



2019

*Impact
Report*

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WHERE WE ARE NOW

Word from Brent Phillips, Cherish Uganda CEO

What a year 2019 was. Due to the faithful work of the team on the ground, the prayers of people around the world and the generosity of people from many countries, Cherish experienced more growth in every area of our ministry. The numbers you see in this year's annual report look good on a chart, but the important thing to remember is how each of those numbers represents a life that has been touched and changed due to the work God is doing at Cherish.

This year brought new buildings, lots of "firsts" in every area of this ministry, and staff growing and transitioning to new positions, but most importantly we saw growth in people. We saw lives changed and the gospel lived and spoken within the walls of Cherish, in our community, our peninsula and beyond.

As the numbers in this report speak to the lives of individuals and families that are being transformed, they also speak to individuals

and families that have prayed, given and traveled in order to be a part of the work God is accomplishing in Uganda. It truly does take a village, a global village, to come together and do the work that God has called us to. Thank you for the role you play. Whether you are sitting with a vulnerable family on a small mat on the ground in Bulega or praying from your chair on the other side of the world, your part is important and necessary. Or whether you are writing a prescription for a patient who has just been diagnosed with HIV, or writing a check to support the appointments and counseling that patient will receive, each part played is key in moving forward the work we are doing together. So thank you for your part, thank you for your faithfulness and thanking you for saying "Yes".

Sincerely,
Brent Phillips
Cherish Uganda CEO

This year's impact report: Real people, Real photos

With over 94 Ugandan employees across several different departments, a UK team and a US team, we are constantly trying to find a way for the team to still feel small and to keep everyone in the know as to what is going on in Uganda. Thanks to technology and our, the Ugandan team is able to keep us updated with photos of the great work being done in Uganda. For this year's impact report, we chose to show you the raw photos of work we are doing with. All of the photos included in this impact report are directly from our team in Uganda with no fancy filters or photographers. You can find the extended album of photos from 2019 at cherishuganda.org/2019impactreport

2019 IN NUMBERS

We could not have accomplished the below figures without people like you supporting us.

232+

FAMILIES SERVED WITH FSD

The Family Strengthening Department at Cherish Uganda serves over 200 families with guidance, counseling, resources, and discipleship.

95+

EMPLOYEES

We employed over 95 Ugandans. They all receive benefits, 2+ meals per day, & competitive salaries.

100%

UGANDAN RUN IN UGANDA

We believe in hiring locally. We continue to maintain the standard that all paid employees in Uganda are Ugandan and that majority are hired from the local villages.

11

GRADE LEVELS SERVED

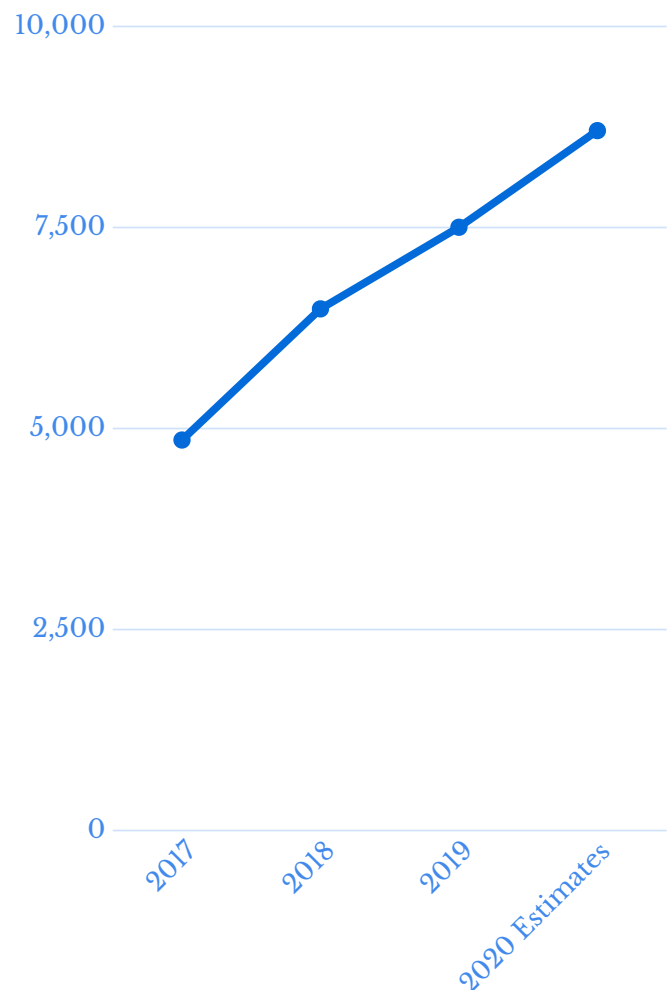
We enrolled students in 11 different grade levels: 7 grade primary levels and 4 secondary levels.

214,801

MEALS SERVED AT CHERISH

We can estimate that we served over 214,801 meals in 2019 at Cherish Uganda to staff, students, and boarding students.

ESTIMATED PEOPLE SERVED PER YEAR



7500+ PEOPLE SERVED IN 2019

The above numbers include patients seen at Cherish Health Center, students enrolled at Cherish Schools, families served, and staff employed.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND CHERISH UGANDA



LARISSA
FORMER HEAD OF
EDUCATION



SAM
FIRST COUNTRY
DIRECTOR



ACHILLES
NEW HEAD OF
EDUCATION



OLIVIA
HEAD OF FSD

If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting **Larissa Rwakasiisi**, you know how unforgettable she is. Larissa joined the founding team in 2006 and she was the heart behind Cherish schools since 2011.

On October 18th, we celebrated Larissa with a farewell party. We danced, we cried, we sang, we ate cake, we worshipped, and made sure she felt loved and honored. Old staff members attended in her honor and the children made her countless signs and cards. She will be so dearly missed by staff and students, and we are so thankful for the 13 years she served God through loving people at Cherish Uganda. Her laugh, smile, and passion lit up Cherish's campus and changed many lives. Larissa left an incredible legacy with her dedication to investing in staff and children.

“THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU, AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU, AND GIVE YOU PEACE.” NUMBERS 6:24-26

Sam Dratema has also been at Cherish Uganda from what feels like the start. Sam was the first teacher hired for Cherish Schools, but he moved his way out of the classroom and onto the executive team over the years. Sam is now the Country Director at Cherish Uganda and we are so proud of the leader he has become.

Like Sam, **Achilles Sekiteleko** has worn a variety of hats during his time at Cherish Uganda. Achilles first came on as the Lead Counselor at Cherish Health Center, then led the FSD, and now is in Larissa's former role as the Head of Education. We believe Achilles' background of being a pastor and counselor will make him a great leader for Cherish Schools..

Olivia Nalubega first worked as a House Mother in Cherish Homes. God gifted Olivia with a BIG heart, she loves God and loves caring for children. She has been a leader in a variety of positions at Cherish, and is now leading the entire FSD

Cherish would not be what it is today without these four individuals who have put in hours of work and immeasurable amounts of love into this organization.

NEW BUILDINGS

NEW BUILDINGS PUT TO USE IN 2019



**COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTER**



**ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES**



**CHS TEMPORARY
CLASSROOMS**

At Cherish, we work with Engineering Ministries International (eMi) on all building projects. All of the buildings above were funded by corporate partnerships and individuals. ***EMi works with nonprofits to build projects for only the cost of the materials (all of the planning, engineering and construction is provided by eMi). We have used eMi for building projects for over 6 years. Since we were not financially ready to build the high school, eMi got creative with a temporary solution for our growing high school. Since enrollment wasn't slowing down, we needed more classrooms and a gathering space that could hold all 78 students for the upcoming 2020 school year. We worked with eMi to dream up plans on how to utilize what we had. The team creatively transformed where we used to hold chickens and pigs at Cherish into classrooms and a gathering spot.

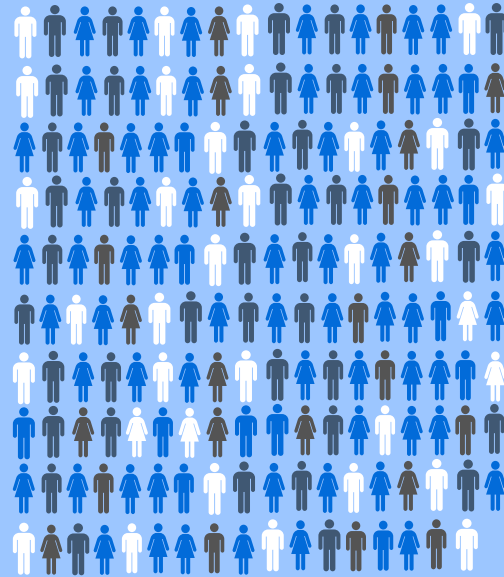
In 2019, we opened the doors to the Community Learning Center. This building is the largest building at Cherish. Now, we are able to meet no matter the weather and gatherings look completely different. The space also serves as the lunch room, and children are able to eat at tables (some have never done so) instead of across the school lawn.

Once the Community Learning Center was complete, eMi began construction on Cherish's new administrative offices. This new space serves as offices for all administrative staff members and the Family Strengthening Department. The former office space we used was a dilapidated building that was the only structure standing when we purchased the land Cherish sits on in 2006. EMI did an wonderful job designing the new space and we are incredibly grateful for the donors who funded the new buildings.

CHERISH HEALTH CENTER

SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH QUALITY HEALTHCARE

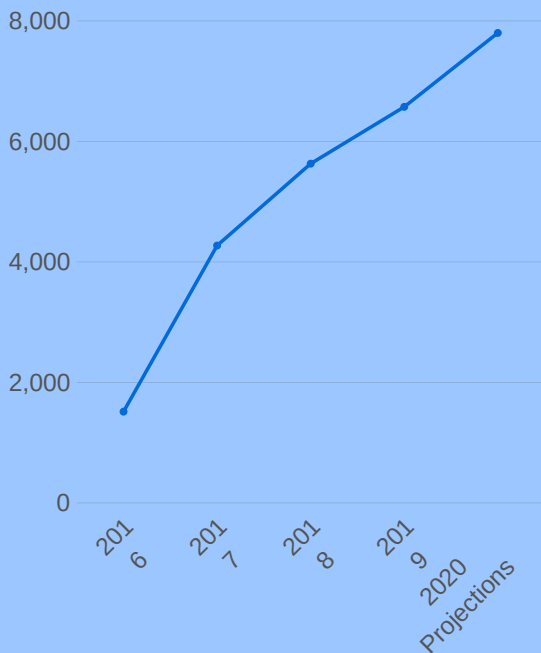
One of Cherish Health Center's biggest strategies of changing the story of HIV is getting out into the community. Some people are too busy working or are too intimidated to come in to our facility. Cherish Health Center put on over 12 medical outreaches to the general public or focused on setting up clinics at local businesses. Sometimes that means working in difficult environments. The below pictures were snapped by the medical team when they did an outreach at a local quarry to do Hepatitis testing, HIV testing, and counseling.



179 PEOPLE ARE ON LIFE SAVING ART TREATMENT

Cherish Health Center is unique in that workers and social workers to do "home visits" for ALL of the HIV-positive patients receiving treatment at Cherish Health Center. Being diagnosed with HIV can be scary and overwhelming, sometimes patients get depressed and don't come in for to care for their health or patients get sick and miss their appointments. Cherish Health Center is unique because we meet our patients where they are at, checking on all of the patients at home. We assess their living conditions, check on them, encourage them, point them to Jesus when they lose hope, and to offer guidance when they feel lost or overwhelmed.

GROWTH IN PATIENTS SERVED



The medical team out of their scrubs and heading off to their New Years Eve celebrations on Dec. 31st, 2019

FAMILY STRENGTHENING DEPARTMENT

NEW BUILDINGS PUT TO USE IN 2019

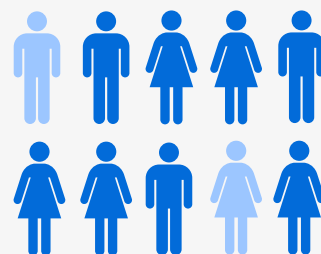


The Family Strengthening Department has continued to grow and evolve with the needs of the children we serve. This department works with all of the families of our students and with the families who came from Cherish's former short-term care facility.

In 2019, the FSD met with families of all resettled children (children who were formerly living in the short-term care facility on-site) to decide which families were equipped to graduate from the FSD program and which families still need to be working closely with the FSD to learn how to adequately care for a child with HIV. By the end of 2019, the FSD saw X families graduate from the need for trainings and care. There are 27 families of resettled children that are still in the program receiving guidance. We fully believe that children thrive in family setting, and that it is better to partner with the families than to put their child into institutionalized care.

The FSD team travels all around Uganda and spends time with the families to help them figure out budgeting, how to bring in an income, how to care for a child with HIV, scheduling doctor appointments for the child in their care, and disciplining the family.

Instead of just working with a one child, by working with the whole family unit we are multiplying the impact we can have on the community.



8 OUT OF 10

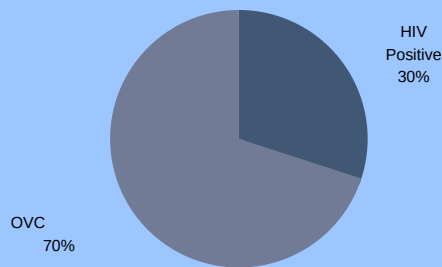
children living in orphans in Uganda have at least one living parent

CHERISH SCHOOLS

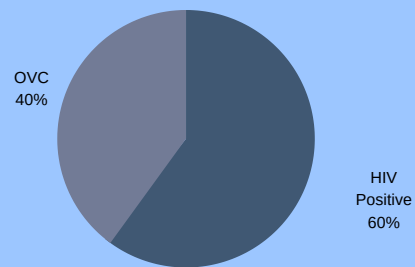
SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH THROUGH EDUCATION

Jesus told us to have a childlike faith and to care for those in need. Cherish Schools is one of our biggest joys because we are so tangibly impacting the lives of the children in need in our village. The sweet faces of our students and the sound of their learning and laughter light up the Cherish campus when school is in session. These students are hungry to learn and we are grateful to have **enrolled 169 students at Cherish Primary School and 73 students at Cherish High School for the 2019 school year.**

At the end of the year, primary 7 students take an exit exam to see if they're able to graduate primary school and move on to high school. **For the 3rd year in a row, 100% of the 21 students in P7 passed their PLE's.**



30% of the students we serve at Cherish Primary School are HIV positive. 13% of the students are staff children, and 57% come from very vulnerable backgrounds



60% of the students we serve at Cherish High School are HIV positive and the remaining 40% are considered extremely vulnerable



The green team wins field day! All students and staff participated and parents came to watch!



Cherish Primary students having fun on a field trip at Ssezibwa falls and NARO!



The students involved in girls and boys scouts worked hard all year volunteering in the village!



An end of the year meal, party, and prayer time for students in their final year of CPS or CHS!

PHOTOS AND FIRSTS FOR 2019

FIND MORE PHOTOS AT OUR ONLINE ALBUM FOR IMPACT AT [CHERISHUGANDA.ORG/2019IMPACTREPORT](http://cherishuganda.org/2019impactreport)

ACHILLES' FIRST TIME TO THE US

Cherish's new Head of Education, Achilles, came to the US for the first time. Achilles got to tour Lake Travis High School, plan the changes for the 2020 school year with Leah Phillips, film a video on family reunification and try a lot of unfamiliar cuisines!



FIRST PROM AT CHERISH HIGH SCHOOL

CHS students enjoyed their first prom in the Community Learning Center. Boys and girls dressed up and enjoyed a nice sit down meal, gathering, and music.



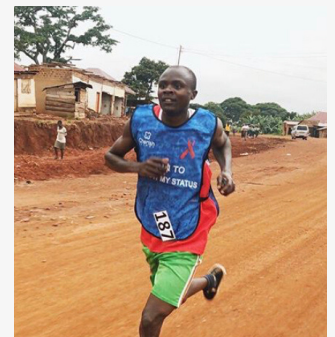
FIRST HEART & SOUL EVENT IN AUSTIN, TX

We hosted the first Heart and Soul fundraiser in Austin, Texas. We auctioned off art from local artists and art created by the students at Cherish Schools.



FIRST TIME FEATURED ON URBAN TODAY

Cherish Uganda's country director, Sam Dratema, was on the news in Uganda to talk about Cherish and how local Ugandans can get involved and support the cause.



FIRST TIME HOSTING A 5K FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

In Uganda, the Cherish team organized a race in the local village to kick off the annual HIV awareness held on around World AIDS Day (Dec. 1). Ajuna Daniel won the race, running 3.72 miles in just over 15 minutes. Hundreds of people watched or joined the Race to End Stigma for HIV/AIDS. Through the event we encouraged people to get tested so they can know their status and to change the story of HIV into a story of hope!

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT CHERISH UGANDA! WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.



Each and every one of our supporters is a blessing. We have so much gratitude for the generous people that allow us to operate and change lives. Each and every contribution matters. We need you to help spread the word of what God is doing through Cherish Uganda so that we can take on another year of serving those less fortunate.

If you'd like to support the work we're doing please make a donation via our website. While impact reports are a great overview of the year in full, make sure you're following along on social media to get weekly updates of what's going on on-site and view the extended online album at cherishuganda.org/2019impactreport

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
CONTINUE TO CHANGE THE
STORY OF HIV INTO A STORY
OF HOPE**