

2021 Report on Volunteers
H.E.A.L. International's Annual General Meeting
June 22, 2022

Introduction: H.E.A.L. International is fortunate to have a cadre of volunteers who donate time, expertise and friend-raising abilities to the organization. Some initially had their arms twisted to help for a fundraiser and find 14 years later that they are still connected! Others have unique gifts or skills that help HEAL fill a special need. Whether they are occasional/episodic, online, time contributors (e.g. student interns), groups that volunteer as a unit, advisory council and other high-level volunteers or the board, H.E.A.L. International would not be able to achieve our positive outcomes without their contributions.

In honour of our volunteers, we established an annual *Report on Volunteers* to ensure our volunteers are visible, acknowledged and celebrated. This year we give you a glimpse into the lives of two of our heroes!

“Leaders of Tomorrow”



Aliza Jaffer has been part of the UCalgary Chapter of Learning Beyond Borders (LBB) since her first year of university. She was Vice President Marketing from 2019-2020, Vice President Internal from 2020-2021, then fulfilled the role of President in 2021.

The LBB club not only spreads awareness about educational inequality in countries such as Uganda, but also organizes events where all proceeds are allocated towards supporting students at Kakooga, Rugaaga, and Kyakayombya primary schools. LBB hopes to improve access to educational resources, including textbooks and school supplies, in rural schools within Africa.

Aliza also acknowledges the entire UCalgary LBB team for their commitment and hard work this year: Ali Babwani, Armaan Javer, Azan Jessani, Shanze Khemani, and Kadin Sayani. The team has contributed to organizing and running fundraising events throughout the year, recruiting sponsors for our annual ball hockey tournament, and spreading awareness about our club to the UCalgary community.

Having the opportunity to lead this team and knowing that our contributions will help students around the world is incredibly rewarding for Aliza. This year, she was also given the chance to speak to a student on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth in Uganda. Listening to her stories and experiences truly opened her eyes to the hardships and challenges youth have to overcome in order to attend school. This experience, along with many others, inspires Aliza to continue her volunteer work with LBB.

Improving access and quality of education will provide all students with the opportunity to succeed and will inspire future generations of students. Aliza hopes to continue this journey of improving and promoting opportunities for education for students worldwide and we wish her well in the years ahead.

Tradition of Family Giving



Frank Herr has been helping small businesses and charitable organizations to communicate effectively for over 35 years. He currently offers his freelance web design, video production and writing services under the business name Best Light Communication. His volunteer work for HEAL is a continuation of the charitable work done for many years by his late brother and business partner John Herr, a very kind-hearted organic-farmer-turned-web-designer who was always very generous with his time and his expertise.

HEAL's relationship with John started in 2013. Like a few others in our "family" it started quite by chance as he participated in his child's involvement in our Peer Education program. John offered to build the website for this youth supported program. He did such a great job that we asked him to submit a quote to re-do the HEAL website and he offered to do it for free. After that, John provided technical support as needed.

We were saddened to hear of John's passing but Frank picked up the torch volunteering his time and expertise. Frank has refreshed both the HEAL and Learning Beyond Borders websites and recently updated the modules on the Peer Education website to allow us to edit this site more easily. This photo is of the brothers in 2012.

World Music & Dance

The summer of 2021 was alive with music and dance from around the world. HEAL friends and supporters gathered in a local park on the sunniest, warmest day of the year to hear, dance and experience music and song from across the globe. Event organizer and HEAL Board member, Salma Murji, rallied her friends of all ages to make this a memorable day. HEAL was thrilled to see so many new faces especially the young ones that were so engaged!

Many thanks go to Azmina Jessa, Cam Merali, Amin and Shaila Ahmed and family, Tazmina Makhani, Zahraa Bhimji, Sumaira Allibhoy, Lucy Wang, Wajjo Drummers & Dancers, Karima Hudda, Naomi Maharaj, Marcu Fotography, videographer DJ Karim Nathoo, HEAL board members and the many others that came out to enjoy the day and support HEAL.



Thank you to ALL H.E.A.L. International volunteers and the commitment you make to this organization. The world-wide impact of Covid has been incredibly challenging yet, despite that, your ability and willingness to work on behalf of others, gives hope for peace, equality and good health in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Deis, Board Chair

Jeanne Annett, HEAL Secretary (Acting)

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