



HELP US GROW

**HUG Charity Foundation Incorporated
2009 Annual Report**

www.hug.org.au

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Presidents Report

HUG - Help Us Grow has had an extremely successful year both in Australia and Uganda that has exceeded all my expectations. Wonderful connections have been formed between individuals, families, various groups and schools and this is proving to have a positive impact on everyone involved, both Australians and Ugandans. Equally as exciting are our projects in Uganda which are being embraced by the local communities. The Ugandan people are being empowered to make a sustainable, positive improvement in their own lives which fits perfectly with the HUG philosophy.

Hug in Australia

Through out the last 12 months an ever increasing number of Australian people have become involved with HUG in a variety of ways. It is becoming very evident that people can relate to what we are aiming to achieve and how we are going about it. Feedback from people has been that they love the personal connection and being able to see so quickly, via our new website, what is being achieved in Uganda including where and how their money is being spent.

In particular the increase in the partnerships between schools is very encouraging. More and more Australian schools are getting involved in various ways. We wholeheartedly encourage them to participate in a way that suits their particular school and the interest of their students and their broader school community.

Some schools are opting to exchange letters with Ugandan students which gives both the Australian and Ugandan children the opportunity to learn about each other through lasting friendships. Opening the eyes of the next generation to another culture so that we can learn from each other in a mutually rewarding way is indeed at the core of what HUG is all about.



Australian children writing letters to their new Ugandan friends.



Cake stalls are a popular way to raise money for projects in Uganda



Australian children enjoying sports days to raise funds for a water tank.

On the other hand some Australian schools are choosing to run fundraising events to raise money for particular projects in Ugandan schools. During the last financial year more than \$4,200 was allocated from these funds raised, to go towards various partnership schools in Uganda. Installations of water tanks, establishing organic gardens, providing sporting equipment, furniture and livestock for Ugandan schools are just some of the initiatives supported by schools in Australia for their Ugandan counterparts.

Happily I can report that since the end of June 2009 there has been a significant increase in the number of Australian schools that have come on board. More partnerships have been formed and a number of new schools are currently working hard to raise money for a variety of schools

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and projects in Uganda. Without a doubt the school connections between Australia and Uganda are a huge success.

In addition to funds raised at schools we have significantly increased the amount of money raised in other areas as well this year. It is heart warming to see an increasing number of individuals and groups offering to hold a variety of fundraising events to support HUG. In fact, in the '08/'09 financial year enthusiastic event organizers bought in \$9365 –amazing!

One such event, HUGfest 2008, was staged in Shepparton for the first time last December. Everyone who attended was blown away by the amazing talents of local singers, dancers and musicians who all donated their time and energy to raise funds for the Suubi Education Centre in Masaka, Uganda. We are thrilled that rehearsals for HUGfest 2009 are currently underway and feel sure that it will be an overwhelming success again. Along with this event there is a theatre restaurant night, gala dinner dance, raffles and much more already planned for in the near future so the fundraising figures are sure to increase over the '09/'10 financial year.

Further funds raised throughout the last year came from donations made by individuals, groups and Australian volunteers that have now made the life changing trip to Uganda. We also successfully gained a significant grant from Canadian company TAQA and the sale of HUG products continues to bring in additional funds. In fact the combined total of funds available for the 12 months leading up to June 30th 2009 was a staggering \$33,787.54 after costs. - Well done everyone! This has enabled us to have a significant impact in Uganda.

HUG in Uganda

Our achievements in Uganda over the last 12-18 months have been quite remarkable. Through our collaboration with Development Plus Uganda and under the guidance of our inspirational colleague, David Ssemwogerere, we have accomplished more than I dared to dream of when HUG first began.

The Suubi Education and Community Centre in Masaka district, Uganda has developed from a concept paper David presented to us during our 2008 trip, to an actual physical structure standing before my eyes when I returned to Uganda with the very first HUG volunteer group in 2009. For less than \$16,000 we had been able to fully construct a training hall, office, pit latrine and water tank that is now fully operational and having an ongoing positive impact on the whole community surrounding Suubi. Unbelievable!



Suubi under construction.



The completed training hall is used by local school children.



David and I celebrate the success of Suubi Centre.

Along with the five other Australian volunteers I was able to witness first hand the hope that the Suubi Education and Community Centre is creating in the community. Computer and craft classes we conducted while we were there, were life changing experiences for the Ugandans

that participated. The craft women realized their capability to earn an income and the computer students had their eyes opened to something they had never experienced before.

All of the volunteers have since told me their trip to Uganda was a life changing experience for them too. Living and working with the amazing Ugandan people and becoming life long friends is something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. So a win for the Ugandans and a win for the Aussie volunteers. A perfect outcome from the 2009 volunteer trip!

Since the end of the financial year a further \$5555 has been spent at the Suubi site to construct two bandas which will be used to accommodate overseas volunteers. This will generate income that will make the whole project self sustaining. This will enable the Ugandans to be in control of the entire project and therefore their own future. This is exactly what HUG is aiming achieve with everything we undertake in Uganda.

It is indeed very satisfying to see that the Masaka community is embracing everything that HUG has been able to offer them. It is even more gratifying to know that they are not just sitting back waiting for HUG, or any other western run organization, to 'fix everything' for them or give them a hand out. In fact since our return they have organized many more exciting training days at Suubi that are inspiring people towards a positive future. David has outlined these along with details of other projects we have undertaken in Uganda in his report, so please take the time to read it thoroughly.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single person who has contributed in any way to HUG's amazing success over the past 12 months. Phenomenal things have been achieved and Ugandans and Australians alike have had an opportunity to grow and learn from each other. We should all be enormously proud!

Thank you and webale nnyo!

Helen Brown

Ugandan Project Co-ordinator's Report

Introduction:

In 2007, I (David) linked up with Helen when she had visited Uganda with Brownny. From our visits to various rural areas, especially in Masaka District, where we meet a group of elderly widows at Lubanda village and pineapple farmers at Katuulo village struggling with life, Helen and Brownny were inspired to start up projects in Uganda. They could see from what they observed that there was a very real calling for assistance.

Helen and Brownny went back to Australia, we continued to communicate and around September 2007 they were able to raise some money to support the Elderly Widow's Project with 100 chickens and one Cow. At least 70 [seventy] chickens survived and the widows sold them to invest in other various types of livestock as they wished. On the recent 2009 house to house visit/inspection we made with Helen while she was in Uganda, we saw that all these widows are now engaged in various livestock keeping businesses, especially piggeries. The cow is doing well, and is kept by one of the widows' group member, Magdalena Nankya.

As the collaboration continued to grow and HUG became fully registered in Australia, many more opportunities have occurred. Today, HUG and Development plus Uganda are official partners in executing development (educational and environmental) projects in Uganda.

2.0 Suubi Centre Project:

Suubi is a Luganda word which means "Hope". I must say that over the past 12 months the Suubi Education and Community Centre is the HUG - D+ mega project in Uganda. This project intends to pass on hands on empowerment skills to under-served individuals especially in Masaka and the neighbouring Districts and Uganda at large. Lots of development demonstrations are planned to be set up as well as ongoing education and training sessions in various community development areas to various categories of people; i.e. Children, youth, men and women.

The Suubi Centre concept was conceived quite sometime back by myself, and in 2008 it was shared with Helen, Chad and Brenton who visited the then proposed site for this project. The land for the centre was generously donated by Magdalena Nnankya, one of the elderly widows' group member and part of the original HUG - D+ projects beneficiary group in Masaka.

Efforts to realise that Suubi came to life were spear headed by Helen and HUG in Australia and David and D+ in Uganda. Brenton did a terrific job to design a computerised architectural design of the whole Suubi Centre Project. It's this design that is still now the reference copy for the developments coming up at the centre. It is now proudly hanging in the completed Suubi Training Hall!

Through sales of HUG calendars and genuine donations from various individuals in Australia, HUG was able to raise the start up funds for the first phase construction of the Training Hall and office at Suubi. Money raised from HUGfest 2008 went towards a water tank and the construction of the pit latrine at the centre. On 24th December 2008, the on site measurements and construction work started and I can now happily report that the Suubi Education and Community Centre is now up and running! Yippeeeeeee!

2.1 Suubi Women's Crafts group:

Over 26 women from the neighbouring villages of Suubi are now having an endless smile ever due to the hopes (suubi) that have started coming into their lives. The ladies have organised themselves into a crafts group and they were trained by Helen and Sue while they were in Uganda on how to make hand woven bracelets. As of today, each of them has been able to get some money from the first two sales of these bracelets equivalent to 30,000 Uganda shillings! This amount may sound very little but ITS REALLY MUCH in the lives of the ladies from these villages around Suubi. Efforts are continuing to find a market for these bracelets and other crafts that will be made at Suubi. Once we secure more people ordering bracelets from this group, the more smiles and happier they will be.

Most of these ladies do not have any other income generating activities, some are the heads of their respective families and others are widows. This opportunity to get them involved means a lot to them as I'm sure you can imagine!



Craft women learning new bracelet weaving skills.



The ladies and I celebrate at their graduation ceremony.



The ladies receive payment for their first lot of bracelets sent to Australia.

2.2 Trainings at Suubi:

Trainings in various areas have been conducted and are still going, and I encourage everyone to keep your eyes on www.hug.org.au. The recent trainings have been in the areas of Food, Nutrition and Sanitation that was facilitated by Dr. Herbert Lwanga. Also Energy Efficient Stoves Making was facilitated by Makerere University students who are keenly involved in volunteering at Suubi. Many families have taken on this initiative and it's expected to make a significant contribution towards reduced tree cutting for firewood in the area. At the same time it will save people, especially women and children, from respiratory and eye infection problems associated with the traditional three stones stoves that produce lots of smoke. School children from various schools, also came to Suubi for trainings in various areas, including Sustainable Agriculture, Nursery Bed Establishment and Vegetable Growing among others. Arrangement for surrounding schools to participate in computer lessons are also nearly completed, so very soon pupils and teachers from the neighbourhood will be enjoying this facility at Suubi too.



Fuel efficient stove training was attended by many village women.



Dr. Lwanga passed on advise about food, nutrition and sanitation.



Local school children learn about sustainable agriculture.

2.3 Computer Training at Suubi:

With support from the Australian people, Suubi has acquired seven laptops for the resource centre. These computers are for training purposes for interested children and adults from the communities and schools around and beyond Suubi. This is the first opportunity for computer training in the whole Parish....can you imagine that? The first computer lessons were conducted by Annette from Australia, in June 2009. The group she handled, this was their first time to sit and press their hands on the computer at the age of 19! The impact has been enormous and those who donated these computers should feel very proud. Great work for all of you. More requests for computer trainings are coming in from various people and schools around the centre. Hopes [suubi] are coming up now for these people!

These computers are also expected to be used for administrative work. If the opportunity comes to connect the internet on these computers, these rural people would be very grateful to connect to the global world.



2009 volunteer, Annette guides Doreen as she use a computer for the 1st time.



A picture of concentration as they learn new computer skills.



Local teenagers are happy to see computers in the village.

2.4 Community Library at Suubi:

No one around this community ever thought, reading materials would be in such close vicinity. With support from Australian people, Suubi has also acquired books for community people to read. These are mostly development related books in local (Luganda) language and others in simple English. These books are expected to bring a positive change in peoples thinking and start them on the way towards doing business correctly. Currently over 40 copies are in the shelves. More copies of books are still needed! Check out www.hug.org.au to view a list of proposed books.

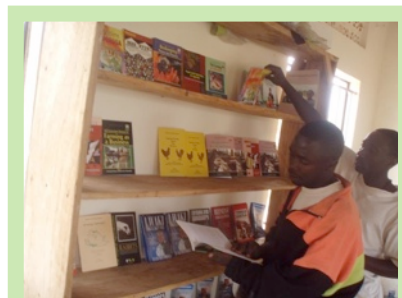
We are currently working with schools around the area to dramatise the useful development information from these books. Through music, drama and dance we will present it to the public, in an educational and entertaining way. This is an exciting and proven way of passing on new information and ideas, especially for those who can not read and write, but definitely need this information.



The Suubi Community Library started off slowly.



With donations from Australians the number of books are expanding.



People in the village are making the most of having access to quality

2.5 The Bandas/Accommodation at Suubi:

In 2009, with support from a grant obtained by HUG from TAQA Canada, the first Banda (accommodation place) at Suubi has been put up. The Bandas are expected to be another source of income for Suubi's sustainability in future. Overseas volunteers will be requested to pay some money for accommodation in these bandas. This money will be used to implement some other work at Suubi such as catering for electricity bills, communication bills, structures and activities extensions, as well as other possible administrative costs. Two more Bandas, as per the plan, still need support for construction. We expect that the local community will benefit from the volunteers coming to Suubi by selling some of their produce and services. Activities such as washing volunteers' clothes and cooking meals will enable them to earn a living. The first lot of 6 (six) volunteers at Suubi in June 2009 that was led by Helen, raised 500,000 Uganda shillings. So you can see that the more overseas volunteers that come to Suubi, the more sustainable Suubi will become.



Banda's under construction in July 2009.



The finishing touches being added in September 2009.



The 1st volunteers to be accommodated in the bandas, enjoy life at Suubi.

2.6 Suubi's possible collaboration with Masaka District:

Efforts for our Suubi Centre Project to collaborate with Masaka district administration are under way. Helen and I met the District Chairperson, Mr. Vicent Sempijja in June 2009 and introduced the project to him. The Chairman welcomed the project in the district and promised to visit the project for more details. He is expected at Suubi in the very near future. The intention of linking up with the District is to gain local government support for the project. This association may increase our chances of benefiting from Government/District funding in the future. For example, if we develop a Suubi Community Health Clinic in the future, we may be able to access medical personnel and materials like mosquito nets to supply to people in the community. I am continuing to follow up on this issue.

3.0 School Connections

In 2008, three schools in Masaka District namely, St. Joseph Nakawanga, St. Thomas Namulanda and Bright Light Primary Schools, were connected to sister schools in Australia and a lot of support from this connection has been flowing since then. This has not happened only in Masaka District schools, but also in Jinja schools such as Nakanyonyi Primary School, Wakitaka Primary School and Kyabiirwa Pre School in Bujagali among others.

The Australian based schools that connected and supported Ugandan schools included: Balwyn High School who connected to St. Joseph Nakawanga primary school. Balwyn High school students painted a very big smile to pupils/students, parents, teachers, and communities around St. Joseph Primary School when they raised funds to buy a 10,000 litres water tank and a variety of garden tools to start up a School Garden. As of today St. Joseph's pupils and teachers

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are doing well with school garden work and in October 2008, they participated in our annual harvest festival. This same school was the host of the event based on their tremendous achievements.

Our Lady of Assumption Primary School in Cheltenham, Vic raised funds through an Olympics day at their Australian school and money raised went to St.Thomas Primary School in Masaka Uganda for various garden tools and a water tank of 10,000 litres.

Bright Light Primary School was also supported with a 10,000 litre capacity water tank, by the Richard's Family whose children attend Cheltenham Primary School in Australia. Various garden tools and tree seedlings were supplied by HUG to support this project. The school is now enjoying the benefits from their gardens.

In addition to the initial financial support these Ugandan schools received they have now also made a personal connection through writing letters to Australian schools. St.Joseph Nakawanga is now exchanging letters with Glass House Mountains Primary school, Qld. As of today over 50 students from these two schools have exchanged the first lot of introductory letters. And a further 25 students from Shepparton East Primary School, Vic, Australia are connected and exchanging letters with Bright Light Primary Schools in Masaka Uganda. We are eagerly embracing this to continue as it will give children from both countries an opportunity to learn from each others culture. This also is expected to build the writing and reading capacity of pupils here in Uganda. As they are communicating in English it will also increase their ability to interact more effectively with the outside world.

During 2009 more school to school connection opportunities came about. Bathurst and Lockington communities in Australia raised funds and supported St.Joseph Kyasonko Primary School with a 10,000 litres water tank and various garden tools. The installation of the tank and distribution of these garden tools was witnessed by the first group of six Australian HUG volunteers which included Annette, Sue, Samuel and Ashlee from the Bathurst and Lockington communities. Ugandan teachers, parents and pupils from Kyssonko are extremely happy about this opportunity and they also enthusiastically took part in getting the project off the ground.



Many parents participated in the installation of the water tank.



Students put their new garden tools to good use to construct garden beds.



Kyssonko children thanking Bathurst and Lockington communities.

Bathurst Community Australia also supported Regional College School in Masaka with a 10,000 litres Water Tank. McKillop College where Annette teaches in Bathurst is now also connected to Regional College as a sister school. The first lot of introductory letters from Regional College were delivered by Annette when she arrived back in Bathurst, Australia. The reply letters from McKillop College have now been sent and are expected to reach Regional College shortly.

3.1 Individual Volunteers support:

Individual volunteers have also made tremendous donations and contribution in various ways to these schools projects. One example of this is Dan Witkowski. from Australia who donated four (4) soccer balls and four (4) netballs as well as sports wear for four boys and girls teams in

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Masaka district. This support went to St. Joseph Nakawanga, St. Thomas Namulanda, Bright Light and Lubanda primary schools. Shortly after Dan's generous donation on 28th Oct 2008, our First Annual Harvest festival was held. Hundreds of people from the community gathered at St. Joseph to witness the projects achievements in such a short period of time. Pupils enjoyed meals from their real gardens. They danced and sung educational songs and finalised the day with football and net ball matches between the participating schools. This kind of spirit and support makes HUG - D+ projects unique in Uganda and we hope it will continue in the future.



Local school compete in a soccer match thanks to Dan's donation.



The Harvest Festival saw students sharing a meal from the garden.



The children enjoyed sports events as well as singing, dancing and drama.

4.0 Kyabirwa Piggery Project:

This HUG supported project that is based in Bujagali Jinja District, intends to support beneficiaries with piglets for improved economic livelihoods. The logical design and methodology of the project as presented to HUG by the original idea bearers led by Silagi Mpango, looked quite good! However, the project is not working to expectations mainly due to lack of coherence and communication among the beneficiaries. Members had agreed to contribute food /grass to the piggery project but many of them proved not to respond towards this. This left responsibility to only one person (Mama Rose) that is hosting the project. Also the free supply of piglets by the Bujagali Dam Construction project undermined this Kyabirwa project as many members neglected it and decided to go in for free piglets supplied by the Dam project. While in Uganda, Helen and David held a meeting with this group and advised them to restructure their project to find possible ways of continuing with it. Helen explained to them that HUG could not continue supporting this project if changes were not made.



Kyabirwa Piggery began with much enthusiasm.



The dam construction at Bujagali are offering free pigs to local families.



A meeting was held with beneficiaries to try to find a solution.

5.0 Conclusion

The HUG and Development plus Uganda partnership has realized great outcomes for the communities involved, in such a short period! I strongly believe that this is just the beginning of everything, more and more positive outcomes shall be appreciated! I wish you all the best!

Ssemwogerere David

Financial Reports

HUG Charity Foundation Incorporated
Profit and Loss Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Jul '08 - Jun 09	Jul '07 - Jun 08	\$ Change
Income			
Donations			
General	16,815.11	1,053.00	15,762.11
HUG Partnerships	747.00	0.00	747.00
Schools			
Bright Light	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Nakanyonyi	543.00	0.00	543.00
Namabalanda	1,855.00	0.00	1,855.00
St Joshephs	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Total Schools	3,998.00	500.00	3,498.00
Suubi Education Centre	1,075.00	0.00	1,075.00
Masaka Widows Project	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Livestock	556.00	0.00	556.00
Total Donations	23,191.11	2,053.00	21,138.11
Fundraising Events Profit			
In the Game Fundraiser	2,720.65	0.00	2,720.65
Fun Run	360.00	0.00	360.00
Hug Fest	3,597.50	0.00	3,597.50
Film Nights	2,687.00	0.00	2,687.00
Total Fundraising Events Profit	9,365.15	0.00	9,365.15
Sales			
Sale of HUG Photos	2,560.00	0.00	2,560.00
Sale of HUG Cards	266.00	0.00	266.00
Sale of Sparks Portraits	100.00	0.00	100.00
Sale of Calenders	4,825.90	8,000.00	-3,174.10
Total Sales	7,751.90	8,000.00	-248.10
Interest Income	0.08	0.14	-0.06
Total Income	40,308.24	10,053.14	30,255.10
Cost of Goods Sold			
Photo Production Costs	1,160.50	0.00	1,160.50
Calender Printing Costs	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	5,160.50	0.00	5,160.50
Gross Profit	35,147.74	10,053.14	25,094.60
Australian Expenses			
Bank Charges	272.51	19.00	253.51
Communication Expenses	237.69	0.00	237.69
Petty Cash	200.00	0.00	200.00
Postage	100.00	0.00	100.00
Printing and Stationary	165.00	0.00	165.00
Website Hosting	385.00	0.00	385.00
Total Expenses	1,360.20	19.00	1,341.20
Total Income	33,787.54	10,034.14	23,753.40

HUG Charity Foundation Incorporated

Profit and Loss Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Jul '08 - Jun 09	Jul '07 - Jun 08	\$ Change
Ugandan Project Payments			
Uganda Projects			
Suubi Education Centre			
Training Hall	15,366.30	0.00	15,366.30
Banda	912.18	0.00	912.18
Womens Craft	0.00	159.00	-159.00
Widows Project	0.00	1,450.00	-1,450.00
Livestock	525.00	0.00	525.00
Garden Tools	471.30	0.00	471.30
Total Suubi Education Centre	17,274.78	1,609.00	15,665.78
School Improvement			
Bright Light	73.00	1,100.00	-1,027.00
Harvest Festival	431.12	0.00	431.12
Kyabirwa Pre School	73.00	0.00	73.00
Kyssonko	1,024.02	0.00	1,024.02
Nakanyonyi	577.46	0.00	577.46
Nambalanda	2,011.04	0.00	2,011.04
St Josephs	73.00	1,600.00	-1,527.00
Total School Improvement	4,262.64	2,700.00	1,562.64
Partnership Donations Payments	681.00	0.00	681.00
Soft Power Education	0.00	1,226.00	-1,226.00
Piggerys			
Kyabirwa	2,431.00	0.00	2,431.00
Total Piggerys	2,431.00	0.00	2,431.00
Total Ugandan Project Payments	24,649.42	5,535.00	19,114.42
Net Funds Retained For Future Projects	9,138.12	4,499.14	4,638.98

HUG Charity Foundation Incorporated Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2009

	Jun 30, 09	Jun 30, 08	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank			
Bank Original	0.00	4,499.14	-4,499.14
Bank - NAB 1	13,108.37	0.00	13,108.37
Bank - NAB 2	528.89	0.00	528.89
Total Cash at Bank	<u>13,637.26</u>	<u>4,499.14</u>	<u>9,138.12</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>13,637.26</u>	<u>4,499.14</u>	<u>9,138.12</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>13,637.26</u>	<u>4,499.14</u>	<u>9,138.12</u>
LIABILITIES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>13,637.26</u></u>	<u><u>4,499.14</u></u>	<u><u>9,138.12</u></u>
EQUITY			
Prior Year Funds Retained For Future Projects	4,499.14	0.00	4,499.14
Current Year Funds Retained For Future Projects	<u>9,138.12</u>	<u>4,499.14</u>	<u>4,638.98</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>13,637.26</u></u>	<u><u>4,499.14</u></u>	<u><u>9,138.12</u></u>