



**EKISA MINISTRIES  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2016**



**WHERE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TAKES ROOT.**

**EKISA MINISTRIES EXISTS  
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF  
LIFE OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS IN UGANDA >>>**





**RESIDENTIAL  
CARE**



**COMMUNITY  
CARE**



**SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

*"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Your works are wonderful. I know that full well." Psalm 139:14*

On days when I fail to see the big picture, God often steers my heart back to these words that have been painted on Ekisa's walls since we first opened our doors in 2011. Six years later, they continue to ring true for over 100 children living with special needs served through Ekisa's residential, community, and special education programs.

He knew exactly what He was doing when He created each of our children with special needs. He handpicked each of their families, and knit them together in their mothers' womb. Perhaps most incredibly, He's hemmed Ekisa into the gap, allowing us to see 5 families created, and 90 families kept together. This is God's heart come alive on earth. This is grace that stops me in my tracks.

2016 has been a transformative year for Ekisa. In February, we celebrated Ekisa Academy's 2nd year of operation. In a few short years, our school has grown to nearly 50 students. Parents who never imagined they would dress their children in school uniforms now proudly send their children on a bus to school each morning. Slowly but surely, the walls of stigma are coming down, and hope is growing in its place.

And that is exactly what 2016 was for Ekisa – a season of growth. In November, we welcomed Jared Scheppmann onto Ekisa's team as our new Executive Director. As we look ahead into Ekisa's next chapter and all that God has in store, we take a moment to remember all that He has already done. Thank you for playing a vital role in allowing Ekisa to grow and come as far as it has. It is your collective prayers and generosity that allow us to witness firsthand stories of redemptive love unfolding in Uganda. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Jane Yoon

*On behalf of the Ekisa Board of Directors*

EKISA MINISTRIES & CHILDREN'S HOME



WHERE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TAKES ROOT.

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

***“SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE  
WALLS OF STIGMA ARE COMING  
DOWN, AND HOPE IS GROWING  
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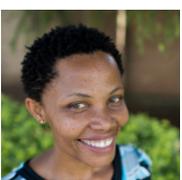
**ADMIN**



**CHILD CARE**



**SOCIAL WORK**



**THERAPY**



**NURSING**



**TEACHERS**



**SUPPORT STAFF**



# MEET THE TEAM

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Ekisa's team reached well over 60 in 2016. With each new staff member we welcome, Ekisa strengthens its mission to advocate for children living with special needs. 2016 brought much growth – from additions to the therapy team, to a new social work team manager, to tremendous growth in Ekisa Academy staff. We are so thankful for each of our staff members and the value they bring to the overall mission of Ekisa.

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## A WORD FROM CHRISTINE

Christine was one of Ekisa's inaugural staff members. Over the years, we have seen her grow and take on more and more responsibilities. It became apparent that we needed a home manager to take on many responsibilities at Ekisa's Residential Care center, and Christine was a natural fit.

*"As the home manager I love my job. It has helped me to become a better leader. I joined Ekisa as a childcare worker, I then was promoted to shift supervisor and now home manager. At times it can be challenging work to manage staff. We have a large team with varying personalities. A lot of my job is counseling staff members and coming to a mutual agreement between people." - Christine*



# RESIDENTIAL CARE

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In 2016 Ekisa was home to 20 children living with special needs. Daily, these children's physical needs are met with love, engagement, and encouragement from our amazing staff of caretakers and therapists.

Ultimately, though, we work so that each child might have a family, either through resettlement, foster care, or adoption. The social work team makes every effort so that each child can have the best life possible in a loving family.

## QUICK STATS

2,704

KILOS OF RICE EATEN

152

DOCTORS VISITS

20,075

DIAPERS CHANGED





# MEET THE KIDS



# SANYU'S STORY

*"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3*

In 2014 the social work team received a call from the national referral hospital in Kampala. There was a baby girl who was in immediate need of care. The social workers did initial background investigations but could not identify any family members. Sanyu was admitted to Ekisa's Residential Care center for temporary protection and care while the social work team began to trace for her parents. After many days of field work the social work team was able to identify Sanyu's mother, Sophie.

It was evident that Sophie cared deeply for her daughter. However, at the time she had nowhere to live and had no income. The social work team began the diligent process of building rapport and trust with Sophie. After trying and failing to find Sophie employment in Kampala, it was decided she could work at Ekisa. This would provide her with an income and allow her to build a relationship with Sanyu. Sanyu also had immense health issues and Sophie was able to learn from the medical team at Ekisa how to best care for her.

While this was a long process, the ultimate hope was for Sophie to be comfortable and stable enough to have her daughter home with her. In December 2016, after being home on a three-month trial resettlement, Sanyu was officially released into her mother's care. Today they are thriving and happy, finally home together. Sanyu returns to Ekisa each week, but now as a student in Ekisa Academy, and her family continues to benefit from our Community Care program.

**"HAVING A JOB WITH EKISA HAS ALLOWED ME TO PROVIDE FOR MY DAUGHTER AND GIVE HER LOVE AND CARE. I NOW FIND JOY IN TAKING CARE OF HER." - SOPHIE**



**FEB 2011**

Ekisa Ministries opened its doors to their first child.



**APRIL 2013**

Ekisa had its first Community Care day, inviting families to learn about the services offered.



**MAY 2012**

Ekisa placed their first child for adoption in a Ugandan family.



**DEC 2013**

Ekisa completed their first resettlement of a child back into their family.



**JAN 2014**

Grants were given to the first round of business class graduates.



**MARCH 2016**

Ekisa celebrated 5 years of changing the stigma surrounding children living with special needs.



**FEB 2015**

Ekisa Academy opened its doors to students.

# **FIVE YEARS OF CHANGING THE STIGMA**

# COMMUNITY CARE

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In 2016 Ekisa's Community Care program grew to over 90 families. Our dedicated team of social workers and therapists work hard to ensure each family has the support they need to raise their child living with special needs.

Our heart at Ekisa is to see children living with special needs celebrated in their own families and communities. The Community Care program turns this desire into reality by empowering families to better care for their children.

## QUICK STATS

29

NEW FAMILIES ADMITTED

8

KIDS NOW SITTING UP

7

KIDS NOW WALKING





## **COUNSELING**

Our social workers provide counseling and emotional support to all families in our Community Care program. By supplying support and encouragement, families are empowered to raise their children.



## **PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Our therapy team works hard to ensure that children are not only receiving treatment when they come to Ekisa's center, but also works with families so that they can continue therapy exercises in their own homes.



## **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

Our medical team walks with families through some of their most stressful times. By sharing the load emotionally and financially, families are able to care for their children to the best of their ability.

# **SERVICES PROVIDED**

# MEET CRISPAS

*“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?” Jeremiah 32:27*

In March 2016 Ekisa welcomed Crispas, a curious and playful little boy, to the Community Care program. Crispas was eight years old, had hydrocephalus, and was not able to walk. At the time Crispas joined the Community Care program, he was slightly malnourished. The social work team advised his father on proper diet for children living with special needs. The father was very responsive and followed the recommendations. It was evident that Crispas had loving caregivers, but like many in their situation, they needed help.

Crispas and his family’s main needs were counseling, medical assistance, and physical therapy. Crispas had received surgery for his hydrocephalus, but his family lacked finances for proper medical follow-up. Ekisa was able to help provide the transportation costs to and from the hospital so that he would receive the care he needed. To help with his physical needs, Ekisa’s physical therapist, Isaac, visited their home and taught the family how to do exercises at home. Crispas also received monthly sessions with Isaac. This November, after being diligent with therapy for six months, Crispas started walking! Today his sessions are not just on a therapy mat, but outside in the grass, learning how to kick and dribble a soccer ball. Our social workers, therapists, and the rest of the Ekisa staff celebrate with Crispas and his family, and will continue to come alongside them to see that Crispas makes even more developments.

**“I LOVE MY SON AND CARE ABOUT HIM A LOT.  
I SEE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HIM AND HE IS  
VERY SMART.” - CRISPAS’ FATHER**



# SPECIAL EDUCATION

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An estimated 90% of the 100 million children living with disabilities in the developing world do not go to school. For 2 years, Ekisa Academy has been overcoming this barrier, and in 2016 provided specialized education to over 40 children, including children in our Residential and Community Care programs.



## QUICK STATS

5

NUMBER OF CLASSES

158

DAYS OF SCHOOL

45

STUDENTS

# ASHA'S STORY

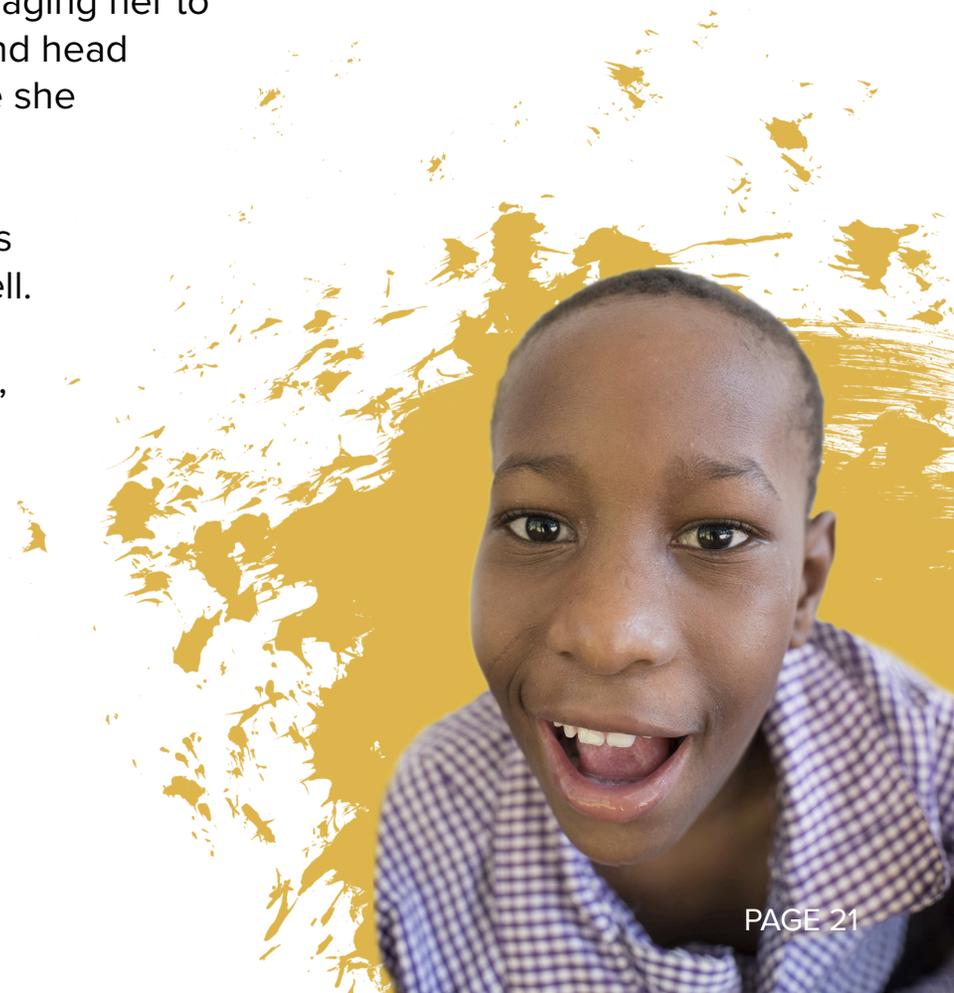
*“The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive.” Proverbs 16:21*

At the beginning of 2016 Asha had very few ways of expressing herself. While she could smile, cry, and laugh to communicate her feelings, she still had much more to say.

At Ekisa Academy, Asha's teachers work everyday, encouraging her to express herself. We began by using yes and no choices and head motions. Asha proved her brilliance and showed everyone she has so much to say! Soon after Asha started using her yes and no prompts to talk, she began using a communication book. It takes a lot of work and persistence to learn what is essentially a new language, but she is doing amazingly well.

Asha is now learning to express her thoughts, ask for help, ask questions, complain, describe, make requests, and even tell her own stories. She is able to communicate with teachers and have fun with friends. She is learning that her voice has value and that people want to hear what she has to say.

Asha has so much to tell us, and as she continues to learn how to communicate, more people will have the honor of hearing her resilient and inspiring voice.



# FINANCIALS

Ekisa Ministries tracks every dollar donated to its mission. We take your faith in God's work through Ekisa very seriously and are diligent about using our resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

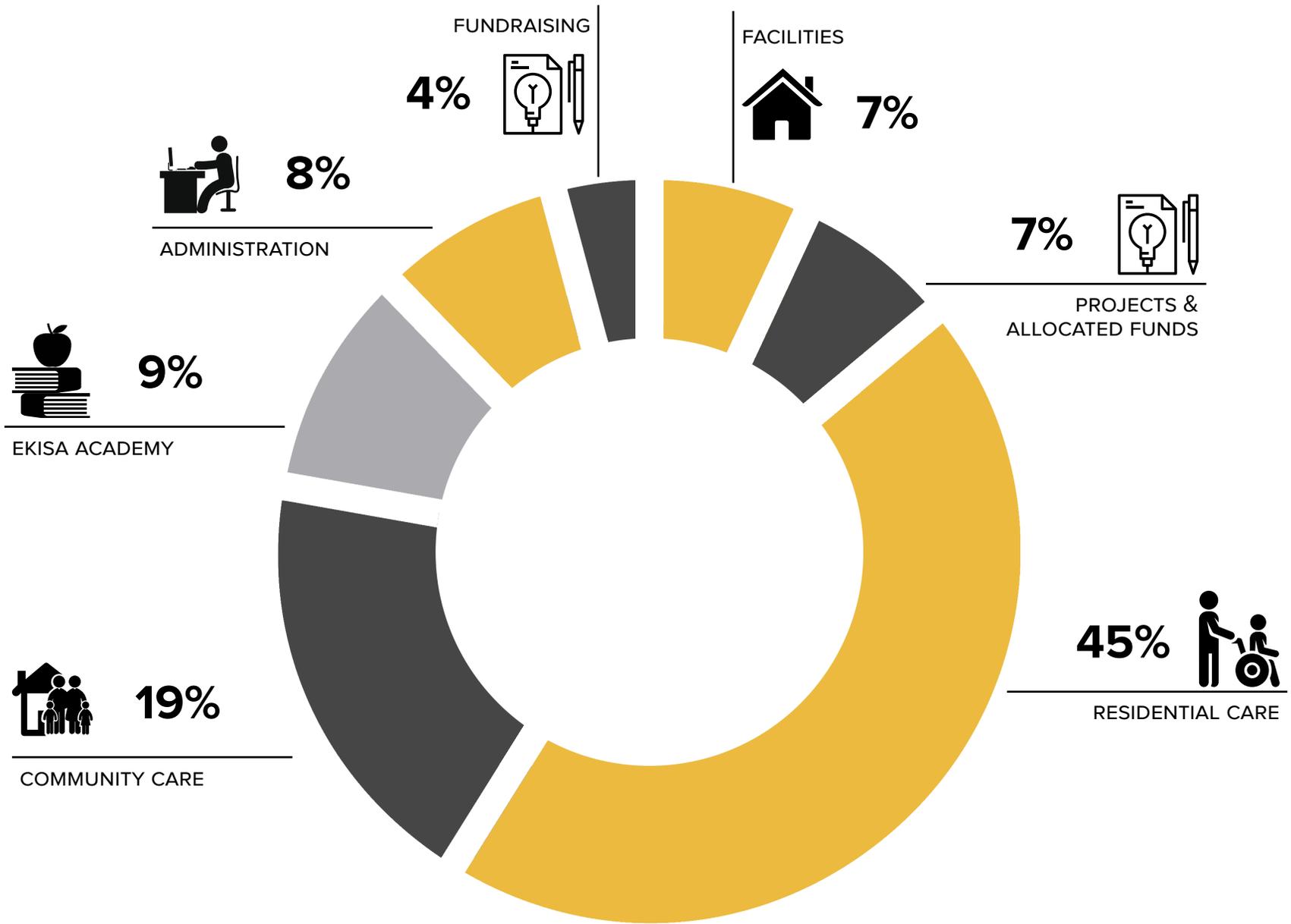
US DONATIONS 2016: \$293,363  
UGANDA DONATIONS: \$2,461

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**TOTAL: \$295,824**



*\*All financial reports are in US Dollars (USD) and an average exchange rate has been used to convert our in country expenditures. For 2016 the average of \$1 USD = 3,364 UGX.*



**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$248,955**

INCLUSIVE OF US AND UGANDA EXPENSES

**LOOKING FORWARD**



The provision, direction, and timing of God have time and time again revealed His faithfulness in my own life. 2016 was no exception as He brought my family and me to Ekisa. Joining the team has been a great blessing, and I have been astounded and encouraged by the commitment and enthusiasm that exists for Ekisa – within our staff, our board members, our volunteers, and our donors. Joining Ekisa has meant joining a community that is truly committed to and invested in improving the lives of those living with disability. It is that unyielding commitment that enables the staff of Ekisa to press on every day.

This year, Ekisa is working diligently to continue the momentum God has given us. While we are amazed by what God has enabled us to do in 2016, we believe that Ekisa can still make a bigger impact in the lives of children living with special needs and their families. In addition to the daily work of loving, educating, and rehabilitating, this year will include some specific focuses. Our social work team will focus on expanding the services and scope of our Community Care program, adding more elements that will empower families to become financially stable and plan for their future. We will continue to promote and educate both communities and families on foster care. Most people believe that they would never be able to care for a child with special needs, but we aim to show them just how possible and joyful it is. We will continue to work hard in the resettlement of children in our Residential Care program who have existing families, helping them see the blessing that their children really are, as well as teaching them how they can best care for their child.

Finally, we are beginning to pray and dream about the future. As the children we work with grow, and as the need for the work of Ekisa remains great, we believe that we are only just beginning. We will relentlessly pursue the most effective ways to improve the quality of life for those living with special needs, while pointing them to the God who is faithful in all things. We hope you continue to join us on the journey.

Blessings,  
Jared Scheppmann  
*Executive Director*





*DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF ISAAC  
APRIL 2010 - DECEMBER 2016*



[WWW.EKISA.ORG](http://WWW.EKISA.ORG)