



**CELEBRATING 5 YEARS**  
**Project Have Hope Annual Report 2011**

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## A Word from the Executive Director

2011 was a year filled with adventures. In May, we celebrated our fifth anniversary at Oliver's in Boston, sharing the evening with our growing and strong circle of supporters. We debuted a video of our work in the Acholi Quarter and both young and old enjoyed a lively drum circle. The true highlight though, was to look around the room filled with the smiling faces of the many new friends I've made since Project Have Hope began.

In September, our staff expanded to include two dynamic, energetic change-makers, Hannah Webb and Joanna Miller. Through their efforts, we launched a fundraising program that in just two months, had more than sixty groups participating.

In October, Ayaa Grace, director of operations in Uganda, made her first visit to the United States. She traveled the Northeast - from Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine - and spoke to students, service groups and the media about our impact in Uganda and our future goals. She gave demonstrations on making the



paper bead jewelry and gave firsthand, personal accounts of her experiences living through the war in Northern Uganda. Needless to say, everyone who met her was touched by her presence. As one student acknowledged, "Grace is for sure one of the greatest teachers and inspiration of my life. Just meeting her for a couple days, I was SO sad to leave her!"

Our emphasis in 2011 focused on our operations here, in the US - on expanding our outreach and cultivating a solid foundation on which we can both maintain our

initiatives and grow to reach new heights. We are certain that the "behind the scenes" work, which has marked 2011, will lead us to achieve our greatest results yet.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us.

*Karen Sparacio*

# 100 members

- 104 Children sponsored in school**
- 85 Members have children sponsored in school**
- 100 Women have received microenterprise loans**
- 34 Members have received vocational training**
- 4 Women enrolled in adult literacy program**
- 5 Women growing balcony gardens**
- 3 Women growing mushrooms**
- 8 Women cultivating tomatoes in the newly constructed greenhouse**
- 14 Women have received health care assistance**



# A Letter from Grace

It's so nice to get to the end of a period and nicer yet to look back at the accomplishment in that given period! 2011 ended in a very colorful way for members of Project Have Hope. We danced our way into the New Year, this time with Karen amidst us. It was such a wonderful close, all trying to look back and remind ourselves of what was achieved and how to move forward into the next year. 2011 started a bit calmly with the usual activities that have always been going on, but in September, I received a visa from the US Embassy making it possible for me to travel to the USA! It was really very exciting, with the idea of going to meet the people who have all along been supporting us and, of course, the anxiety to see the country that is so much talked about throughout the world! There was bit of panic at the beginning, as it is always with first time travelers, but soon it all calmed down when on 2nd of October, I finally took my flight into Boston.

It's such a wonder to note that unless one travels, they will always believe that their mother is the best cook. In the United States it's all so beautiful with so many amazing people inhabiting it. I just thought that all of the won-

ders of the earth have been accumulated here. Of course, not forgetting how hard working people in the US are.

Normally many people tell me that I do inspire them just because of working with the ladies, but the inspiration that I did get during my visit, was incomparable. Everywhere I visited, I was treated with real kindness, generosity and everybody was just hospitable. It was all alike, be it a university, a service club or even the event venues, I always had a very warm welcome. This kept my spirits up till my last day.

I would attribute this wonderful opportunity to the people who have been involved with PHH in one way or another; example volunteers, sponsors, friends and other supporters. You are all so amazing, and no day passes without mention of your names to either my family or the ladies. I am really so inspired by how people can think of helping people who you have never even met in your lives.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributed to make my visit a success. Every one of you are my inspiration and I hope that I will meet you all again soon!

Thank you everyone!!

**Grace Aya**  
**Director of Operations**





# Recycled Paper Bead Enterprise

The jewelry the women make from recycled paper has been the primary income source for all of Project Have Hope's programming. Despite the educational and business initiatives PHH has implemented, the women still craft their beautiful jewelry. And the art of recycled paper beads is still appreciated and retains a solid customer base in the United States.

However, the artisans have expanded their designs to include more than just paper beads, and more than just jewelry. Jewelry designs now also incorporate local materials, such as bone, glass and clay beads and are strung on leather, cotton cord and even

*kitenge* (African fabrics) to create an entirely new look! Beads have also been used to craft new products, including crosses and Christmas tree ornaments. And several talented, enterprising women have used the recycled paper to create bowls. The creativity and versatility of the women and their designs continues to attract American consumers.

In 2011, some of these new products were featured in *Accessories*, *Self Magazine* and Fox News, a testament to the artistry of the women in the Acholi Quarter.

## School Sponsorships

In 2011, in Project Have Hope's fourth year of sponsoring children's education, 104 children were enrolled in school - eighteen of them in secondary school. Despite the dramatic inflation in Uganda throughout the year and the increased expense of secondary school, PHH was able to maintain its program, which was a significant achievement.

Upon completion of the 2011 school year, eleven sponsored children ranked in the top eight of their respective class, including two who were first in their class: Komakech Joyfrey and Okello Bernard. This academic accomplishment is an achievement for any child, but an especially remarkable one for our children, who face circumstances at home which are challenging, and not always conducive to academic excellence.

In an effort to address the issue of absenteeism and sickness and to improve the

overall health and well being of the sponsored children. In 2011, Project Have Hope initiated a deworming program. Globally, up to 400 million children suffer unnecessarily from intestinal worms, but fewer than 20 percent of at-risk children are reached with de-worming treatments. Left untreated, intestinal worms cause severe disability and sometimes death. A child infected with worms often is too sick to attend school regularly, or cannot concentrate well when he/she does attend school.

In May we initiated a treatment program for the 104 children we directly sponsor. Acan Christine, a nurse affiliated with Mulago Hospital, hosted a workshop for the women, discussing ways worms can be prevented, diagnosed and treated. Children received medicine to treat the worms in May, August and December. Treatment will continue in 2012 at the recommended 4 month intervals.



**Education is the key. I learned how to work hard in school and now I know I have to work harder to get better results."**

**-- Nyeko David, ranked 3rd in his class**



**"I can use the calculator on my phone when people come to buy beads from me in the market. I can even greet them in English!" -- Lalam Lucy**

# Adult Education

**"When asked for the first time by our trainer what my dream was, I did not know what it meant. After two classes, we were taught about dreams and visions and that we should base our thinking on these two. Since, I have developed the motto: 'I can,' this has made me think big!" -- Lanyero Jenifer**

## Adult Literacy Class

In its fourth year, the adult literacy program has reached its primary goal of providing basic education to women who were completely illiterate. Students can compute basic math and read and write simple English. They can manage basic business transactions, greet customers in the local craft markets where they sell their jewelry, and communicate with doctors to understand treatment needs and prescription uses. These achievements may seem minimal, but make it possible for the women to operate more successfully and with confidence.

## Business Training Program

Addressing the need for business skills training for women receiving loans and vocational training, Project Have Hope held a 5-week training session for twelve women which culminated in two private mentoring sessions for each. The training was facilitated by Ife Piankhi and focused on improving the women's financial knowledge of budgeting, reinvestment and book keeping, while fostering their confidence to be successful in business and in life.

# Vocational Studies

Vocational training has been the cornerstone for the work of Project Have Hope. PHH believes that adequate skills training and development is necessary to expand the income generating potential of its members. Studies have included tailoring, knitting, catering, hairstyling and salon management, computer skills training and driver's education. 34 members have benefited from these educational grants and life changing opportunity.

One woman, Adul Doreen, completed a training course in knitting in January 2011. She is crippled and needs a crutch to walk, which makes movement in and around the Quarter difficult and limits her work choices. She now receives regular contracts from local schools to make sweaters for the schools' uniforms. She works from home, while caring for her young children, and has quadrupled her monthly income.



**"I have really changed. I am now a doctor for coldness by providing sweaters. I can now support my family with school fees, rent and food."-- Adul Dorine**



**“With profits from my motorcycle business, I have bought land and oxen to help me produce simson (a staple food, similar to sesame). And now even if I am not here, the asset can help my children.”-- Ayoo Jennifer, HIV positive**

# Loans Program

Capital investment is needed to create even the smallest business. For most of the women in the Acholi Quarter, traditional bank loans are unattainable. Without collateral and often, with limited education, these women are denied the opportunities to become entrepreneurs, to become breadwinners. Project Have Hope has changed that.

Project Have Hope began offering loans to its members in 2007. Loans were initially small - ranging from \$150 to \$300 - but over time, the loans have expanded to \$300 to \$1500. The loans are interest free. The loans make dreams possible.

Graduates of vocational training programs receive loans to buy sewing and knitting machines, set up restaurants and open beauty salons. With their newly acquired skills and

capital, these women now have the means to transform their lives.

Not all loan recipients have a specific skill set or a strong education, but can still receive a loan. Animal husbandry, including raising pigs and chickens, has proven to be a viable business initiative. Other women have used loans to brew the local beer and set up neighborhood bars, build a water kiosk, import charcoal from the North to sell locally, and purchase a boda boda - moped taxi, a common means of transportation. The loans are only limited by the entrepreneurial spirit of the women.

By the end of 2011, 100 loans were given to women in the Acholi Quarter to support their business initiatives.

# Agricultural Program: Greenhouse

In 2010, a group of five members of Project Have Hope traveled to Kagadi, Uganda to visit URDT (Uganda Rural Development and Training Programme). The purpose of this exposure trip was to give the women an opportunity to understand how rural development projects, like chicken and pig rearing and various agricultural initiatives, could be more successfully incorporated into PHH's programming in the Acholi Quarter. Of all the programs, the women were most inspired by the greenhouse. They saw it as an opportunity to grow a large crop of tomatoes (a widely consumed food) in a small area by growing them vertically in the enclosed greenhouse.

In June 2011, Project Have Hope enlisted the help of agricultural professionals to construct a greenhouse in the Acholi Quarter. Community members were trained in the construction of the greenhouse. The women also received instruction, throughout several training sessions, on planting and transplanting seeds, crop management, nursery maintenance, pruning, disease prevention and harvesting.

With time, the greenhouse should become a highly successful operation, with significant financial gains for the eight women who have invested in the project.

**"I know and believe that with time I will become a rich person because of what the greenhouse can produce."**

**-- Akello Esther**



# Water Kiosks

In 2010, Project Have Hope had water pipes connected from the main water line and established its own water tap on land adjacent to the PHH Community Center and its agricultural programs - the mushroom house, greenhouse and balcony gardens. The proximity of the kiosk to the gardens makes it easier for the women to deal with the previous challenge of water shortages.

In August 2011, PHH installed a large reserve tank to store water. With this tank, even when no water is available from the main pipe line, the kiosk can continue to sell water to neighboring families. Through these sales, the kiosk employs one member who now earns a consistent monthly salary of \$30. In addition, the profits generated have been used to build latrines for the community center and repair the fence for the balcony gardens.



**"I am very proud and lucky because I have the job at the water kiosk. I earn a monthly salary which has brought changes in my daily life."  
--Muhinda Drunica**



## Volunteers and Interns

*Since the beginning, volunteers have been our life blood. Thank you.*

Rita Bamford	Angela Eastman	Heike Petermann
Amanda Bankert	Donte Elliott	Ryan Quigley
Anna Bartels	Kari Giordano	Alex Roberti
Allen Beck	Deirdre Greene	Emma Sabella
Alisha Beckford	Honor Flannery	Stacey Schamber
Michele Bellinger	Kerry Flynn	Beth Schmitt
Arielle Black-	Mallory & Rory	Lucy Shafer
Foley	Fundora	Augie & Jamie
Natalie Blahunka	Kali Geddes	Sherman
Felicity Blance	Heather Glass	Eva Sparacio
Louisa Bradberry	Andrea Gray	George Sparacio
Tomasen Brady	Melissa Huha	Charlotte
Amy Bonnici	Amanda Johnson	Strazdus
Rebecca	Megan Kelly	Lindsey Tallman
Centeno	Skyler Konicki	Christina Tamer
Anna Ciulla	Joyce Leighton	Matt Tamer
Victoria	Emily Liu	Alina Taylor
Cosgrove	Megan Luce	Coleen Thornley
Maya Cortez	Anna Martin	Jenny Utech
Rachel Cortez	Doug Matthews	Susan Webber
Kara Curtis	Carolyn Mayers	Sue Willard
Polly Dale	Lesla McWalters	
Nicole	Mary Lynn	
D'Alessandro	Messina	
Jeanne Dasaro	Joanna Miller	
Brittany	Lori Oliwa	
DeOliveira	Lisa Ottaviani	
Anna Derby	Carol	
Kayleen Dibble	Panaccione	
Holly Durham	Catherine Parker	

# Events and Fairs

*Project Have Hope has participated in hundreds of events. Here are a few highlights:*

ACNM 56th Annual Meeting and Expo	Festival
Allston Village Street Fair	Key Club International Convention
Annual Millville Arts Festival	LA Gift Show
Apple Harvest Day	Lexington Farmer's Market
Art Beat	MA Conference for Women
Boston College Fair Trade Event	Market Square Day
Boston Gift Show	Mass Marketplace Festival
Braintree Farmer's Market	Net Impact Conference
Cambridge River Festival	New Jersey Governor's Conference for Women
CTEC Symposium	NYIGF New York International Gift Fair
Cultural Survival Bazaars	Oktoberfest in Mashpee
Earth Day Festival Boston	One World at Tufts University
Earth Day at Stony Brook	Orleans Elementary School
Edgewood Autumnal Fair	Holiday Market
Global Health Conference	Sailfest
Greenfest in Philadelphia	Scituate Heritage Days
Green Schools Summit	Summerfest
Harvard Square's May Fair	University of Delaware Student Center
Harvard Square's Oktoberfest	University of MA Medical School Fair Trade Event
Harvard Unitarian Universalist's Church Fair Trade Fair	Vermont International Festival
Harvest Fair in Newton	Wake Up the Earth Festival
HarvestFest in York, Maine	Waldorf School Holiday Bazaar
Holiday Bazaar at UCC	Westford High School Holiday Fair
Congregational Church	Worcester State University Fair Trade Event
Holiday Extravaganza at Birchwood Manor	
Holiday Marketplace at Monmouth Racetrack	
Keene State College Fair Trade	



# Project Have Hope Staff

**Ayaa Grace** is the Director of Operations for Project Have Hope on the ground in Kampala. Grace, originally from Kitgum, has received a diploma in Hotel and Institutional Catering from Makere Business School Nakawa and a Certificate in Business Administration. She also counsels some Project Have Hope members and their daughters, using her training in Parenting and Guidance Counseling.

Grace first came to Kampala with her six children for safety after her husband was abducted by the rebels. As she rebuilt her life in Kampala, she has taken in seven orphans. The violence she witnessed and her experiences in the North motivated her to adopt the children and to work to create a better life for them and others less fortunate.

**Akelo Esther** has been the Chairperson of the CBO (Community Based Organization) for Project Have Hope since its inception and serves as the Loan Officer. She is a born leader and oversees the project on the ground in Uganda. She is often a mediator when conflicts arise within the Quarter and is a grounding source for PHH. She has received education through the Primary 6 grade level.

Originally from Kitgum, Esther first came to the Acholi Quarter in 1991. In the North, she had been abducted twice. Esther is married and cares for eight children.

**Aciro Santina**, a member of Project Have Hope, is the Children's Coordinator and the Secretary on the Executive Committee. She has received formal education through the Senior 4 grade level and has completed vocational training in tailoring.

Santina is originally from Kitgum. She fled the North many years ago, and settled in Kampala in 2000. She is a single parent caring for three young children.

**Lakot Sylvia**, a member of Project Have Hope's Executive Committee, is responsible for maintaining the PHH office. Sylvia studied up to the Primary 2 grade level. Although she lacks a formal education, her dedication and tireless efforts make her a huge asset to the PHH team. She recently received

her vocational training certificate in tailoring, and would like to open her own workshop. She hopes to pursue her studies further and learn some designing skills which will make her tailoring work more fruitful.

Sylvia is originally Kitgum. She came to Kampala in 1996 to escape the violence in the North. Today, she lives with her husband and cares for six children, including a niece.

**Ajok Sunday** is a creative and bright young woman and teaches the women in Project Have Hope's adult literacy program. She focuses on math, English, including basic conversational skills, as well as basic life skills, such as telling time. She received her Uganda Certificate of Education from Gulu Secondary School and her Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education from Equatorial College in Kampala. She has recently received her Diploma in Education from Kyambogo University.

**Arinaitwe Alex** is the Director at Creamland Primary School, where Project Have Hope has enrolled many of the young children, and oversees PHH's adult literacy program. Highly educated and passionate about giving every child the opportunity for an education, Alex has received his Masters in Educational Planning and Management from Kyambogo University. Alex speaks Luganda, English, Swahili, and Runyankore.

**Joanna Miller**, originally from New Mexico, has come on board as the marketing and fundraiser coordinator. She has a strong background working with non-profits. Her strengths include fundraising, website design and maintenance, and designing marketing materials.

Joanna enjoys spending time with Gambit, her Retriever/Shepard mix. Her favorite part of being in Boston ... the ocean!

**Hannah Webb**, a graduate of Northeastern University and a previous intern with PHH, is the marketing and outreach coordinator. She consistently makes volunteering a priority, for both global and community issues. Hannah is truly determined to make a difference.

Hannah enjoys doing crafts and baking. And she loves to travel. Her passport was last stamped in Kenya.

# Financial Information

## Income

	2010	2011
Craft Sales	\$151,524 (79%)	\$144,678 (74%)
Donations	\$41,239 (21%)	\$50,535 (26%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$192,763</b>	<b>\$195,214</b>

## Expenses

Program	\$168,491 (87%)	\$156,552 (81%)
Fundraising	\$5,888 (3%)	\$3,233 (2%)
Administration	\$18,383 (10%)	\$32,670 (17%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$192,763</b>	<b>\$192,455</b>





Project Have Hope is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that seeks to empower women in the Acholi Quarter of Uganda by providing them with educational opportunities and supporting sustainable businesses to drive economic growth. In order to accomplish this, PHH has tapped into the artistry and industriousness of these extraordinary women. Founded in January 2006, PHH began its activities by partnering with the women to start a handmade paper bead jewelry business.

[www.projecthavehope.org](http://www.projecthavehope.org)

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