

# HOPE REPORT

an update from  
Fields of Dreams  
Uganda



## BBANDA INCOME GENERATION

As we closed the books on all of our locally generated income in Uganda, we were so proud that we were able to clear \$20,000 in local profits through all of our businesses at Bbanda and other sustainable operations. With sustainability at the core of our efforts these are incredible steps forward into one day becoming a self-sustaining organization. One of the joys of this effort is also the 20 full-time jobs that are created through these various businesses as well and the ripple effects that these jobs have on the local community. The joy of having four of our alumni represented in our Bbanda business staff is not lost on us. We are eager to continue to create more job opportunities and reinvest our profits into the children of Uganda. Each of our businesses has selected their programs to invest in, and we are so grateful for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of our students and programs.



## Substance Salon Scholarships

Our Substance Salon opened last June, and they have continued to gain a dedicated clientele from the community. During June-December of last year, the Substance Salon was able to provide four full-time jobs and create a profit of \$2,300. These profits have been targeted for our female university students (Angel at Makerere University, and Faridah at Gulu University) to thrive during their studies. The Salon was also able to host their first bridal party this past December, where they received wonderful reviews on their hospitality, services and professionalism.



## Future Champions Gym

Our FoDU Construction Team has been busy with school projects while also continuing the efforts on the Champions Gym and dormitory that will sit at the top corner of our Hope Empowerment Center in Bbanda. The crew is in the final stages of roofing the second story, and we hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at the gym in June at the very latest. Four more jobs will be created through these efforts, and the community is so excited about this opportunity to bless the local families and secondary schools. Next up will be the FoDU Futsal pitch which we hope to have completed by the end of this calendar year.







**Name:** Ngamita Florence  
**Position:** Northern Uganda Director

## Meet our Staff

### What do you enjoy most about your position with FoDU?

I enjoy seeing the staff members working together to accomplish the tasks ahead and achieving the organizational goals, objectives and mission effectively without conflicts. I also enjoy seeing staff members working while observing our core values with much love.

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

I relate mostly with humble servanthood where I do not value my title more but seek to work alongside all staff members. I should be humble first so that other staff can follow my lead in a way that does not cause fear of the leadership but rather respect of the leadership and unity.

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

I dream that FoDU becomes one of the strongest NGOs in Uganda with time and its resources. I hope to see it grow to meet the overwhelming demands from the community and this will make me feel happy to serve until I retire.



**Name:** Jennifer Wilson  
**City you live in:** Dallas, Texas  
**Occupation:** School Principal/Leader

## Board Member Spotlight

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

I first heard about the challenges in Uganda through a documentary and it impacted my heart more than any other story. It felt like a calling, and I knew I had to find a way to get involved. When I learned about FoDU it seemed like the perfect opportunity. I believe education equals opportunity, and FoDU's focus on providing educational opportunities was key to my involvement.

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

Humble Servanthood. My grandparents and parents emphasized the importance of service throughout my life. Whether it was through service organizations or their church, my family members have donated thousands of hours in the service of others. This was always done without expectation of reward or acknowledgement. This humble service was taught to me, and I am honored to continue that family tradition.

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

Too many to count... Truly, the highlights are the beautiful relationships I've made with the people of Uganda. Over the past 12 years, I've had the privilege of watching our students grow into young men and women of purpose and celebrate their steps to a more prosperous life. These relationships are a gift.





## 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 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 this auction. We are so incredibly grateful to the organizations and families that have so generously donated to this auction. It is by far our biggest and best auction to date, and we are so excited to kick things off later this week!

Here are just a few items we are really excited about: two \$500 gift cards to Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, a MacBook Air, a Nintendo Switch, a KitchenAid Mixer, a \$350 party package to Big Shots Golf, and more sports memorabilia than we can mention.



### On the Horizon [Important Dates & Events]

- February 19th - 23rd, 2025 = STS Online Auction in US
- March 4th - 21st, 2025 = Service Team in Uganda
- March 13th & 16th = FoDU Regional Football Championships
- March 16th = Hoops for Hope Bracket Challenge Kick-off
- April 5th = Event at Centenary UMC in Evansville, IN
- April 6th = Event at Olney First Methodist in IL
- 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 [HELP NEEDED]
- October 4th = FoDU 5K for Hope
- December 2nd - 8th = Holiday Hygiene Drive Campaign in US

[www.fieldsofdreamsuganda.org](http://www.fieldsofdreamsuganda.org)  
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## ***A Word From Our Executive Director***

Trip number one to Uganda is already in the books, and I am so encouraged by the eagerness of our staff to make a real impact in the lives of our students. Our theme for 2025 is “My decisions determine my destiny.” We are so excited to challenge our students to take control of their daily decisions to carve out a positive future for themselves. We are so grateful for your partnership in hope, and for looking beyond your own wants to the needs of the children and families that we serve. With all the negativity and division in the world right now, you can be confident that your support is changing lives and creating community.

## ***2024 Employees of the Year***

We are so incredibly proud of all of our amazing staff members. It has been our tradition to allow our staff to vote for their peers to receive recognition and a cash prize from the organization for those members that have shown exceptional teamwork and commitment to our core values. This year the following individuals received their respective awards: Coach Farida Kisitu was recognized as the Staff Member of the year in the Central Region, Coach Vincent Ssezooba was recognized as the staff member of the year in the Northern Region, and Kevin Oyikuru was chosen as our staff member of the year for our Bbanda businesses.



## ***Your Presence is Needed***

We love our volunteers, and you provide much needed hope and encouragement to both our staff members and the children we serve across our partner schools. We need volunteers to join us this July 15-26 to help pass out our boys' hygiene kits and cheer our children on at our Music, Dance and Drama festival in the Central Region. This is a 12-day trip and will cost around \$1,250 plus the cost of flights. 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!



## ***2025 Scholarship Needs***



We will be hosting our Power their Potential Campaign during the first week of May. Our biggest growth in financial need is that of our scholarship fund. We are supporting more and more children each year as they advance in their education, and with that comes a large burden to our organization. If you are looking for a place to give that will make an immediate impact, our Eksia Scholarship Fund is a fantastic option.

