MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

2015-2016 was an incredibly exciting year of growth and evolution. Last February, I spoke with a student who was among the first to be sponsored by S.O.U.L. Foundation in 2010. He said: “S.O.U.L. has impacted so many lives, in ways we cannot see, but that I can see. People didn’t know how to dream. They didn’t know there was a possibility of a better future. People were desperate and there was simply no hope.”

I would agree that one of the greatest challenges early on was breaking the cycle of hopelessness. After 7 incredible years of service, it is amazing to hear, feel and see, that S.O.U.L. Foundation has given people hope for a better future. We see women and mothers stepping out of assumed roles of submission and powerlessness because of the economic empowerment they are experiencing as a result of our programs. This is already empowering future generations, and in turn creating a powerful formula for change. When starting this improbable journey, we did not know the level of change and impact that was possible. Today we do. Through partnership with the people of Uganda, S.O.U.L.’s birth has transformed the lives of over 14,000 individuals through maternal health, education, women’s empowerment, and food security.

In early April, we opened the doors of our new Community Center in a “sister” village, Iganga. The expansion of S.O.U.L’s model into a new and very remote village represents an amazing milestone with more than 7 new projects initiated in the first 6 months. As a new mother and nurse, I am extremely proud to introduce the Maternal Health Network (MHN), an innovative approach towards reducing maternal and newborn deaths. Through partnerships with our Village Health Teams (VHT), the creation of Antenatal Education Classes (AEC), the design for an emergency transport system, and most excitingly, the plans for a village birthing center, we are overwhelmed by the need, support, and excitement from the community, leaders and officials.

With a passionate and dedicated team of more than 30 Ugandan change-makers, we continue to see what is possible. With your continued support and dedication, we will keep growing, enhancing, and influencing the lives we have the opportunity of transforming in Uganda. Thank you to all of our supporters throughout the US, Uganda, and the world for aligning yourself with our mission of creating hope and a better future for the lives you help us touch each and everyday.

In Solidarity,
Brooke Stern Okoth,
Co-Founder/CEO
In Iganga, 50 km from Bujagali Falls, the S.O.U.L. Foundation model is being replicated. This year we danced and sang in celebration of opening the Iganga Community Center. Since opening the new center, we have:

**IMPACT AT A GLANCE**
S.O.U.L. Foundation fosters sustainability, fuels empowerment and unlocks human potential to develop practical solutions to overcome poverty with the community. In 2015, this happened in some big ways.

- **2 DISTRICTS**
  - Jinja District
  - Iganga District
  - 30 Ugandan Staff Members
  - 16 Communities

- **3,659 Ugandans Directly Impacted**
- **10,500 Ugandans Indirectly Impacted**

- **16 COMMUNITIES**
- **2 DISTRICTS**

**NEW SISTER COMMUNITY**

In Iganga, 50 km from Bujagali Falls, the S.O.U.L. Foundation model is being replicated. This year we danced and sang in celebration of opening the Iganga Community Center. Since opening the new center, we have:

- **4 CHICKEN AND GOAT COOPERATIVES**
- **3 STAFF MEMBERS**
- **65 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

Community members in front of the Iganga Community Center.
IN THEIR WORDS
Meet S.O.U.L. Foundation’s Field Coordinator, Saalu. This is he and his family’s story.

“My name is Basalirwa Twaha, but I am known as Saalu.

I am 45 years old. I grew up in this village and was even married in this village. I have ten children, nine of whom have been sponsored through the S.O.U.L. Sponsorship Program.

I came to know S.O.U.L. Foundation when I was still working in a town about an hour away within the Uganda Railways Corporation. I had heard about S.O.U.L. through my home village members, but learned more about their initiatives through my second born son when he told me that Brooke was looking to support him through school by accepting him into the S.O.U.L Student Sponsorship Program, back in 2010. Brooke also then came to learn I had a daughter and she agreed to sponsor both my son and my daughter in primary levels five and four at this time.

Later on, S.O.U.L. accepted to sponsor two more of my daughters, and even my first born son through university. Even years later after S.O.U.L. Foundation continued to extend its support to assisting me in ensuring my children get an education by sponsoring my four other children through their education.

I am so happy to share that this year, my second born son, and the first of my children to go through the S.O.U.L Student Sponsorship Program, successfully completed his vocational program. Knowing he is now equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to obtain employment and has succeeded in completing his education makes me so proud as a father. This is something I never thought would be possible after losing my job three years ago.

Not only has S.O.U.L. supported my children by assisting with paying for their education, but the organization has even directly helped me, when I was hired in the beginning of 2016 as a full-time staff member as the Student Sponsorship Coordinator, after losing my other job.

I am so happy and proud of what S.O.U.L. has done for me. Aside from the Student Sponsorship Program, my wife was given the opportunity to be trained and graduate from the tailoring program, allowing her to have the skills for this trade. Furthermore, she went on to participate and graduate from S.O.U.L’s agriculture program, which has helped her gardening skills, that she uses daily in our garden, helping my wife and I to feed our children every day.

In addition to everything S.O.U.L. Foundation has done for my family, I have watched it benefit so many other families in my village.”

Read more from Saalu about the impact S.O.U.L. Foundation has had in each of our program updates...
MATERNAL HEALTH

In Uganda, 1 in 44 women die in childbirth, 4 out of 5 infants who lose their mother also die, usually before the age of two. S.O.U.L. Foundation is committed to decreasing maternal and infant mortality rates in Eastern Uganda, expanding access to antenatal education and quality care, and to ensuring all women can deliver with dignity. In 2015 - 2016, our accomplishments in Maternal Health included:

1,400 PEOPLE IMPACTED BY MATERNAL HEALTH NETWORK PROGRAMS

579 PARTICIPANTS GRADUATED FROM ANTENATAL EDUCATION CENTER CLASSES

34 PEOPLE TRAINED FOR VILLAGE HEALTH TEAMS

67 BIRTHING KITS DISTRIBUTED

10 HEALTH FACILITIES PARTNERED WITH THROUGH THE JINJA REGION

“As a resident born and raised in this village, along with being a part of S.O.U.L. staff, I have observed the impact of the Maternal Health Network, and how happy it has made the women knowing they have access to these educational classes... Now almost all of the women in my village have attended these classes, gained knowledge on maternal health topics, and have even become ambassadors to the program, spreading the word to their neighbors and other villages encouraging them to come and attend these classes.” - Saalu
Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” We are utilizing that weapon to change the lives of Ugandans, their communities and the country of Uganda. We are increasing access to brighter futures.

"Since S.O.U.L. Foundation has become established in my village, I have watched more and more children get the chance to receive education at all levels, pre-primary to university. I am proud knowing that the village members support our programs at S.O.U.L. Foundation and hearing that interest in our programs continues to grow." - Saalu
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT & FOOD SECURITY

It has been said that the fastest way to change society is to mobilize women. We agree. We have seen huge strides and changes in the communities we work, because of the leadership women have taken on. Following are the major ways we saw women provide, learn and lead in 2015-2016.

“It’s women’s chicken cooperatives have helped women become empowered and educated on how to successfully raise chickens, that as a result gave them the opportunity to earn an income while also learning skills on budgeting and how to save money. These programs have further supported women and their families in my community by reducing hunger and empowering these women by providing opportunity for them to earn their own income and support their children.” - Saalu

15 Cooperatives

- **Goat**
  - 60 women participating in 3 “Get a Goat, Give a Goat” cooperatives
  - 2 goat cooperatives are now sustainable

- **Fish**
  - 50,000 fish harvested annually

- **Cow**
  - 1 cow cooperative which is 100% sustainable

- **Chicken**
  - 4 chicken groups worked together in Jinja, with 2 groups making a profit and the other 2 building towards sustainability

- **Tailoring**
  - 103 women attended tailoring classes

- **Goat Cooperatives**
  - 2 goat cooperatives are now sustainable

- **Fish Cooperatives**
  - 2 fish cooperatives, with one 100% sustainable, and 1 fish cage cooperative

- **Cow Cooperative**
  - 1 cow cooperative which is 100% sustainable

- **Tailoring Cooperative**
  - 1 tailoring cooperative

- **Women Benefitted from New Groups Formed**
  - 3,600 people

- **Incomes Increased**
  - 300% income increase for women

- **Fish Cooperatives**
  - 50,000 fish harvested annually

- **Goat Cooperatives**
  - 2 goat cooperatives are now sustainable

- **Tailoring Cooperatives**
  - 1 tailoring cooperative

- **New Cooperatives**
  - 5 new groups formed

- **New Groups Formed**
  - 5 new groups formed

- **New Chicken Groups Started in Iganga**
  - 3 new chicken groups started in Iganga

- **Women Attended Tailoring Classes**
  - 103 women attended tailoring classes

**FINANCIALS**

- **OUR GROWTH**

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**2015-2016 STATEMENT OF FINANCIALS**

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**PARTNERS**

- ALI Express
- Amanda Brown
- American North America
- April Fund
- Arizona State University
- Birthright Kids Foundation of Australia
- Brittany Aishato
- Brooks 1 Salon
- Bugalagi Energy Limited
- By Brooke LLC
- Cancer and Cocktails
- Capacity Coverage Company
- Carol Greenberg
- Checks + Mary Peterson
- Children’s Health Network
- Chizner & Company
- Christine Reymann
- CRC Services
- GLN Worldwide LTD
- Global Health Corps
- Gold Teeth LLC, Linger
- Gould Family Foundation
- Greater New York Ins Co
- Hartford Ins Co
- High Country Healing
- HUB International Northeast Limited
- Hudson Valley Bank
- Hunt Alternatives Fund
- J&P Corporation
- Issroff Family Foundation
- J&D Ultracare Corp
- Jamie Pistilli
- Jason and Michelle Naggiar
- Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York
- Kerrick & Caron Insurance
- Likh Greenhalde
- Mark Keswin
- Mark Zucker
- Michael Seminara
- Mulungu General
- Nathan Yip Foundation
- Paul Johnson
- Permagraphics, Inc.
- Peter Ruckford
- Posner Center for International Development
- Risk Placement Services
- RPS Insurance Services
- Segal Family Foundation
- Stephen Foster
- Stern Agency Inc
- Steven Rogers and Fran Appler
- Susan Green
- Terry and Ray Hufnagel
- The Conscious Group Real Estate
- The International Foundation
- U.S. Embassy-Kampala/USAID
- Waterloo Foundation
- Weiss Realty LLC

This is a list of Partners who have given $500 and above, including in-kind donations, during the fiscal year.
THANK YOU FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello,

It is with great love and gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who has contributed in different ways to support S.O.U.L. Foundation through another phenomenal year. I have had the joy of being a part of this incredible growing organization since its early days.

When S.O.U.L. Foundation was beginning, we asked the community what they most wanted to see happen for their families. The resounding answer was access to education. Thus the Student Sponsorship Program was born. The program started with not even 40 children who were hungry for education, but all too often, unsure of where they would find a meal that day. Therefore, long term dreams often were the thing most put on hold.

One of those girls, was my sweet kiddo, Hadija. She was 8 when I started sponsoring her. She is now 14 and in Secondary Level 1. I have had the gift of getting to watch her grow into a beautiful, educated, empowered young woman. Not only has Hadija grown and matured, but so has the entire Student Sponsorship Program.

We now sponsor over 480 students, with a waitlist of more than 1,500 deserving children. When we started the program, we would often ask students what they wanted to be when they grow up. They could not fathom what they would be. Now, when we ask students in the villages we work in, we hear them say, a doctor, an engineer, a teacher, an artist, a landscape designer.

And we now have students who have participated in the Student Sponsorship Program who are graduating as doctors, engineers, artists, landscapers, and more. These are kids who now have an opportunity to create dreams and then work hard to fulfill them. I love S.O.U.L. Foundation, the opportunity it gives others to follow their passion, and even more so, the access it helps create for people. Thank you for joining me in being a part of this truly incredible work.

Nathanya Ahamed,
Board of Directors
In just under 2 years since starting the Maternal Health Network, we have greatly interrupted the delay to seek care. Over 1,400 people have accessed classes, trainings, birthing kits, and pre-natal vitamins. In the next 2 years, we will purchase an ambulance, build out a mobile platform, and break ground on a birthing center.

LOOKING AHEAD

“As a leader, a woman, as well as a mother, I give my full support to S.O.U.L. Foundation and Development of the Community Birthing Center.”

-Musika Annet
Woman Representative Budondo Sub-County, Office of the Chairman Jinja District

“In my village growing up, I saw many young girls my age, having unplanned, early pregnancies...I knew I did not want that for my future.”

-Kimwendie Win
Antenatal Education Class Graduate

GOALS FOR 2016 - 2017 AND BEYOND

INCREASE NUMBER OF SPONSORED STUDENTS BY OVER 100

BUILD A S.O.U.L. PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL IN IGANGA

ENHANCE THE LIVESTOCK LEARNING CENTER

ENSURE 90% OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS HAVE A SAVINGS ACCOUNT

START 5 NEW INCOME GENERATING COOPERATIVES
“Over all of these years, since S.O.U.L. was started, I have watched its programs give opportunities to my community that we may have never had the chance to get before. S.O.U.L. has created international long term friendships and networks through our international volunteers and staff members, which has united us living in Bujagali, with people from countries all over the world. On behalf of my community but also myself personally, I want to thank and appreciate S.O.U.L. Foundation for everything it has done in my home village, and for my family.”

- Saalu