sister schools

2016-17 Annual Report
If you know me, you know that I am slightly obsessed with Game of Thrones. I love the characters, the storyline and the music. One of my favorite aspects is the regality of each home – each castle, island and location has a lofty name, and every noble house has a family sword. These swords represent aspects of their owners. Ice, Longclaw, and Oathkeeper are just a few examples. Why am I bringing up this famous, albeit obscure reference? Because what our donors, volunteers, parent coordinators, partner schools and staff do is done with the same thoughtfulness and grace as the Game of Thrones actors – except the work of Sister Schools is not fantasy. That is why I like to refer to our supporters with a name symbolizing their importance to the children we work with – I call them Hope Bringers.

It is hope that we bring to the students of Uganda. Without Sister Schools, many of these students would never finish school; they would not have the tools they need to learn and pass their exams; and they would not have as bright of a future for themselves and their families.

Hope is also what we teach locally. Sister Schools provides students in the Puget Sound area with hands-on opportunities to affect positive change. Elementary school students may think they are too young to volunteer or to make a difference – but through Sister Schools, they learn what is possible.

The pages of this report will demonstrate what we’ve accomplished together. None of it would have been possible without our faithful Hope Bringers. Please know: You are our hope, now and into the future.

Thank you,
Amy Paquette, Executive Director
Dear Sister Schools supporters,

This has been a year of progress, change and growth, and I would like to start my letter with a big “thank you” – to all the local schools that participated in the Sister Schools supply drives, our generous donors, our volunteers (young and less young), our Board of Directors and our staff. It is not without sacrifice that we do this work, and we do it because we care deeply about literacy and providing life changing opportunities for our kids and the children of Uganda.

In fall 2016, we partnered with 12 elementary schools as part of our annual Puget Sound school supply drive. We shipped 12,000 pounds of donated school supplies, including thousands of pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, reading books and lots and lots of athletic equipment, such as soccer balls, frisbees and jump ropes. In spring 2017, a small team travelled to Uganda to personally hand-distribute all of these special items to the children and teachers at four Literacy Centers, 11 elementary schools and two orphanages. This annual spring distribution trip is always a highlight for me, as I get to see firsthand the impact and joy these items bring to the students and teachers in Uganda.

While in Uganda, we distributed over 1,000 Sister Schools backpacks, each one filled with new pencils, a box of crayons, a spiral ring notebook and a reading book. These items go directly into the hands of the kids who get to take them home. For many of these kids, this is the first time they have had a reader/book to call their own. The backpacks were possible because of spare change and coin collections from our schools in the Puget Sound area. A few pennies, nickels and dimes go a long way.

Another key focus area this year was developing a vision and strategy for what Sister Schools wants to accomplish and what impact we want to have over the next 15 years. We held a very productive future planning workshop in January that laid the ground work for our vision and helped us set the stage for how we might build out the next steps of our strategic plan.

Lastly, at our 12th Annual Gala (which we almost cancelled due to the threatening 2016 windstorm of the century), three of our local teachers shared their experiences following their recent summer trip to Uganda, where they visited the Literacy Centers that receive our books and school supplies. They turned their learnings into action and began to develop a program that would enable the Ugandan teachers to better utilize the Literacy Centers, teach them methods for getting the right level books into the hands of kids and practical ways for sharing the knowledge they get from reading. It is remarkable to see the positive changes that are already taking place. Thank you – Katherine Berry, Kate Sipe and Jean Bolivar for all that you have done to ensure Sister Schools materials are having the best possible impact.

On behalf of all of us at Sister Schools, thank you for your ongoing support and care. We are deeply grateful and hope that you will continue to be part of the Sister Schools family for many years to come.

Gratefully,
Carol Lycette, Board President

A Note from the Board President

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Amy Paquette, Executive Director
Terry McGill, Program Director
Nadalie Malsam, Engagement Director
Asia Kamukama, Ugandan Director
Angie Morehouse, Communications Consultant
Ashlea Hayter, Gala Coordinator

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS - UGANDA
Asia Kamukama

Right: Kate Sipe gets snuggle time with a future student.
**Schools and Orphanages that Received our Donations this Year:**

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<th>Number</th>
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<td>Dwelling Places</td>
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**Schools that we partnered with in the Puget Sound:**

1. Little Cedars Elementary
2. Harbour Pointe Middle School
3. Echo Glen Children's Center
4. Benjamin Rush Elementary
5. Arrowhead Elementary
6. Greenwood Elementary
7. Seattle Hill Elementary
8. McDonald International School
9. Picnic Point Elementary
10. St. Vincent De Paul School
11. St. Vincent School
12. Epiphany School
13. St. Augustine
14. Sitankya
15. Sittayankga
16. Ntawo
17. Kibiribiri
18. Namulaba
19. St. Kizito
20. Mayangayanga
21. Misindye
22. Ksouwa
23. Luteng
24. Town Muslim
25. Mukono Boarding
26. Agape
27. Dwelling Places
Volunteers

Our volunteers are the backbone of Sister Schools. Children and adults of all ages and from all over the Puget Sound assist us with events, sorting and packing in the warehouse, serving on our board, and travelling with us to Uganda. In July 2016, three very special teachers volunteered their time to travel to Uganda. Their goal was to inspect and delve into the activities happening at our Literacy Centers. When they arrived they were shocked and dismayed by the lack of use of books at the centers. Jumping right into action, Katherine Berry, Kate Sipe, and Jean Bolivar began to organize books, speak with students, and learned about the reality of teaching from the Ugandan teachers. After three weeks, our Literacy Centers were up and running better than ever and a plan for professional development began to form. Today, the Literacy Centers are in use, children are reading more books than ever, and teachers are sharing ideas. Our Volunteers changed the world with the books and funding from Sister Schools.
### Operational Revenue and Support 2016-2017

- Contributions: $185,000
- In-kind donations: $115,000
- Foundation grants: $25,604
- Corporate sponsorship: $19,000
- Events: $129,335

**Total**: $473,939

### Operational Expenditures 2016-2017

- Program: $209,424
- Literacy Centers: $6,387
- Scholarship Sponsorship: $2,803
- Administration: $148,000
- Fundraising, including Gala: $60,000

**Total**: $426,614

**Net**: $47,325
2016-2017 Donors

Aaron and Andrea Knoll
Aaron and Anna Lemchen
Aaron and Johanna Riensche
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Jeanne Rynne
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Jeremy and Heather Gordon
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Woodland Park Chapel

If we inadvertently left your name off this list of donors, please accept our apologies and let us know so that we can rectify the error in future communications.