

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Reimagining the Future

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# BULA

# BULA: 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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P.O. Box 147  
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BULA

BULA 2019 Annual Report

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# FOUNDER'S WORDS

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This past year has been an exciting one here at BULA. We saw our students finish up their University education - while others wrapped up their secondary school education. Having supported these young people through their formative years of schooling, it has been incredible to see them close these important chapters in their lives. We are very proud of them.

As the educational support programs we run wane, our newest project: Uganda Care Leavers (UCL) is taking off. Our research was wrapped up this year and we are excited to see it culminate in a comprehensive report on the experience of young people before, during, and after they've left institutional care. This report will have wide reaching relevance as more and more countries are grappling with the plight of care leavers.

We have an incredible team who has helped make all of this work possible. I am so grateful to my partner, Angie Max, to our Board of Directors, to our partners and staff in Uganda, and to my family and friends who encourage us every step of the way.

Sincerely,

**Melissa Fricke**

**BULA**

# THE TEAM

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Angie Max  
Assistant Director



Mai Nambooze  
Care Leavers Coordinator



Melissa Fricke  
Executive Director



Evelyne Nantenza  
Head Social Worker

## BOARD MEMBERS

Shauna Dixon Chang  
Joseph Charchalis  
Caitlyn Cook  
Kathleen Froelich

Karen Fricke  
Thomas Fricke  
Amanda Thorman

# PROGRAMS

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BULA ran four major programs in 2018: The Educational Fund, The University Scholarship Program, Home at Last, and Uganda Care Leavers. These programs each touched on different aspects of BULA's mission and collectively work to achieve our overarching goal to empower youth in Uganda.

## Uganda Care Leavers

Uganda Care Leavers was organized in 2016 to support a very specific population in Uganda – those who have left orphanages. After engaging hundreds of care leavers across the country in workshops and data collection, UCL has been organized into a structure of elected chairpersons who represent different districts in the country. Through their leadership and ideas, the project has formally made a plan to offer services in response to the needs of care leavers.

Meanwhile, their voice has been captured through our research and will help advocate for care leavers rights and for the families first approach to child care.



Uganda Care Leavers Retreat, a break from the workshop



Celebrating the care leavers and the holidays



Chair of a district care leavers' group

# PROGRAMS

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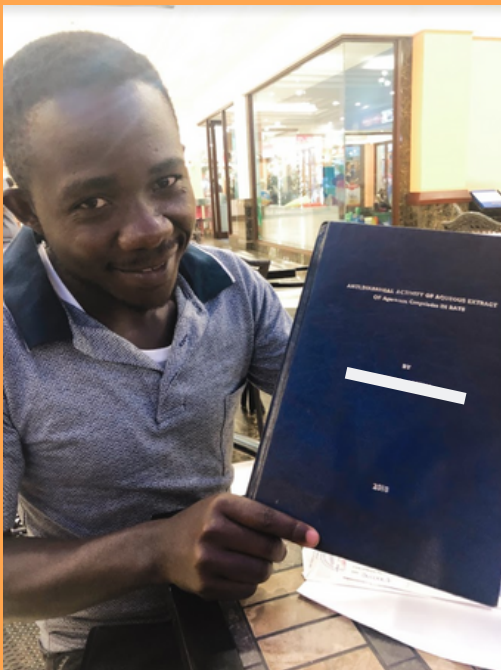
## Educational Fund



Recipients of educational support from BULA meet for a workshop on career development

The Educational Fund has been sponsoring the education of vulnerable youth since 2009. The students supported through this initiative are wrapping up their years of schooling in vocational and secondary schools. In 2018, we had students finishing up their education in mechanics and working in hands on internships – with others finishing up their secondary school education focusing on physics and mathematics.

## University Scholarship



University student and soon to be graduate sharing his research and report from his Biology course

The University Scholarship program has provided higher education access to 7 students thanks to individual donors. Three students wrapped up their university degrees in 2018 and will be graduating and entering their careers in 2019. We are so proud of this incredible group.

# PROGRAMS

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## Home at Last



Recipients of educational support from BULA meet for a workshop on career development

Since 2013, BULA has continued to support the families that were reunited after the closure of an orphanage through committed social work and counseling. Running workshops for financial independence, regularly interacting with a dedicated social worker, offering counseling sessions with a licensed therapist, and offering career mentoring are among the major activities through Home at Last.

## Annual Director Visits



BULA participated in a workshop sponsored by Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to reimagine alternative care

In early 2018, Founder, Melissa Fricke, visited Uganda with Board Member, Karen Fricke. To close out the year, Director, Angie Max, visited as well. Rounding out the start and close of the year allowed for serious progress for BULA's programs - especially in the growth and development of Uganda Care Leavers - the jointly run nation-wide project servicing >1000 care leavers.



# FINANCES

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**>94%**

**FUNDS RAISED WERE  
USED TO DIRECTLY FUND  
OUR PROGRAMS**

**\$1500/  
YEAR**

**TO SPONSOR A  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOLARSHIP**

## SUMMARY

In 2018, BULA raised over \$58,000 thanks to two major events: Sayville Running Company's 10 Mile Run to the Brewery in January and the BULA Cocktail Party in September, as well as to individual donations made throughout the year. Several of those donations were outright scholarships for select University students. These funds have allowed BULA to thrive and continue with its major operations. Nearly forty percent of program expenses now are targeted towards the Uganda Care Leavers Project as the educational support initiatives begin to wane due to aging out and graduating students.

# LOOKING TO 2019

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## UCL, GRADUATION, AND MORE!

In 2019, we expect to see Uganda Care Leavers take off following the dissemination of the report summarizing two years worth of research. The attention that research will garner in the child protection field is bound to expand UCL's activity.

Meanwhile, BULA will continue to see its Educational Fund and University Scholarship program thrive though at a much smaller scale. As the students sponsored complete their studies and shift into the workforce, these programs will come to a close.

Home at Last's efforts to support families will also begin its steady closure. As the young adults monitored in their family reunification continue to move towards financial and social independence, BULA can confidently withdraw the level of social work support to these individuals and their families. Five years of consistent support has proved to be successful.

In 2019, we look forward to the continuation of our partnerships and collaborative efforts to support young people in Uganda – and we look forward to another year of great impact.

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