



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
Project Have Hope Annual Report 2016

From the Executive Director

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10 years is a long time. A decade. A lifetime for the young. An eternity in Uganda's Acholi Quarter. January 2016 marked 10 years since the "official" inception of Project Have Hope. In that time, I have seen children born and namesakes grow. I have seen children graduate from high school and from university. I have seen children become mothers. I have seen mothers bury their children and children bury their mothers. I have been a witness to life at its best and its worst. I have grown in unimaginable ways. And I continue to do so. In October 2005, when I was first invited to the Acholi Quarter, I was young, fool-hearted in thinking that I "just want to help." Of course, I had no idea how to help or of the journey I was about to embark. Or that maybe I'd be the one being "helped."

I learned to listen (and must continue to hone these skills). I learned to listen to words. Nuances. Actions. I learned to listen to silences. I learned to listen to my heart and with my heart. I learned that there's so much I don't know and will never know. And now, I am also learning to listen to my voice. A voice that has grown with wisdom and strength thanks to this journey.



A voice that can speak for those who are not always afforded the means to have their voice heard, paired with a mind that must keep learning to be quiet and listen.

Over these ten years in the Acholi Quarter, Project Have Hope has made it possible for children to graduate from high school and from university, and pursue their dreams. We have made it possible for mothers to feed their children and provide them with essential health care. We have stood together, hand in hand, at so many junctions. And together, we've all learned how to dream just a little bigger.

We have achieved this by working together. Listening to each other. Learning from each other. Just as the Acholi Quarter community has been forever changed by the presence of Project Have Hope, I personally, have been forever changed by the community.

Kare Sparacio

A Letter from Esther

My life as Akello Esther would be very meaningless if it wasn't for Project Have Hope. The way the Project has uplifted me today brings great joy in my heart and for this, I owe you all a very big thank you.

I can't imagine how a rainbow has finally shown up on my stormy days of poverty and suffering. The times when a day's meal was a struggle and I had to fight tooth-and-nail to support my family. I can't imagine the days when the sun would heat me up at the quarries for the whole day only to earn one thousand shillings (about \$1.25). All those happened, but today, I have entered a new stage of my life. A stage where I stand up as a woman of substance. A woman seen as a leader. Indeed, you have made a difference in me today. As the chairperson of Project Have Hope, I have not only learnt the leadership skills, but also the social skills on how to manage the different problems and challenges one can face during leadership. Through Project Have Hope, I have met many people, including the very many visitors we have received from USA. This has taught me how to relate with different people at different times.

Today, as I speak, my children have been sponsored in schools I personally can't imagine, wondrous schools that I believe will unfold a very bright future for them.

For the ten years of existence of Project Have Hope in Acholi Quarters, it has not left anyone the

same. Lives have been changed, goals have been reached and hope has been created among people. Our gift of paper bead making has been renewed and transformed day-by-day and today, we are able to make what we can never believe to manage. All these have been possible because of Project Have Hope.

The Project has also changed our lives and standards of living through provision of loans. These loans have also helped us to start up small scale businesses such as tailoring, agriculture and some have been able to buy motorcycles which they use to provide transport as a source of economy. Besides loans, the Project has also provided and linked us to a market for our recycled paper beads and this has positively impacted our day-to-day earnings.

Project Have Hope has not only done good for us, the members, but also created peace, harmony and unity within the Acholi Quarters' Community. Take, for instance, the Project Have Hope building here in the Acholi Quarter. It is also used for other communal meetings and celebrations.

Time has come and time has gone. Years have come and years have gone. Very many people from far and wide have come, but they have all gone. But Project Have Hope is the one and only one that has come but never left us the same. You have been a stepping stone to our new life and you will forever remain part of us. We love you, Project Have Hope.

--*Akello Esther* , Chairperson of the CBO



A Letter from Santina

We often see our children grow tall in height without experiencing how it feels to grow in height ourselves. To experience physical vertical growth is rare.

Amazingly, this is what happened to me this year. PHH gave me the opportunity to acquire computer knowledge. The day I sat for my first computer class was a nightmare, but very exciting. As I sat in front of the computer, I asked myself, "Is it me? Will I manage?" But since I was determined, I went ahead with my lessons, until I completed. This is a kind of growth that I have achieved through PHH with an unexplainable feeling, like growing in height.

Culture is quite complex and dynamic. It begins slowly until it becomes part of life. Many people in our society have been, and most are still practicing, a negative hand-to-mouth financial practice. But we are changing the financial behavior from "hand-to-mouth" to a saving culture.

This saving culture began as a "cash box" system where some women practiced saving small money in un-openable boxes. The saving practice has been successful to the extent that women have managed to buy land, others have completed house constructions, while others have been able to provide food and requirements for their children to attend school.

In enhancing financial discipline, this saving scheme has stopped community members from being societal liabilities and has changed them into dependable assets.

I can't forget giving credit to the husband of these ladies who provide an enabling environment for this scheme to be a success.

In January, the Acholi Quarter community was once thrown into a fancy, colorful, exciting moment. This was none other than the time of celebrating, the PHH 10 years anniversary. The organization, which began humbly with a handful of people, managed to gather over five hundred celebrants. Indeed, the celebration enjoyed that day was worth all of the enthusiasm and hard work members of PHH put in!

People from all walks of life attended this celebration and each section of society was represented. Among the personalities present were members of parliament, local leaders, religious leaders, and partner organizations, to mention but a few. I came to learn that day that society is a silent editor to all activities we do, and hence we cannot function independently.

In the work we are doing through PHH, I have come to appreciate that we need each other to exist. We are not alone as a community-based organization. This was shown at this their response to the 10 years anniversary when they all turned up.

--Aciro Santina, Children's Coordinator





Artisan Crafts

“Through Project Have Hope, I have learned about creativity.”
~ Adong Margaret Grace

In its beginning, PHH used the sale of the women’s recycled paper bead jewelry simply as a means for “fundraising” to support our programming of educational and business initiatives. The idea had always been that our purpose was not to provide financial security through the sale of their crafts, but to provide the artisans with greater financial stability by offering business loans and vocational training which would be independent of our sales.

However, as the years have passed, we have created a unique, inspired collection of crafts, including paper bead and mixed media jewelry, and African textiles, which

is sought after in both retail and wholesale markets. We have expanded beyond just jewelry to other accessories and home goods. This has enabled our artisans to continue to earn a salary through their artistry while simultaneously cultivating other business initiatives.

As we continue to find new markets for our textile products, the tailors see a future in which they train women in their skills, so that workshops are formed in which even more women are able to draw a consistent, living wage.

School Sponsorships

“If I wasn't at school, I would be a miserable child who doesn't know how to write or speak English. I would end up being a street child.”
~ Obiya Solomon

In Uganda, education is not a right. It is not something to be taken for granted. There, education is a status symbol, and it is recognized as the way out of a life of poverty. Education gives children a sense of pride and accomplishment, something not often felt in a community that survives by toiling in the surrounding stone quarries. It gives children the audacity to dream, to dream of being teachers, and doctors and engineers, of being useful in their communities and of giving back.

In 2016, we enrolled 93 children into schools. Six of our highest achieving young scholars are enrolled in Bishop Cypriano, renowned in Kampala as one of the most competitive schools. The

opportunity to learn and thrive in such a scholastic environment will inevitably provide them with opportunities which will profoundly affect their future.

Ajok Winnie is one such scholar. Enrolled in Bishop Cypriano's boarding school, she can focus on her studies without the distractions that come from living in an impoverished slum. “People are truly surprised to hear that I do not come from a well-to-do family, yet I attend one of the best schools throughout the country and I am acquiring the best knowledge one could ever attain,” Winnie proudly remarks. “Believe you can, and you're halfway there!”



Vocational Training & Loans

“I aspire to be a role model for my younger sister.”

~ Ayat Jackie

As “our children” get older, we are excited to see more of them opt to pursue vocational training programs instead of traditional secondary schooling. Many of our children do not excel scholastically, yet they still need to acquire the skills to earn a living and become assets to the community. Vocational training just does that. Automobile mechanics, electrical engineering, tailoring, beauty salon styling and management and tourism are all areas in which our young scholars are training.

Vocational training has also been life-changing for our women who have pursued it.

Adul Dorine, a mother of four, whose husband long since abandoned the family, was born with a disability that requires her to use a crutch to walk, a tremendous

challenge in the rough terrain of the Acholi Quarter. Having studied only up to the second grade equivalent, she struggled to provide for her family. Several years ago, through PHH funding, she graduated from a program to learn knitting and received a loan. She has come full circle and recently started teaching at a local vocational training institute.

The PHH loans program continues to thrive. Annually, we give out approximately 12 new loans to women pursuing an array of businesses, including selling local foodstuffs, charcoal, second hand clothes and prepared foods. One entrepreneur, Ayugi Betty, has purchased a pool table which she rents to customers at a bar in her home village of Gulu. She has used this money exclusively to pay the school fees for her son to attend the university.



Building

The community center PHH built in 2007 continues to be a source of pride for us and a central meeting point for the community. Through a partnership with Solar Light for Africa, their team, lead by Charlene Turner, installed solar panels and ten lights in the center. It was funded by the efforts of Dani Hill, through the sale of jewelry she made which features inspiring Gratitude Angels. In the past, activities, including community meetings, adult literacy

classes and religious classes and services, ceased when the sun went down. With solar-powered electricity, the opportunities for use in this multi-space building are now unlimited.



Volunteers and Interns

Since the beginning, volunteers have been our life blood. Thank you.

Susan Badgio
Rita Bamford
Lorraine Barra
Michele Bellinger
Denise Berger
Zoe Berger
Amy Bonnici
Lauren Champagne
Holly Chan
Alice Chen
Anna Ciulla
Rachel Cortez
Amanda Darnell
Jeanne Dasaro
Brittany DeOliveira
Meg Desmond
Valerie Desmond
Joe Donnellan
Drew Enigk
Amanda Fata
Mallory Fundora
Rory Fundora
Lily Catlin Garcia

Heather Glass
Sara Gorlick
Andrea Gray
Julia Henry
Dani Hill
Melissa Huha
Heidi Jarvis
Katie Kaizer
Chris Kelly
Amy Kremer
Jamie Larowitz-
Sherman
Charmaine Lee
Jackie Marchetti
Anna Martin
Alyssa McClure
Lesa McWalter
John Moore
Christa Numbers
Katy Patzer
Kelly Pellegrini
Agnes Portalewska
Susan Potenza

Kristi Robbins
Pamela Ross
Wendy Scharen
Linda Scott
Augie Sherman
Laura Simkins
Celia Sparacio
Eva Sparacio
George Sparacio
Christy Stephenson
Christina Tamer
Charlene Turner
Miranda Vitello
Karen Walker
Pat White



Project Have Hope Staff

Adoch Jennifer, a Project Have Hope member and Co-Secretary on the Executive Committee, has received education through Senior 6. Originally from Kitgum, she has three children. Her flawless English skills paired with her youthful energy makes her a critical part of the PHH team.

Akelo Esther has been the Chairperson of the CBO (Community Based Organization) for Project Have Hope since its inception and serves as the Loan Officer. She is a born leader and oversees the project on the ground in Uganda. She is often a mediator when conflicts arise within the Quarter and is a grounding source for PHH. She has received education through the Primary 6 grade level. Originally from Kitgum, Esther first came to the Acholi Quarter in 1991. In the North, she had been abducted twice. Esther is married and cares for eight children.

Aciro Santina, a member of Project Have Hope, is the Children's Coordinator and the Secretary on the Executive Committee. She has received formal education through the Senior 4 grade level and has completed vocational training in tailoring. Santina is originally from Kitgum. She fled the North many years ago, and settled in Kampala in 2000. She is a single parent caring for three young children.

Lakot Sylvia, a member of Project Have Hope's Executive Committee, is responsible for maintaining the PHH office. Sylvia studied up to the Primary 2 grade level. Although she lacks a formal education, her dedication and tireless efforts make her a huge asset to the PHH team. Sylvia is originally from Kitgum. She came to Kampala in 1996 to escape the violence in the North. Today, she lives with her husband and cares for six children, including a niece.



Financial Information

Income

2016

Craft Sales	\$142,741 (74%)
Donations	\$50,167 (26%)

Total **\$192,908**

Expenses

Program	\$165,624 (90%)
Fundraising	\$2,157 (1%)
Administration	\$16,726 (9%)

Total **\$184,506**





Project Have Hope is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that seeks to empower women in the Acholi Quarter of Uganda by providing them with educational opportunities and supporting sustainable businesses to drive economic growth. In order to accomplish this, PHH has tapped into the artistry and industriousness of these extraordinary women. Founded in January 2006, PHH began its activities by partnering with the women to start a handmade paper bead jewelry business.

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Project Have Hope

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