



TFN Live Events | Impact Report

Thank you for completing this Impact report so we can share with our network the outcomes of the project/program that you pitched at a TFN event. Please answer as accurately/comprehensively as possible, although we appreciate that you may not have exact answers to everything. If you raised funds after the event because of your pitch, we are keen to know about your success as we track this information. To save and resume your report later, click the SAVE button at the bottom right of the page. When complete hit SUBMIT. Thank you.

1. Organisation name

Smiling Hearts Uganda

2. Your name and position

Loretta Lilford | Co Founder

3. Email address

lorettalilford@hotmail.com

4. Date of the TFN event at which you presented

12/08/2021

5. Please outline the project/program and funding you pitched for at the TFN event.

Our pitch focused on establishing a Day Program to provide the existing Vocational Training to additional participants (all living with a disability), in the local community. We would need to purchase a 10 seater van as a means of transporting the participants to the Centre for training, and to purchase additional resources (Sewing and knitting machines) to accommodate the extra participants.

e.g. We pitched to employ a Volunteer Coordinator for 2 days per week...

Impact of Funding

6. Please describe how the funding was used and the implementation of the project/program.

In November 2021, with the news that our children could return to the Centre post COVID lockdown, the funding was put to use immediately with the purchase of a 10 seater Van. This enabled us to reach more youth in the community and offer them the opportunity to attend our Vocational Training. Hellen liaised closely with the local Masaka City Disability Officer to better learn who would benefit most from the opportunity.

A large function marquee was purchased to provide additional space for the extra students and resources.

The following equipment/resources were purchased

- 8 x Sewing Machines
- 2 x Knitting machines
- 4 x Tables
- 10 x Chairs
- Materials and resources to allow the students access to gain practical experience.
- Employment of a staff member to cook a lunchtime meal for the students so their time was fully utilised in the training program.

With all this in place, in late November the Day Program officially begun with 13 youth attending 4 x days a week. We also secured school enrolments and apprenticeships for those children who had the ability and desire to pursue these opportunities.

In April 2022, our remaining funds were used to purchase 4 acres of land close to the Smiling Hearts Centre, this enables us to grow our own food and raise some animals for sustainability. Timing is perfect as we were really noticing the rise in food expenses related to increased numbers of kids now attending the Centre and the significant cost of living in Uganda post Covid (Some products 3 times what they once were).

Hellen and the kids have been working tirelessly to clear the land and plant crops of Sweet Potatoes, Maize, Cassava and Matooke. To become as self sustaining as possible, we have many plans and look forward to making them a reality in time.

e.g. We employed our Volunteer Coordinator in month and he/she did...

7. Please describe the impact that the TFN funding has had on your organisation.

The impact of the TFN funding has been pivotal for our growth and success as an Organisation. We have been able to fast track and implement our dreams and goals to improve the lives of young ones living with a disability. Having the funds to target into education and training opportunities has freed our personal funds to direct into the Outreach Program where we assist children with medical interventions to overcome or assist their disability and provide their carers with an opportunity to generate an income through a home based initiative enabling them to care for their children at home.

As well as a means of transportation for the new day students, the vehicle has strengthened social connections for the Smiling Hearts in rural locations. More recently, the Smiling Hearts have been able to go out to the farm daily to work the land. This would not have been possible without the van or the purchase of the land. And again, we will be more financial secure as the land will reduce our ongoing monthly costs to provide food for the participants.

e.g. Having a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator has enabled us to increase the number of volunteers who support our program and to develop a more in-depth training program to support more young people...

8. How many people have been supported by programs or activities that were funded by the TFN donations?

The Program that has been implemented on the back of the TFN Funding opportunity has had an indirect impact on the entire disabled community, but on a granular level it has had a direct impact on the below:

13 x Day Scholars attending the Day Program four times a week
2 x Apprenticeship students
21 x Boarders at the Centre
13 x Children in the Outreach Program
8 x Carer home based initiatives
8 x Students living independently

The Funding Network event has allowed us to support 38% more people than the same time last year.

e.g. 45 young people participated this year, which is 25% more than last year, thanks to the new Volunteer Coordinator resourcing.

Also, consider and tell us about any indirect beneficiaries if you can.

9. Please tell us a short story about someone who has benefited from this funding.

Please see below Testimonial from the Assistant Mayor of Masaka City, who talks to the benefits of this Program on the entire community.

'I was honoured by your invitation to be part of the graduation ceremony of our youth with disabilities after having completed their vocational skills training at your Centre. I am extremely happy and exceedingly humbled for your enormous support extended to the marginalized and needy youth of Greater Masaka. Your support and Program has restored hope, confidence and trust and will uplift the living standards of our youth with disabilities to be responsible citizens of this country.

You were much more supportive of them when you gave them start up capital on graduation and this gave them much more confidence. We appreciate the Vocational Training that was extended to the youth with disabilities who are commuting from their homes. Many of them are unable to walk but the van has been much help and has caused much more positive impact in our community, as they have gained more experience in baking, tailoring, hair dressing and many other activities.

We look forward to seeing more mobilization of our youth with disabilities who are out there in a needy status.

I commend the work of Smiling Hearts and pray that you long live with us.

I thank you.

- Tusiime Mariam | Mayors Assistant | Masaka City

e.g. Jacob is one of young boys who has been helped through our program... Please change any real names or identifying details.

Use of Funds and Evaluation

10. How much funding did you receive through the TFN event for your project/program?

\$56,785.00

11. Please provide a budget breakdown on how the funds raised at the TFN were used. If not all of the funding has been used, please explain why. We will follow up with you if the budget shows more than 10% has not been spent.

3 x Electric Sewing Machines = \$960 AUD
2 x Pedal Sewing Machines = \$230 AUD
2 x Knitting Machines = \$565 AUD
4 x Tables = \$150 AUD
10 x Chairs = \$265 AUD
1 x Permanent Marquee structure = \$1050 AUD
1 x 10 Seater Bus = \$26,800 AUD
Materials & Sewing Needs = \$312 AUD
New Overlocking machines for tailoring = \$2460.36 AUD
4 x Acres of land = \$27,820 AUD

TOTAL = \$60,612.36 AUD

e.g. Training - \$1500, New equipment - \$3000 etc

12. Describe if, and why, any of the funding was used differently from what you described in your original pitch/budget..

Our pitch was for \$30,00 and this was used and implemented as pitched.
The excess funds (\$26,785 AUD) have been used to purchase 4 acres of land to aid self sustainability through growing crops and raising animals.

e.g. Due to Covid, it took about 6 months to employ the Volunteer Coordinator so some of the funding was redirected to....

13. What measures did you use to assess the impact?

No formal data was collected, however the impact was deemed successful due to:

- Increased numbers of youth with disabilities receiving skills/ competence in sewing, knitting, bakery & printing
- Increased numbers now receiving academic education
- An increase in orders for goods made by the Smiling Hearts at the Centre, allowing them funds to assist some in becoming self sufficient and increasing their sense of worth
- An increase in referrals from the Regional Disability officer, self referrals and other NGO's wishing to enrol participants.
- Due to the credibility and success of the program, Hellen (Co- Founder) was invited to be a representative of the Masaka Disability Council, as advocate in the empowerment of people with disabilities.
- Food grown on the 4 acres is now reducing the monthly costs of feeding for the children

e.g. We asked volunteers to complete a survey after they had been volunteering with us for 6 months etc..

14. Describe three ways that your organisation has changed in the past 12 months since the event. (You can also describe here how Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on and changed the way you work).

Due to the funds received at the TFN Live event, we have grown in size by 38% and have gained more credibility amongst the Ugandan community. This is evident from the increased referrals to the Program from Council Disability Services and other respected NGO's.

Hellen our Co - Founder has grown in confidence and is now a respected member of Masaka Rotary and represents those with disabilities on the Disability Council of Masaka. She feels more confident to seek and apply for funding grants in the country when relevant and available.

Since COVID, we have not been able to visit Uganda to bring crafts back to Australia to sell. However, the Smiling Hearts Centre have obtained local marketing of their goods. This is resulting in an ongoing small income earned in the Country. This will relieve some burden of sourcing markets and selling the goods in Australia.

Although the land is only in the early stages of establishment, the reduction in food costs will be a great relief financially for the program. The last 6 months have brought increases in food and living costs. Our monthly income has not been covering our costs, so this will be an enormous asset.

e.g. We have grown in size, maintained funding levels, improved services, reduced staff, relocated,

secured corporate sponsorship etc...

Please upload photos of the work supported with TFN funding.

TFN Photos.zip

These will be published on our website and sent to donors.

Videos

If you have any videos, please provide link for downloading or sharing here (e.g. YouTube, Dropbox, Vimeo, WeTransfer)

Post Event- Additional Benefits

15. Over the past 12 months, how important was your affiliation with TFN to your organisation?

Critical - We wouldn't be where we are now without it

We do not make any claim on additional funding you've received. We simply want to keep track of the leverage effect of introductions made through TFN.

16. Do you feel that association with TFN has helped to increase your credibility with donors and the philanthropic sector?

Yes

17. Over the past 12 months, did you receive any goods in-kind and/or pro-bono services from anyone you met through TFN?

No

We are keen to know about your successes. We track this information as part of our own TFN impact.

18. Has the TFN pitch coaching and mentoring helped you successfully secure funding from other sources after the TFN event?

No

Has the TFN pitch coaching and mentoring helped you successfully secure funding from other sources after the TFN event

Please provide more details

We haven't pitched for anything further yet as we have been busily implementing the Program funded by TFN. We will definitely use the skills learned through the pitch coaching for future opportunities.

TFN uses this information to track the impact of our pitch coaching. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

19. What were some of the other benefits of participating in TFN? (tick all that apply)

Pitch Coaching

Increased Visibility

Access to a new network and supporter base

Greater self confidence

A greater ability to articulate your proposition

Meeting other non-profits

Being introduced to the TFN Alumni Program

Being a part of the Alumni Network

As part of the TFN Alumni Network we aim to offer you continuing support to build your capacity through offering connections, opportunities and professional development experiences. We are interested to know

how effective this has been in the last 12 months.

20. Have you participated in any alumni activities (please tick all that apply)

- Kilfinan Australia Mentoring
- TFN Workshops or events
- TFN Bulletins/Newsletters
- Pro bono legal or accounting advice via TFN

21. Have you been sent any relative opportunities that have helped you? Eg. Baker McKenzie Legal advice, McKinsey & Company Executive Professional Development Training, BDO Scholarship, Aus Post Mental Health Grants etc.

22. Have you connected or collaborated with any other TFN Alumni? If yes, has this resulted in anything beneficial?

Further Support

23. Please let us know two current pro-bono or in kind asks you have?

*We will communicate these to our donor network but can not guarantee that it will be achieved.

24. Do you have any other comments or feedback on the TFN experience or funding process?