

2019 Annual Report



HEAL International responds to local priorities in Uganda through the support of education, health initiatives, and leadership development.

Financial Update

Through our annual *Killer Heels for HEAL* fashion fundraiser and private donations, we raised approximately \$70,000 to support our programs in 2019. From this, 7% was spent on fundraising and overhead expenses while 12% was spent on international travel. Matching funds from a corporate partner took care of all of our administrative and fundraising expenses and one donor contributed the funds required for international travel and program oversight. As a result once again in 2019, 100% of your donations went directly to our students and programs in Uganda.



Youth Education Sponsorships

Through individual scholarships, HEAL International provided \$11,700 to fully fund 23 orphaned children to attend primary and secondary school. An additional \$12,500 was used to partially assist 300 other students who do not yet have individual sponsors.

Turyashemererwa Edvin (pictured) successfully completed her ordinary level (O-Level) exams in 2019. She is the oldest of 4 girls from a very poor family and was being cared for by a grandmother who couldn't afford to send her to school. Edvin is now looking forward to starting a vocational program as an electrical engineer and is keen to break into this male-dominated field. In her own words, "I don't believe this is a job that only boys can do." We are looking for donors who would be willing to help her achieve her goal to complete this 3-year training program.



Post-Secondary Scholarships

We provided \$7,000 in scholarships for 10 orphaned students to study nursing and medicine. An additional \$1,200 provided vocational training in areas such as mechanics, pottery, hairdressing and tailoring.

Fahad Shalabi (Nursing program) and Doreen Katusiime (Clinical Officer program) are in their final years of their post-secondary training programs. We encourage students to follow their passions, regardless of gender stereotypes that may exist.



Peer Education Kabarole

Our Peer Education Kabarole (PEK) program provides peer-to-peer health education for 9,000 adolescents in 15 secondary schools in western Uganda. In 2019, your donations provided \$9,400 for training programs as well as school-based and outreach activities. A partnership with a local university in Uganda continues to provide a regular platform for health messages via monthly radio broadcasts from students to a wider audience in western Uganda. This year, we introduced a new curriculum on oral health; this is the first of it's kind in secondary schools in Uganda.

In February 2019, Dr. Salma Murji, travelled to Uganda and delivered school-based trainings at six PEK schools. The students appreciated the knowledge on sexually transmitted illnesses and vowed to share that knowledge with their peers in order to promote good health and positive life choices.



Global Citizenship and Learning Beyond Borders

HEAL contributes to building global citizenship through the active participation of Canadian high school and university students in our Learning Beyond Borders (LBB) program.

LBB students contributed \$2,300 to three rural Uganda primary schools. These schools continue to show good performance with 70% of students achieving high-level scores in Uganda's standardized Grade 7 Primary Leaving Exams (PLE).



From discussions on how to promote the Ugandan culture, to fundraising events around the city, to connecting with like minded individuals committed to making a change, working with Learning Beyond Borders and HEAL International has been an enriching experience for Gurleen Gill. After joining the University of Alberta club as a general member, Gurleen rose to become the Vice President of events and helped to establish fundraising and communication programs. The highlights in 2019 were the LBB art auction and local bake sale. She is also part of a team working on a mental health curriculum for the Peer Education Kabarole program. She hopes to continue to do more work in the field of mental health awareness through her involvement with HEAL International. We are proud to be part of Gurleen's journey as she puts global citizenship into practice.

St. Lawrence Secondary School Construction

2019 saw the completion of the construction of a laboratory and library (building on the far left) to complement the four classrooms in two buildings that we had previously constructed. In February 2019, some donors joined the local community in Kahangi, Uganda to formally open this building and dedicated it to the memory of Ayaaz Janmohamed (Edmonton). HEAL International donors and the Rotary Club of Kabarole District provided additional donations to help us purchase teaching equipment, books, computers and solar electrical systems for the school. Currently 106 students are enrolled in this secondary school, giving the community a great boost towards ensuring their children can get a good quality education.



We wish to thank our generous donors for making a lasting impact in our communities. Without your contributions, these children would have had very little hope for their future.

We look forward to working with you in 2020 to continue to make a difference in the lives of children in Uganda.

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