



Echoes Around the World

2006

Annual Report

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President's Message

Each time I have traveled to Uganda, I have been approached by young men and women of school age. These young people are not beggars. They are well dressed, well spoken and humble - they present themselves to me in ways to try to prove their worthiness. Yet, one can see a certain desperation in their eyes. They do not ask me for food. They do not ask me for help to care for themselves or members of their family. They do not ask me for outright handouts of money. What each and every one of them asks is if I would sponsor their education.

We in the United States and in developed countries throughout the world take this one privilege very much for granted. In Uganda, children are emboldened by the knowledge that without an education, they have little hope for a productive future. Many are orphans who have lost the breadwinner in the family. Most of these young people have come from villages where public education is either unavailable or substandard. Education is their pathway to hope, and they know it. In today's Uganda, tuition-based schools provide better educational opportunities.

From its official launch on May 15, 2006, **ECHOES Around the World** was well-positioned to assist David and Sarah Serunjogi, visionary leaders and educators in Uganda, to educate and care for the many children who attend the schools they have founded. This was made possible because of a relationship developed and nurtured over the past 10 years that began during a church outreach and mission program with David and Sarah Serunjogi who founded of Trinity Children's Center and Centenary High Schools. With one quarter of its current 1800 students unable to pay full tuition, **ECHOES** was able to meet the shortfalls for the 2006 academic year, ensuring that teacher salaries were paid in full and on time. AIDS-orphaned students were fed, clothed, housed and educated. Land was purchased for a new girls' dormitory at Trinity and construction of a new three story boys' dormitory was begun at Centenary.

Monies were invested for future use, creating a positive cash flow for future projects and **ECHOES** has set aside funds for emergency needs and projects for 2007.

Working With Our Partners in Africa

In our work with our African partners, ECHOES has adopted an adaptive approach. The Ugandans know best what they need and what will work for them. This has been demonstrated over the course of time and witnessed by board members on return visits to the schools. The inventiveness that Rev. Serunjogi applies to problem-solving creates a symbiotic relationship between each school and the communities at large. This is important in a country where security is an issue. Purchases and projects support the local economy. For that reason, ECHOES discourages "donations in kind" unless very specific in nature;

rather it targets donations to projects that are self-sustaining and encourage independence from donor organizations.

Over the past few years, several income-producing projects have lent themselves to this symbiosis. In order to provide food for daily school lunches, a maize mill was constructed. This not only provides maize flour to the school but also provides jobs; furthermore, the community now has a local mill where grain is ground for a fee, thus providing revenues for the schools. In addition, the Main Hall at Trinity Children's Center functions as a testing site, additional classroom space, and a recreational area for school children. It also raises money for the school because it is used as a community entertainment center for viewing World Cup Soccer matches. The School Marching Band is often hired to perform for weddings and community celebrations. In 2006 ground was broken and construction begun for the Double Cure Medical Clinic. While it will serve the school population, it will also provide the community with much needed medical care and health education.

Accomplishments in 2006

ECHOES has been able to achieve much in its first year of operation.

- **ECHOES** received its 501(C)(3) non-profit status in February, 2006.
- The **ECHOES** organization launch was May 15, 2006.
- A website, www.EchoesFoundation.org, was launched December 15, 2006
- Donations for the year 2006 exceeded budget projections by 35%.
- Land was purchased for a new dormitory at Trinity Children's Centre, to house 80.
- A three-story dormitory is under construction at Centenary High School to house 250.
- **Double Cure Medical Clinic** is under construction; projected opening late 2007.
- Information sharing and partnership projects have resulted in fundraising and project awareness with students at **The Agnes Irwin School, The Haverford School, and Greenwich Academy.**
- The **ECHOES** Board of Directors was increased to five members and our Advisory Board membership increased to seven members.

The acronym **ECHOES** stands for Educating Children and Communities for Health, Opportunity, Enlightenment and Survival. **ECHOES** supports the work of the Serunjogis as they meet the challenges of children and their communities in Uganda.

When visiting Trinity Children's Centre and Centenary High School it's difficult not to notice the children who stand outside the school gates or at the windows of the classrooms. These are not students of the schools, but children of their communities. These children cannot afford the education and there just isn't enough room to take them all in. But many of them stand, for long periods of time, to listen to the lessons of the day. The value of an education is not lost on them.

ECHOES Around the World focuses on one child at a time, one community at a time. Through the generosity of our donor network we are able to impact two communities in very positive ways through our special partnership with the Serunjogis, indigenous Ugandan educators and leaders. It is our hope that our efforts to ensure a stronger Uganda will echo back to the world, promoting global understanding and motivation for peace.

**ECHOES Around the World
Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2006**

DONATIONS

Unspecified	\$ 43,149.00
Centenary High School	25,000.00
Trinity Children's Centre	650.00
Double Cure Medical Clinic	1,490.00
Gifts in Kind	302.08

TOTAL DONATIONS.....\$ 70,289.08

DONATION DISTRIBUTION

Centenary High School	\$ 26,217.94
Trinity Children's Centre	5,000.00
Double Cure Medical Clinic	400.00

TOTAL DONATION DISTRIBUTION\$ 31,617.94

OPERATING EXPENSES

General Expenses	\$ 1,416.11
Website	4,103.00
Fundraising Function Expenses	878.62
Professional Services/Policies	2,190.00

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....\$ 6,424.73

ENDOWMENT VALUE

Money Market Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Interest Income	395.06

TOTAL ENDOWMENT.....\$ 25,395.06

ECHOES Around the World gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of all of its donors. The following is a list of all donors for the 2006 fiscal year.

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Echoes 2006
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Those who serve on our Board of Directors and Advisory Board receive no compensation for the work they do on behalf of the organization.

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