

heal + thrive

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2025 Annual Report: Highlights of Hope



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8,000 Mamas, Oh My!

As we began 2025, we stood in a field in Uganda watching 170 teen moms walk across the stage to graduate. Many had entered the program overwhelmed, deeply discouraged, and unsure their lives held much promise. Some even pictured themselves (in art therapy) as dogs or trash when they first arrived. And then we watched them walk across that field with dignity and pride, cheered on by families who came to celebrate them. It was a day full of tears (okay, fine mostly my tears! But everyone else cried too. I promise.) and a day none of us will soon forget.

That moment set the tone for our year.

2025 also brought unexpected challenges. Early in the year, shifts in external funding increased pressure across the communities we serve. While the circumstances were complex, one thing became clear: the women in our programs needed stability, opportunity, and long-term investment more than ever.

So we listened.

Together with our Ugandan leadership team, we made an important decision. Rather than limiting our focus to the 4,000 moms already in literacy programming, **we chose to walk alongside all 8,000 women served by our Ugandan partners**, ensuring every mama had access to literacy, training, and community support during a season of uncertainty.

This shift led to one of the most exciting developments of the year: the launch of our Graduate Program. In 2025, moms didn't simply "finish" literacy - they graduated into something new. Into leadership development, business collaboration, and networks of care that extend far beyond the classroom.

Because empowerment does not end at graduation.

Throughout the year, we also deepened how we partner with our Ugandan team—working more holistically, listening more closely, and resourcing local leaders to guide decisions within their own communities. These partnerships shaped everything from health strategy to water access to leadership training, ensuring solutions are community-led and sustainable.

Because of you, 8,000 moms were empowered with dignity in 2025.
Because of you, 1,400+ women graduated with confidence.
Because of you, clean water reached 18,000 people.
Because of you, systems of care grew stronger across entire communities.

As we look ahead to 2026, I am filled with hope. You may have noticed a new phrase around here that I am looooving. It is this: We believe in a world where healing is possible, thriving is expected and hope is contagious. And guess what? Just like we believe the mamas in Uganda are loved and worth loving and so are YOU – we believe all of these things about the world are just as true for YOU as they are for our mamas!



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Heal and Thrive Global

8,000 Moms Empowered in Uganda because YOU gave in 2025!

1



91% of our teen moms graduated successfully! ✨
*they are now joining our moms' groups!

2



17 new literacy centers opened
Funding for all 27 to open!

The \$\$\$

\$ \$598,938.32
Total Given



94% spent on
Programs



\$147.17
Average Donation



3,462
donations
\$100 or less

3



12 Wells Drilled



84,000 people
served

4



11 centers (1300+moms)
Graduated!
New Graduate Program
Launched!

The Numbers



511 total donors



4,068 total donations

5



470 Personal Home Visits

70 Foster Parents Trauma Trained

Heal
+
thrive

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Graduation Time!



In early 2025, 170 teen moms graduated from the program, marking the completion of a season of intensive support, learning, and healing. 91% of the young women who began the program successfully graduated, a powerful reflection of perseverance, community, and consistent care.

This graduation represented more than the end of a program ~ it marked a transition. These young women are now fully integrated into our moms' groups, where they continue to receive support, build relationships, and grow in confidence and leadership. Many are contributing financially to their households and stepping into new roles within their families and communities. Their graduation stands as a testament to what is possible when young women are met with dignity, opportunity, and long-term investment.



**170 Teen Moms
Graduated!**



**1200+ Moms
Graduated!**

The teen moms weren't our only 2025 grads! 2025 also saw the graduation of 1300+ of our main mamas ~ women we have known and walked alongside for years. Watching them stand tall, proud of themselves and of how far they've come, we once again found ourselves crying tears of joy. These graduations weren't just milestones, they were living proof of what hope, dignity, and long-term investment can do. Thankfully, with a team that is committed to long-term relationships, our Graduate Program is already in place. One that requires very little investment financially. but gives the women stability, business help and connected care within safe relationships



18,000 Reached With Clean Water!



A Village Called "Thirsty"

We began this well opening celebration like we begin so many: with a simple question..."who has been waiting/hoping/praying the longest for water in this space?" Except this time, everyone laughed. "What an odd response," I thought. "Why are you laughing? How long have you all been waiting for water?" I asked and it seemed everyone spoke at once ~ both to me and to each other ~ all in Ateso. Soon, someone translated to me. "They are having a hard time coming up with a number for you. Because the number is 'forever' Brandi. Don't you know the name of this village?"

"Acuna Akure" I replied - knowing only the Ateso name, nothing more.

"YES!" They all shouted back, seemingly in unison. Until one person responded in a still small voice:

"The name means THIRSTY."

My eyes filled with tears.

I looked over at the well.

I looked at my new friends.

We all had tears.

You will be thirsty no more.

A miracle had come.

Because YOU gave.

And we were there to witness it.

It was one of the most sacred days ever.

THIS is what it's like to be a part of bringing clean water to a village.

2025

♥ 12 wells this year

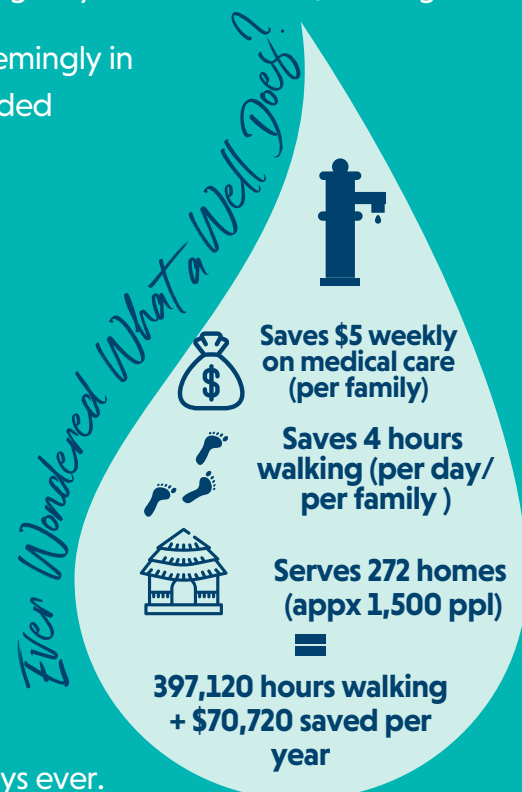
➔ 18,000 people

\$ \$90,000 raised

⚓ 5 wells funded already for 2026!

A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT THE MOM ABOVE. SHE WAS AT ONE OF OUR WELL OPENINGS IN JULY. WHILE EVERYONE ELSE PLAYED, SHE VERY SERIOUSLY PULLED BECCA AND I TO THE SIDE.

SHE HAD A PLAN!! SHE WANTED TO BE PHOTORGAPHED WITH HER POT. THEN SHE WANTED ME TO SEE A SET UP SHE HAD WHERE SHE DEMONSTRATED HOW SHE HAD BEEN DRINKING BAD WATER, AND WALKING FOR LONG DISTANCES, AND COOKING WITH POOR WATER. IT WAS AN ENTIRE 40 MIN WORTH. SHE WAS SOOOO READY. SHE WANTED A WHOLE MOVIE MADE. THIS IS WHY WE LOOOOVE HER AND HER SERIOUS FACE ABOUT WATER!



✦ Making Room at The Table ✦

In 2025 we added HUNDREDS of more mamas to literacy and raised the money to add 4,000 more!

During our trips we got to be a part of both literacy launches as well as gathering information for baseline surveys for women joining the program. Both experiences were eye opening, holy and utterly precious.

✦ A literacy launch held on a mass gravesite. Celebration where there once was devastation. Dreams fulfilled on the very site they were dashed.



At the literacy launches, many of the women celebrated starting literacy because they didn't get to go to school as children because of running from the rebels. Entire communities missed the opportunity for education during a time of civil unrest. One launch celebration was actually held at the memorial site of a mass gravesite. To be there....in a space where so much communal heartbreak had happened...where this entire community had seen terror...where these very mamas had fled while their families were brutalized...and yet to stand there while their childhood dreams were now realized 30 years later? It gave me chills. How sacred. A dance party ensued and tears blurred my vision more than once.

Getting to be with our staff in Uganda while they gathered the baseline information from our new moms was incredibly special as well. A significant number of women were starting from the very beginning, learning to hold a pencil, write their name, and count for the first time in their lives. In several groups, nearly half—or more—of the women had never attended school. Only 20% could write a few words and nearly half couldn't count to 10. Beyond literacy, entire groups told us they were drinking dirty water, had sick kids out of school every day and were spending all of their money (\$5 a week) on medical care for their kids.

{we put them on the list for water immediately! Some have it now, some have it coming and a few are waiting.

Let us know if you'd like to be a part of our clean water initiative by giving or raising money for a well!!}

It was eye opening to say the least. These days made us even more passionate about literacy and so excited to invite every single mama into the program!!



Community Health: Learning, Adapting, & Leading with Wisdom

2025

In 2025, community health became an increasingly urgent need across the villages we serve. In response, Heal and Thrive Global partnered with local leaders to host two sub-district-wide health camps in some of the largest and most underserved areas we work in. These camps provided preventative screenings, health education, and referrals for urgent medical needs.

As the year unfolded, our team learned important lessons.

While the health camps met real needs, we also saw limitations when partnering through broader government systems. Access alone was not enough. Sustainability, consistency, and trusted local leadership mattered more than ever.

So they paused. Listened. With real wisdom.

We LOVE this about our partners. They don't charge ahead simply because money is present...they use resources wisely, where it is best used on the ground and in best stewardship!

In 2025, we also resourced one local village clinic, strengthening care that is available every day, not just during special events. This experience helped clarify our path forward forever!!

Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, our focus shifts toward community-based healthcare, led by trusted local clinics and village leaders.

- Ongoing partnerships with local health providers to ensure sustainable, accessible care
- Funding already secured to resource 8 village medical clinics
- 3 additional health clinics planned

By investing in village clinics, we are supporting healthcare that is preventative, relational, and rooted in community trust—reducing long-term medical costs for families and increasing access to care where it is needed most.

Wise leadership means learning, adapting, and choosing the path that serves communities best.

2,660 Leadership Opportunities!

1 in every 3 women has a leadership opportunity. Here's why:

Leadership among the women is peer-elected and embedded into everyday program life. Women serve as Speakers, Ministers, and group leaders (it is a British based system) – guiding decisions, resolving conflict, and strengthening transparency across literacy centers and moms' groups.

Our leadership model is trauma-informed by design and with careful intention. Women who were disempowered are now given power. Roles are shared, time-bound, and community-supported, allowing women to practice leadership in safe, relational ways. Leadership is developed and mentored through coaching, training and encouragement. This approach builds confidence without re-creating systems of pressure, hierarchy, or harm. It is done with healing in mind.

As women grow in confidence and voice, many rise beyond program leadership into broader civic engagement. Today, women who began in literacy groups are running for (and winning!!!) local government offices, carrying their leadership into the wider community.

Our entire team is passionate about not just empowering moms, but developing leaders throughout their communities.

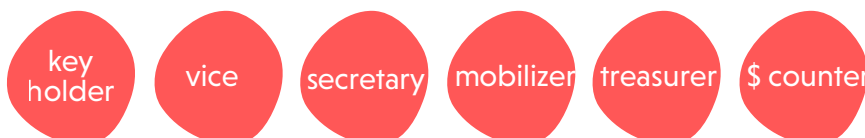
The Peer-Elected Leadership Roles

70 Center Leaders
(1 Speaker per Literacy Center)



70 of each role!
1 per Literacy Center!
A literacy center is comprised of 3-6 women's cooperatives.

280 Chairwomen
(1 for each group)



280 of each role!
1 per women's co-op!

Investing in Leaders... GLOBALLY



We believe in investing in OTHER organizations.

At Heal and Thrive Global, we believe lasting impact is built through healthy, supported leadership – not only within our own programs, but across the broader ecosystem of people doing important work around the world. Hard and holy work, as I describe it. Work that we know all too well costs something.

In addition to our community-based programs in Uganda, we provide inexpensive group leadership coaching and free retreats for nonprofit leaders and organizations navigating complex, high-stakes work. Many of YOU also invest in this program and have walked alongside leaders who have been strengthened, restored, and equipped through it.

This work reflects a core value we hold deeply: we are not meant to do it all, and we are not meant to do it alone.

Rather than operating from a mindset of scarcity or control, we choose collaboration, celebration and abundance. We believe in pouring into leaders who are serving in different contexts, cultures, and communities in every way we can think of....because when leaders are healthy, their organizations are stronger, and the people they serve are better loved.

Loved and worth loving starts with leaders living in that truth. We can't teach what we don't live.

“

Running a nonprofit can feel isolating and lonely. SoulCare gave me the space to step away, recharge and connect with a community of women who are both fierce and accomplished. That community continues to be a source of light and support for me long after the experience ended.”

--Bailey Gent,
Family Promise, AK

”

2 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

1. DONATE!!

It costs appx \$1000 per leader to go to a retreat. We host 8 leaders per retreat

2. PRESENTS!!

We collect gifts for all of our leaders. You can buy, make, etc 8 of any item and send them to us. We will add them to the gift baskets to make the leaders feel loved.

email team@healandthrive.global for more info



Financial Stewardship



We are passionate about stewardship at Heal and Thrive Global. With 94% of every dollar going to programs and vigorous reporting, we are proud to report we have achieved the platinum seal of transparency from Candid (formerly Guidestar - a nationally known Charity Research Site, examining 1.8 million organizations).

Our work is sustained not by a few large gifts, but by thousands of donors who give faithfully. The majority of donations in 2025 were \$100 or less, demonstrating the power of collective generosity and shared belief in the mission. Throughout the year, our leadership team worked closely with Ugandan partners to make thoughtful, data-informed decisions—pausing when needed, adapting strategies, and investing resources where they would create the greatest long-term good. This approach allowed us to remain financially healthy while responding wisely to changing conditions on the ground. As we look ahead, we remain committed to responsible growth, community-led solutions, and financial practices that honor both our donors and the women we serve.

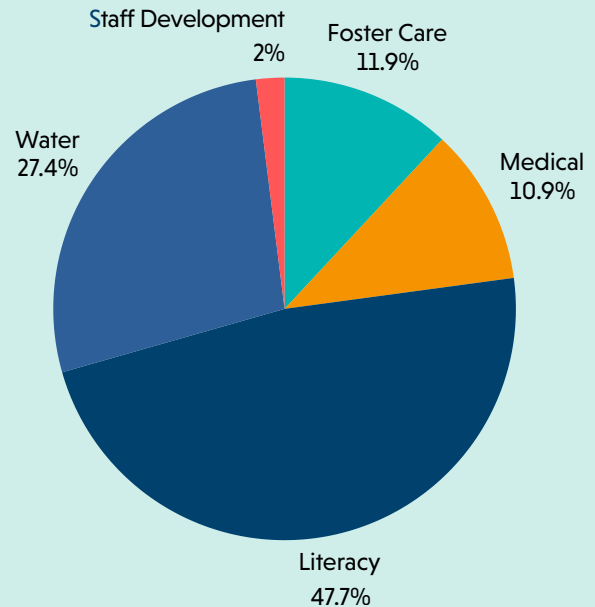
Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.



What went where in Uganda!

Reflects program spending across literacy, water, health, and care.





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