



Dunstan  
Wai  
Memorial  
Charitable  
Foundation

# Educating African Girls



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Rufina Kinyaa, Program Assistant, Moyo  
Christine Poni, Program Assistant, Palorinya Camp  
Sister Lily Grace Akedi, Tertiary, Juba, South Sudan

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# The Wai Foundation's Mission

**The mission of the Wai Foundation is to empower African girls through education.**

In African countries, as in most of the developing world, education is much more readily available to boys than to girls. Poverty, gender bias, cultural beliefs, as well as fear and instability due to conflict, have meant that most girls, even those with academic promise, are not able to attend school beyond the primary level.



Recognizing this gender gap, The Wai Foundation was founded in 2005 in South Sudan, the birthplace of Dr. Dunstan Wai. Its purpose is to improve the lives and futures of girls in South Sudan and northern Uganda by providing them with the financial and emotional support to continue on to secondary school and beyond.

**Their education can then serve as the tool to lift them out of poverty and enable them to realize their potential.**





# You're Helping to Change Lives!

## Dear Friends of The Wai Foundation,

This is my first letter to you as the new Chair of The Wai Foundation. I joined the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2019, and was honored in July 2020 to be selected by the Board to take over the helm from my father, co-founder Kim Jaycox. I hope to serve the Foundation well.

My first challenge was to determine how the Foundation's Board could ease the damage caused by the school closures this Spring in South Sudan and Uganda due to COVID-19. With their boarding schools closed, our scholarship recipients have been forced to return home. For over two-thirds of our girls, home is the refugee camps in northern Uganda, where their families live after fleeing violence in South Sudan. Our concerns are not just that the girls will be missing school, but that the many pressures they face at home could permanently derail their educations, and could lead to early pregnancies and forced marriages.

Through a new Special Study Program for secondary students and diligent outreach at the tertiary level, students have been able to continue studying.

Our hope is that our scholarship recipients will soon be able to return to their schools and be able to refocus on their studies. In the meantime, your

generosity will allow us to continue to provide tutoring and mentoring programs in the refugee camps.

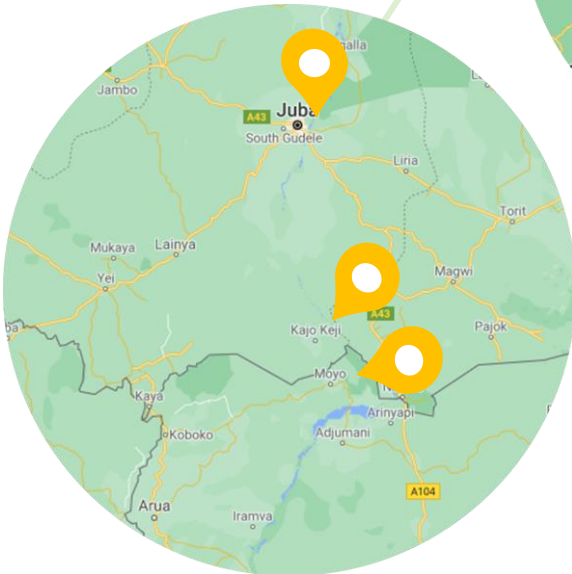
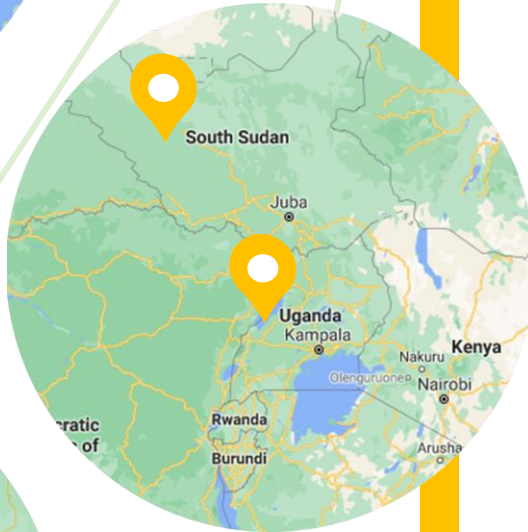
Overall, our assessment is that The Wai Foundation has responded rapidly and effectively to a terrible situation. Given the severity of the current circumstances in South Sudan and Uganda, we are hopeful that you will support the Foundation, so that we can provide for the education of as many of these ambitious, struggling South Sudanese and Ugandan girls and young women as possible.

**Nearly every dollar you give goes to someone who is desperately seeking an education and whose talents are urgently needed by her country. Please give as generously as you can by visiting our [website](#).**

Wishing you all the best,

Tamara Jaycox Kessler, Chair  
Board of Directors

# Where the Wai Foundation Works



**1,300**

CUMULATIVE ANNUAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS



**\$70k**

CUMULATIVE  
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS



**80**

TERTIARY  
SCHOLARSHIPS

## Key Figures and Results

**225**

SECONDARY SCHOLAR  
GRADUATES (2016-19)



**\$500**

ANNUAL COST,  
SECONDARY

**16**

TERTIARY GRADUATES  
(2015-19)

In 2019, the Wai Foundation awarded scholarships for the first term to 138 recipients to attend six secondary schools in Uganda— 90 South Sudanese and 48 Ugandan girls.

Our local administrator, Sister Florence Oryema, visited each of our host schools to welcome girls as they reported back in Moyo district and Gulu district.

But before that term was complete, the government of Uganda suspended learning in all educational institutions in March of 2020, to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. All six schools with Wai scholars were closed.

## The Wai Foundation's Secondary School Scholarship Program

Because these are all boarding schools, all of the students were sent home immediately. In the case of the South Sudanese recipients, that meant returning to the Ugandan refugee camps where their families had fled in 2017.

Sister Florence immediately grasped the risks faced by our girls by being at home for an extended period of time. Not only were the girls likely to be recruited to take over household tasks, leaving them little time or energy for anything else, but they could become pregnant or tempted into unplanned marriages. And they would lose the solidarity they had achieved as schoolmates. Being cut off for so long from their studies, Sister Florence observed, could “cripple their dreams.”





# Responding to COVID: The Birth of the Special Study Program

With the encouragement of the Foundation's Board, Sister Florence and her Program Assistant, Christine Ponti, launched the "Special Study Program" at the beginning of October. The Program keeps secondary students living in the refugee camps focused on their education during the lockdown period.

**Clusters.** Our girls were clustered into study groups of six or more in the same class (S1, S2, S3, and S4) in school. As inspiration, each group adopted a name -- Vision Group, Hope Group, Determined Group, Creative Learners, and Success Seekers.

**Radios.** Uganda Ministry of Education has been using radios as the main educational delivery method, along with free reading material. The Board provided funds for Sister Florence to purchase a radio and additional reading materials for each of the groups. As an added encouragement, each girl was supplied with textbooks and a solar lamp for night-time study.

**Tutors.** The Board then took one further step to make sure that the students stay on track, by approving funds to hire tutors at the camps. Sister Florence and Christine identified five teachers who are available to tutor the girls in key subjects, identified as mathematics, English, chemistry, physics, agriculture, biology, geography and history. The subjects are taught every weekday for all four grades.



*Students studying with their new solar lamps*



*Sister Florence distributes the new radios*

## **Sister Florence notes:**

*"The students are happy with the program and express that it is a great support to their learning." Not only does it keep them busy, but the girls say that the groups help them to become "more serious", and "keep them away from the negative peers in the camp."*

The teaching is planned to run up to the end of November, 2020, when there will be a break and a written assessment of the program by the students.



# WAI Foundation's Tertiary Scholarship Program

**10 years of supporting tertiary education.** The Foundation has sponsored outstanding recipients of our secondary-school scholarships to continue their studies at an advanced level, usually for three years. Because of employment opportunities, most the Wai scholars choose studies in the medical field.

To date, 16 young women have graduated from the program. In 2020, the scholarships were offered to 26 young women, 8 of which were new intakes. When the lockdown of schools began in March, these young women had enrolled in vocational schools in Juba, South Sudan and Uganda, and most were expecting to begin to their academic year in June or July.



*Sister Lily with tertiary scholars*



*Juan Wininie, successfully employed after eight years of Wai Foundation support*

Sister Lily Grace Akedi, the Tertiary Scholarship Administrator, has been in charge of these young women from the beginning. Affiliated with the Comboni Missionary Sisters in Juba, she is a hands-on, deeply compassionate yet resolute person. Her firm, competent guidance has been an invaluable resource to the Foundation.

# Responding to COVID Tertiary Program



*Sister Lily on her way.*

## Basic needs.

According to Sister Lily, even basic needs are not being met and some, especially those in Juba, are experiencing hunger. “In the past months [in Juba] there have been a lot of inter-tribal clashes, gender violence, robberies, and kidnappings that make life difficult.... The population is not adhering to the Health guidelines which is worrying. Still, it is better to die of COVID than of hunger.” Sister Lily has acted to provide the students with basic foodstuffs like cornflour, oil and beans for them to take home to cook for themselves and their families. She has also provided the girls with a stipend for food, transportation and for their research purposes while in school.

## COVID impact.

Because of COVID, Sister Lily is physically separate from many of her charges, but she keeps in contact with visits and phone calls so that they do not lose their determination to finish school. She reports that for many, being home has been a struggle because most come from impoverished families and many are refugees.

## Cautious optimism.

In October, much to our scholars’ delight, eight of the schools where they are enrolled were once again hosting in-person tertiary-level classes, allowing the young women to resume their studies. Eight of our third-year students who were scheduled to graduate by the end of this year are now scheduled to sit for their final examinations in March 2021. The second year and the new 2020 intake will also return to their schools with an altered calendar.

## *Sister Florence Oryema*

Since January 2019, The Foundation's Secondary School Scholarship Program has been under the skillful, committed direction of Sister Florence Oryema, the Ugandan Provincial Administrator of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Moyo. Sister Florence's impressive credentials include a B.A. in Education from Makerere University, and Master's degrees from both Uganda Martyrs University and the Uganda Management Institute. She has successfully managed the recruiting of new South Sudanese and Ugandan scholars, placing them in local schools, and assuring their well-being. And when Covid-19 closed schools this year, Sister Florence enthusiastically rallied by inaugurating a "Special Education Program" for our students in the refugee camps.



## Special Focus: Staff on the Ground



## *Rufina Kinyaa*

At the start of 2020, Rufina, a Program Assistant in Uganda, requested a sabbatical to pursue a MA in Education. The Foundation assisted her by continuing to pay her salary. She has finished her courses and has resumed her work in Moyo while finishing her thesis.



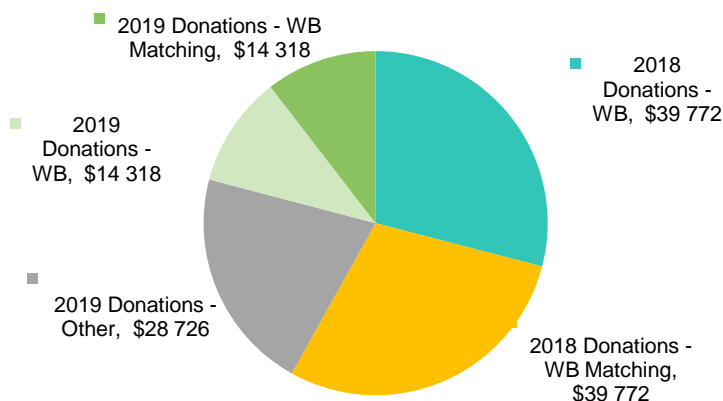
## *Christine Poni*

Formerly a teacher in South Sudan, Christine now lives in a refugee camp with her family. She is uniquely positioned to act as a liaison to refugee students and community-at-large. She has been key in building trust and boosting morale with the students and families as she personally understands their situation.

# 2019 Financials

Overall, our assessment is that The Wai Foundation's program is doing well in a difficult, rapidly changing situation.

## 2019 Donation Receipts



**Receipts.** In 2019, total donations received were \$136,905 from 130 individual donors, of whom over 45% are generously matched dollar-for-dollar by the World Bank Community Connections Campaign. This amount is \$48,848 (55%) higher than 2018 donations of \$88,056. The growth was partially driven by the one-time impact of a methodological change by the World Bank (WB) which distributed a portion of their 2019 donation in 2019 rather than 2020. These 2019 gifts, if deducted from our 2019 receipts, would show an actual growth in 2019 of \$20,212, or 22% more than in 2018.



# How Your Gifts Were Used

We are happy to note that 93% of our 2019 outlays of \$75,989 financed direct costs to support the Foundation's mission of educating girls in South Sudan and Uganda.

Only 7% of our expenses are related to administrative costs, of which 5% goes to audit and accounting services.

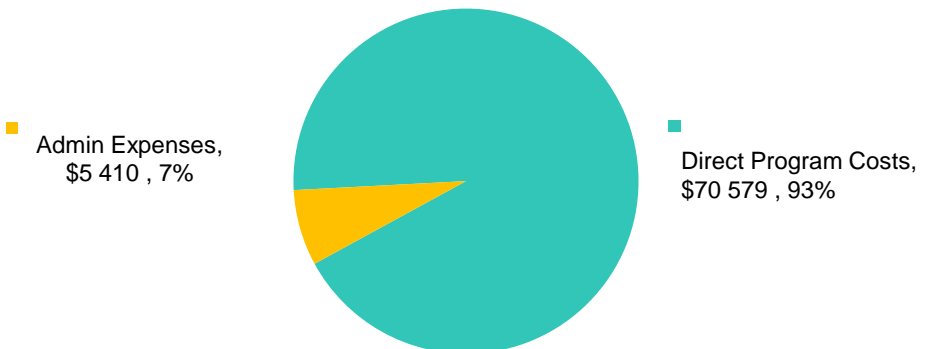
These cost-effective results are due to our reliance in our operations on the invaluable contributions from our local partners, the Comboni Sisters in South Sudan and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Uganda. The Foundation has a hard-working volunteer Board of Directors and no US-based staff.

Higher expenses in the cost of tuition and increased program support have been incurred in Uganda, where most of our students have relocated over the past four years due to the continuing crisis in South Sudan. The average tuition for one girl for one year for secondary is \$500 and tertiary is \$1,000.

However, these increases can be safely accommodated within the Foundation's financial position. For more details, see our [website](#).



## Outlays in 2019



# Wai Foundation Donors

January 2019 – October 2020

Richmond and Lynn Abbe  
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\* Contributions  
matched by the The  
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# Wai Foundation Donors

January 2019 – October 2020

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Douglas Lister \*  
Louise B. Lloyd  
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Michaela Wieser\*  
Elaine Wylie\*  
Hans Wyss

\* Contributions  
matched by the The  
World Bank  
Community  
Connections Fund.



# Dunstan Wai (1947-2005)



The Wai Foundation was founded in memory of Dunstan Mogga Wai and his deep-seated commitment to empower poor people through education. No one could be a better role model for success through education than Dunstan Wai himself. Born in Kajo Keji, Sudan his family fled to Uganda to escape the civil war in the Sudan. As a young student and a refugee, Dunstan did not have many options other than to work hard in his studies, gaining scholarships to finance his education. These provided him an opportunity to study at some of the best universities in Africa, Europe and the United States. After attending Makerere University, Kampala, he went on to study at Oxford University. Another scholarship to Harvard helped earn him his Ph.D. Dunstan spent the bulk of his professional life at the World Bank where he made lasting contributions in areas of development. His career reflected his deep knowledge, love and passion for Africa and his wish to improve the lot of his people. Dunstan never forgot that he owed his achievements to all the support and mentoring that he got along the way. Education enabled him to achieve his goals and made him a true inspiration to those who knew him.

# The Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation: Educating African Girls



If you are able to support us, your donation will improve the lives of girls in South Sudan and northern Uganda and empower them to strive for a better future.

*The Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, Tax ID No. 20-2949247. Contributions to the Foundation are fully deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. law.*

- Yes, I would like to contribute:
- \$500 (tuition for one girl for one year)
- \$1,000 (for one tertiary-level scholarship)
- (Other amount) to the Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card donations through PayPal is available on our website at [www.dunstanwaifoundation.org](http://www.dunstanwaifoundation.org) / [www.dwmcf.org](http://www.dwmcf.org)

Checks or money order should be made out to DWMCF and mailed to:  
P.O. Box 5692, Washington DC 20016-5692

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please list my/our name in your listing of donors as:

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- I/we would like for my/our gift to the DWMCF to remain anonymous.

# Secondary School



*Empowering girls inside and outside of the classroom*

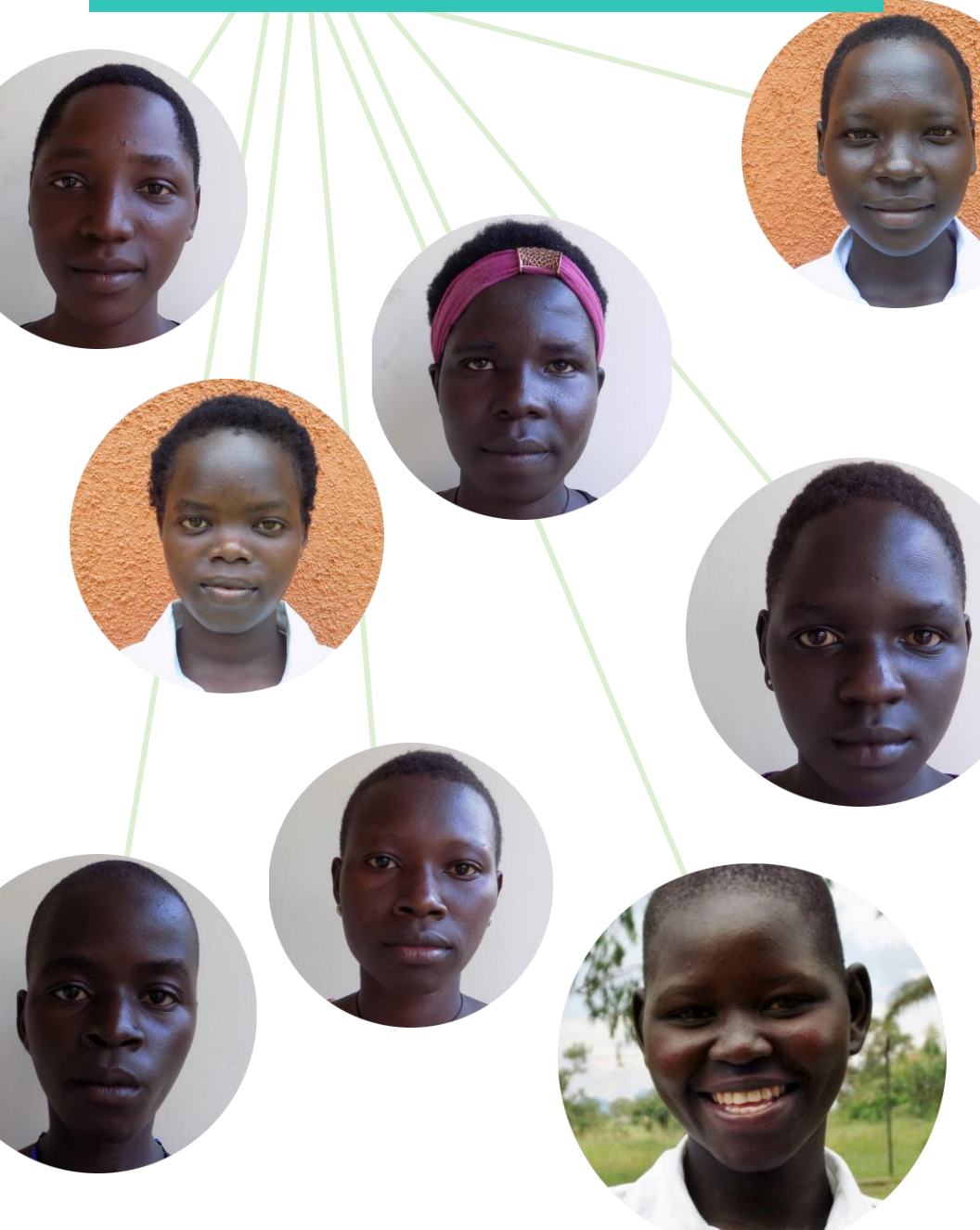


*Scholars celebrating their graduation*



# Tertiary Education

Faces of DWMCF Scholars;  
Tomorrow's leaders and mentors.



Thank you for your support!

# Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation



*Practicing social distancing in the classroom*

DWMCF  
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<http://www.dwmcf.org/>

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