



Young Seeds

Growing Hope from Despair



2016 REPORT

YOUNG SEEDS PHILOSOPHY

“The Young Seeds Foundation is founded on the belief that education is a fundamental human right principle and that every child deserves a fair chance to acquire quality education to better their well-being. YSF strongly believes that education is the core pillar of a just and fair society which will enhance human dignity & freedom and enable young people to achieve their dreams. We all benefit from this progress.

The Young Seeds Foundation raises funds via child sponsorship and other fund-raising initiatives to provide residential education scholarships to at risk children living in South Sudan and Northern Uganda”.

THE HARD TRUTH – SOUTH SUDAN *(source (UNMISS) United Nations Mission in South Sudan).*

2.4 million People in South Sudan are food insecure and require assistance

230,000 Children are impacted annually by malnutrition

4 % of arable land is cultivated

10% of children complete primary school despite high enrolment rates of 1.4 million

1.6% of children in South Sudan enter secondary school

84% of women cannot read or write

1/7 children will die before their fifth birthday

32% of the population does not have access to clean drinking water

ORGANISATION / ADMINISTRATION

Committee Members: The Committee has changed this year with some welcomed additional support. The Executive has also changed at our AGM in August 2016.

Current membership and roles are:

Director – Lowilla Okello

Chairperson – Susan Neighbour

Vice-Chair – Juma Piri Piri

Secretary – Kym Griffiths

Treasurer – Annette Strickland

Public Officer – Marg Dean

Committee Members – Jane Orasio and Rose Okello

Meeting Schedule: Depending on the need and the time of the year, we meet approximately 6 weekly, sometimes more often if we have important decisions to make.

AGM: As a legal entity we are required by law to hold an annual AGM and to submit a financial report to the Department of Justice, Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading. We are also required to submit an annual report to Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Tax Deductible Status: We have been working very hard for quite some time now to be granted tax deductible status so that all sponsorship and donations can be claimed through the Australian taxation system. A difficulty has been that this cannot be granted locally as all of our work is conducted internationally. We have approached an international organisation, Global Development Group, to take Young Seeds under their auspice so that we can gain tax deductible status through them. Global Development Group would be monitoring our work and also our financial records. They have agreed to do this but we also have a lot of work to complete before this can be finalised. This will be completed as soon as possible and in the very near future we look forward to advising you that you can claim your donations for the next taxation submission process.

THE SCHOOLS

Kiryandongo Refugee Camp school – 1 child

Yei Primary School, South Sudan – 2 children currently enrolled

Pajok Primary School, South Sudan – 1 child currently enrolled

Star Education Centre, Bweyale, Uganda – 12 children currently enrolled

Star Education Secondary School, Bweyale, Uganda – 1 girl attending

St Julians Secondary Boarding School, Kampala, Uganda – 3 boys completed O levels

We currently have 20 children sponsored, 11 girls and 9 boys. We attempt gender equity as much as can. Unfortunately we are not able to obtain written school reports for you due to a lack of a reliable means of communication from Africa. The children are currently undertaking the end of year exam process and we hope to know the results over the next few weeks. Young Seeds provided extra tuition for all the children at Star primary in 2016. As the 3 older children (young men) are about to enter the equivalent of College in 2017, they will be providing extra daily tuition to the younger children throughout the school holidays. These young men have the abilities and the skills now to be able to mentor the younger ones.

These three young men, Bishop, Vincent and Ladu, are excelling at their studies and we are very keen to hear their results mid-January. They will enter their 'A' (college) levels in 2017 for 2 years and then will be going to University. We have organised a new school for them next year, Kisubi High School in Entebbe, Uganda, as it has an excellent reputation of

attaining very high academic results. The 'boys' will need this to be accepted into a very competitive process for University. Ladu and Vincent are very committed to fulfilling their dreams of gaining a medical degree and Bishop is equally committed to human rights advocacy. We are incredibly proud of these young men and know they will realise their dreams.



Ladu outside his family hut in 2012



The three young men in 2016 – what a difference hope and love make

I would like to add a note now that Bishop asked to be relayed to all sponsors:

Hello! I would like to let you know that we have successfully completed our O'level final examinations, and now we are for 4 months holidays as we wait for the results to come. and let me hope you well okay there, we are really missing you. and send too our greetings to all the members of young seeds . also tell them that the seeds they have planted are now flowering and will soon bear fruits that will satisfy the whole world. we are giving big appreciations for their love, care and support towards our future. (November 2016)

CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

You may be aware of the current situation in South Sudan which is very volatile. Unfortunately the rebels have entered Pajok Village (where Young Seeds children originate from) and there has been many killings and people have attempted to flee. As a result of this, Young Seeds made the decision not to take the children back to their village for the big Christmas holiday break. It is far too dangerous, as many are being killed on the border and the older children would be greatly at risk of being taken by the rebels to be trained as child soldiers.

Those children who do not have extended family in the camp in Bweyale will be living with one of our coordinators and be cared for by his mother. Young Seeds will provide the food for these children and also purchase clothing for them.

Fortunately, we built a new house for Young Seeds children to stay during their holidays this year as the hut they were living in was dangerously collapsing. They now have a sturdy brick and tin roof house which will keep them safe for many years to come.



The Old Hut



The new house which has now been completed

2016 VISIT (Susan)

I visited Uganda in September this year. Obviously, travel to South Sudan was impossible. I was only able to stay in Kampala because of the ground swell of people fleeing South Sudan and arriving in huge numbers to Bweyale as refugees it was not deemed viable for me to travel there either. I spent time with our coordinator and passed on sponsor letters for him to deliver to the children. I also visited the new school for the 3 older students and was very impressed with their value base around teaching styles. The school is also committed to provide very good nutrition for boarding students.

It was fortunate while I was there that the national school choir championships (music, dance, poetry and song) were being held in Kampala. Our primary partnership school, Star Education Centre, has an excellent record of gaining top spot in the country at these championships. We have 4 Young Seeds children in the choir and I met with them before their performances and joyfully watched them compete. I do have some videos of them competing but do not know how to include here. Please let me know if you would like to see them and we can work it out. Again, the Bhutanese Community in Launceston donated a considerable sum of money for the Young Seeds children. We were able to provide choir uniforms for our children performing and are humbled by the generosity of the Bhutanese Community for their never ending support of Young Seeds.



Star Education Centre choir – September 2016

A NEW COORDINATOR

Young Seeds has recently employed a new coordinator in Bweyale, Uganda, to oversee our operations there and to provide guidance and direction to our long term worker. We are very happy to have him on board. As a school teacher he is able to provide us with a high level of advice as to how the children are managing academically and to offer us suggestions on how to best support the children. He has already been invaluable to us in helping to secure Memorandums of Understandings with partnership schools to assist us in our process to gain tax deductible status.

SPONSORS / DONATIONS

It probably goes without saying that Young Seeds is so very grateful for all sponsorship and donations. Without you we could not possibly offer these vulnerable children their right to hope and the life chances. Your kindness and care will be rewarded as the children continue through their education and then give back to their people and to our world. All the children are aware that they need to 'pay it forward' when they have qualified at whatever their chosen career path is. It is these children that will maintain the legacy of Young Seeds and this could not possibly happen without you.

We are conscious that to sponsor a child in boarding school is a huge financial commitment and urge you to talk to us if you are having difficulties. For instance, we are happy for monthly direct debit repayments if that eases your situation.

We have lost one sponsorship from the end of this year and we extend our sincere thanks to these sponsors for providing the care that they have for their sponsor child over several years now. Fortunately, this child has been re-sponsored for 2017 and we are equally grateful to the new sponsors who have joined us.

The Young Seeds Team takes pride in absolutely guaranteeing that every cent you pay for sponsorship goes directly to your sponsor child. The fees you pay include school fees, board at the school, uniforms, basic health care, uniforms, and all personal needs such as a mattress, soap and toilet paper.

Young Seeds does not take anything from sponsor payment for administrative or other costs. The Executive members personally incur the cost of travel to Africa each year to check on the children and visit all the schools.

Young Seeds pays for:

- The cost of safe travel for the children back home and return to school the next year. This is often dangerous travel and requires considerable money to ensure this. Or, as in this year, to provide for their wellbeing and care during school holidays.
- Pays a modest wage to our coordinator and our new supervisor.
- The cost of medical treatment (sometimes sponsors will offer to pay this as you are always informed if something is not ok with your sponsor child). This year alone we have had 2 serious cases of typhoid, one of cerebral malaria, and one of typhoid and malaria.
- Extra needs as they arise throughout the school year such as excursions or educational materials.
- Extra tuition for the children at Star Education primary school.
- We have built the house this year for the children.

Personal Connection

We also believe that we differ from some other organisations in that we encourage you to develop a personal relationship with the child you sponsor. This may include letter writing to be sent with the Executive member at end of the year, phoning the school to talk with the principal and hopefully the child (at some schools). If you wish to have phone contact with the principal I suggest you let me know and we can organise a time in 2017 to get together and I can help you to make the initial contact.

We at Young Seeds sincerely thank you for your ongoing support in the lives of the children. Unless you have had the opportunity to travel to South Sudan I don't think there is a way of possibly understanding the extent of need that exists for children.

The Young Seeds team wishes you and yours peace and happiness throughout the festive season.

Please do not hesitate to contact if you have any queries.

Kindest regards, the Young Seeds team