tailoring*; George Mulindwa, *Diploma in Radio, T.V. and Film Production*; and, Isaac Wasswa, *Diploma in Computer Science*.

# Heart-to-Heart Connections Tour

This summer, we hosted our first-ever official tour in Uganda for child sponsors and friends of the Children of Uganda family. Sponsors Rahil and Lauryn Taj, Nicky Fritz and Tammy Dube joined our inaugural journey. Seeing the children and country through their eyes – *for none had ever been to Uganda before* – was so exciting. Each of them had their own unique experience, but they all shared one take-away in common – **immense gratitude**.



On our first full day in Uganda, we visited one of our partner schools. And, what a greeting we received! Most students were on their term break; but, we met up with some candidate students (P6 and P7) and each of them shared about their studies and hopes for the future. We then spent 3 wonderful days in the Kyotera district at another partner school who hosted our summer camp (fully funded thanks to our generous supporters).

The children learned many valuable lessons via games, sports, one-on-one activities, lots of group interactions and discussions. It was an absolute joy to see our children being children – running, playing, laughing and feeling empowered about their unique strengths and abilities.

One of the highlights of the trip was visiting a few of the women who participate in our Family Empowerment Program (FEP) – funded via *The 100 Women Club*. **Women like Jenesta who grew a small garden into a vast banana plantation.** She has since increased her land, is growing coffee and started a piggery project. As a result, Jenesta is able to pay school fees for her other children, as well as other necessities.

But no question – the most meaningful for our visitors was getting to meet their sponsored child and their families. Lauryn and Rahil were overjoyed to hug their little boy, Johnson, and to travel to his home village. Sponsor Nicky Fritz not only spent time with her sponsored boy Chrizestom during the 3-day camp, but also had the opportunity to visit his home and meet his grandmother.

We can't thank our donors enough for making the trek over to Uganda to meet their sponsored students. The impact their support has had on these young lives is immeasurable.



**Lauryn and Rahil Taj meet their sponsored boy Johnson and his guardian in Uganda.**

To reserve your spot or to join an e-mail list for updates on our next adventure, please contact Pamela Brannon at [304-728-7355](tel:304-728-7355) or [pamela@childrenofuganda.org](mailto:pamela@childrenofuganda.org).

We would love to have you come to this beautiful nation whose people are some of the most generous and kindest in the world. It will truly be the trip of a lifetime!



Children of Uganda

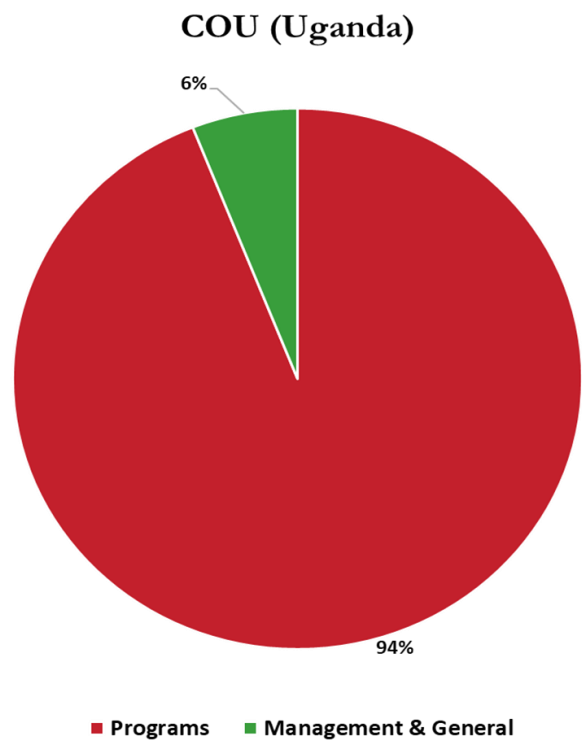
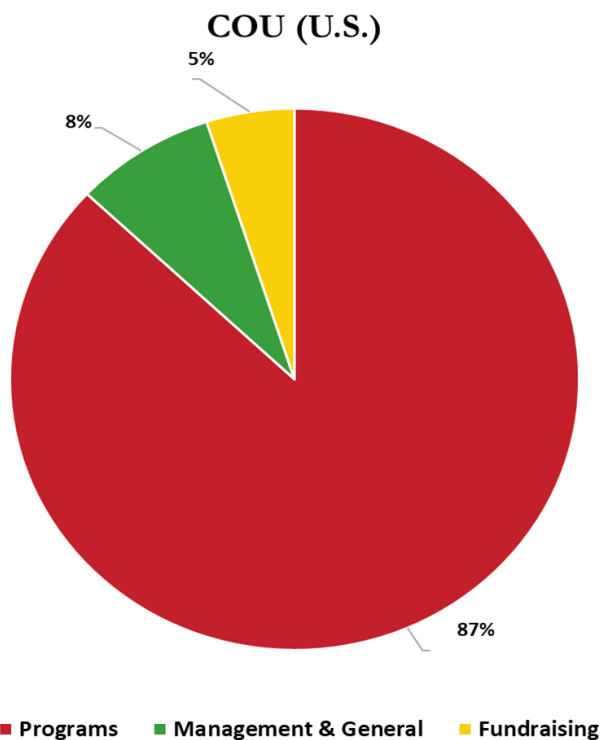
# Leadership Circle

We would like to honor and thank our most generous and faithful donors for sustaining us and playing such a vital part in our growth. Each of you have single-handedly improved the lives of women, children and families in Uganda—together, you have empowered and uplifted thousands. Thank you for your unparalleled support!

Catherine Easley  
 Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
 Keith and Pat Orme  
 Michael and Kathryn Hanley  
 Robert and Susan Bell  
 Emily Dial  
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 Cesare and Jennifer Calari  
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 Tim and Marsella Fults  
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 Rob and Mary Logan Hoxton, IV  
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## Financial Overview



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





# 100 Women Club

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 Alfredo Amaya  
 Alex and Janice Ardans  
 Carly Anders  
 Frannie Bailey  
 Suzanne Barnes  
 Lillian Barrows  
 Timothy and Sherry Beaty  
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 Angela Williams  
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**Heartfelt thanks to COU's generous student sponsors and donors not listed here. *You make our impact possible!***





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