



# ASA SOCIAL FUND

For Hidden Peoples

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



students supported



### PILOT PROJECT LAUNCHED

Our Disability Training Project launched in late 2021. In East Africa, a person with disabilities is looked upon as a curse, limiting educational and employment opportunities. The pilot project targeted Kenyan adults in their early 20's who are physically disabled and unable to find work because of their disabilities.

Four students were enrolled in the Lengo Agricultural Demonstration and Training Center, Eldoret, Kenya for a six-month program learning how to bake bread, cakes, buns and biscuits, snacks, and other products. They were also trained in entrepreneurship, communication, life and computer skills. After their six month training, they had to spend two months in an internship in a baking business.

In December 2022, three out of the four students successfully graduated with one of the three already starting her own baking business. The monitoring of the pilot project will continue through May 2023.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRSIDENT

**DR. LOUIS A. PICARD**

The year 2022, has been a productive year for ASA Social Fund for Hidden Peoples, though it has been difficult for our partners in East Africa. They are still recovering from the impact of the COVID lock downs. Rising gasoline, food and other commodity prices have badly affected the region. In addition, Uganda suffered an outbreak of Ebola during the year. Despite these challenges, ASA has continued to work successfully with its partners and even expanded its program support during the year.

In May/June, 2022, Pauline and I visited Uganda and met with our partners, Bright Kids Uganda (BKU) in Entebbe and Women's Advocacy Network (WAN) in Gulu. We saw firsthand the challenges and the continued good work achieved by our partners. We met BKU staff, students, and micro loan recipients in addition to Noah's Ark School for the Disabled staff and students. We discussed strengthening strategies for BKU and Noah's Ark to better carry out their work.

We then traveled to Gulu and met with the WAN leadership and interviewed 25 micro loan recipients. We were pleased to find that despite the economic challenges, they successfully carried out their businesses and were repaying their loans. They told us that the income from their businesses helped to pay their rent, put food on the table and pay school fees for their families. During our visit, we agreed to start a 4th micro loan group which began in December.

Carmen Parise, ASA's senior advisor, visited Kenya in May/June 2022 as part of our new initiative to support vocational training for physically challenged people. He met with John Opar, ASA representative in Kenya, the Lengo Training Institute and met with the four Kenyan students who attended the program. During his visit he received positive and encouraging information about the pilot program.

ASA continues to support BKU in its core mission, to provide scholarships for BKU students in primary, secondary school and at university and other tertiary education training. We continue to seek out long term funding support such as that provided by the Fred and Maxi Bruhns Foundation. In addition, we support staff development activities at BKU and Noah's Ark School for the Disabled.

In closing, I am pleased to inform you that we had a very successful "Giving Tuesday" campaign this year for which we would like to thank all of our supporters.

My Best Wishes for 2023.

# EDUCATION

## FRED AND MAXI BRUHNS FOUNDATION

One of "Maxi's Kids" who has been sponsored for the last several years, received top marks at the grading period this year. Thanks to the support of this fund, she was able to achieve the highest academic grades.



## ENGAGING YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY

ASA Board member Dr. Bok-gyo Jeong connected a junior at a high school in Illinois with ASA. She is passionate about addressing solutions to global challenges, and has avid interests in the global studies and international relations fields. In summer of 2022, she launched "Emerging Open Innovation Leaders (EMOIL)" Club at her high school. In this club, she strives to educate her peers about the new business model—open innovation—and ultimately, provide support for underprivileged students through the practice of social entrepreneurship.

Outside of curriculum development, she led her EMOIL members in fundraising money for the students in Uganda. Just recently, Uganda had undergone a COVID-19 crisis, so many students have fled to local islands in order to avoid the epidemic. This inspired her to take the next step in her journey of social entrepreneurship: fundraising. Currently, she is working with the other EMOIL board members towards launching both an online and offline art auction. With the funds, she plans to purchase tablets and/or kindles to implement her curriculum notes and materials into the devices so that the students she teaches in Uganda can have an untroubled learning experience.

## ASA CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESSES

Educational supports have made tremendous and life changing impact on the students we support.

Connie and Ivan were first supported in 2011 when they were in Primary school in Uganda. 12 years later, 2022, Connie has now successfully completed university and is now employed working in agricultural training for the farmers in northern Uganda. Ivan has graduated from university in 2022 and is now completing his internship prior to entering the work world in Information Technology.



## Students sponsored

Thank you to our educational sponsors!

- **Dave S.**
- **Hannah and John M.**
- **Pauline and Lou**
- **Mary S. and Bob J.**
- **Bok J.**
- **Mandy T.**
- **Fred and Maxi Bruhns Foundation**

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ruth, was receiving financial support from ASA when she became ill with AIDS and was unable to support her four daughters. Within six months Ruth died and ASA then financially supported the four girls with their educational fees. All are now in school thriving. Rachel, the oldest has completed her education this year, and will be enrolling in salon training.







4 out of 5 groups successfully maintained repayment of loans



active members

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Florence is a WAN member and started learning how to make wine after the LRA war. During the war, she survived by living in Internal Displaced Peoples Camps and endured extreme hunger and unsanitary living conditions. She was able to secure a loan which enabled her to purchase jerry cans, and wine ingredients in addition to a wine cap sealer. She has registered her wine under the name Lomena and now has a successful business selling sweet and dry wine to local hotels and Gulu residents.



## POST COVID INCENTIVES

As with many parts of the world, the effects of COVID lockdowns have lingered.

Our micro-loan recipients had to adjust their activities as a result.

Despite the challenges, the majority of the group members have continued to repay the loans. As an incentive for repayment the groups that paid the loans back received an "incentive" grant of \$50 at the end of the year.

## MICRO LOAN GROUPS CONTINUE

Our micro-loan groups continue to prove successful. ASA supports five groups with a total of 29 women and men - four groups in Gulu and one in Entebbe. The groups in Gulu have been operating for 3 years, and the group in Entebbe since 2016. They have continued to receive additional loans that they have re-invested in their businesses.

One of the recipients diversified her business when her basket sales slowed down. With her loans this year she started a new restaurant in addition to her basket making.



# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



# In Recognition



Nick Langston, who has served on ASA's Board of Directors since 2018, is stepping down from our board as of December 2022. He has been a valuable member of our board, most recently serving as Board Chair. Throughout his tenure on the board, he not only raised significant funds for one of our former partner organizations, he was also instrumental in securing annual funding from the Fred and Maxi Bruhns Foundation. As Board Chair, Nick created our executive committee and provided support and guidance in developing and strengthening ASA's overall organizational goals.



Mariah Fosnight has also stepped down from ASA Board as of December 2022. Mariah has supported ASA in many capacities in addition to her duties on the Board. Prior to her work on the board, she developed a "training of trainers" manual for our micro-loan groups. In addition to her duties on the board, she also volunteered to take over the management of ASA Enterprises, selling Ugandan crafts to support ASA's Economic Empowerment activities.

## Special Thanks

**We are especially grateful for the generous donations from the Parise Family in Pittsburgh, PA for their on-going support for ASA's activities and partners. Their contributions have provided much needed salaries for teachers and physical therapy needs for the children living and receiving care at Noah's Ark.**

**Space at the Antique Mall at Ohio River in Pittsburgh is also provided where the Parise family sells hand-crafted African crafts. The Mall owner has graciously donated this space so 100% of all proceeds go to ASA Social Fund for Hidden Peoples' Kenyan and Ugandan projects serving vulnerable and fragile "Hidden Peoples".**





# ASA SOCIAL FUND

## 2022 Financial Spotlight

### 2022 FUNDS

#### Income

Operating Expenses	\$15,545
Emergency/Bridging Fund	\$2,864
Development Fund	\$12,544
Maxi's Kids	\$5,000
Education/Scholarships	\$15,846
Rotary Grant/Micro-loans	\$4,744
Disability Training	\$4,311

#### Expenses

Operating Expenses	\$14,699
Emergency Fund	\$1,524
Development Fund	\$7,399
Maxi's Kids	\$5,000,
Education/Scholarships	\$14,168
Rotary Grant/Micro-loans	\$2,150
Disability Training	\$4,522

