



ACHON UGANDA
CHILDREN'S FUND

IMPACT REPORT
2023



Dear Friends,

It often feels like yesterday that I found the eleven children living under a bus, but it has been twenty years. With your support, we have accomplished so much during that time.

With the help of my family - brother Jimmy, his wife Florence my father Charles and my wife Grace - we saved those kids' lives. Today we are so proud to say that most of them have gone to college, with some graduating. One even works at Kristina Health Centre!

Thanks to the leadership of our Senior Clinical Officer Daniel, "KHC" has greatly expanded its services. Our team there treats hundreds of patients and safely delivers dozens of babies every month. Between this service and the education we provide through our outreach program, the number of people dying needlessly in our community has decreased dramatically.

With this momentum, and with your support, we now move into an exciting new phase: we will construct an operating theater and equip KHC to become a Level IV health facility. Our expanded staff will perform surgeries, including c-sections. We will no longer have to refer patients to Lira Hospital, forty miles away, and so will save even more lives.

It is with deep appreciation to our partners at Love Mercy, our AUCF volunteer staff, our team in Uganda, and all of our supporters, including you, that I share this good news.

God bless,
Julius



Nearly ten years ago, the day we buried our husband and father Jim, we sat with Julius around Angela's dining room table and discussed the fate and future of Achon Uganda Children's Fund.

Candidly, we felt overwhelmed. Jim and Julius had put thousands of hours into building AUCF: the small but important administrative steps, but also the towering tasks of housing, feeding and educating eleven war orphans, and constructing a health clinic in remote, rural Uganda. While the orphans were thriving, and the clinic had opened, we knew that the work had just begun.

We also knew, though, that we could count on friends and family, not to mention fellow runners, Nike employees, Rotarians, and even people who had felt compelled to contribute to AUCF after reading the Runner's World article about Julius. Indeed, over that decade we have seen this community grow, even as some of our earliest supporters have remained steadfastly behind our work.

Like those orphans after years of care and nurturing, AUCF today is thriving. Our base of donors has grown, enabling us to take on new challenges, including partnering with our Love Mercy friends to dig and repair wells, and foster economic development through Cents for Seeds. Kristina Health Center, meanwhile, now serves as the area's premier healthcare facility.

The opportunity to work with you has been a gift, as has the opportunity to serve the people of Northern Uganda. These gifts were thrust upon us, arriving at a time of great sadness, but over the past decade we have learned just how fortunate we are to be part of this growing organization and this generous community.

With gratitude,
The Fee Family



**Angela and Mike Fee visiting
KHC in March 2023**

THE AUCF JOURNEY

Julius discovers eleven children sleeping under a bus in Lira. Orphaned during the Ugandan civil war, the children were living and begging on the streets. Touched by their suffering and grateful for his own blessings, **Julius decides to adopt them.**



2009

AUCF teams up with Australian counterpart **Love Mercy Foundation.**

Together, the organizations acquire a plot of land to build a health center in Awake.



2012

Kristina Health Center expands to include a **patient ward**, named in memory of AUCF co-founder, Jim Fee.

2003



AUCF is officially founded by Julius and Jim Fee, becoming a 501(c)(3) organization.

AUCF funds a well in Awake, and for the first time, villagers do not have to walk miles for clean water.

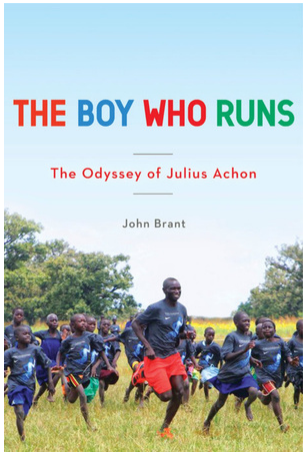
2010

**LOVE
MERCY
UGANDA**

Kristina Health Centre (KHC) opens, named in memory of Julius' mother.

2013





2016

The Boy Who Runs by John Brant is published and more people around the world learn about Julius' incredible story. A condensed version by Jennifer Kahn was first published in Runner's World.

KHC expands to include a **maternity ward**

2017



2019

Seeking to bring health care beyond the walls of its facility, **KHC launches an outreach program.** Staff members travel throughout the region, delivering family planning education, immunizations, and treatment for HIV and malaria

KHC celebrates 10 years of lifesaving impact in Otuke and the surrounding region.

2022



2023 and beyond

Keep reading to learn about our plans to expand KHC's services including the transition to Level IV.



YOU SUPPORT THE
DEDICATED STAFF WHO LIVE
AND WORK AT KHC



The Kristina Health Centre Staff work around the clock and live in staff quarters at the clinic. Living in this remote environment is challenging. With their skills, they have other job opportunities, but they are dedicated to the people of Northern Uganda

(Front L to R) Akello Mercy Anna, Ojo Palicidio, Acen Teddy, Apunyo Moses, Auma Mary, Anyii Daniel, Ayo Babra, Kia Kevin Prossy, Action Eunice, Aceng Anyess, Okello Isaac (Back L to R) Olinga Stephen Mike, Okello Joshua Smith, Oporusi John Daniel, Odyang Geoffrey, Adongo Esther, Odongo Alfred, Adongo Cavin, Aceng Agness, Okwir Emmanuel

53,992 patients treated
1,152 healthy babies born

Kristina Health Centre



Patients begin arriving at dawn, and some times the night before, and are seen on a first-come first-served basis, with the exception of emergency patients. Traveling up to 20 kilometers for treatment, typically on foot or by bicycle, is not uncommon. Local Otuke District healthcare officials have utilized KHC for blood testing and inoculations. KHC hosts the only refrigerator/freezer in the district healthcare network, and thus is able to offer vaccinations that are otherwise unavailable.

FIVE PROGRAMS YOU MAKE POSSIBLE

What started as a small orphanage for children left parentless by the Ugandan civil war today encompasses the region's only health clinic, a rural wellness-outreach initiative, youth sports programs, and through our partnership with Love Mercy, microlending and safe water initiatives. Our work will continue until Northern Uganda no longer suffers from war-engendered poverty.

Community-based, locally led teams trained by the KHC staff travel to surrounding communities with the services available at KHC, particularly prenatal education and care, vaccines, HIV tests and treatment, family planning and more.

Community Health Outreach



Youth Sports



Well Worth It

54 wells drilled provide access to clean water



Cents for Seeds



To date, 19,000 women have participated.

Through Cents For Seeds, female entrepreneur-farmers "borrow" seeds, enabling them to move beyond subsistence farming. One seed loan can yield 617 lbs. of produce — enough to feed a family for a year.

LOOKING AHEAD



Watch our Senior Medical Clinic Officer, Daniel Anyii, explain what it will mean to become a Level IV medical clinic

AUCF's primary goal for the coming year is to transition Kristina Health Centre into the only Level IV medical clinic in rural Northern Uganda, enabling KHC to better serve tens of thousands of community members living across a vast region. Currently, residents who need relatively simple surgical procedures, including c-sections, and those whose conditions cannot be diagnosed without ultrasound, must travel 40 miles on a rutted dirt road — usually on the back of a motorbike — to an overcrowded and under-resourced hospital in Lira. When Kristina Health Centre achieves Level IV status, health care in the region will be transformed.

- Access to an advanced ultrasound machine will enable the KHC team to detect complications in pregnancy much earlier and to take an informed course of action.
- Over the last 18 months, there have been over 250 referrals from KHC that have required the use of an operating theatre or another emergency service. This will no longer be necessary.

The addition of these services and progressing KHC to a Level IV health clinic would mean saving hundreds of lives each year.



Your generous support in 2023 means AUCF will soon add a rugged 4x4 vehicle to the thriving outreach program, which will mean more supplies will reach more people.

KHC Outreach Nurse, Olinga Stephen Mike, heading out to administer immunizations and prenatal education in a village.

Where are the children Julius adopted in 2003 today?

Supporters frequently ask us about the eleven children Julius rescued. As chronicled in *The Boy Who Runs*, Julius sent money he earned running in the United States and Europe to his father, Charles, to care for the children. As the orphaned children left to advance their education or begin working, Julius remained a part of their lives. Remarkably, all eleven children were able to pursue their education. Three of them are working for AUCF or Love Mercy to improve life for people living in the region's remote areas, just as Julius and his family worked on their behalf.



Mary Auma



Tom Moses at his graduation with Julius

Mary Auma attended nursing school and has been working at KHC since 2012.

Acuma Daniel has completed his college degree and currently works with our sister organization Love Mercy.

Samuel Okwany finished high school and is Cents for Seeds driver.

Solomon Alengo is working in a community-based rehabilitation program.

Tom Moses recently received a college degree in business administration.

Solomon Atai B has completed high school.

Nancy Adongo is married after graduating from high school.

Monica Aciro participates in an accelerated high school program.

Maxwell Odongo is currently studying electrical engineering at a trade school.

Boniface Abwaongo will graduate next year from a trade school.

Walter Atia works as a building assistant after obtaining an engineering degree.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE AUCF TEAM

Ways to Get Involved

- Become a monthly donor to provide ongoing support of the five AUCF programs
 - Donate or find out more at achonugandachildren.org/donate
- Join our email list (we only send about 12 emails each year.)
- Participate in an event like The Mother Run every May
- Follow AUCF on Social Media



facebook.com/achonuganda



achonuganfachildren

- Other ideas or Questions? Contact us: angela@achonugandachildren.org

Staff

Julius Achon

Founder

Jimmy Okullo

Director of Operation, Uganda

Grace Nakisuyi

Operations Manager, Uganda

Angela Fee

Executive Director, US

(Volunteer)

David Fee

Director of Operations, US

(Volunteer)

Board Members

Mike Fee, Chair

Jeff Caba

Fred Cason

Carrie Dimoff

Caitlin McGrath

Advisors

Karen Fee

Love Mercy Team

Special thanks to the talented River Bennett and Matt Temple for the beautiful photos featured in this report.

**Financial Records available
upon request**



www.achonugandachildren.org



Charles, Julius's father, standing in the room where seeds are stored before they are distributed to women in the Cents for Seeds program. This storage room stands next to the Kristina Health Centre, on the exact location of his son's abduction.