because children belong in families.
Abide empowers vulnerable families in Uganda to keep their children at home and out of orphanages.
Dear friends,

Looking back on this year it’s hard to find words to describe it. I truly believe this was Abide’s make or break it year. We came up against so many challenges and there were times when it felt so incredibly tempting to give up and walk away. But we didn’t. Our staff kept fighting. Our donors kept fighting. Our supporters kept fighting. Our leadership kept fighting. And most of all our God kept fighting for us. We all kept going because we believed with our whole hearts that children belong in families.

This was a year where we had to do a lot of hard things and walk through a lot of heartache. But this was the year where we saw the fruit from our labors. Where we bonded as a team. Where we grew into who we are as an organization and what we fight and stand for. With each challenge we faced, we emerged stronger and wiser and more equipped for the next challenge. This was our make it or break it year and we made it.

It is such a honor to be here today looking over our year end reports and seeing that not only did we survive this year, but we thrived too. Our God was faithful. In 2015 we served 105 families and 375 kids and had a 92% success rate, we added more staff and strengthened our policies and procedures, we launched our new Stitched Together line, and we announced our exciting move to a new facility. And these are just a handful of our accomplishments in 2015!

From the bottom of my heart I want to say thank you. Thank you for walking with us through this year and never faltering in your commitment to keeping families together in Uganda. Every donor and supporter holds a small part of each success story, and I hope this report gives you a glimpse into some of those.

Here’s to an amazing 2016!

Megan Parker
JANUARY
Hired Joanna! We took our communications to a whole new level by hiring a full-time Communications Director. Joanna successfully launched our #KeepAbideOpen fundraising campaign, revamped our family sponsorship program, got our Instagram following to 10,000 followers, and maintained our email accounts and social media.

FEBRUARY
Promoted Susan! We promoted one of our social workers, Susan, to Head Social Worker. This was one of our biggest steps towards increasing local leadership, and Susan has rocked it.

MARCH
Kizza had heart surgery. Because of our amazing donors we were able to pay for and travel with one of our children to have lifesaving heart surgery in the capital city, Kampala. He did great and is now thriving at home with his mom and siblings!

APRIL
We rebuilt our pastoral program! We started offering member care to our staff, trained our local pastor, built church partnerships, and redesigned the way we offer pastoral care to our clients.

MAY
Held our first staff retreat! This event showed our increasing commitment to staff care and ensuring all members of Abide have voice and know they are valued.

JUNE
Launched our new Stitched Together line! It has been a tremendous success and we are now employing four tailors and creating a sustainable income for Abide.

JULY
Hit our fundraising goal for our #KeepAbideOpen campaign! We were blown away this year with how people showed up for us. We are ending 2015 stronger than ever.

AUGUST
Celebrated Abide’s 2nd birthday with cake, dancing, and of course, fried chicken! Over 150 families and 300 children served—we couldn’t do it without you.

SEPTEMBER
Launched our brand new website. If you haven’t yet—check it out! We love it.

OCTOBER
Hosted our first Vision Trip. We had four incredible Abide supporters from all over the U.S. come visit our center in Uganda for ten days. Check out our 2016 vision trip dates if you want to come visit us too!

NOVEMBER
Announced our new Co-Founder! We were thrilled to gain another key leader to Abide, mission, and operations.

DECEMBER
Said goodbye to our Co-Founder, Kelsey Nielsen. We are so grateful for the time and dedication she gave Abide and her hard work during Abide’s beginning years that helped us be the successful organization we are today.

2015
78%
BUSINESS SUCCESS RATE

92%
FAMILIES SERVED

193
FAMILIES GIVEN EMERGENCY HOUSING

20
FAMILIES GIVEN FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

375
CHILDREN SERVED

OVERALL SUCCESS RATE

196
GRANTS AND LOANS GIVEN

80%
CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

244
TINS OF FORMULA GIVEN
At the beginning of 2015 this little family was a bit of a mess. Their husband and father had just walked out on them and we were all devastated. The Abide team had worked so hard to help him parent his boys when their mom couldn’t. We had believed in him and trusted him and he disappointed and shocked us all. We weren’t so sure about these boys’ mom yet. We had been told lies we believed about her and doubted her ability to parent well. Two weeks after her husband walked out she told us she thought she was pregnant. We ran to the store for a pregnancy test and she was. Alone, scared, and pregnant.

This was not the time to doubt a mother’s ability. We realized, this was the time to look her in the eye and say- you can do this. We believe in you.

And she did.

She started and finished business and parenting classes. She joined Stitched Together and worked hard. She saved so well we didn’t even have to assist her financially with her birth. She blossomed into one of our most caring and attentive mothers. Her boys transformed under her care from scared and insecure kids to your normal mischievous boys who behave in a way that tells you they know they are loved. They know they can tumble home with dirt on their knees to a mom who will ask them what sort of fun led to such a mess.

When we see her our hearts swell with pride. We doubted her and she proved us all wrong. And now every time we get a new case where we find ourselves starting to doubt again, we think of her and pray we are once again proved wrong.
30% Family Sponsorship
35% One Time Donations
7% Grants
12% Monthly Donors
4% Church Partnership
12% Product Sales

78% Program Expenses
22% Overhead

Financial Breakdown
As many of you know, we started 2015 in a financial crisis as an organization. As I poured over the numbers and asked myself what went wrong, I realized nothing was wrong with our donations— they had steadily increased at a healthy and expected rate since we started. We simply grew our programs too fast. It all got too expensive too quickly and the money coming in couldn’t keep up. Thankfully you—our supporters—showed up and God was faithful and we are ending 2015 more financially stable than we’ve ever been.

In 2015 we felt the growing pains of our first years and man they hurt. But we persevered and we came out stronger (because of YOU and your commitment to keeping children in families).

For 2016 our word is strengthen. Strengthen what we have created before we start anything new. Take care of staff. Improve our systems. Address our weaknesses. And breathe a little.

In 2016 you will find us continuing to serve vulnerable families with excellence [in our brand new space!]. You will find us telling more people about the important work we do and getting more people on board with orphan prevention. You will find us looking for new and innovative ways to get you—our wonderful donors and supporters—involved in our work.

In 2016 we will continue working hard each and every day to see children in their families, while asking ourselves how we can serve them even better. And what important lessons have we learned from our growing pains? And always- always- looking for how we can improve.