

HOPE AFRICA

Annual Report 2020

Letter from the Executive Director

“If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday.”—Isaiah 58:10

The beginning of 2020 seemed bright as our sponsored children started school and many new children were sponsored in the first quarter. Little did we know how quickly and dramatically the world would change, literally coming to a grinding halt. What we hear from our staff, parents and children is that 2020 was extremely difficult, but because of God’s grace and all He provided through sponsorship, they were able to survive. When many of the families of sponsored children ran out of food, donors were generous. When we needed to shift gears and do small group homeschooling, our Ugandan staff were resourceful. When people heard of the many other children in need, they joined our Hope Africa family by sponsoring a new child!

Hope Africa was able to continue educating, discipling and feeding children even when schools were closed and gatherings were limited. The teachers for our Kapchorwa and K&K programs were overjoyed with the opportunity to continue doing what they loved and with smaller groups of students. Their efforts bore good fruit as several of our sixth graders were allowed to skip a grade so they could take their government exams for Primary 7.

All this to say, 2020 had its challenges and its joys. As we continue into 2021 with the same world conditions, we see serious consequences for the next generation. Many students in Uganda have become discouraged to the point of giving up on school altogether. Children who are idle at home instead of attending school become vulnerable to abuse, child labor, or trafficking. This is why we feel sponsorship is more important and helpful than ever, bringing children under the loving care of our Ugandan staff, teachers and pastors to keep them learning and encouraged by the love of Christ through the Bible. In addition, giving parents (indirect) support by sponsoring their children’s education reduces the temptation to abandon the children, push them into child labor, or force them into early marriage.

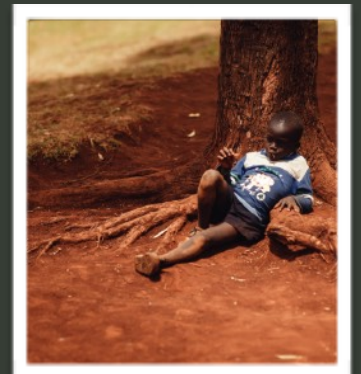
Your sponsorship does so much more than simply provide for a child’s physical needs. It changes a child’s outlook, giving them hope for the future and the knowledge they are loved by God. They then have the opportunity to impact their families, communities and world with this same hope. *Thank you, sponsors, for investing in Uganda’s next generation during this very trying year. --Katie Keranen*

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.



2020 FINANCIAL OUTCOMES



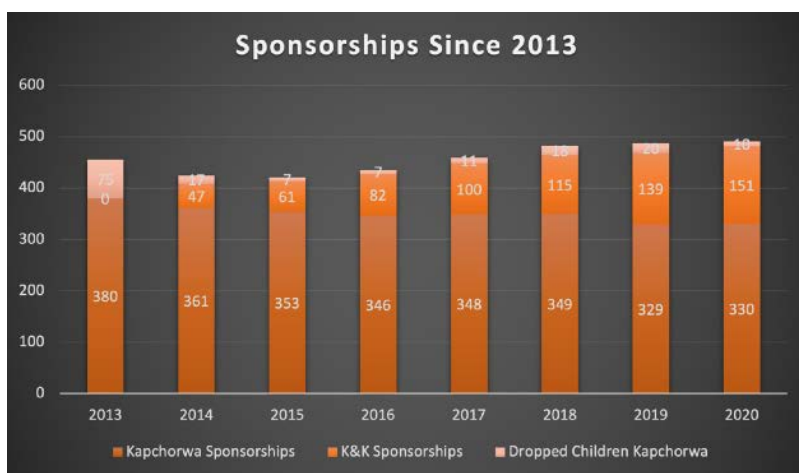
Our total income for 2020 was \$311,975, with \$226, 529 designated specifically to child sponsorship. We used 98% of sponsorship donations for sponsorship expenses in Uganda including school fees, child needs, uniforms, medical, camps, Uganda salaries and office expenses.

You may ask, "How then do you provide for all the needs of the program beyond sponsorship donations?" The average cost per child for all of our expenses in Uganda is \$43, and this does not include the costs incurred in the USA. But, we are able to offer

sponsorship at the low rate of \$39/month because of generous General Fund donations. We operate on a set annual budget to provide for the needs of both our programs, Kapchorwa and K&K. Also, General Fund donations cover unexpected expenses outside of our budget, such as food provided during the lockdown in 2020.

You may also ask, "What are the USA administrative expenses?" These include two part-time employees, taxes, bank fees, credit card processing fees, website fees, marketing fees, postage, software expenses, CPA fees and liability insurance.

If you have any questions regarding our financials and 2020 IRS 990 tax return, you are welcome to contact us. Our financial records are available to donors upon request.



SPONSORSHIP OUTCOMES

The total number of children we impact through both sponsorship programs in Kapchorwa and K&K has increased after a decline from 2014 and 2016. Kapchorwa sponsorships went through a period of decline due to many students graduating from school. Dropped children are those who have lost their sponsors, but are part of our scholarship program. *Overall in 2020, 491 children were being supported by Hope Africa, an increase from 455 in 2013!*

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

- **5 students graduated from nursing school and 1 Student graduated from a vocational program in tailoring.**

Due to school closures, our Secondary 6 students did not complete their programs until 2021.



- **16 private teachers were hired** to carry out homeschooling at eleven homesites and the project office in Kapchorwa.

- **At K&K Schools**, students came to school in small groups to continue their education (photo below).

- **In October, Primary 7 and Secondary Students (High School), nursing students and vocational students returned to school** for the first time since March.

- **Several of our Primary 6 students were allowed to skip ahead to Primary 7**

because of their homeschool teachers felt they were ready. They then returned to school in October with the other Primary 7 students.

2020 DISCIPLESHIP

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." – **1 Timothy**



4:12

- **Usually, we host camps for Secondary (High School) students and Centre Days (day camps on Saturdays) for younger children**, but due to restrictions, we were unable to do so. However, once we started our small group homeschooling program, local pastors were able to lead the students in Biblical discipleship in prayer and discipline. One of our Hope Africa graduates assisted with this daily discipleship of our High School aged students.

- **Bibles were given to every newly sponsored child.**



MEETING PHYSICAL NEEDS

- When students were sent home in March 2020, many children faced hunger, since they depended on meals at school. In addition, the lockdown prevented travel and daily commerce. Families quickly ran out of food. **We were able to raise \$22,000 to feed all of our sponsored families in Kapchorwa and at K&K until the restrictions were lifted.** Some of these funds were set aside for 2021.



- If a child's family member passed away, HAI provided some money to assist with funeral expenses. *Jeremiah's father in the photo below passed away, and then a few months later, his older brother passed away. This family received condolence funds during these difficult times.*



• 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.

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

- **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!
- **92 children in extreme need received extra support with school supplies and food.** These are children who are either orphans, children of widows or single parents, or children whose parents cannot provide for even these basic needs.



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 2020:**

- *One morning after the lockdown, Janet, a widowed mother, woke up realizing she didn't have any food left for her children. She went to visit her friend, Joyce to ask for food. Before she could even ask, Joyce also said they also ran out of food. The women turned to God in prayer, and as they were praying, they received a call from the Hope Africa office saying they could come pick up food donated by generous people to sustain sponsored children and their families!*



• **With schools closed, parents became quickly involved** when we started our "homeschooling program", opening their homes to host small groups of students for learning.

• **Multiple meetings were held between teachers, parents and staff** to plan and prepare for homeschooling.



- **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.
- Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we celebrated Christmas in smaller groups, giving every child a snack, food to take home and bedsheets.

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, in the valley below Kapchorwa. 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 since 2016, **Project Coordinator:** Harriet Chepkwurai since 2015, **Accountant:** Doricas Cheptoek since 2017, **Overseer:** David Chebet since 2017



Executive

Director:

Since 2013, Katie Keranen has managed donors, sponsors, fundraising, reporting from the Uganda projects, communication, trips to Uganda, staff development, maintaining child records, overseeing finances in Uganda and USA.



Administrative Assistant: Since 2019, **Crystal Vogt** has been serving to manage bookkeeping in the USA.



HAI Board Members

Board Member: *Mick Black* (left) 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* (left) 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* (right) 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

(left): *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 and supports Hope Africa through his small business.

Board Member (Not pictured): *Mack Jenks* previously worked in corporate marketing. He has diverse cross-cultural experience, having served in Honduras, Mexico, Turkey and Tanzania.

Board Member (right): *Pam Lundy* is a nurse practitioner and has served with her husband, *DC Lundy*, at K&K, especially during medical missions.

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, medicine and Church ministry. None of the board members received any compensation from HAI during 2020, but completely volunteered their time and resources to support vulnerable children.



DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

- **Improved Academic Performance:**

- We continue to raise our expectations for better performance. 2020 was difficult with schools closed much of the year and the government extended the testing into April of 2021. Homeschooling has reminded us of the value of smaller class sizes and intentional learning.

- **Reduced Drop-out:**

- Because most of our sponsored children come from difficult family situations, in years past, we have had students drop out before completing their education. We are seeing a large reduction in this number as we work to invest in their lives through camps and centre days along with intervening before students get to this place.
- For example in 2017, we had 27 students drop out of the program, in 2018 there were 12, 2019 there were 9, but in 2020, that number was reduced to 7, even with the stressors of a difficult year.

- **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 increase our transportation budget to make this happen.
- 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. *A new partnership between Hope Africa and African Bible Colleges is coming soon, so stay tuned!*

- **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.*

- **100 New Children Sponsored Per Year**

- We reached our goal from last year of 75 newly sponsored children! We continually seek more sponsors to partner with us in reaching Uganda's next generation. Our dream is to see 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. "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* **2 Peter 3:9**

- **Vision for Sustainability**

- We are currently researching various sustainability projects for children to save for their future education, and to enable the projects to work toward financial independence.

Contact us

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