



YOUR IMPACT REPORT

Summer Edition 2019

A WORD FROM LUCY

To our Child's i family,

I am so excited to share with you over the coming pages the achievements of our team the past 6 months. We have grown and helped even more families than we thought possible this year thanks to your help. But before you read on, I have a very special announcement to share with you.

11 years ago I left the UK to make a difference in the lives of children in Uganda with what I thought was a crazy dream. Your belief in that dream made Child's i Foundation what it is today. I cannot thank you enough for all the time, love and money that you have given so that today hundreds of children are growing up in families, not orphanages.

Eleven years is a long time, and Child's i Foundation has changed a lot since our early days - together we have learned, adapted, and grown stronger.

Change has never been scary for us. We set up a babies' home and then we closed it down, and now we have embarked on a very exciting journey to show that it's possible to build a system with partners and the Government which does not rely on placing children in orphanages.

We are continuing that journey of change, so I would like to share with you that I will be leaving my post as CEO in October, to join the Board of Trustees.

This is a big move for me and I am both humbled, excited, and to be honest with you a bit scared as well! But five years ago when I met Christopher Muwanguzi, whom many of you know from his tenure as our Country Director, I told him that he would be my successor.



So I am delighted to say that I am placing Child's i Foundation in his capable hands. Christopher brings to us over 15 years of experience of working with children and families at a community, national and international level as well as an infectious love and passion for Child's i.

He led the Child's i team in Uganda for nearly 3 years, and when the time came for him to go back to the UK with his family we were all sad to see him go. But I also knew it wouldn't be the last time we would work together.



Christopher & Lucy

We couldn't be happier that he has agreed to come back to lead the organisation from the UK now. As a Ugandan, and a parent, he has a particular interest in achieving lasting change in his country.



Christopher will be taking on a very strong and committed team in Uganda and in the UK. As a board member, I will remain engaged in this important work but will relish the opportunity of doing so from my new position where I can focus on doing what I love most: advocating and fighting for every child to grow up in a loving family. Your continued support will be critical to achieving this vision. I very much hope you will stay with us for the next chapter of our story.

With love and gratitude,

Lucy xx

Lucy Buck
CEO & Founder

YOUR IMPACT

2019 has been a busy year for us as you have helped us make more families, not orphans. Check out below our year so far in numbers.

7 children have moved from orphanages to families, and **2** partnerships secured with new orphanages



13,245

families have been kept together by community volunteers to prevent family breakdown

6 new community support networks were set up to oversee child protection



399

community volunteers trained to identify and support families to stay together, **40** of them were given training to help children with disabilities

319

families were given hands-on and practical support to help them stay together



MEET SAMUEL

When Samuel turned one, his mum had no choice but to leave him in an orphanage due to mental health challenges she was facing.

Samuel had been living in an orphanage for 8 years before we started the process of reuniting him with his family. Our social workers together with Smile Africa orphanage social workers started to trace Samuels' family. Luckily Samuel's aunt Betty agreed to take care of her nephew and raise him like a son.

Our social workers visited Betty to prepare her to open her heart and home. Betty also began visiting Samuel at the orphanage so they were able to form a relationship and get to know one another. After a couple of bonding sessions, Samuel was ready to go home and live with his family.

We supported the family with a care package including books and school fees to help Samuel continue his education.

Now at 9 years old, Samuel is growing up healthy, happy surrounded by his family.

We recently visited him and he is loving being at home with his aunt. "He likes reading and playing football with his cousins," Betty told us.

READ FULL STORY



CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Across the world, media plays a key role in shaping and changing public perceptions. In Uganda, the media often portrays orphanages as a good solution for children without recognising the harm that they can cause. In order to change this narrative, we invited top Ugandan journalists to training sessions to tell them more about the importance of children growing up in families rather than orphanages.

Both trainings were an eye opening experience for many journalists who regularly report and celebrate orphanages in the press. “When I came here, I did not understand the issues surrounding protection of children, adoption or foster care,” said Juma Sseyid, a journalist with Rock Mambo Radio.

After the workshop, we asked Juma what he had learnt. He was quick to say the discussions had armed him with tools to use to promote family-based care in Tororo. Tororo is one of the districts where we are currently partnering with the government to transform the district from dependence on orphanages to family-based care.

Such discussions with the media help us highlight and educate communities on the need for children to grow up in safe and loving families instead of orphanages.

“ My radio station will undertake an initiative to promote adoption and foster care in Tororo Region. ”

-Juma Sseyid, Rock Mambo Radio.



REIMAGINING HOW ORPHANAGES CARE

Your support continues to change hearts and minds as more orphanages in Uganda are willing to repurpose their services and place children in safe and loving families.

In April, we signed a partnership with the Kampala Archdiocese in Mpigi and the Salvation Army in Tororo to reimagine how they care for the children in five of their orphanages in Kampala, Mpigi and Tororo by ensuring each child is moved to family-based care. This is a huge milestone as we work towards strengthening families to prevent separation and ensuring that children in Uganda grow up in families, not orphanages.

We will be working closely with three orphanages under Kampala Archdiocese's and two orphanages under Salvation Army to reunite the children back into their communities. Our first step will be changing the perceptions by working closely with the orphanages staff and management. We want to ensure that all the staff are aware of how important family is to every child. It is a long process.

It takes around 3 months to set up an orphanage and up to 2 years to close one down.

Our team is up for the challenge and we are thankful for our partners, new and existing. Together we are making sure that dozens more children grow up in families, not orphanages.



MILESTONE

Mpigi District will be our third location in Uganda that we will be working in to transform the community from dependence on orphanages to family-based care after Tororo District and Makindye Division.



**The children placed
in our care will now
have a chance to
grow up in families
rather than in the
orphanages that
we have.**



**Monsignor. Charles
Kasibante**

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER



When Abigail gave birth to triplets Leo, Lucas, and Luke, she could not take care of them. She was at the time unemployed and did not have anyone to help her take care of her three growing babies.

This meant that her sons were at risk of being placed in an orphanage. “That was my nightmare,” Abigail says.

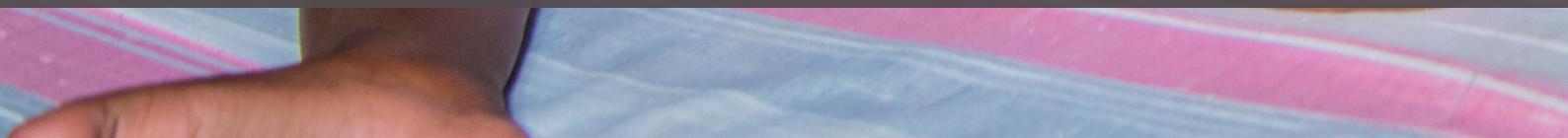
At this critical time in Abigail’s life, your generosity meant that we were able to give her the support she needed to keep her family together.

Your support helped pay for the triplets’

medical bills and provide Abigail with food and clothing for her young family. She also received training in parenting and nutrition, to empower her to take care of her Leo, Lucas, and Luke.

Your generosity also meant that we were able to help Abigail start a small business to provide for her children. This support has given Abigail the confidence and income to keep her family together.

Abigail’s triplets are now almost 2 years old and are growing up healthy and happy.





**I am happy that my children are
growing up with me, they are
my pride and joy.**

VOLUNTEERS HELPING FAMILIES

In June, we invited 45 community volunteers in Tororo district to celebrate their work and the difference they have made in their community. Community volunteers have been key in supporting families to stay together so parents do not have to place their children in an orphanage.

Stephen is one of the community volunteers in the district. He has been a community volunteer for 6 years. Stephen says he has seen a huge change in his community since he began volunteering. "Because of our intervention, more children are growing up with their families instead of being placed in orphanages," Stephen says. "I want the children in my community to grow up with their families, to know that they belong here and to grow up in safe and loving families."

Our community volunteers often work tirelessly. So we were honoured to take time to celebrate their commitment to their communities and the amazing work each one of them do to keep families together.



I am happy when I see children going to school and growing up with their parents in our community. I have seen a huge improvement in my district. This makes me know I am making a difference.



Stephen



Our work hugely depends on community volunteers. They help and support families to stay together in their communities instead of having to place their children into orphanages.



MILESTONE

Since 2018, no child has been placed in an orphanage in Tororo district thanks to the intervention of the community volunteers.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Community volunteers are a big part of keeping families together. They give their time and love to help families stay together instead of making the heartbreaking choice to place their children into orphanages. Ramadan is one of these special community volunteers, and we recently visited him to hear about his passion for helping children.

Everyday, Ramadan visits families that need support to stay together within his community. His motivation, Ramadan says, stems from his own childhood experiences. He grew up in northern Uganda and had to flee his home due to the war. Ramadan has a huge heart for children and takes pride in making sure that children in his community grow up in families, not orphanages,

Ramadan is making a true difference in his community and our work is dependent on community volunteers like him who advocate for children to grow up in families. In Tororo, there are 184 volunteers like Ramadan who have been trained by the Government and Child's i Foundation on how to identify and support families in the community to prevent family breakdown.



Images of children who had lost their families were painful to see. I saw children on the streets, stranded and with no help. I decided to volunteer to help them. I have been helping children and families for many years.

WATCH FULL STORY

CELEBRATING AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT OUR WORK

In May, we held a fundraising event, Cocktails in the Skyz, to celebrate our work. The event was graciously hosted by NINETY9 by The Embers.

We want to create a space for Ugandans to get involved with our work and raise awareness of why children need to grow up in families and not orphanages.

The night was a celebration of all the hard work it takes to make families, not orphans. We had an amazing host, a DJ, and an exciting raffle package. Our guests have generously raised 12,000,000 Ugandan Shillings which will go towards ensuring that we support more families and children in our communities.

We would like to thank Isaac Rucci, our host, for not only supporting us but being amazing at what he does, The Emin Pasha Hotel, The Alchemist, Kyaninga Lodge, and Skyz Hotel for donating to the raffle, and of course our host NINETY9 by The Embers! It was amazing to see so many people come together to make our night a success.





HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Our work requires a huge amount of dedication and passion from each one of our team members. Most importantly, we would not be able to continue this work without you and your support.

We hope that our dream of a Uganda free of orphanages inspires you and that you will help us make it a reality by giving us your love, time or making a donation.



GIVE TIME

Have a skill that you always wanted to put to good use, like social media management or website development? Help us grow by volunteering with us.



GIVE LOVE

Fly, climb, run - be a super hero for children. Take on a challenge you have always wanted to accomplish and change little people's lives by fundraising for us.



GIVE MONEY

Give a one-off donation or sign up for a regular gift to help us continue our life-changing work giving every child a safe and loving family.

BECOME OUR FUNDRAISING SUPERSTAR

KAMPALA COLOUR FUN RUN

This year we are planning to partner with Kampala's first and only Colour Fun Run! Stay in touch with our team as we help plan the event this September. Interested in attending? Keep an eye out on our social media platforms for corporate deals, and get your whole company on board.



HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

Invite us to your networks to introduce our work and why it is important for children to grow up in families, not orphanages. Help us spread the word and become part of a community committed to seeing every child in Uganda grow up in a safe and loving family.



RAISE MONEY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Are you a member of your local community or faith group? Would you like to introduce our work to your inner circle? Are you keen to organise a group of friends to raise money for a good cause? Get in touch and we will set up a meeting with you - we can plan a brunch, a church collection or a dinner with friends.



WANT TO KNOW MORE? WRITE TO ME

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