2020: The Year Covid Made

When Zeke, Board Treasurer, and I traveled to Uganda in January 2020 for the first time since 2015, we came back full of ideas and enthusiasm for the official relaunch of Ten Eighteen. We renewed friendships and partnerships, dove deep into the issues we felt strongly about, and came up with a plan that would bring a deeper focus than ever before.

Along came covid...

Needless to say, our plans went out the window. Our entire focus pivoted at the end of March to one thing: FOOD. The drastic lockdowns in Uganda meant that the poor were not able to make any money, pay rent, buy food, or even leave home to attend to basic needs without the risk of a beating by police.

For four months, we fed nearly 700 people who would have starved otherwise.

By August, we began to re-investigate our mission and focus, and let the experiences and needs of the lockdown show us where to go from there. While we can’t say we’re grateful for the dire months, we are grateful for the clarity they provided!
MISSION
To put in place programs to combat the culture of extreme poverty by working with Ugandan community organizations, local government leaders, and other stakeholders to effect lasting change and empowerment in the communities we serve.

VISION
To effect a cultural shift in Uganda’s poorest communities to lift youth and families out of a lifestyle of poverty and disease.

VALUES
IMPACT through vision and follow-through to maximize every dollar donated

PARTNERSHIP with donors, volunteers, and Ugandan leaders and organizations to effect meaningful and lasting change

INTEGRITY in our finances, actions, relationships, and words

TRANSPARENCY in how we use donations, partner with others, and communicate

COURAGE to go to hard places, to see and to do hard things to further the mission

INNOVATION to try new things in new ways

EMPOWERMENT of local Ugandan community organizations and partners to help them impact their communities
YOUTH

Two of the greatest problems in Uganda are youth unemployment and teenage pregnancy. With our UG partner organization Guardian Angel Foundation, an arm of 1018UG, we opened the Ross House, a halfway house for teen moms; and created Skills for Life to teach valuable vocational skills regardless of previous education. Located in the country’s largest slum, Namuwongo, and served over 20,000 with various educational programs in 2020.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE FOR RWAKOBO VILLAGE

We visited Rwakobo village for the first time in February 2020 and were shocked at the extreme poverty and lack of any... anything there. We began supporting the new Wells of Hope school for the village children and committed to a multi-year WASH Campaign to benefit the entire village of nearly 3,000 people.

FOOD

Between our regular support of 3 schools and covid relief, we provided over 150,000 meals to 1175 people in 2020.
PHILOSOPHY
Since its founding in 2008, Ten Eighteen has used 100% of donations for the programs. We have never had any overhead, and all subscription services (Quickbooks, Hootsuite, and others) are paid as in-kind donations. While we hope to grow and have paid staff in the future, 2020 was in line with this philosophy.

EXPENDITURES

STARTING BALANCE: $5,544.65

DONATIONS/GRANTS: $38,841.80

EXPENDITURES & IN-KIND: $46,839.35

- Food: 61%
- School: 21%
- Ross House: 15%
- Other: 3%
BEAUFORT OLDE TOWN ROTARY CLUB

Thanks to a generous grant from the Beaufort Olde Towne Rotary in Beaufort, NC, which was matched by the District Rotary Club, we were able to open the Ross House in November 2020.

WALLETTE WATSON

Singer, model, and actress Wallette Watson made a generous Year End donation that will support the Ross House in 2021, and will pay for half of our first ecobrick water tank in Rwakobo Village.

THE KAMPALA EXPAT COMMUNITY

Thanks to long-time expat friends in Kampala, the Ross House received many generous donations during our Open House and in the months after. New mattresses, sheets, blankets, childrens’ books, kitchenware, and more helped us outfit the Ross House.
ROSS HOUSE & SKILLS FOR LIFE

We will kick off Skills for Life hairdressing and tailoring courses, four months in length, beginning in early 2021. We will also continue “small skill” workshops, community educational campaigns, and providing a safe place for teen mothers in crisis to receive medical care, psycho-social counseling, sexual trauma counseling, and help with their babies.

WASH CAMPAIGN

The water access, sanitation, and hygiene campaign for Rwakobo village will kick off with a 10,000 liter ecobrick water tank at Wells of Hope School. Our goal for 2021 is 3 water tanks, 2 pit latrines with handwashing stations, and 1 deep water well.

FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

Ten Eighteen will continue to provide monthly food for young children at Wells of Hope Primary School (Rwakobo), Hopeland Primary School (Mbarara), and the Arise Africa Babies Home (Bukaleba).