

### Keanna Wallace



Keanna Wallace has been involved in *Learning Beyond Borders* (LBB) and HEAL for over 10 years. She joined LBB in 2013 holding different roles over the years including co-President of the Old Scona Academic chapter and Secretary of the University of Alberta (U of A) chapter. With a group of other LBB alumni, she helped found the U of A chapter. In 2016, she became a voting member of HEAL and now contributes to events and projects in her spare time. Her current role is LBB Liaison, offering advice and resources to the U of A and University of Calgary chapters and supporting the connection between HEAL and LBB.

“I choose to contribute my time to HEAL because I value community involvement. HEAL regularly does site visits to see those youth and programs they support, sources resources locally within Uganda, and seeks local involvement, giving the community a voice and a stake in the project. The HEAL community itself is also an amazing group of diverse and dedicated people, who make each event an enjoyable place to volunteer.”

### Salma Murji



Dr. Salma Murji started her journey with HEAL in 2017 by sponsoring a child to attend school. She also raised funds for the construction of a library and laboratory in St. Lawrence Secondary School which the local community and HEAL had recently built.

In 2019, Salma eagerly joined HEAL CEO/President, Arif Alibhai, on his semi-annual trip to Uganda, to officially open the school library and laboratory. She also got to experience firsthand the life children have in a poor, rural area of the country where poverty, illiteracy and poor health (including HIV/AIDS) is high. It was to be the highlight of her time with the organization and energized her to join the board, spearhead new initiatives, and rally her family, friends, and colleagues, as well as long time HEAL supporters, to fundraise for other activities.

While in Uganda, Salma met with youth and educators, gave presentations to youth on sexually transmitted diseases and prevention, and experienced the many sights, sounds and tastes of western Uganda. Her passion for helping rural adolescent girls around female health was strengthened and ultimately resulted in HEAL implementing a Period Poverty project that provides reusable sanitary supplies to young women in the Peer Education Rwenzori program we support.

Salma is a family physician in Edmonton, Alberta for over 3 decades and works professionally with many other organizations in the domains of quality improvement and assurance. The call of the ocean was finally too strong to resist, and Salma is leaving us for points west. While we wish her all the best, she will live on in the work HEAL does and be a reminder of the power of commitment, belief in the right to education for all youth around the world and dignity for young women who experience period poverty.