



Project Have Hope Annual Report 2012

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A Word from the Executive Director

Sometimes it takes someone removed from a situation to help one see things clearly. And so it was for me at an event in October 2012. A woman asked me about the work of Project Have Hope and how much money we had raised. I paused, hesitated, uncertain of how to answer. How much had we raised at this event? How much this year? No, she wanted to know overall, how much money had PHH raised. I had never thought about it in that way. I would think about my goal for a specific event, or my annual goals, but I never totaled the numbers before.

As she stood in front of me, I started doing the math in my head. “We’ve raised about a million dollars,” I replied, dumbfounded. We’ve raised a million dollars! I felt the tears well in my eyes, and I must admit, I felt a surge of pride. We’ve raised a million dollars! The events that had been less successful than I had hoped, the goals we had been just shy of making, all evaporated from my mind. For one glorious moment I stood there, shoulders strong, “We’ve raised a million dollars,” I proudly, gloriously repeated!

And so it is. We've raised over one million and fifty thousand dollars since Project Have Hope humbly began in 2006. Taking a moment and appreciating that milestone is important and gratifying; however, we still have a long journey ahead of us. In 2013, we must look for revenue sources, through donations and market sales, to cover the increasing school fees for the children we sponsor - children that are growing into young adults with dreams of going to college or pursuing vocational training opportunities. We also must continue the important work of sustainable development - creating income-generating opportunities for the women who have the ability to improve the quality of life for their families and their communities.

We take pride in our accomplishments and thank you for your support in making it possible for us to hit the million dollar mark. With renewed hope and commitment, we look forward to this continued



shared journey that reminds us how small the world is, and how great our small contributions can be.

Kara Spaulding

Project Have Hope extends a special thank you to Katie Kaizer of Katie Kaizer Photography. Katie Kaizer traveled to Uganda in March to volunteer her services as a photographer for PHH. With sensitivity and dignity, she photographed our programs, the women, children and community. Her extraordinary images have helped us tell our story. We are so grateful for her contribution and are excited to share her photos with you in this annual report.

A Letter from Grace

In 2012, one of our supporters, a young girl sponsoring over six children in the program, visited with her mum--the inspiring moment in 2012 for me. At just twelve years old, Mallory thinks like an adult. With kindness and love, she drew attention both from children and adults.

Two young people from the US have really inspired me. First it was Brittany from Rhode Island who raised over \$1500 for Project Have Hope selling pumpkins during Halloween. I have made this my reminder whenever I feel low. If someone whom you have never known before can make such sacrifices for us then why not me? Then this time it was Mallory. Her touching words keep ringing in my mind. The last day Mallory came to the Quarters, she just did not want to leave and kept repeating, "I do not want to go. I just want to stay here with these children." Even in the roughest condition of the Acholi Quarters, she wanted to stay. This a real inspiration.

Here at home, we initiated two very exciting programs. A saving and loan project popularly known as "The Cash Box" was started. Each member can save as much \$10 a week, and is entitled to borrow as much as 3 times their savings. This small program has helped women

solve many emergencies including buying school supplies for children or paying urgent hospital bills. Members felt that they came closer together than ever, because every savings day they ended up gathering and discussing other issues. Also being a unique program, after several trainings, the ladies really feel empowered being able to handle finances themselves.

Solar cooking was the second of the new initiatives. Two of the ladies have begun to sew cook bags and sell them to their neighbors and friends. This was very empowering to the ladies, since they have taken the training into their hands and do this in turns. They are now confident that they can even train other people who are not members and earn some income. I am very optimistic that they are going to make this happen, since they have set this as their goal for 2013.

My sincere gratitude to all of you who for the past six years have been with us on this very tough and long journey that sometimes drew some of your love and attention from your other important things! I do not know where we would have been without you. Thank you so much for all your efforts,

Grace Ayaa

Director of Operations in Uganda





Artisan Crafts

“Selling crafts to PHH has created a big difference in my life. With the money, I’ve been able to send one of my children to school.” – Labuk Doreen

From the onset of Project Have Hope in 2006, the craftsmanship of our talented artisans and members has been Project Have Hope’s primary source of revenue. The women continue to create unique jewelry from recycled paper. Additionally, through our vocational training initiative, many women have become accomplished tailors and designers. In this way, the artisans are active participants and partners in building a better future for themselves and their families.

The global market is still eager to support the artistry of global artisans, appreciating

both the artistic expression of the designs, and the greater good that each purchase can make. To insure a strong standing within the marketplace, we have continued to make product development a priority. In 2012, we conducted an independent survey polling both existing customers and, as of yet, untapped markets to learn how we can provide the most desirable product. We are currently using this information to improve existing designs, expand our offerings, and create a better product for our valued customers.



Partnering with Uganda Child Cancer Foundation

Hope Cures Collection

In March 2012, Project Have Hope partnered with the Uganda Child Cancer Foundation (UCCF) to support their vital work with pediatric cancer patients. The UCCF is a non-profit organization that supports young cancer patients and their families in accessing comprehensive treatment. The UCCF provides emotional, social and financial support during treatment, conducts awareness campaigns, and maintains a "Hope Room" where patients can relax during their stay at the hospital.

There is little awareness of cancer in Uganda. Combined with high poverty rates and long distances to medical care, patients who arrive at the Uganda Cancer Institute are often at a very advanced stage

of their disease. Treatment is often difficult, especially due to limited resources.

In an effort to raise money to support this important work, PHH created the Hope Cures collection, a collection of bracelets handcrafted from recycled paper, each bracelet a different color, corresponding to awareness of a specific type of cancer. For example, our pink bracelet promotes awareness for breast cancer and our teal and white bracelet for cervical cancer. Each bracelet is adorned with a pewter charm emblazoned with the words "Hope Cures," a reminder to each of us of the power of hope. A portion of the profits from this collection is donated directly to the UCCF.

School Sponsorships

School sponsorship continues to be a strong focal point of PHH. From the early stages of creating PHH, the women were adamant that they wanted their children to have a solid education. We have taken their request seriously. In 2007, our first year enrolling children in school, we sponsored 31 children. In 2012, we sponsored 98. More impressive, than simply the increase in the number of children we sponsor, are the annual increase in school fees and the increase in the number of children in secondary school. The annual school fees for the average primary school is \$375, for secondary school it's \$850. In 2007, all 31 children we sponsored were in primary school. In 2012, we sponsored 68 children in primary school and 30 in secondary school.

We continue to enroll children in academically challenging environments. We encourage them and their parents and guardians encourage them. At the end of the school year, we purchased a new pair

“I would not have discovered how talented I was, if I was not being sponsored by PHH. I feel so proud that I am always the best in a class of one hundred pupils.” – Okello Benard

of school shoes for each of the 11 children who ranked in the top ten of their class. In Uganda, a new pair of shoes is coveted. Many children have to walk long distances. Like children everywhere, kids with torn or old shoes and clothing are often teased. Entering class for the first day of school wearing a pair of new, shiny, black leather shoes gives a child a sense of pride and accomplishment. We hope next year to buy 25 pairs of shoes for our highest achievers!

In 2011, we initiated a de-worming program to help keep our children healthy and attending school regularly. Globally, up to 400 million children suffer unnecessarily from intestinal worms, but fewer than 20 percent are reached with de-worming treatments. We are doing our part to address this global issue. Our children continue to receive treatments three times a year at the recommended 4 month intervals.





Adult Education

“I now don’t need to be led by the hand to hospitals as it used to be since I can now explain myself well enough for the doctor to understand.” – Anek Aida

After five years, the adult literacy program has come to an end. Initiated in 2007, the women were keen to learn basic arithmetic, English, and other skills that would propel them forward in life. The need and desire for this education, unfortunately, often comes into conflict with the demands of life. In a world where one has to fetch water several times a day, hand wash clothing, prepare meals which can take hours, care for many children, and find ways to earn money, it can be a challenge to dedicate time to further one’s education.

During the five years the program was in operation, more than 25 women partici-

pated. In addition to learning to tell time, they learned basic math which helped with their daily market transactions. They also learned basic English which helped in communication and enabled them to read signs, medical prescriptions, and other common materials which facilitated a better understanding for them.

In December 2012 we halted the adult literacy program. We are in the process of developing a new program which will integrate adult literacy along with other necessary life skills, and will be held less frequently to make it possible for more women to attend.

Vocational Studies & Loans

“With almost no education background, I thought I would be left out. I even became an instructor to a university student who was studying with me.” – Akello Paska, Knitting Program Graduate

Creating sustainable, income-generating means for our members, distinct from selling their handicrafts, has been paramount to Project Have Hope’s mission. We find it essential for each woman to have an independent income source that will enable her fully to be a decision-maker of her own future.

Tailoring, knitting, catering and hairstyling continue to be the most desired areas of study for vocational training. In order to raise more money for this initiative, in April 2012, we launched a fundraising campaign through Global Giving and raised over \$8000! This campaign has made it possible to enroll 8 women in training programs: 4 women in a year long, advanced designing program (a coveted skill), 3 women in the knitting course, and 1 woman in tailoring.

We recognize the importance of gaining new, marketable skills, but also know that capital is necessary to utilize these skills in an income-generating way. Because of that, we offer loans to graduates of the vocational training courses and also to other women who have solid business proposals.

Upon completion of the knitting course, each of the three women received start-up money to purchase a loom and other supplies needed to start making sweaters. Each received \$350 as a grant and \$250 as a loan, with strict rules that the money must be used exclusively for business-related expenses and each woman will be monitored for a year to ensure commitment and progress.

The designing and tailoring women will graduate in 2013.





Savings & Loans Program

“I feel like I am a teller in the bank collecting money each week. I feel so empowered. The women enjoy this because they are able to take care of their own money. People have to work really hard to save every week.”

– Adiyo Alice

Project Have Hope seeks to improve the living conditions of families in Uganda’s Acholi Quarter through educational and business initiatives. However, true development work encompasses so much more. It’s the power of empowering women and facilitating independent thinking so that they can create change themselves.

We were delighted when the leaders of PHH took the initiative to start their own savings and loan program. A local organization, Reach Out, connected them with trainers to set up the program. A total of 90 Project Have Hope members signed on and divided themselves into three groups of thirty.

Each week a member can save a maximum of the equivalent of about \$10 and a minimum of 75¢. The money that is collected is then given out to members as loans. In this way, a member can receive a loan for as much as three times the amount of what she has in savings. Then, at the end of the year, members receive interest on their savings. The highest interest yield was \$80 and the lowest \$4.

In its first year, the program was quite successful. The opportunity to receive interest and to borrow money when a woman needs it makes it very appealing.

Agricultural Programs

Mushrooms

To offer another opportunity for women in the Acholi Quarter to earn a sustainable income, Project Have Hope constructed a mushroom house in 2009 made of mud walls and papyrus roofing, and provided training to a group of women on growing and selling mushrooms in the local markets. Over the years, extreme weather conditions including heavy rains and winds and harsh sunlight, left the structure in need of repair. In February 2012, we enlarged the structure to include three rooms and reconstructed exterior and interior cement walls and flooring, and replaced the roofing.

Greenhouse

Throughout 2012, the women working in the greenhouse learned many lessons. They had the good fortune of two great

“Instead of spending long hours at the stone quarry, I now spend my time at the greenhouse which is less tiresome and more exciting, with the hope of withdrawing completely from the stone quarry when production increases.”

– Ayugi Betty

crops of tomatoes, and then faced the challenges of disease, which is very common in tomato plants. Trainers stepped in to guide them in sterilizing the soil and planting crops of onions or garlic interspersed with the tomato plants to keep them healthy. And the women and the tomato plants persevered.

In November, the greenhouse succumbed to the harsh weather conditions present in the equatorial Acholi Quarter. Immediately, we rebuilt and refortified the structure to avoid losing the newly planted tomato seedlings. The challenges and perseverance of the women involved in the greenhouse project remind us that creating successful income-generating programs is not without its trials, but with determination we can and will succeed.





Solar Cooking & Water Kiosks

“To see that you can just leave something in the sun and find that it is totally cooked sounds like a miracle to me.”

–Akumu Helen

Solar Cooking

In March 2012, PHH collaborated with Jinja Empowerment, a non-profit in Jinja, Uganda, to train twenty women in solar cooking techniques. This initial training took place over two days and featured three different types of solar cooking tools. The first was a reduced charcoal stove that uses about half of a typical charcoal stove. The second was a cooking bag or fireless bag, which allows partially cooked food to continue cooking. The third method, the solar reflector, uses solely solar power. During the demonstrations, women learned to bake cakes, boil clean water, and prepare rice, beef and vegetables. The newly trained women set up regular intervals and trained another 25 women.

An assessment of the program shows that the women have found the training and new cooking tools to be extremely beneficial to their families, citing that their families are healthier. This is likely due to the access to safe water made possible through the use of the WAPI and solar reflector. High on the list of benefits are the reduced cost of charcoal and the ability of the women to have more available time to dedicate

to economic pursuits. Also, their families are happier and there is less stress and conflict with their husbands because the cooking bag keeps food warm throughout the day, so that a hot meal can be served any time.

Two of the women who are also skilled tailors, Akwero Santa and Okello Christine, have created a business of making cooking bags and selling them in the market.

Water Kiosks

In 2010, Project Have Hope installed water pipes to create a tap adjacent to our community center and agricultural projects. In addition to having easy access and a reliable water source for our projects, the water is sold to nearby residents. This has made the water kiosk project sustainable and income-generating from the first day. Project Have Hope member, Muhindo Dronica, earns a monthly salary running the kiosk. Additional profits have been used to purchase seeds for the gardens and to install all of the wiring and a meter box to the community center, so that electricity can be connected.



Volunteers and Interns

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

Alisha Beckford
Michele Bellinger
Shannon Bison
Rhonda Black
Arielle Black-Foley
Amy Bonnici
Ariana Caraffa
Shing Chao
Rachael Chong
Anna Ciulla
Allison Comport
Brandie Conforti
Vonne Cook
Victoria Cosgrove
Maya Cortez
Rachel Cortez
Amanda Darnell

Jeanne Dasaro
Brittany DeOliveira
Joe Donnellan
Anna Derby
Melissa Fleming
Alexander Franko
Mallory Fundora
Rory Fundora
Alexandra Golby
Kevin Gottesman
Andrea Gray
Jean Griffith
Liza Halley
Elizabeth Hart
Melissa Huha
Heidi Jarvis
Katie Kaizer

Jessica Kraft
Megan Lazaros
Jenny Lawless
Jo Lilore
Anna Martin
Laura Martino
Doug Matthews
Bridget McGovern
Joanna Miller
John Moore
Lisa Ottaviani
Victoria Parker
Heike Petermann
Melissa Prato
Emma Sabella
Beth Schmitt
Linda Scott

Augie Sherman
Scott Smith
Eva Sparacio
George Sparacio
JoAnna Steere
Andrea Stirling
Christina Tamer
Matt Tamer
Traea Vaillancourt
Laura Viola
Karen Walker
Hannah Webb
Susan Webber

Financial Information

Income	2011	2012
Craft Sales	\$144,678 (74%)	\$142,865 (71%)
Donations	\$50,535 (26%)	\$57,523 (29%)

Total	\$195,214	\$200,388
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Expenses	2011	2012
Program	\$156,552 (81%)	\$137,470 (73%)
Fundraising	\$3,233 (2%)	\$16,620 (9%)
Administration	\$32,670 (17%)	\$34,298 (18%)

Total	\$192,455	\$188,388
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Project Have Hope Staff

US Staff

Karen Sparacio, Executive Director
Hannah Webb, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

Uganda Staff

Ayaa Grace, Director of Operations in Uganda
Akello Esther, Chairperson
Aciro Santana, Children's Coordinator
Lakot Sylvia, Administrative Assistant
Adoch Jennifer, Administrative Assistant
Ajok Sunday, Adult Literacy Teacher





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

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