

Hope for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Empowering Children to Reach Their Full Potential

2019 Annual Report

Celebrating 10 years of God's Transformation

It's been another year of witnessing God's blessing and favour over the work of HOVC Uganda within the community living around Kisoro. We thank God for choosing to use men and women of integrity and commitment to carry out His work amongst these people.

The HOVC Uganda Team has remained the same and consists of Ndagijimana Innocent (Executive Director), Semucyo Bernard (Projects Officer, Loan Scheme), Charity Ndagijimana (Welfare Officer) plus two Night Watchmen and a daytime Office Manager.

The Australian Board has also undergone some changes over the year with Stephen Moore accepting the role of Chairman and Jeffrey Tilse joining the Board as Treasurer. Filling these roles has been a long-term need involving much prayer and we thank God for this provision.

We currently have 167 children registered in the Project, with 3 recently registered children requiring sponsorship.

Transformation Through Education

In Uganda, while there is meant to be universal education, plenty of children miss out because their families simply can't afford the school fees, stationery and uniforms. Making it possible for a child to go to school and to gain the skills and opportunities to earn a living is the central transformational purpose of HOVC.

Of the 167 children currently registered in the Project,

- 93 are in primary school,
- 62 are in secondary school,
- 11 are in vocational training and
- 1 is in university.

The children attend:

- 31 primary schools, plus
- 8 secondary schools,
- 3 vocational centres and now
- 1 university.

This means that the HOVC staff have the huge job of calculating and arranging payments of term school fees and the purchase and distribution of appropriate uniforms for each of these schools.

In November 2018, 23 P7 students sat the Primary Leaving Exam. 5 passed with high enough grades to be accepted into boarding schools, 20 attend local Secondary Schools and 3 have chosen to go to Vocational Institutes, studying Carpentry and Joinery and Brick laying.

Of the 4 S4 students who sat their National Exams at the end of 2018, 1 has progressed to S5, and the other 3 are studying various courses at Vocational Institutes.

In November 2019, 6 S4 students sat their National Exams and 17 P7 students sat their Primary Leaving Exams. They will receive their results next February.

Our 1 student at University has settled well into student accommodation at Makerere University studying a degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The higher education fees for secondary schools, vocational institutes and university are not covered by sponsorship fees and we are very thankful for those who give regularly into the Education Fund.

Opportunities are being provided for our older children to attend conferences and in January 2019, 29 children attended the Kigezi Youth Leadership Empowerment Program with the theme *Living Productively*. In August, 22 of our senior students attended a 5-day Scripture Union conference. These conferences can be life-defining experiences for these children, as shown by the confident and knowledgeable way in which they give reports about the teaching there to the rest of the children.

Transformation through Medical care

HOVC continues to provide funds for medical emergencies and in some cases, ongoing medical attention. We continue to budget for a monthly supply of supplementary food, at a cost of around \$350, to be given to parents/caregivers who are HIV+. We are also providing support and encouragement for these caregivers and others through the Small Loan Scheme, to discover ways of earning an income so they can become more financially independent. We also budget for a quarterly top up of the First Aid Kit which is stored at the Project Office for the use of the children and their care givers under the careful direction of Charity, who is a nurse.

Above the budgeted amounts mentioned, this year a total of \$2,500 was spent on emergency hospital treatment and other medical needs for 6 of our children and 4 care givers. This was for a hernia operation, surgery on a torn Achilles tendon, medical care for birth complications and cervical cancer, plus hospitalisation and treatment of malaria, typhoid, and other fevers and undiagnosed illnesses.

These extra medical costs are not covered by sponsorship, so we are very thankful to those supporters who have chosen to give regularly into the Medical Fund. Without these donations, this extra level of care would not be possible.

In September every child in the Project (167) and their caregivers (244) were screened for HIV. Miraculously none of our children were found to be HIV+, however 4 new caregivers were, which brings our total of those affected to 21.

In June the *Love Actualised* event organised by Women2Gether was held at Parramatta Baptist Church and 24 of the women who attended joined the group packing 100 Days for Girls kits. Funds for 80 kits were raised last year by Women2Gether and the other 20 kits were donated to us by Days for Girls. These were transported to Uganda with the team and were gratefully received.

Empowerment for Transformation through the Small Loans Scheme

The Small Loans Scheme enables borrowers access to the capital they need to start up income-generating enterprises. Members elect representatives to form a Committee with our HOVC Team member, Semucyo Bernard as Secretary. The whole group meets twice a year. From sponsorship fees, we budget for an injection of \$850 each month into the Loan Scheme to increase the pool of funds available for loan.

Anyone who is supporting an HOVC child in some way is eligible to apply for a loan. Each month, applications for up to 15 new loans may be submitted, with a maximum of 15 loans per month approved, in amounts decided according to need and intended use, ability to repay, capacity to manage a plan and the total money available.

So far in this financial year, 22 new loans have been approved, with Bernard and the Committee planning to approve up to 70 new loans. There are now 147 members with current active loans in the scheme.

Transformation through improved living conditions

HOVC is committed to improving the overall wellbeing of the children and their families. To this end, 16 newly registered children have received water tanks and 3 new houses and 1 latrine have been constructed.

Every 2 years HOVC families receive a new mattress, bed sheets, a blanket and towel. These have been distributed this month.

The major fundraising project this year was the 10 Year Commemorative gift from the PBC community to the HOVC community – the gift of light for each family in the form of solar power. Between April and September \$30,080 was raised, which covers the cost of supplying 177 solar packages. The packages have been purchased and installation has already begun.

Connection with Supporters

A core purpose of HOVC is to value relationship, between the HOVC Boards in Australia and Uganda which remain in close, regular communication, as well as between sponsors and their sponsor child/children. To help build relationships and a deeper understanding, we send out quarterly newsletters sharing achievements and news of the community in Kisoro, plus children and sponsors write directly to each other.

We also hold an annual Prayer and Information night which highlights the experiences of team members who have visited Kisoro, and gives opportunity for showing videos, lots of current photos and retelling stories. This year's P&I evening in November was a great success with about 60 people attending.

Over the past 10 years we have been very fortunate to receive generous gifts from 2 corporate donors. This year we were able to finance the construction of 10 water tanks for newly registered children plus purchase a new motor bike for the Director, from money given by *The Bewsher Foundation*. With funds given by *Henning Harders (Australia) Pty. Ltd* we built another 6 water tanks, 3 houses and a latrine. We are very grateful for their ongoing support and trust in us.

In August we gave a presentation to HHA staff who work in Sydney, and with very clever IT links, also to those based in other Australian capitals and New Zealand. HHA also sponsor 9 children and this gave those newer employees an opportunity to understand just what/who HOVC is and all the positive benefits their company has brought to this community. There was a lot of positive feedback and renewed connection with their sponsor children.

Connection through Team visits

In Sept a team of 6 people travelled to Kisoro with the prime purpose being to celebrate HOVC's 10th anniversary. Ranging from the children, their parents and local dignitaries – there were 450 people who celebrated together through song, dance and feasting. Not to mention the 2.5 hours of speeches and the highly visible march through town.

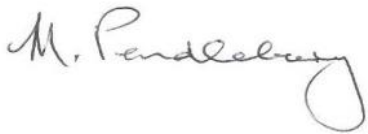
As well as enjoying this very special day, the team members were able to visit their sponsor children, attend church services in the local cathedral and pray blessings over the property, the team and the wider HOVC community. It was a very positive visit.

HOVC (Aust) Inc. Board

HOVC is governed by a voluntary Board. As an incorporated Association, we also have a Constitution, which defines the purpose, objectives and powers of the organisation. Over the past year, the following Members have seen that the organisation is conducted in accordance with its principles and commitments as stated in the Constitution:

Marion Pendlebury	- Director
Stephen Moore	- Chairman
Jeffrey Tilse	- Treasurer
Elizabeth Gay	- Secretary
Lisa Roberts	- Marketing
Margaret Fyfe	- Prayer Co-ordinator

Thank you for your support in 2019, we look forward to seeing what God has in store for HOVC in the next 12 months.



Marion Pendlebury
HOVC (Aust.) Director