



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS
Project Have Hope

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From the Executive Director

15 years is a long time. At times it feels like it was forever ago, and at other times, it feels like a quick blink and it was just yesterday - just yesterday when I became acquainted with the Acholi Quarter. As a photojournalist, when I first arrived in the Quarter, I envisioned telling the story of these remarkable and resilient women with the hope that their plight would mobilize action. I hadn't expected (or planned) to be that very mobilizer.

Young, naïve, full of hope, and perhaps, foolhardy, I decided to organize the women and create Project Have Hope (PHH), with the goal of helping the women create a sustainable means to support themselves and their families. PHH grew out of trial and error, shaped by the dreams of the women and reined in by the funding I could attain. Over the years, we expanded our child scholastic program to include vocational training for both the artisans and young adults. Our loan program has assisted the creation of nearly 100 businesses. Our artistic development of crafts has enabled us to find new markets and continue to employ the artisans.



But, perhaps, that which I'm most proud, is our standing within the Acholi Quarter. Although we don't have the funding to do everything that I'd like us to do, we are always there to lend a hand, not just to the members of PHH, but to the greater Acholi community. In times of need, we have paid for more than a dozen emergency, life-saving medical procedures. We have helped to rebuild homes that have fallen into disrepair. Sadly, we have also contributed to the burial expenses for more friends than I'd like to remember.

We have gained the respect of the community at large, the elders, and our core group of artisans because we stand together during both the good and bad times. And we have grown together. I know that I would not be the person I am today if I hadn't had the privilege of meeting this empowered band of women.

Karen Sparacio

With gratitude,
Karen Sparacio

A Letter from Our Staff

The inception of Project Have Hope took place in January 2006 and started with a group of women who had been dislodged from their original homes as a result of a civil war, which was taking place in Northern Uganda. After settling in the Acholi Quarter, this group of women formed a self-help group to support each other and their families. They named their group “Bed ki nikuru” which translates to “sit and wait.” This self-help group was the origins of Project Have Hope.

PHH is an organization that cares for each and every one of her members. By providing loans, it has enabled the women to become entrepreneurs and establish long lasting businesses like selling charcoal and water.

PHH has raised the level of education by sponsoring children. Those that cannot perform academically are sponsored on skill training, like driving, tailoring or catering. By also paying school fees, children have become respected in their community. Our graduates have become doctors, lawyers and teachers.

PHH has supported elderly within the Quarter by building homes for them, as well as buying food and other necessities, and sometimes even medical treatment. In the past 15 years, one of the greatest changes has been women empowerment. Women have moved from being mere housewives to taking the lead.

We are grateful to be a part of this team to help our community.

Akello Esther
Achiro Santina
Adoch Jennifer
Lakot Sylvia



Lakot Sylvia



Akello Esther



Adoch Jennifer



Achiro Santina

A Letter from Winnie

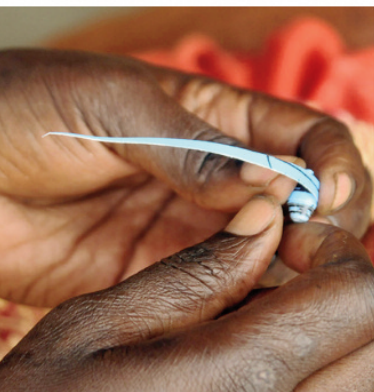
When I started school with the sponsorship from PHH, I was so excited that I had got the chance to study. In Uganda, or Africa generally, most children are denied the gift of education due to poverty. But I am glad I studied. I completed my primary level and succeeded very highly due to enough support from my sponsor and my family too. Each time school ended and holidays came, I'd feel so excited because we would write letters to our sponsors and draw pictures to them.

The change I got from PHH is immeasurable. When I look at myself today, I can read and write so perfectly. I can speak so fluently. I really owe PHH the biggest thank you. I see my dream of being an engineer becoming a reality because PHH gave me the chance to build my bricks. I am so grateful and I feel more than empowered to do anything.

With thanks,

Ajok Winnie





Artisan Crafts

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

The artisans of PHH have lifted themselves out of the most dire financial crises by using their hands. Their craftsmanship and skill at rolling intricate paper beads and then fashioning them into creative jewelry designs have been key to their financial security. Over the years, we have worked together to create unique and fashionable pieces and to ensure that the quality of our jewelry is unmatched. This attention to detail has secured our place in the marketplace. Within the United States, we sell both retail and wholesale and have maintained many customer relationships for well over 12 years.

It is through the success of our jewelry designs that we have been able to allocate funding to include vocational training for the artisans. More than 20 women have studied tailoring. These

advanced skills have led to the product development of an entire line of textile products including tote bags, headbands, napkins, stuffed animals, aprons, trivets, oven mitts and more.

We have been certified and good-standing members of the Fair Trade Federation since 2008.

We have regularly showcased our products at the bi-annual NYNow, the premier and largest international wholesale market. In 2020, we expanded our wholesale presence by joining Faire, an online platform that reaches over 100,000 retailers. By continuing to explore new markets, we are able to provide a steady income to more than 100 artisans.

Vocational Training & Loans

We have whole-heartedly pursued our mission to empower women by providing them with the means to become financially stable. To that end, we have provided over 150 business loans to enterprising women.

Virtually all of our loan recipients would not qualify for a traditional loan. They do not have the necessary collateral. We realize that there can be no rewards without risk and believe that hard work and dedication can yield great results.

We have disbursed loans for as little as \$50 and as great as \$1500. Women have started small-scale businesses within the Quarter selling food staples and larger businesses within the capital and their Northern homelands selling second hand clothing. Some have used the funding to pursue agricultural

initiatives in their home villages or to expand tailoring workshops where they can now train and employ other young women.

These are just a few successes. Other accomplishments are more difficult to quantify. Economic empowerment of women means fewer hungry children, less violence in the home, and progress towards gender equality.

Success Story:

Aketo Rose received a loan to expand her charcoal business. Through the profits, she has been able to better support her family, including paying the tuition for her oldest son to attend Uganda Technical College where he is studying water and sanitation engineering. She has used additional profits to initiate a small scale farm in which she grows the food staples of groundnuts and maize. This provides her with another revenue source and greater financial security.



School Scholarships

"I want to help my people" are the words spoken by some of the children we have enrolled in school. Growing up as the children of displaced refugees in a slum, these children know the harsh realities of poverty. By age 5, they were working in the dangerous conditions of the stone quarry, hoping to earn enough money for their next meal. Now many of them are in high school or graduates of our program and are able to assist their families financially and give back to the community.

One of the cornerstones of PHH's programs has been our scholastic sponsorship. Since its inception, more than 140 children have had the opportunity to receive an education. Many children entered our program at the kindergarten level and are now in their final years of high school.

As always, our goal is to consider each student as an individual and understand that personal needs and circumstances vary, and work with each accordingly. We recognized that some of our scholars were not excelling academically, but had other gifts and skills. We encouraged these students to consider vocational training curriculums and have assisted graduates in mechanics, painting, catering, teaching and nursing, to name a few.

Opio Jotham is just one of our success stories. From a young age, he knew he wanted to become a doctor so that he could better serve his community. With the support of PHH, he completed secondary school and then further pursued his education at Mengo Medicare Health School. In May, he will graduate with his PhD with a focus in anesthesiology. He is currently working in a suburb of Kampala at St. Ritah's Health Clinic.



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.

Akello 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 Santana, 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. Santana 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

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Craft Sales	\$141,020 (69%)	\$117,520 (60%)	\$76,323 (44%)	\$68,701 (62%)
Donations	\$64,000 (31%)	\$79,350 (40%)	\$98,405 (56%)	\$32,055 (29%)
Grants				\$10,200 (9%)
Total	\$205,020	\$196,870	\$174,728	\$110,956

Expenses

Program	\$175,475 (87%)	\$169,870 (88%)	\$149,056 (87%)	\$86,385 (79%)
Fundraising	\$6,032 (3%)	\$4,850 (2%)	\$3,723 (2%)	\$3,190 (3%)
Administration	\$21,040 (10%)	\$19,680 (10%)	\$19,445 (11%)	\$19,150 (18%)
Total	\$202,547	\$194,400	\$172,224	\$108,725





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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.

www.projecthavehope.org