

# 2021 Annual Report



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

## Financial Update

Through private donations and our first *World Music and Dance in the Park* fundraiser, we raised approximately \$85,000 to support our programs in 2021. Our fundraising and overhead expenses were 5% of our revenues and were covered by separate matching funds from a corporate partner and other donors. Once again, 100% of your donations went directly to our students and programs in Uganda.



## Youth Education Sponsorships

For the greater part of 2020, schools in Uganda were in a lockdown due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Schools partially reopened in 2020 with a plan to fully reopen in 2021. The reopening was short-lived as changes in the pandemic led to another full school lockdown for the rest of 2021. As we did in 2020, we continued our efforts to ensure that the orphaned children we supported had access to food and shelter. We provided \$43,000 to cover food and shelter, school fees for the time schools were open and for home-schooling activities when schools were closed.



## Post-Secondary Scholarships

Most post-secondary institutions remained closed, though two of our students in a clinical officer training program were allowed to continue as medical training received an exemption from the lockdowns. We provided \$2,000 in post-secondary scholarships and an additional \$1,570 to support apprenticeship programs to 5 youth.



## Peer Education Kabarole

Our Peer Education Kabarole (PEK), which provides peer-to-peer health education for 9,000 adolescents in 15 schools in western Uganda, was also affected by the school lockdowns. This program started school based training sessions to 827 peer educators in early 2021. However, during the second lockdown, the program had to rely on phone calls, mobile phone messaging and radio shows to deliver health messages to peer educators and encouraged them to share these with youth in their villages. Fortunately, HEAL International was in the process of finalizing a mental health curriculum for PEK and we were able to utilize this material to communicate messages on maintaining positive mental health during the lockdown. Our program's budget of \$7,000 was used primarily for PEK staff salaries in Uganda and communications costs, including multiple phone calls and mobile phone messages to over 1,000 peer educators.



## 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 fundraised over \$1,500 which will be used to purchase teaching resources in 2022 for three rural Uganda primary schools. Despite the effects of the pandemic, the LBB supported schools continue to show good performance with close to 80% of students achieving high-level scores in Uganda's standardized Grade 7 Primary Leaving Exams (PLE) in early 2021.

We are pleased (and proud!) to announce that Gurleen Gill from HEAL International's Learning Beyond Borders club at the University of Alberta was recently recognized as a Top 30 under 30 by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Gurleen was selected to receive this award as a result of her work in supporting HEAL International's programs for vulnerable children in Uganda. Congratulations Gurleen and keep up the great work!! You can read more on Gurleen's achievements at <https://top30under30.acgc.ca/project/gurleen-gill/>



## St. Lawrence Secondary School Construction

Following the last phase of our construction project in early 2019, the St. Lawrence Secondary School received its formal registration by the Uganda Ministry of Health. Unfortunately, the pandemic saw the school close for most of two years, with the exception of a few months they were permitted to reopen. In 2021, we were there to help students return for a few months by providing \$3,100 worth of bursaries to all enrolled students. With the resumption of the lockdown, we supported the teachers with \$1,700 in relief funds to cover expenses during the time they were without their salaries. With funding support from the Rotary Club of Edmonton Mayfield, in late 2021 we implemented a home-schooling program for enrolled students where we paid teachers to develop some home study modules for students to continue learning from their homes.



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 2022 to continue to make a difference in the lives of children in Uganda.

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