

# Our Labour in Love



**2021 ANNUAL  
REPORT**

SAVE the  
M&THERS.org

# ABOUT US

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## **Our Mission**

To train local leaders in the developing world to reduce maternal mortality within their own countries.

## **Our Vision**

That no mother or child should die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

## **We Believe**

That universal access to quality maternal care in pregnancy and childbirth is a basic human right.

## **We Work**

In partnership with other like-minded groups and individuals.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## Dear Friends and Supporters of Save the Mothers,

As I reflect back over the year I am reminded of how far we have come since Save the Mothers was just an idea in the minds of the founders of this organization. Over 600 students have gone through our Masters of Public Health Leadership Program in Maternal Health. These indigenous leaders are the “Game Changers” on the ground, making a difference in the outcomes for women and children during pregnancy and childbirth, addressing the needs not only at present but for years to come.

**But this would never have been accomplished without your partnership in this life changing work.**

Together we have made great strides in addressing this tolerated tragedy of preventable deaths that affects so many. We are so thankful for all gifts, large and small, and for our major donors who have provided so many mothers with life saving equipment in hospitals and clinics. The stories that come across my desk bring me HOPE. We are a small organization doing a lot of heavy lifting. **But we still have a long way to go.**

Your support has given hope to so many of the most vulnerable women and keeps us moving towards our Vision:

*that no mother or child should die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.*

In closing, on behalf of Save the Mothers here and in East Africa, I want to express my appreciation. You too are the “Game Changers” as your gifts continue to provide monumental change and life for so many.

**Because of your support and contributions, so many mothers have survived. They too would also echo their immense gratitude and say, “Thank You”!**



Sincerely,  
*Mary Harvey*

**Mary Harvey**  
Chairperson, Save the Mothers





The loss of a mother due to preventable death is twice the tragedy: it robs the child of its mother and puts the burden on grandmothers, or worse, the older children that are left behind, who are often ill equipped to provide for the child's needs.

- MATERNAL HEALTH IS CLOSELY LINKED TO NEWBORN SURVIVAL.
- CHILDREN WITH A MOTHER HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING AN EDUCATION.
- MOTHERS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN FEEDING THEIR FAMILY AND SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

To give:  
[www.savethemothers.org/donate](http://www.savethemothers.org/donate)  
or cheques made to  
Save the Mothers  
27 Legend Ct.  
P.O.Box 10126  
Ancaster, ON  
L9K 1P3





# PROGRAM UPDATE



## MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Save the Mothers "Masters in Public Health Leadership" continues to be an outstanding and inspiring model for systemic change. Students from all around Africa choose to enrol in this program, housed at Uganda Christian University (UCU), because of the quality of education, and the success rate of our graduates.

Once again, all classes and exams were conducted online. As a result, in 2021 STM revised its curriculum to better address this format. Enrolment was down this year as pandemic shutdowns had a major impact on jobs and the ability to pay school fees. **There is a major need for additional scholarships this year.**

**17 students  
graduated  
in 2021**

**600 students  
graduated  
to-date**

**13 students  
waiting to  
enroll**



# FIELD NOTES



## COVID-19 IN UGANDA

The pandemic took a heavy toll in Uganda, though not in case numbers or deaths. In June 2020, the government enforced countrywide school closures, public transit and market shutdowns. This had an especially devastating impact on girls. The economic pressures also led to an increase in forced child marriages and child labour. It's estimated that teen pregnancies rose by more than 36 percent between March 2020 and June 2021.\*

\*Source: WHO

This shutdown also prevented our Save the Mothers team from visiting projects and partners in the field - especially remote rural areas.

Thankfully, our program is built on empowering local leaders, which allows our life-saving work to continue year round.

In 2021, our Save the Mothers East Africa team made several visits to Mbale city and Bududa district, Eastern Uganda, to gather impact reports

Our Save the Mothers East Africa team interviews a mother. Communications director Agutu Teopista follows and documents the progress of graduates and how they are helping mothers.







One of those leaders is Rev. Moses Mukholi, who is working to help rural women like Sylvia (right) get access to emergency obstetric care. Distance and cost are reasons why many opt not to deliver in health centres - but Rev. Moses is overseeing a community outreach program that visits homesteads with health care workers and organizes emergency transport.



**18 year old Christine delivered a baby girl by caesarean section. This was her first child. She was sexually assaulted and left alone. She had no close family members who could help her pay for her care.**



**MUSOKI CHRISTINE**  
18 YEARS

**Kagando hospital in Kasese, western Uganda, is run by administrator Enos Maate, an MPHL alumni. Save the Mothers has provided an emergency fund, to purchase essential medicines required to treat mothers in need.**



**Leadership Matters.** None of our work is possible without our graduates on the ground - who conceive plans to meet the need of mothers. Edwige Namwanga (left) used a data based approach to lobby the Ugandan government for an expansion of the health care facility she leads - which has led to an increase in safe deliveries. She credits her success to the Master's of Public Health Leadership program which is recognized as a quality program by Ugandan health authorities.



## MEETING MOTHERS' NEEDS WITH OUR MOTHER BABY FRIENDLY HOSPITAL INITIATIVE

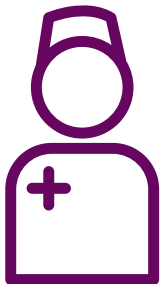


Though frail and tired, Faith (left) is thankful to be alive. At nine months pregnant, she fled from her abusive husband only to end up sick. She was taken to the Buhungo Health Centre, where she was diagnosed with HIV and TB. Thanks to a grant through Save the Mothers, Faith received anti-retroviral treatment and followup care. The centre is also part of the "Post-Natal Care for You" project which sends midwives to make house-calls to a mother once she has delivered. Midwives were able to ensure that both Faith and Moses, her newborn son, were healthy and taking the required ART medication.

When most people think of maternal mortality, they have images of a mother dying during childbirth. But did you know that 60 percent of all maternal deaths occur AFTER the delivery? Postpartum hemorrhage remains the leading cause of maternal deaths around the world.

Midwives are the unsung heroes in the fight against maternal mortality. That's why our program is working to mobilize more on the frontlines - especially in rural areas where access to care is cumbersome and costly.

The Bulambuli district in Eastern Uganda is one such area. With a population of over 200,000 there are an estimated 10,000 deliveries each year. Many of these deliveries will take place at home.



In 2021, Save the Mothers was able to equip and send out midwives to meet with 250 new mothers in this district. Their visits were coordinated with village and community representatives - building relationships and trust. The need is great and so is the opportunity to scale up this program.



A midwife visits at the home of a mother who has recently given birth. They are trained to spot any potential risks before they become fatal.

High Dependency Units at five hospitals are receiving much needed medical equipment. We expect to see a reduction in maternal and neonatal deaths within one year following the delivery of this equipment.

Equipping these hospitals will contribute to the reduction of preventable deaths by specifically improving the quality of care for mothers who reach the hospital with life threatening complications.



Director, Save The Mothers EA, Dr. Miriam Mutabazi delivers medical equipment to Tororo General Hospital in Tororo District



**Nafuna** from Mbale city bled heavily during labour. The fact that she was taken to the hospital immediately where a C-section was done saved mother and baby.

**Justine** got a fistula after delivery. She also lost her baby. For over two years, she lived with urine running down her legs, in isolation and letting off a foul smell. After several surgeries, Justine finally stopped leaking urine. By the time this happened, she had lost her marriage and livelihood.



**Sarah** lost a 32-year-old daughter to childbirth complications in the hard to reach mountainous areas of Mountain Elgon. Her daughter went into labour at night and they could not get transport to take her to hospital. The family only managed to get transport when day broke. However, it was too late to save her life. She died on arrival at the hospital.



## **Fund/Project Supporters**

Leila C Reader Fund ~ supports  
Emergency Care

Jefferies Fund ~ supports High  
Dependency Units

Kelton Scholarship Fund ~ supports  
Annual Scholarships

Bridgeway Foundation ~ supports  
Stronger Together - PNC4U

McMaster University ~ supports  
Last Mile project





#### Emergency Care - Leila C Reader Fund

Under the Leila C Reader Fund, Save the Mothers received funds for emergency medicines to support vulnerable and needy mothers. Save the Mothers partnered with three facilities. They are Boro Boro health centre in northern Uganda, Mbale People's hospital in eastern Uganda and Kagando hospital in Kasese, western Uganda.



#### PMC4U - Bridgeway ~ Stronger Together Project

To provide postnatal care to all mothers and newborns in 5 hard to reach communities in Uganda through building sustainable linkages with qualified midwives.



#### High Dependency Units - Jeffs Fund

Save the Mothers partnered with the Jeffs family fund to establish High Dependency Units in hospitals that are identified by the Ministry of Health as having high burden in maternal newborn health related illnesses and deaths. These facilities are serving rural districts of Uganda.



#### Annual Scholarship - Kelton Fund

Each year a student is chosen by Save the Mothers East Africa to be the recipient of the Kelton Fund scholarship program. 2021 recipient was Jude Chukwuemeka Onwueme,



#### Last Mile Project - McMaster University

“The “last mile” project reaches out to adolescent populations to support equitable sexual and reproductive health and rights in Uganda.

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

## Save the Mothers

### Summary Statement of Financial Position

June 30

2021

2020

#### Assets

##### Current

Cash	\$ 187,806	\$ 44,468
Accounts receivable	16,565	22,222
Inventory	4,876	6,809
Prepaid expenses	<u>3,622</u>	<u>4,428</u>
	212,869	77,927

Restricted cash and short-term investments - endowment

21,304 21,304

Equipment

3,167 6,590

\$ 237,340 \$ 105,821

#### Liabilities

##### Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 26,139	\$ 87,270
Deferred contributions	<u>15,810</u>	<u>308</u>
	41,949	87,578

#### Net assets

195,391 18,243

\$ 237,340 \$ 105,821



# FINANCIAL POSITION

## Save the Mothers

### Summary Statements of Operations and Net Assets

Year ended June 30

2021

2020

#### Revenue

Individual and corporate donations	\$ 264,118	\$ 130,442
Institutional contributions	192,921	88,535
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	27,979	13,273
Event contributions	12,120	81,204
Book and product sales	8,560	373
Interest income	17	21
Donations in kind	-	48,096
	<u>505,715</u>	<u>361,944</u>

#### Expenditures

Program expenditures		
Mother Friendly Hospital	111,052	51,256
Masters program	51,792	70,067
	<u>162,844</u>	<u>121,323</u>

#### Support services

Administration	112,204	157,792
Promotion	53,519	111,129
	<u>165,723</u>	<u>268,921</u>

328,567      390,244

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures      \$ 177,148      \$ (28,300)

Net assets, beginning of year      \$ 18,243      \$ 46,543

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures      177,148      (28,300)

Net assets, end of year      \$ 195,391      \$ 18,243





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Dear Friends,

Save the Mothers is considered a small not-for-profit with revenue under \$1 million. Prior to 2020, much of the donations to STM have generally come from two major donor events, an annual gala/silent auction and Mother's Day walks.

The Covid-19 pandemic was a major disruptor. Restrictions made it impossible to host any events, resulting in a major reduction in donations in 2020. Sadly, these losses came as needs became even more acute in East Africa.

## Meeting the Challenge

Like many charities, we've had to pivot on how best to navigate the pandemic challenges while keeping donors informed of the urgent needs of mothers and babies. In 2021 we increased our digital outreach; through email, social media and newsletters, and thankfully our donors responded, leading to an uptick in donations from the previous year. In addition, volunteers stepped up with new fundraising initiatives in Newfoundland and Alberta. The first ever Save the Mothers Club was established by a committed group of students at Queens University, and we were approved for several grants.



But we are still in recovery mode. When donations declined in 2020 it was not easy to reduce fixed costs. However, considerable effort has gone into reducing fixed costs that will have a permanent effect. The staff is now reduced to one full time and one part-time employee, working out of virtual rather than physical offices. Contractors are hired on an as needed basis. All the processes have been reviewed and costs continue to be reduced thanks to the efforts of the STM Manager. The result is a significant reduction in fixed cost for the 2021 year, allowing for more flexibility with donation volume. A monthly gift is the most efficient way to support a charity since it requires far less administration so your gift will have the maximum impact.

The introduction of new ways to give via e-transfers, legacies and securities has increasingly been accessed by donors. Gifting a security (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs) supplies funding to save the lives of mothers and babies, and at the same time provides the dual benefit to the donor of a charitable donation receipt and freedom from tax on any capital gains from the security. Securities donations can be made through: [www.linkcharity.ca](http://www.linkcharity.ca).

## Ongoing Needs

Our partnership with Uganda Christian University to produce Master of Public Health graduates continues. **But Covid has reduced the student's ability to earn their schooling costs. As a result, there is currently an urgent need for \$1,000 donations for scholarships to allow the Masters of Public Health complete their schooling.** This is more than just a degree, it's a powerful tool of change as leaders go back to their communities to initiate lifesaving projects to reduce maternal mortality.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Save the Mothers as together we save as many mothers and babies as possible from death by preventable causes.



**Darryl Chapman**  
*Treasurer, Save the Mothers Board of Directors*



Save the Mothers grad and local government official Andrew Koolya speaking to a group of mothers about a "maternity basket fund", where each invests a small amount to cover future emergencies.

**Scholarships URGENTLY needed!**  
Help get our students across the finish line and into the field to save mothers and babies!

To give: [www.savethemothers.org/donate](http://www.savethemothers.org/donate)  
or cheques made to  
**Save the Mothers - 27 Legend Ct. - P.O.  
Box 10126 - Ancaster, ON - L9K 1P3**

Save the Mothers graduate Jeremiah with a newly acquired three-wheeler ambulance - perfect for the rough roads in rural Uganda.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mary Harvey**  
*Board Chair*

**Heather Sinclair**  
*Vice Chair*

**Darryl Chapman**  
*Treasurer*

**Esther Atemo**

**Rebecca Collett**

**Katherine Johnson**

**A.J. Rooke**

**David Weind**

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**www.savethemothers.org**



This annual financial report presents highlights of our work for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. It offers summary financial statements. For a complete copy of Save the Mothers audited financial statements email: info@savethemothers.org

**Save the Mothers is a registered Canadian Charity  
#82876 7335 RR0001**



**That no mother or child should die  
from preventable causes related to  
pregnancy and childbirth.**