

HOPE REPORT

an update from
Fields of Dreams
Uganda



HOLIDAY HYGIENE DRIVE RECAP

We were beyond humbled earlier this month as we surpassed our goal during our Holiday Hygiene Drive. We raised enough support to be able to provide the 2,000 needed female hygiene kits along with the funding to support the construction of 2 new changing rooms in 2025. During our Holiday Hygiene Drive it is important for us that you know your gifts are going to young women that we know, and young women that our staff pour into on a weekly basis. Thank you for meeting real needs in real lives. Over the first week of December we had 385 donors say yes to help the girl child of Uganda and collectively we raised \$64,259. Thank you for listening during the campaign, thank you for meeting needs, and thank you for coming together for the common good. You all are proof that although the world is a broken place, there are still plenty of helpers waiting to lend a hand.



Graduate Spotlight

During the month of November we had the incredible joy of celebrating the graduation of dozens of Primary 7 and Secondary 4 students alongside their grateful families. These are not small accomplishments for these students and oh how we wish you could have witnessed the unbridled joy of all in attendance. Our education advocates will be hard at work in the new year to place all of our students as the results come back from their national exams in February. Thank you for allowing these students to dream about a future that once seemed unimaginable!



Ongoing Construction at Bbanda

We are so grateful and impressed by our FoDU Construction team and their continued hard work developing our future businesses at our Hope Empowerment Center in Bbanda. Our team has wrapped up the lower level of the new Champions Gym, and while the cement is setting they have changed their focus to school projects in Gulu. We hope to open the new gym in late January and will soon follow with the construction of a the FoDU Fustal pitch that will provide both training and rental opportunities for our soccer programming. The community of Bbanda is so very grateful for all of this development.





Name: Musinguzi William

Position: Football Coach

Meet our Staff

What do you enjoy most about your position with FoDU?

Working with children (identifying, training, and nurturing their talents through football) across all the partner schools we work with is one of the greatest things I enjoy as a coach. It excites me to see our children progressing and developing into better football players through all the development stages and work we pour into them as coaches.

Which of FoDU's core values do you relate to most and why?

As a person I have connected very well with integrity so much, and I have seen tremendous things happening in my personal life and in my area of work through my commitment to high character.

What dreams do you have for the future of FoDU's work?

The dream I have is simply to continue supporting the MISSION AND THE VISION of Fields of Dreams Uganda. FoDU is truly a life changing organization making a huge impact across the communities where we serve.



Name: Tim Shoemaker

City you live in: San Francisco, CA

Occupation: Marketing VP

Board Member Spotlight

What first attracted you to the work of Fields of Dreams Uganda?

We are longtime friends with Mike Warneke through service projects. Our family had donated much needed hygiene kits to Uganda's girls for several years when our daughter decided to visit there in 2018 to see FoDU's work for herself. Believing it would be an interesting adventure, a 'one and done' experience, I traveled with her and our son, having no idea it would be a life-changing journey for all of us.

Which of our core values resonates with you most in your own life?

While it's hard to pick just one, perhaps the core value that resonates most deeply with me is sustainability. FoDU partners with Ugandan individuals, schools, and communities who discern and prioritize problems. FoDU helps fund the identified solutions, but the local staff and community share the responsibility for making them happen; ultimately the Ugandans own and maintain what is completed.

What have been some of your highlights serving on FoDU's board?

There are too many to count. Here are a few: 1 - Receiving the limitless hospitality and kindness of the Ugandan people. 2 - Watching the land at Bbanda transform from a weedy field to the home of FoDU's offices and multiple income-producing businesses...and it's still growing! 3 - Above all, experiencing the hope and joy and the realization Fields of Dreams is bringing to generations of Ugandan families.





STS ONLINE AUCTION

We will once again be hosting our Strength Through Sports Online Auction from Wednesday, February 19th to Sunday, February 23rd. We have already collected some amazing items, excursions, and gift certificates for you to bid on. Bidding will begin on Wednesday morning at 8 am on the 19th via our Better World website platform. New this year, we will also have a 50/50 drawing for those that are having a hard time finding that perfect item to bid upon.

We will have the following bidding categories: Adventure & Travel, Experiences & Tickets, Gadgets & More, Gift Baskets & Certificates, Hope Marketplace, and Sports Memorabilia. Please be ready to share with your friends and family, as we hope to raise around \$15,000 with next year's auction. If you have any desire to donate an item, gift card to your favorite restaurant, or your vacation rental to our growing list, please reach out to our Executive Director, Mike Warneke, or one of our Board Members.

Here are just a few items we are really excited about: 2 \$500 gift cards to Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, a MacBook Air, a Nintendo Switch, a KitchenAid Mixer, some awesome Lego sets, and more sports memorabilia that we can mention. Thank you to everyone that has given so far.



On the Horizon [Important Dates & Events]

- **December 31st = Last day for 2024 Tax Deductible Gifts**
- **January 15th = FoDU 5K for Hope Sponsorship Opens**
- **February 19th - 23rd, 2025 = STS Online Auction in US**
- **March 4th - 21st, 2025 = Service Team in Uganda**
- **March 13th = Northern Region Football Championship**
- **March 16th = Central Region Football Championship**
- **May 5th - 11th, 2025 = Power Their Potential Campaign in US**
- **June 17th - 28th, 2025 = Service Team in Uganda**
- **July 15th - 26th, 2025 = Service Team in Uganda**
- **October 4th = FoDU 5K for Hope**
- **December 2nd - 8th = Holiday Hygiene Drive Campaign in US**

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A Word From Our Executive Director



As I look back on 2024 I am in awe of all that was accomplished and the incredible number of changed lives. It is hard to even count the number of graduation parties, tournaments and festivals that we hosted over this past calendar year. I wish we could pass along the hundreds of thank yous and displays of gratitude that we have received from the families of the children that are being served. You are helping us answer countless prayers, and hope has been ignited in every community that FoDU has stepped foot in during 2024. It is an honor to lead this organization serving alongside an amazing staff and board.

2024 Distinguished Partner Schools

We want to congratulate our 2024 Distinguished Partner Schools in both regions, Pageya Primary School and St. Kizito Namusera Primary School. Our staff had a very thorough evaluation process as they looked at all of our partner schools, and we were honored to select these two schools to be honored with these awards. We have already provided a Christmas package for the staff at both schools as they wrap up the school year, and some additional staff welfare will bless both of these schools at the start of the 2025 school year in February. We are so honored to walk alongside all of our partner schools!



2025 Travel Dates

Fields of Dreams Uganda takes teams of volunteers to Uganda five to six times each year. These service trips offer volunteers an opportunity to assist our local Ugandan staff carry out the mission of our work. Each trip will vary in cost, but most 12 day trips cost around \$1,250 plus the cost of your flights. These 12-18 day trips are highly structured, and all of the logistics are taken care of by our FoDU staff members. You will serve alongside our staff at our partner schools as you encourage, listen to, and remind the students we work with of their value and their inherent worth. Your presence in Uganda brings hope to the more than 6,500 children at our partner schools. Please consider taking a trip with us!

Travel with us and volunteer in 2025

Jan 30 - Feb 8
March 4-16
March 4-21



June 17-28
July 15-26
November 4-15



Year End Donations



In 2023-24 our overhead cost was 20.2% of our total expenses. We try so very hard to ensure that your generosity is used on the ground in Uganda to help the children we serve reach their fullest potential. If you are looking to make a last minute impact with your generosity, please look no further. Your tax deductible gift can still make a huge impact across our partner schools in Uganda. Thank you for your generosity this year!

