



2015 ANNUAL REPORT  
EKISA MINISTRIES

WHERE UNCONDITIONAL  
LOVE TAKES *root*





# MISSION

Ekisa Ministries is a nonprofit organization based out of Fishers, Indiana. Ekisa Ministries provides those living with disabilities in Uganda, East Africa, a place of understanding and assists them in their physical, mental, and spiritual growth

In Luganda, the local language of Uganda, Ekisa means “Grace.” By showing God’s grace to children in Uganda living with disabilities, we wish to see each child transformed by His glory.

# VISION

We envision a Uganda where each child grows up in a loving family, despite his or her disability. We dream of children being cared for by parents, relatives, or neighbors who can offer them the long-term unconditional love, attention, and support they need. Our vision sees the end of discrimination toward children and adults living with disabilities in Uganda – it hopes instead for the celebration of differences. We boldly dream of the day where no more children need to be institutionalized. And until the day comes when Ekisa’s services are no longer needed, we will stand in the gap; to give respite to children who need love and care, and empower parents and families to best care for their children.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2015 has been quite a year for Ekisa. In February, we launched Ekisa Academy in addition to our Residential Care and Community Care programs. Through Ekisa Academy, we are providing special education to 45 students. Twenty-seven of those students had never been given an opportunity for an education... until now. Lives are being changed.

I must admit that as I began to reflect on 2015, I immediately began to count our perceived failures. The children not yet placed in a forever family. The resettlements that were unsuccessful. The growing waitlist for our programs. It was one of those years when you are so deep in doing the hard, messy work that it can be easy to lose sight of the big picture of what God has done and is doing through our ministry.

It was only as I spent time gathering information for this annual report that I was able to see the beauty in the challenges we faced. I was reminded that our God is a God who restores, a God who walks with us through the valley, a God who is not done with us yet. We hope you can celebrate with us as you read about our successes in the coming pages.

Ekisa continues to grow each year in new ways that always surprise me. But each year one of my favorite surprises is the constant love from each one of our supporters. Without you, these pages would be blank. Thank you for walking with us. Thank you for helping fill these pages by supporting our ministry. Thank you for making 2015 - and every previous year - possible.

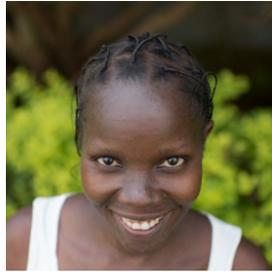
*emily worrall*

EKISA MINISTRIES & CHILDREN'S HOME



WHERE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TAKES ROOT.

WWW.EKISA.ORG INFO@EKISA.ORG P.O. BOX 817 JINJA, UGANDA





With a team of over 50, each staff member at Ekisa brings their unique skill set to the table, while working together to make Ekisa possible. Each staff member is dedicated to standing up for children living with special needs. They advocate for change and hope so that each child Ekisa serves will be seen as fearfully and wonderfully made.

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# MEET THE TEAM





**RESIDENTIAL CARE**

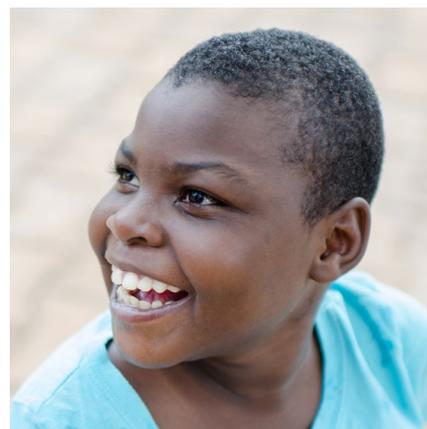
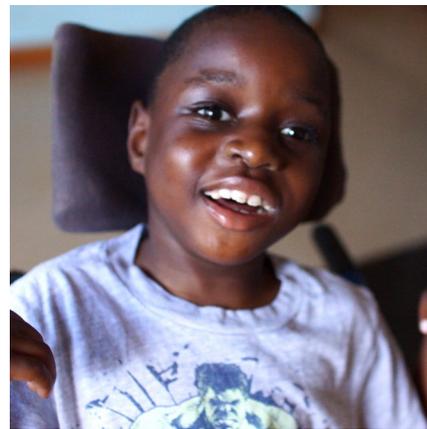
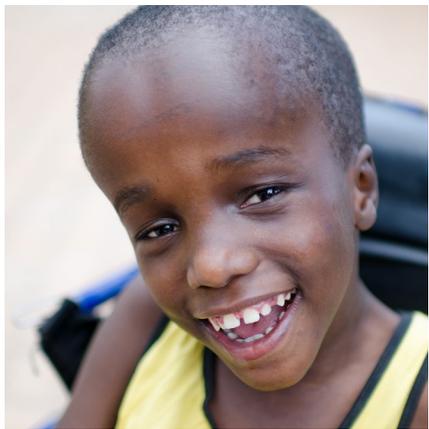


# OVERVIEW

Ekisa's Children's Home doors opened in February of 2011. Since then we have become "home" to 33 vulnerable children living with special needs. In 2015 we had zero admissions, and three children were placed in a family setting. Our goal is permanency for each child. While we love these children to the best of our ability while they are in our care, our heart's desire is for each of our children to have a family. We fully believe that an orphanage is no place for a child to grow up, and our social workers are diligently working on exit plans for each child.

The child care staff work around the clock in shifts to ensure the best care possible for the children. We strive to support the children that reside at Ekisa's Children's Home to the best of our ability. We keep our staff-to-child ratio low so that children get as much attention as possible.





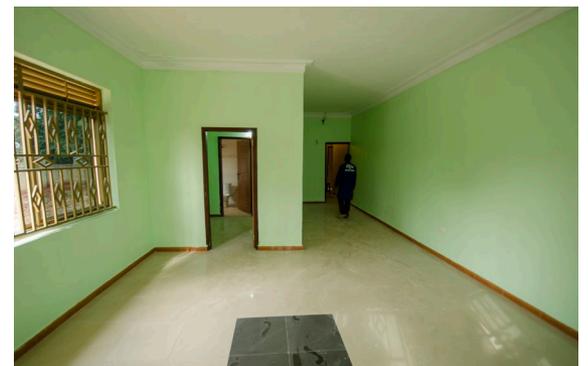


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**MEET THE KIDS**



In early 2015 Ekisa was in desperate need of renovations. Over the years, while the house itself began to wear, bedbugs invaded. After various attempts, the bedbugs did not take their eviction notice seriously. A plan formulated for Ekisa "2.0". We moved our children down the road and brought in construction workers, professional painters and cleaners, and lots of helping hands. After two weeks of hard work, we moved back into Ekisa with brand new clothes, beds, mattresses, freshly painted walls, and a newly paved driveway. The excitement of that day will forever be remembered - the staff and children were thrilled to see the transformation. The property of Ekisa finally felt like it reflected the love and quality of our mission.



# EKISA 2.0





# GIDEON'S STORY

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Gideon's case shows that institutional care, when used properly, can help a child and their family. In 2011 Gideon started out in Ekisa's Community Care Program. He was constantly falling sick due to complications from living with Sickle Cell.

Our Social Work Team intervened and provided education and counseling to his family, but nothing was changing. Afraid that Gideon would pass away due to neglect, he was admitted to Ekisa's Residential Care Program in 2013. By keeping his family involved, they were able to see firsthand the dramatic change in Gideon's health due to taking his medicine, eating healthy, and drinking plenty of water. When we first counseled his family, they did not see immediate results and therefore did not follow through. Something clicked with the family as Gideon was in Ekisa's care, and the Social Work Team was able to pursue resettlement.

Gideon's neighbors from the village once told an Ekisa staff member that Ekisa was wasting their time trying to help Gideon. They said he was useless and nothing could be done. Now they see Gideon healthy and growing, and their children run, play, and even attend school with him. Gideon and his family now understand how to manage Sickle Cell and he is so happy to be able to live with his family.







**COMMUNITY CARE**



# OVERVIEW

Ekisa's Community Care Outreach Program (CCO) seeks to come alongside families within the community who have children living with special needs. We offer a range of core services that include physiotherapy, counseling, epilepsy care, surgical and medical cost assistance, educational seminars, and business classes for parents.

Families of children living with special needs often lack support, resources, and information about their child's special needs. As a result, some are left unable or sometimes unwilling to care for their child. Ekisa's Community Care Program exists to prevent that breakdown from happening by empowering parents and families to best care for their children. Orphanages without proper gatekeeping feed in to a perpetual cycle of child abuse and neglect.





# NIGHT *to* Shine

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW**  
FOUNDATION™

2015 was the first year that the Tim Tebow Foundation held Night to Shine, with the vision to provide an extraordinary prom night experience centered on God's love for people with special needs. Ekisa Ministries was honored to be one of their inaugural prom locations.

On February 13, 2015, families and children gathered along the shores of Lake Victoria to dance the night away. Food was shared, and flowers were distributed. The paparazzi made an appearance on the red carpet and caused quite the excitement. The night ended with fireworks over the lake - which caused even more excitement as the children and caregivers ran in terror. Lesson learned for next year: more flowers, less fireworks.

Night to Shine was an unforgettable evening for all in attendance.





**EKISA ACADEMY**



# OVERVIEW

At Ekisa Academy, we strive to empower children living with special needs to reach their highest potential by providing quality, specialized education. We utilize a multi-disciplinary approach to learning by targeting individualized physical, functional, social, academic, and sensorimotor goals through occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and behavior therapy, music and movement, vocational skills training, and more.

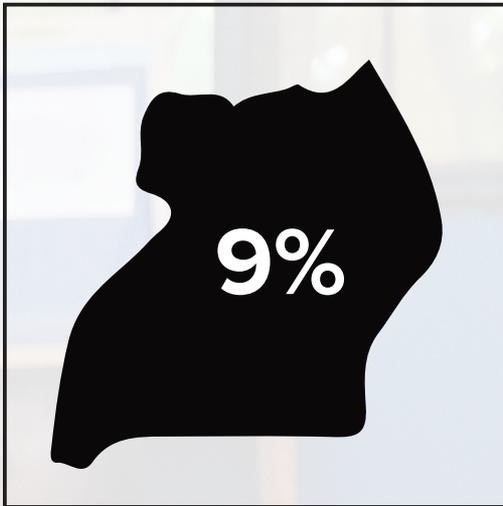
Since the start of Ekisa's Community Care Program, it has become very clear that many families face immense challenges in finding suitable schooling for their child. Many schools do not have the resources and staff available to give the proper attention and care to children living with special needs. Schools that do provide these services are not typically an option due to proximity and expense. Our desire is to provide families with access to a specialized school program that can meet the individual needs of their child.

Many milestones have been met by the children, and progress continues to be made on a daily basis. It is our hope that Ekisa Academy will not only benefit the individual lives of each child that attends, but will continue to improve the mindset of those within the community in regard to the negative stigma tied to special needs.





# THE NUMBERS



**Children living with special needs that attend school.**



**Children living with special needs that attend secondary school.**



**Children from CCO that are enrolled in Ekisa Academy that previously attended school.**

Special Education is an area that is lacking in Uganda. Ekisa Academy hopes to fill this gap by providing quality education to children living with special needs.



# SAVIO'S STORY

Before Ekisa Academy opened its doors, Savio was never given the chance to attend school. Many schools in Uganda are designed in a way that makes receiving an education nearly impossible for Savio and so many other children with special needs. Inability to provide transport to and from school for students who need special care, lack of accessibility in the school, and teachers who are not trained to work with students with special needs or do not have adequate support are some things that make these families decide to keep their children at home. In 2015, after years of dreaming and planning, Ekisa opened up Ekisa Academy, and Savio was, at last, going to school.

Savio recognized many numbers and letters, completed basic addition and subtraction problems, improved his fine motor ability, and so much more. He quickly picked up new information, and we could always count on him to try his best with a top-notch attitude. Whether his group was working on Daily Living Skills, studying Bible stories, or trying to decipher between different verbs, Savio demonstrated a strong desire to learn and to understand every concept. Not only academically, but also socially Ekisa Academy has allowed Savio a chance to develop wonderful friendships with his peers. You can often find him out at recess laughing and playing with his classmates and the caregivers. He has a mean soccer kick and loves to have motorcycle races against his friends on the playground. Savio's jaja (grandmother) works diligently to help Savio at home, and the growth we have seen throughout the year has been astounding.

Ekisa Academy works to allow students the opportunity - that they absolutely deserve - to receive an education that will equip them with necessary skills to be positive and notable members in society. We fully believe that Savio will continue to learn and will one day effectively work to prove to this country that disability in no way means inability. Savio can do whatever he puts his mind to, and there is no doubt that he will continue to put his clever mind and loving soul to incredible use. When Savio grows up, he wants to be a lawyer, and we are thrilled and honored that Ekisa Academy gets to be the beginning of his beautiful educational journey.



AKIM  
ARAFAT  
ASHER  
BUMALI  
DANIEL  
DEBRA



DENISE  
ELIJAH  
FAITH  
FIONA  
HABIBA  
IBRA



INNOCENT  
ISAAC  
ISAAC  
JACKSON  
JAMES  
JERUSHA



JORDAN  
JOSH  
JOSHUA  
JOSHUA  
KATO  
LUKIA



MAUREEN  
MICHELLE  
MISACH  
MWERU  
NANCY  
OJAMBO



PATRICIA  
PAUL  
RACHEL  
ROBINAH  
SANYU  
SARAH



SAVIO  
SHAMIRA  
SHIFRA  
SHIFRA  
SHIVAN  
TASHA



TREASURE  
ZAK

**EKISA ACADEMY // *the yearbook***



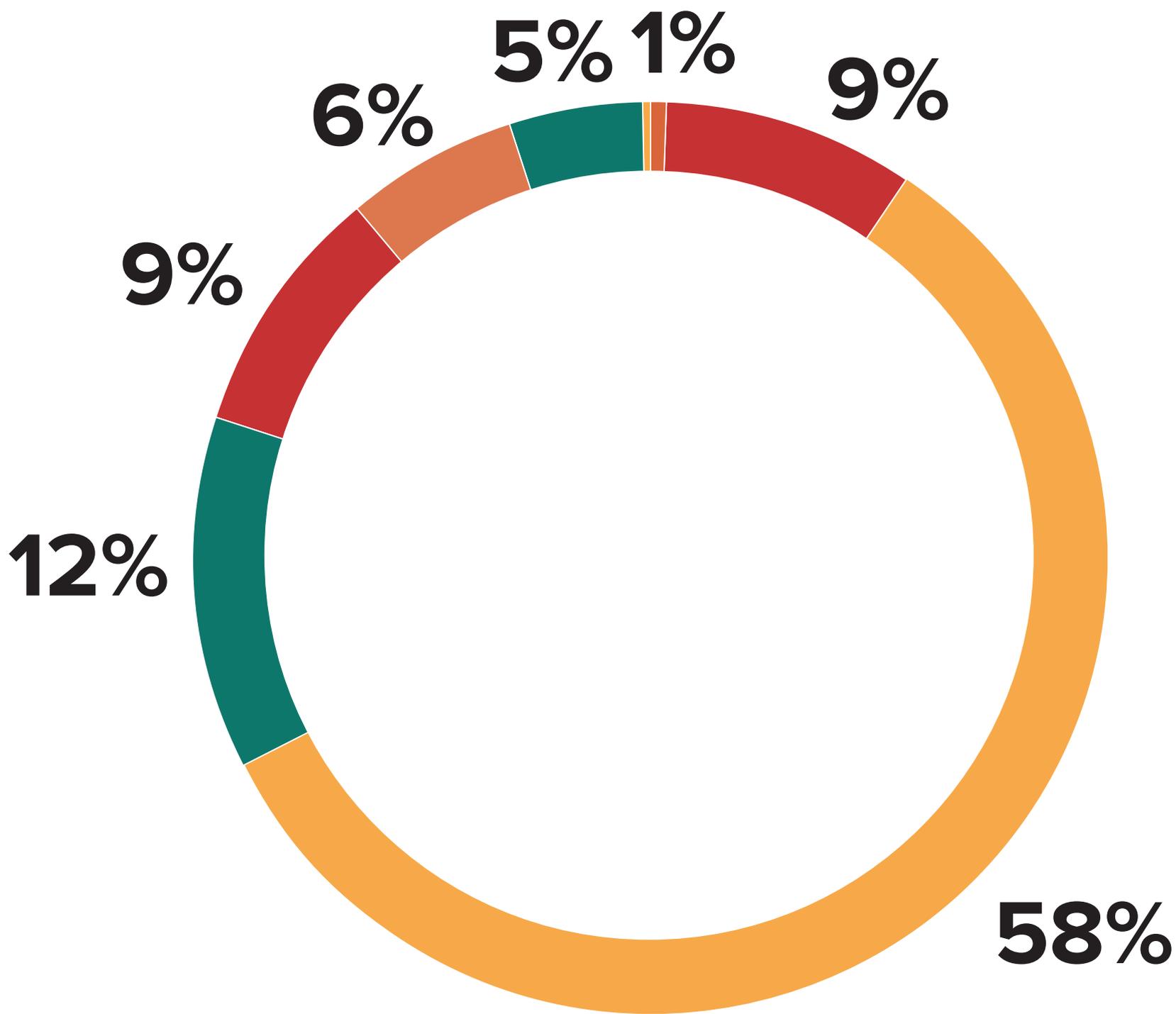
# FINANCIALS

INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS	\$322,923
IN-COUNTRY DONATIONS	\$2,253
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$325,176</b>

CHILD CARE	\$116,725
FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	\$36,521
TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES	\$12,437
COMMUNITY CARE	\$6,712
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$5,133
FUNDRAISING & ALLOCATED FUNDS	\$19,425
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$196,953</b>

\*All financial reports are in US Dollars (USD), and an average exchange rate has been used to convert our in-country accounts. \$1 USD = 3,165 UGX

\*Financial reports do not include US operations. Income is made up of donations received by the US office in Indiana as well as the US office in Uganda.



# CHILD CARE BREAKDOWN

UGANDAN STAFF SALARIES	\$67,945
FOOD	\$14,453
MEDICAL CARE	\$10,557
SUPPLIES	\$7,190
SOCIAL WORK	\$5,282
EKISA ACADEMY	\$10,119
ADOPTION CARE	\$944
MISC.	\$235
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$116,725</b>

