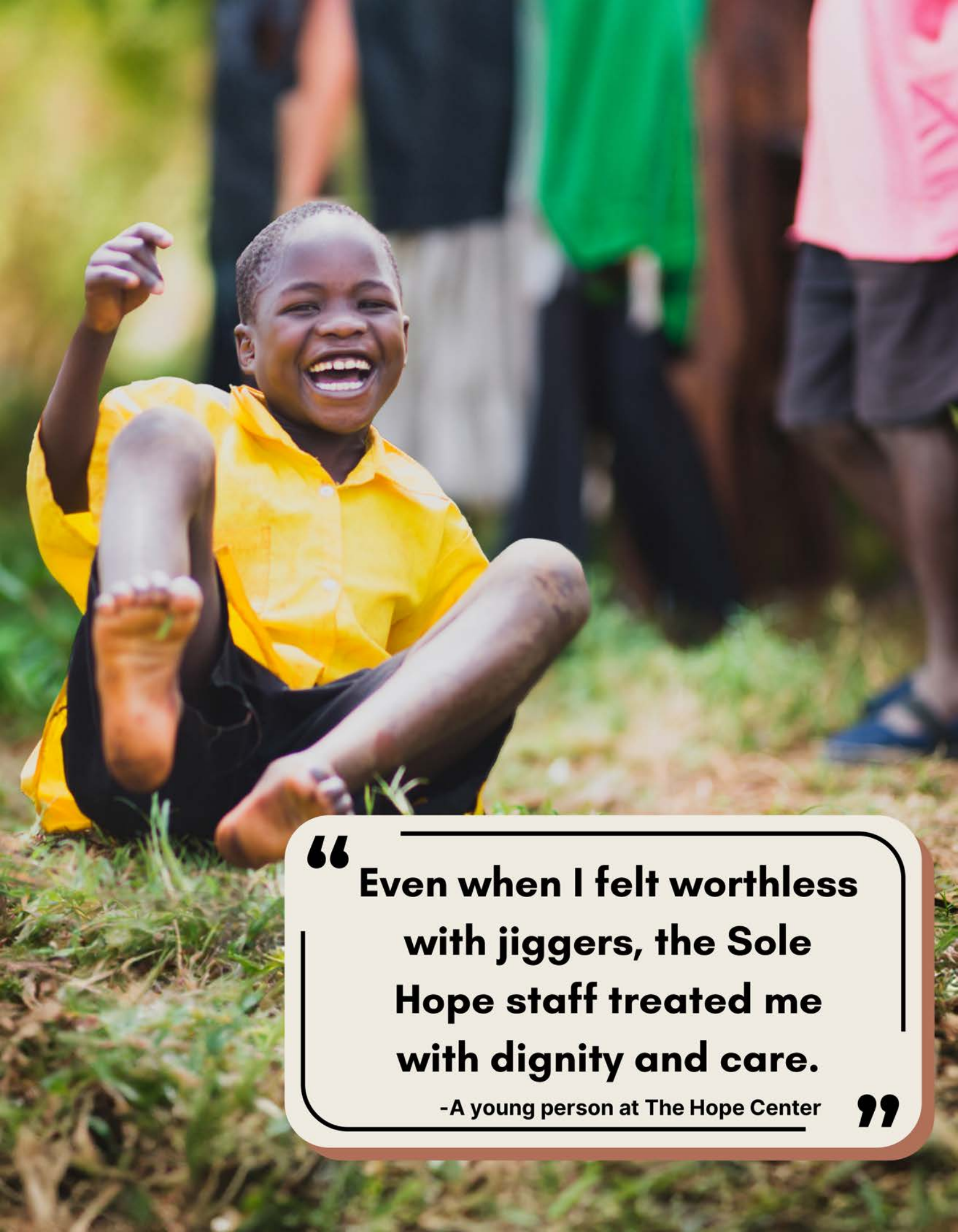




SOLE HOPE

SOLE  **HOPE**

ANNUAL REPORT // 2022-2023



“ Even when I felt worthless with jiggers, the Sole Hope staff treated me with dignity and care.

-A young person at The Hope Center

”

A LETTER FROM OUR UGANDA COUNTRY DIRECTOR:

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the past year, I can't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for your support in our mission to bring hope and healing to vulnerable communities in Uganda. Despite facing significant funding obstacles, your partnership allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of thousands affected by jiggers.

In 2023, we provided critical treatment for nearly 7,000 jigger-infested patients, extracted over 70,000 jiggers, and distributed over 18,000 pairs of protective shoes. We expanded our reach through community outreaches and established five hospital-based clinics. Our education initiatives equipped over 26,000 people to prevent jiggers through improved hygiene.

Beyond medical treatment, we walked alongside families on their journey toward wholeness. Your support allowed us to provide nutritious meals, counseling, and empowerment programs. We reunited divided families and fueled dreams for a brighter future. We also understand that we must operate at multiple levels to achieve our bold goal. Our growing scope of work has enabled us to work with many partner organizations, governments, institutions, and other national entities to combat the jigger problem.

Reflecting on joyful smiles emerging from beneath heavy veils of hopelessness, I am reminded of the transformational power of love in action. On behalf of our entire team, thank you for extending the heart and hands of hope.

The road ahead remains filled with complex challenges, yet our spirits remain grounded in audacious faith. Together, we have the profound privilege of restoring human dignity and freeing communities to walk in wholeness. We await another year of witnessing miracles made possible by people like you.

With immense hope,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josephine Karumira".

Josephine Karumira

*Country Director,
Sole Hope, Uganda*

OUR VISION

We believe in a world where the debilitating impact of jiggers is eliminated, allowing every person and community to thrive.

OUR MISSION

Equipping the vulnerable to walk in freedom from life-threatening diseases and exploitation through education, empowerment, and medical relief.



AN OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK

School and Community Outreach Clinics

Sole Hope partners with local leaders and medical professionals to provide essential services, such as health education, jigger removal, and durable shoe distribution. Depending on the area, these clinics are held weekly or monthly to ensure that vulnerable children and families can access the necessary care.

The Impact:

- Provides essential health services to vulnerable children and families
- Enables communities to prevent the spread of jiggers and other foot-related diseases
- Builds trust and fosters relationships between Sole Hope and community members

Hospital-Based Partner Clinics

Sole Hope collaborates with local hospitals and medical professionals to provide comprehensive care, including jigger removal, treatment for other medical conditions, and follow-up care. These clinics are strategically located in areas with high rates of jigger infestations.

The Impact:

- Provides comprehensive medical care to those in need
- Strengthens the capacity of local hospitals and medical professionals to respond to jigger infestations
- Improves access to health services for vulnerable communities in remote areas

Shoe Production

Sole Hope's shoe production program produces durable, closed-toe shoes to protect vulnerable children and families from jigger infestations. These shoes are made on-site at Sole Hope's workshop in Jinja and distributed at no cost to patients and vulnerable community members.

The Impact:

- Provides durable, closed-toe shoes to vulnerable children and families
- Supports local artisans and the Ugandan economy
- Encourages the adoption of protective footwear in communities affected by jiggers

Residential Care and Treatment

Sole Hope's Residential Treatment Centre (RTC) in Jinja provides specialized care and treatment to those with severe jigger infestations. Patients receive various services, including medical treatment, nutrition, psychosocial support, and education.

The Impact:

- Provides specialized care and treatment to those with severe jigger infestations
- Helps patients regain their health and mobility
- Builds the capacity of local health workers to provide care for patients with severe jigger infestations

Self-Help Groups (SHG)

Sole Hope's Economic Empowerment Program provides training and support to help vulnerable individuals save money, access credit, and start small businesses. This program is designed to be self-sustaining, with members contributing to savings weekly and accessing credit as needed.

The Impact:

- Provides vulnerable individuals with the tools to improve their livelihoods
- Strengthens social networks and fosters a sense of community among group members
- Creates opportunities for vulnerable individuals to start small businesses and generate income

A BRIGHTER FUTURE: HOW SOLE HOPE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Bkoa, an 8-year-old boy from Sironko district, lives with his two siblings and parents in a rundown house. His mother works as a day laborer, while his father often spends nights drinking in local bars. Bkoa was identified by a community worker as severely infested with jiggers and was also born with sickle cell anemia.

Thanks to the support of generous donors, Bkoa and his family received treatment at the Hope Center. Upon arrival, Bkoa was weak, malnourished, and unable to walk properly. But with dedicated caretakers and medical professionals, Bkoa began to heal.

Over two weeks, the jiggers were removed from his feet, fingers, and wounds. He received health education, hygiene training, catch-up lessons, and counseling to cope with the trauma and stress of living in a home with domestic violence.



“ I am so grateful to Sole Hope for helping me. I can now play with my friends without feeling discriminated against or stigmatized. ”

When it was time for Bkoa to be discharged, his wounds had healed, and he was given a resettlement package to maintain good hygiene practices and remain jigger-free. Bkoa can now return to school and dreams of becoming a teacher.

Together, we can empower children like Bkoa and transform lives through education, resources, and opportunities. Thank you for walking with us towards a jigger-free future and a brighter tomorrow for all.

PARTNERSHIPS: THE HEARTBEAT OF SOLE HOPE'S MISSION

At Sole Hope, we understand that to truly change lives and combat jiggers, we must work hand-in-hand with those who share our vision. Our partnerships span across government bodies, local communities, and international organizations, each playing a crucial role in our collective fight against foot diseases.

Beginning in Uganda, we've forged a strong alliance with the Ministry of Health's Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Vector and Control Unit. This partnership not only cements our efforts on a national level but also ensures our interventions are precise and impactful. Working closely with districts like Jinja, Kamuli, and Buikwe, our initiatives directly target those most vulnerable, providing them with the care and education they desperately need.

Our collaboration extends beyond Uganda's borders, reaching into Kenya and Burundi. Here, we empower local artisans and communities, ensuring our message of hope and healing resonates far and wide.

Furthermore, as part of the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), we amplify our voice alongside over 150 organizations, advocating for the protection and well-being of over 3 million children. This unity strengthens our resolve and expands our capacity to provide hope and relief.

Through each partnership, we endeavor not just to eradicate jiggers but to inspire a brighter, healthier future for all. With every hand joined, we move closer to achieving our mission, proving that together, we are unstoppable.



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT



HEALTH EDUCATION

26,446 individuals (including 73% in Bugisu and 27% in Busoga) received health education, promoting better hygiene practices.

PATIENT TREATMENT

6,849 patients were treated, with 71,437 jiggers removed (83% in Bugisu and 17% in Busoga).



SHOE PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

13,476 pairs of shoes produced and 18,683 pairs distributed as preventive measures.

FOLLOW UP AND MONITORING

2,728 beneficiaries were followed up, resulting in a commendable 78% jigger-free rate.



COMMUNITY CLINICS

At The Hope Center, we set up 35 clinics, expanded our reach to 71 partner clinics, and even established 1 mini clinic.

A BEACON OF HOPE: THE PRE-ROYAL WEDDING MEDICAL CAMP



In the heart of the Busoga Kingdom, a beacon of hope shone brightly as thousands thronged the pre-Royal Wedding medical camp. This monumental event, organized in collaboration with the Busoga Health Forum, brought together passionate professionals and volunteers dedicated to making a difference.

Over the span of three days, an astounding 1,722 patients received comprehensive care on the first day alone. The camp offered a wide range of services, from eye treatments and surgeries to maternal health, HIV testing, and mental health support. This initiative wasn't just about treating immediate health concerns; it was about building a foundation for sustained wellness and awareness within the community.

Sole Hope played a pivotal role in this extraordinary event. Our contribution of over 1,000 pairs of durable shoes went beyond simple footwear; it was a step towards safeguarding the community against jiggers and other foot diseases, embodying our mission to equip and empower.

The camp's success was a testament to the power of partnership and community involvement. Event sponsors and partners, including healthcare institutions, NGOs, and local governments, united under a common goal: to bring healing, hope, and happiness to the heart of Busoga.

The impact of the pre-Royal Wedding medical camp lingers in the lives it transformed and the awareness it sparked. It serves as a shining example of what we can achieve when we come together, armed with compassion and the determination to make a difference.

OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

From the beginning, it's been our **mission** to end the **jigger crisis** and promote better hygiene practices in East Africa. When we set out on this journey almost 15 years ago, countless individuals in Uganda and its neighboring countries were suffering from jigger infestations and preventable foot diseases. Today, thanks to our incredible community of generous donors and partners, we have made significant strides toward our goal.

We are inspired by our supporters worldwide who have **sacrificed, strategized, and rallied** for the health and well-being of those we serve. We are humbled by the **courage and resilience** of the individuals and communities we work with, who, despite facing tremendous challenges, continue to persevere. We are grateful for the lessons we've learned over the years that **make us stronger** today, and we are more determined than ever to see the day when everyone, everywhere, has access to the knowledge and necessary resources to protect their feet and live healthy lives.

Through our School and Community Clinics, Residential Treatment Facility, Community Education and Social Work, Shoemaking, Government Hospital-based Partner Clinics, and Economic Empowerment Program, we are committed to making a **lasting impact** in the lives of those we serve.

Together, we are taking steps towards **a world where no one has to suffer** from preventable foot diseases.

**Thank you for walking with us
towards a healthier, happier future.**



WAYS TO GIVE

Fund hope securely and easily: Donate online using your credit or debit cards, PayPal, Venmo, Donor Advised Funds, or ACH. Every contribution goes directly towards empowering vulnerable communities and eradicating jiggers. Join us in our mission to bring lasting change and walk with us toward a brighter future.



GIVE HOPE

www.solehope.org/donate

10FOR10TEN

10 BUCKS, TEN TOES, TOTAL CARE



www.solehope.org/ten

Make fighting jiggers part of your daily routine with \$10 for TEN. Like Team Freedom, our monthly supporters, your commitment ensures hope, independence, and safety for vulnerable individuals. Each donation, like a single raindrop, may seem small, but when combined with the generosity of others, it becomes a flood of hope, washing away the despair of those affected by jiggers. Give monthly, fight jiggers daily.

Join the Firm Foundation Collective and be a cornerstone of change in our quest for a jigger-free world. As a member, you'll become part of a passionate community committed to transforming lives in East Africa. Your support provides vital education, medical care, and durable shoes to those in need. Inspired by the wisdom of building on solid ground, we're laying the groundwork for a brighter future. Join us today and make a lasting impact.

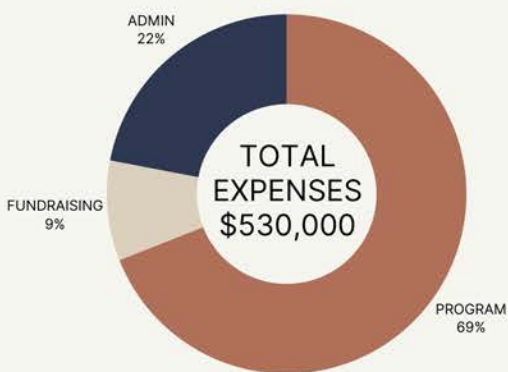


www.solehope.org/foundation

**YOUR GENEROSITY IS ESSENTIAL IN
CREATING AN ENDURING IMPACT.
THANK YOU.**

FINANCIALS

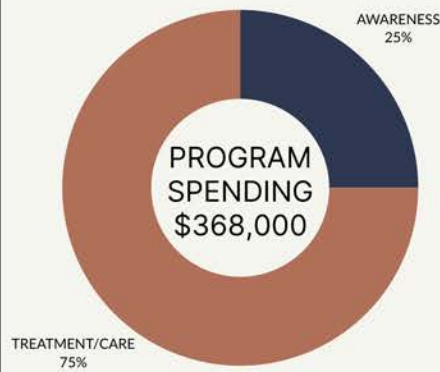
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023



PROGRAMS: 69%

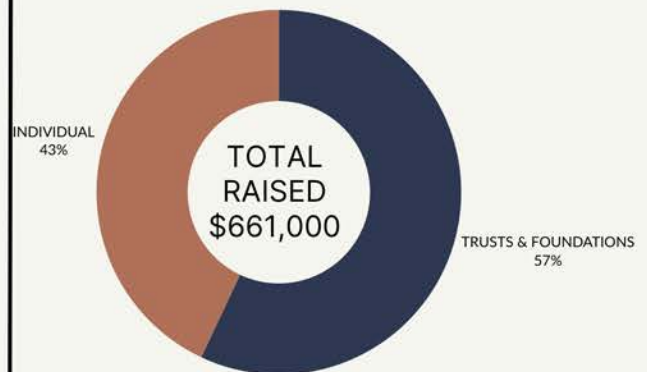
FUNDRAISING: 22%

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: 9%



TREATMENT & CARE: 75%

EDUCATION & AWARENESS: 25%



INDIVIDUAL DONORS: 43.0%

general & event giving, monthly donors, corporate matches, DAFs, community groups

ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS: 57%

private grants, corporate gifts, faith communities

Net Assets: \$223,819



OUR VALUES

EMPOWERMENT

At the core of our work lies the belief that empowering others is the key to creating lasting change. By equipping individuals, communities, and local institutions with education, resources, and opportunities, we enable them to unlock their full potential and thrive.

DELIBERATE COLLABORATION

We understand that we are stronger together and actively seek out partnerships and collaborations that amplify our efforts. By working collectively, we can drive sustainable change and create a brighter future for all.

COURAGE

We champion courage as a catalyst for innovation and positive change. By embracing new ideas, taking calculated risks, and pushing boundaries, we create transformative strides toward our vision.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability and take responsibility for our actions. We are committed to ensuring that every effort translates into meaningful impact for the communities we serve, our partners, donors, and each other.

TRANSPARENCY

We believe that trust is built upon strong communication and are committed to transparency in all that we do. By openly and accurately communicating our results, costs, and outcomes with all stakeholders, we build trust and foster a culture of transparency and accountability.

OUR BOARDS

As of December 31st, 2023

UNITED STATES

Tory Sherman, Chair
Asher Cooley, co-founder
Jessica Falkner, Secretary
Gareth Gilkerson
Jen Jordan, Treasurer
Tom Lister

UGANDA

Asher Cooley, co-founder
Andrew Kigozi, Treasurer
Josephine Karumira



Sole Hope has received **the highest rating** of four stars from *Charity Navigator*



Sole Hope holds the **Platinum Seal of Transparency** from *Guidestar*



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For privacy and protection, Sole Hope changes names and
obscures details about our clients.