

# Annual Report

Hope Africa International



## Letter from the Executive Director

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”—Matthew 19:14

2019 was a fabulous year with new children sponsored, generous General Funds raised to support the budget, and another class of graduates sent out into the world. Your faithfulness in supporting vulnerable children is deeply encouraging the communities of Kapchorwa and K&K (Kabacheriya and Kaplobotwo), where families previously felt desperate and overwhelmed by the needs of their children. Today, parents of sponsored children rejoice, and children stand a little taller, *all because they have the opportunity to graduate from Secondary School (High School)! It all starts with love for a child you may never meet, a child who simply needs the gift of opportunity and someone to believe they are worth loving. We believe this kind of love is an expression of God’s love for each one of us, something we all desperately need! Thank you, sponsors, for being that “someone” for our children. —Katie Keranen*



42 new children were added to our waiting list in 2019



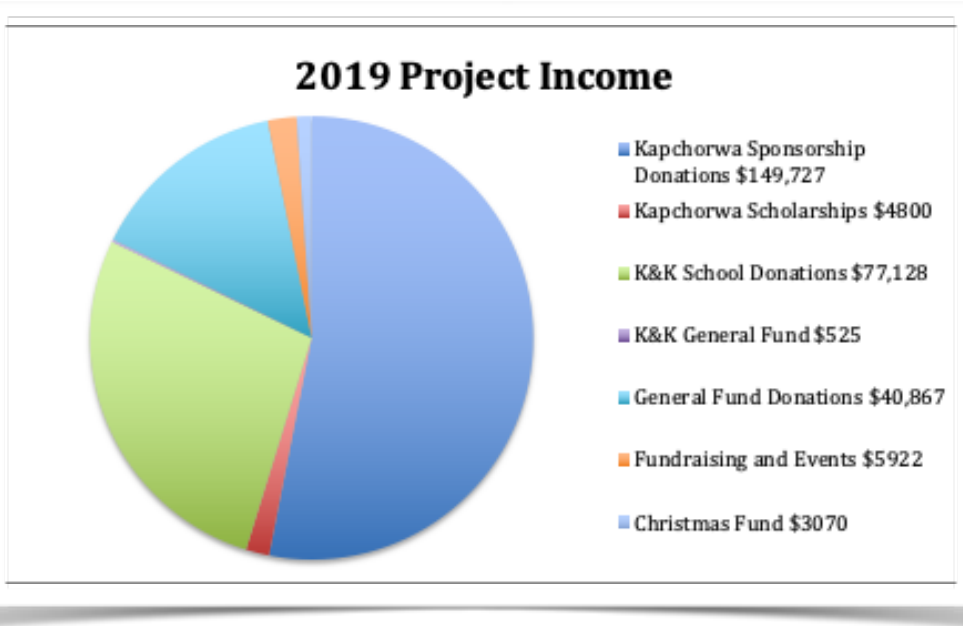
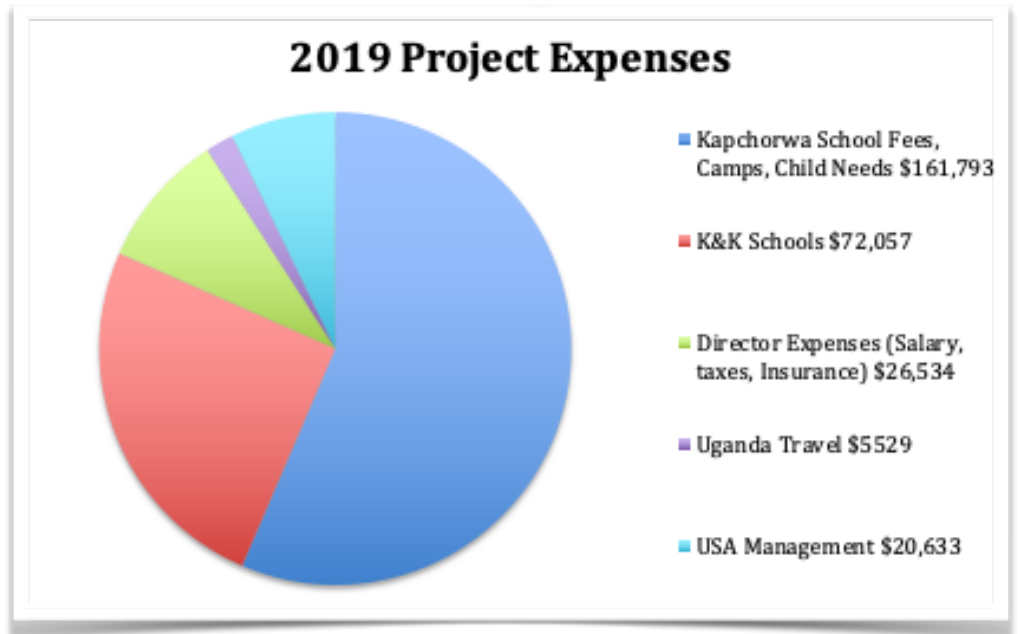
828 children were educated in Kapchorwa and at K&K Schools



75 total new sponsorships in Kapchorwa and K&K

## 2019 Financials

Our commitment is to spend less than 20% on management and general expenses. (Usually, our budget for USA management expenses is around 15%) In 2019, only \$20,633 (7%) was used for management, while \$265,914 (93%) was used for program service expenses (Kapchorwa school fees, camps, child needs, K&K Schools, Director Expenses, Uganda Travel).



Our total income for 2019 was \$282,039, with \$234,725 designated specifically to child sponsorship. We used 99.6% (\$233,850) of sponsorship donations for sponsorship expenses in Uganda including school fees, child needs, uniforms, medical, camps, Uganda salaries (not director travel).

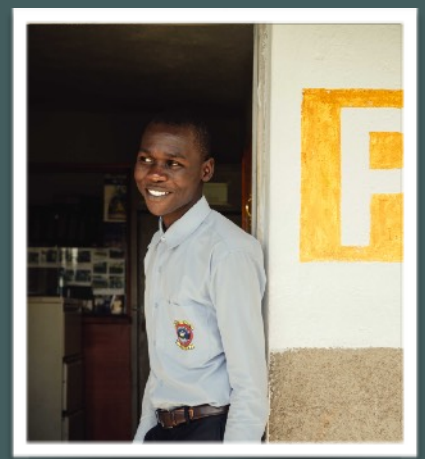
You may ask, "How then do you provide for all the needs of the program beyond sponsorship donations?" General Fund donations serve to bridge the gap between sponsorship donations and the needs of our program.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to bring hope to destitute children through meeting their physical needs, providing a quality education, and teaching them about God's grace and mercy through His Son, Jesus. We believe transformation of communities, nations, and the world happens when we invest in children, who are the future leaders.

## HOW WE DO THIS

Hope Africa International provides for school fees, meals at school, uniforms and shoes, medical care, and camps where children participate in Bible Study, health and hygiene instruction, and career counseling.



## EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

- 22 students graduated from Secondary 6 (High School) with their Advanced Diplomas. 18 Students graduated from vocational programs in mechanics, construction, business, accounting, and tailoring, 3 students completed primary or preschool teaching courses, and 4 students graduated from nursing school.
- K&K schools promoted their first class of Secondary 4 students who are either continuing on to pursue their advanced diplomas (Secondary 5 & 6) or to pursue vocational courses.
- Amazing Grace Primary School at K&K had a passing rate of 97% for their Primary 7 students. These students moved onto Secondary School in 2020.
- In Kapchorwa, our students had 100% passing rate on their Primary 7 government exam, a first in Hope Africa's history. Most of these students scored in the highest categories, Divisions 1&2.
- 92% of all students in Kapchorwa and at K&K passed their Secondary 4 government exams. Students who pass this exam receive their Ordinary Diplomas and are allowed to pursue higher level vocational courses or pursue their Advanced Diplomas (Secondary 5&6).



•All Primary 7, Secondary 4 and Secondary 6 Students in Kapchorwa and K&K participated in "Study Tours" where they traveled to the cities of Jinja or Entebbe to broaden their understanding of their National History and government.

•Our educational assistance program for students with learning difficulties has significantly improved overall student performance with fewer students repeating their classes. We implemented this program in 2018 since many students struggle with the transition from government schools to the rigorous academics of our partnering private schools.

We have hired teachers who come alongside these children to help them catch up.

## 2019 THEMES “LIVING A REDEEMED LIFE” AND “NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD”

“..nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”—Romans 8:39



- Primary students attended five center days where they learned from the Bible, memorized scripture, played games together, ate wonderful meals, received health and hygiene instruction and performed songs before their peers.

- Local pastors and Ugandan staff disciplined secondary (High School) students regularly at their schools in small groups.

- Secondary Camps were held during each

student holiday from school. Students studied the Bible, worshiped together, participated in sports competitions and games, and deepened their relationships with other Hope Africa Students. They also received instruction on health and hygiene and career guidance.

- Older students and Hope Africa Graduates participated in outreach events to their community by working with local churches



to share about what God has done in their lives and to pray for the community. Students witnessed many community members come to Christ through these events.

- Young students (Grades 5-7) were selected to take part in the Hope Africa International Choir based on character, leadership potential, and willingness to attend all practices and performances. These students perform for various community events where they can share their faith through music, including “The Day of the African Child”.



## MEETING PHYSICAL NEEDS



- The daily physical needs of children were met through meals at school. All students received two meals a day at school, three meals a day if they were boarding.

- Certain families which were the most vulnerable received extra assistance from our child needs fund in the budget. This assistance included extra food for single parent/grandparent led homes, school supplies, or clothing.

- If a child's family member passed away, HAI provided some money to assist with funeral expenses.



- Hope Africa provided for medical needs for children which were not covered by government healthcare. In addition, every child received a medical evaluation and HIV testing. Two children with special needs received regular Physical Therapy.



- We had five HIV positive students who received nutritional supplements along with regular medication. All of these students are thriving.

- One of our sponsored children with Muscular Dystrophy received medication prescribed by a visiting specialist from UC Davis. Hope Africa provided this medication to slow the progression of the disease to this child, his brothers and cousins who all suffer from the genetic condition.

- Uniforms and shoes were provided for every sponsored child in Kapchorwa and at K&K Schools. In Kapchorwa, this meant 330 uniforms and pairs of shoes. At K&K Schools, local women are paid to sew uniforms for over 500 students, which benefits the children and the women!



## PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

Hope Africa International seeks to partner with families, parents and guardians to support them in raising their own children. We believe supporting families helps to build stronger communities, reduces child trafficking, reduces overcrowded orphanages, and reduces child marriages. Here is how HAI partnered with families in 2019:

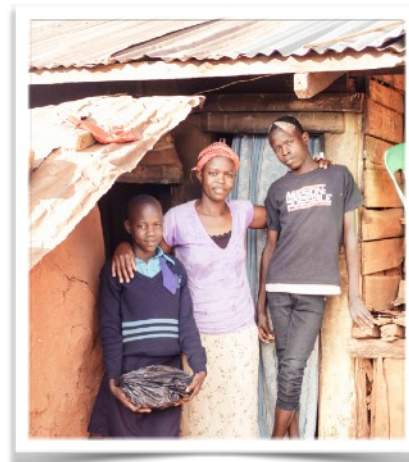
- The strain on families was diminished as children received nutritious meals at school.
- Families were encouraged as their children grow in their faith and character through the examples of staff and older students.



- HAI held three parent meetings where they received instruction on health and hygiene, Biblical parenting, and how to support their children in their education. Parents were also given the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns with the program.

- Ugandan Staff visited the homes of sponsored children to check in on their living

situations and needs. This also allowed them to build better relationships and mutual trust with parents or guardians.



- Ugandan Staff met personally with parents and students to guide them through difficulties, new decisions and to create effective solutions.
- Ugandan Staff intervened when children were in difficult home situations and worked within the community to find caring guardians for the children, or worked with families to improve the situations.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

- Every year, Hope Africa International raises funds for Christmas Celebrations in Kapchorwa and at K&K Schools.
- Children received a special meal, sweets, and cake, played games, performed songs or choirs for each other, listened to the story of the birth of Christ and each child received a Christmas gift. It was the highlight of the year for all of our sponsored children, as all ages came together to celebrate what God had done in their lives throughout the year!

## STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **K&K Overseer and Project Coordinator**

Mike and Phylis Chemonges worked for Hope Africa International from 2009 through 2015. Now, they oversee the sponsorship program at K&K with Amazing Grace Primary School and Amazing Grace Secondary School. They manage 30 plus teachers and 500 plus students.



### **Hope Africa International in Kapchorwa**

(Left to right, not including Katie) Student Welfare Officer: Alice Sande, Project Coordinator: Harriet Chepkwurui, Accountant: Doricas Cheptoek, Overseer: David Chebet



Executive Director:  
Katie Keranen since 2013

Administrative Assistant (not pictured): Crystal Vogt since 2019



## HAI Board Members

Board Member: Mick Black travels to Uganda 2-3 times per year to assist with construction projects and to manage his fair trade coffee business, Kabum Coffee.

Board Chair: DC Lundy travels to Uganda 2-4 times per year to assist with construction and ministry projects at K&K and to encourage all HAI staff.

Board Vice Chair: Troy Smith lived in Kenya for over 2 years managing an orphanage for street children and is a former pastor. Troy volunteers his time helping to coordinate legal and administrative assistance in Uganda to ensure financial accountability for the program.



Board Secretary: Karen Williams travels to Uganda about once a year and is a substitute teacher. She has deep passion for children and education.

Board Treasurer (Not Pictured): Garth Tosello was on one of the early teams traveling to Uganda from Sisters, OR.

Board Member (Not pictured): Cheri Miller was also on the first team traveling to Uganda from Sisters and was an elementary school teacher.



All HAI board members have cross-cultural experience, particularly in Africa, and have a passion for physical and spiritual development in Africa. Board members are diverse in experience with business, construction, education and Church ministry. None of the board members received any compensation from HAI during 2019, but completely volunteered their time and resources to support vulnerable children.



## DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

- **Improved Academic Performance:**

- While we are pleased with the improvement we have seen over the past six years, we continually seek to provide the best academic opportunities for our students. At K&K we would like to see students perform at a higher level than simply passing for Primary 7 and Secondary 4. In Kapchorwa, we would like to see 100% passing rates and higher scores. Our plan is to provide quality learning assistance for those who are struggling in addition to school.

- **Increased Interaction With Families**

- Our goal is for staff or volunteers to visit the homes of sponsored children at least once per year. We have not quite accomplished this goal and see the vast need to follow up on the home life of each and every sponsored child.
- Improved Parent meetings where parents are encouraged and instructed on Biblical parenting and career and school guidance for their children.
- Increased interaction means intervention to prevent abuse and abandonment of sponsored children by their families.

- **University Scholarship Fund**

- Providing scholarships for students who wish to attend university has been an ongoing dream of ours. Kabum Coffee has committed to contributing to a scholarship fund as their sales grow. As our support base strengthens, we hope to begin a scholarship fund to assist those who qualify for higher education.

- **Our Own Building in Kapchorwa**

- In 2006, Testimony Primary School was built by donors from Sisters Community Church. This was the school all our sponsored children previously attended. Due to the lack of financial accountability of the overseer of the program, we had no choice but to remove the children from the school in 2014 and enroll them in three other private schools in Kapchorwa.
- We have continued to seek legal counsel to obtain access to Testimony Primary School again for our students and pray for God's will and direction. Our dream is to see that happen soon!
- In the meantime, we have implemented rigorous financial and administrative procedures and staff training to prevent this from happening again. Our current Ugandan team has proven to be faithful to the children and the program, validated by professional annual audits. *Our relationship with staff is spiritually and emotionally healthy as we work together for the benefit of children.*

- **75-100 New Children Sponsored Per Year**

- We continually seek more sponsors to partner with us in reaching Uganda's next generation. Our dream is to see 75-100 new children added to our program each year between Kapchorwa and K&K. Ultimately, our dream is for these children to come to know the saving grace and love of Jesus to bring transformation to their communities and the world.

# Contact us

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