



**2014**

**Annual**  
**Report**



**nonviolent education and  
action for social change and  
environmental care**

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## Letter from a Director



The past year has been an active one for Solidarity Uganda, with many ups and downs. I hope that you will review the stories and photos we have offered in this annual report and reflect on the massive impact your donations both big and small have made here!

Solidarity Uganda empowers communities with alternative transformational educational experiences useful for cultivating holistic peace and justice throughout Uganda. With this we have faced various challenges ranging from death threats to detainment and have learned to leverage the risks we face for peace and justice for our people.

We could not do what has been done without the commitment of our volunteers, donors, and participating community members. Your financial support this year has taken our organization to the next level, widening and deepening our impact. Read more in this report to learn about just a few of the ways we have made an impact. We thank you again!

*Suzan Abong Wilmot*  
*Team of Directors*

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## Seeking Interns!

Solidarity Uganda is seeking interns who are looking for experience in web development, international business, marketing, fundraising, or project management. Learn more at [www.solidarityuganda.org/internships](http://www.solidarityuganda.org/internships).



**A youth activist who defends land rights sits in the shade of his local church. Below, his brother visits victims of arson by land grabbers in a forest village.**



# What We Accomplished in 2014

## *Our Feet Are Rooted: A Film about Land Rights and Nonviolence in Uganda*

While normal Solidarity Uganda activities, including training various communities in nonviolence, continued during 2014, much of our energy, time, and resources were invested in producing a professional film called *Our Feet Are Rooted*.

This film investigates the effects of multinational corporations and government agencies on communities in Uganda blessed with an abundance of natural resources like oil, forests, and fertile land.

*Filmmakers Krista and Christian Imbesi prepare to interview a mother who advocates for human rights.*



The film will be used for three main purposes. First, it provides a platform for victims of land theft to share their stories. Second, it serves as an advocacy tool to help end forced displacement and environmental devastation. Third, it is an educational resource that can be used to teach other communities how to use nonviolence to achieve justice locally.

Solidarity Uganda wishes to thank all of its funding partners. Although about four thousand dollars is still needed to complete the project, individuals and organizations

have truly come together to assist us in the development of this film. A Facebook page has been made for the film at [www.facebook.com/ourfeetarerooted](http://www.facebook.com/ourfeetarerooted). We hope to release the film before September.

## *Directors Detained!*

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Suzan and Phil Wilmot were invited to speak with the local women and youths in their community on issues of public service delivery, rampant corruption, and peace and justice in Lango sub-region of Northern Uganda. The District Police Commander of Lira arrested Suzan, Phil, and three others engaged in the dialogue on charges of holding an illegal meeting. Their case is still in court and has gained widespread publicity.

This dialogue was not held as a Solidarity Uganda activity, but the organization was accused of scheming to “overthrow the government.” The detained invited the District Police Commander to reconcile with them over thanksgiving prayers, but he dispersed that function as well, threatening arrest again. He was shortly thereafter transferred to another jurisdiction.

## *The Pollination Project*

Solidarity Uganda has partnered with The Pollination Project to release microgrants to individual changemakers in Uganda. These grants have equipped Ugandans to manufacture their own reusable sanitary pads, teach eco-friendly craftmaking to vulnerable girls, grow plants to combat domestic violence, teach dance, repurpose trash for cooking fuel, and increase female accessibility to sports, among many other innovative initiatives. This partnership with The Pollination has strengthened Solidarity Uganda’s network across the country.

# Solidarity Uganda Restructures

After a few years of launching pilot projects, Solidarity Uganda realized that it would be fruitless to micromanage each operation.

After building a partnership with colleagues at The Pollination Project, a funding agency releasing grants of \$1000 every day to changemakers throughout the world, Solidarity Uganda decided to fill a previously-unfilled niche in the civil society sector of Uganda: training and equipping communities for social change.

This new decentralized approach to community development and social change gives Solidarity Uganda the opportunity to concentrate their expertise in a specific role while allowing communities and individuals to maintain ownership and control over their various projects that Solidarity Uganda supports.

## Board Members

Suzan Abong Wilmot

*Team of Directors*

Phil Wilmot

*Team of Directors*

Nate Gadsden

*Board Chair*

Oyaka Makmot

*Treasurer*

Megan Clapp

*Secretary*

Charity Alinda

*Board Officer*

Pat Gadsden

*Board Officer*

Denis Otim

*Board Officer*

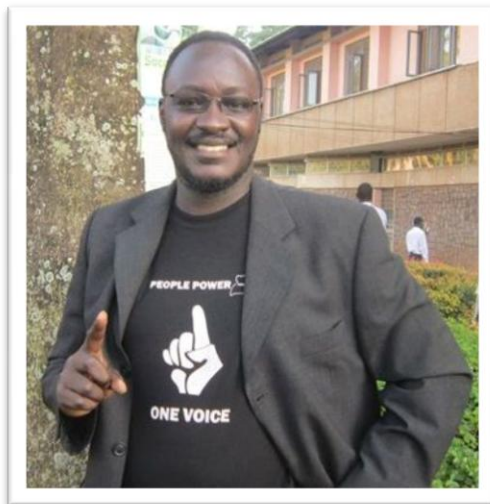
## New Board Members

### Nate & Pat Gadsden



Nate (board chair) and his wife Pat bring a new level of expertise in social change and organizational development to Solidarity Uganda. With experience in all matters pertaining to nonprofit work, the arts, and community outreach, we welcome them on board as our experts.

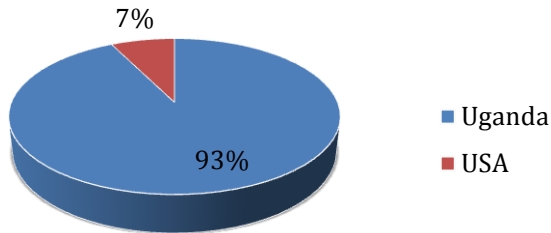
### Oyaka Makmot



Oyaka brings a wealth of financial expertise to our board, but he's also a seasoned activist from Aduku, Northern Uganda. He serves as our new Treasurer.

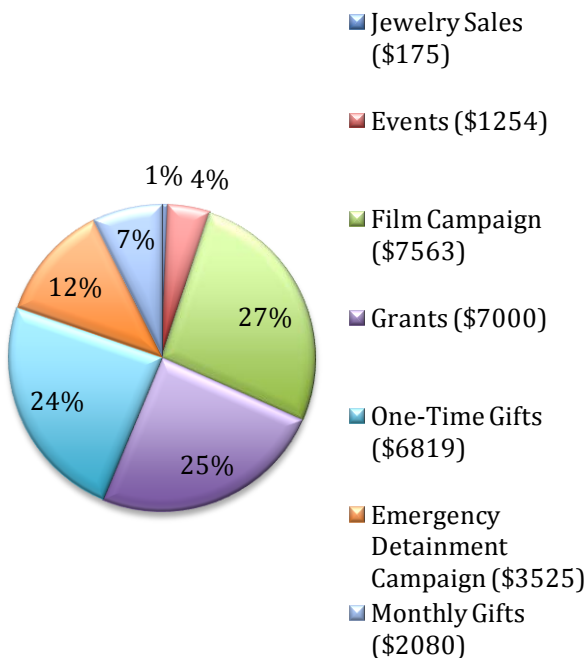
# Funding and Expenses

## Where We Spent It

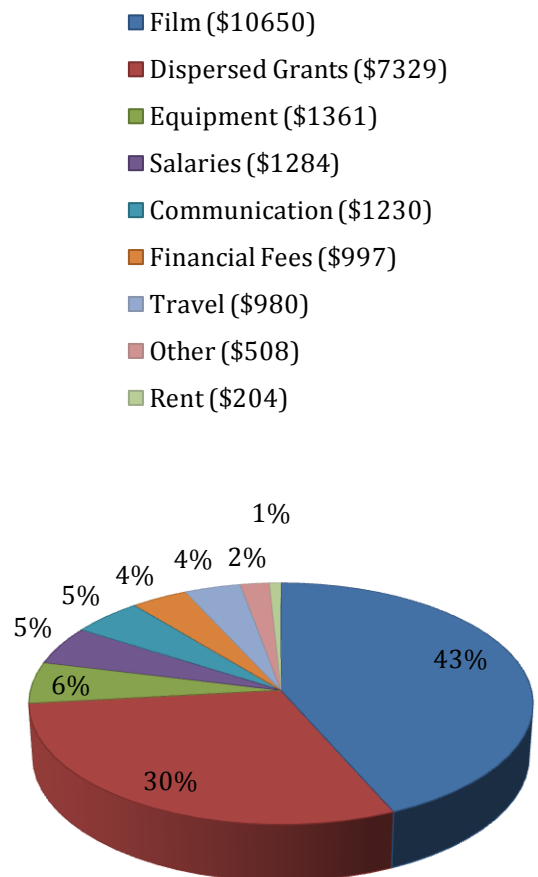


In 2014, we raised \$28416.23 and spent \$24578.90. **As a grassroots organization, we are proud that most of our support comes from individuals.** Without you, protecting human rights and training others in nonviolence would be impossible!

## How We Got It



## How We Spent It



## Goals for 2015

### *Launch an Intensive Training for Social Change Leaders*

An 8-week curriculum has been created for our most active nonviolence trainers and volunteers to expand their knowledge of social change leadership, with a focus on topics such as community organizing and planning, arts for change, and nonviolent methodologies. Participants have been identified, including staff members of other organizations. At least 90 leaders will be trained each year the program is in operation. We just need to fund it! We had hoped to launch this program in 2014, but due to a series of unanticipated obstacles such as our arrest, the project has not yet been launched.

**Still needed: \$48,000**



***Residents of Amuru prepare land provided to them through Solidarity Uganda for an agricultural cooperative and protected site for indigenous plants. The local primary school utilizes the site to teach children sustainable agricultural practices.***

### *Hire a Director of Finance*

Solidarity Uganda's staff is in desperate need of a professional who can handle financial matters of the organization, including the implementation of best practices in accounting, writing grant proposals, and developing the small businesses that will help keep Solidarity Uganda thriving in 2015.

**Still needed: \$500/month**

### *Finish and Distribute Our Documentary Film*

"Our Feet Are Rooted" was produced in June alongside Amuru's land theft victims to provide a platform to expose land theft and oppression in Uganda. Now that we have our footage, we just need a little extra cash to help us edit and distribute the film.

**Still needed: \$4,000**

## How to Give

**Your contribution builds peace & justice in Northern Uganda! Visit [www.solidarityuganda.com/give.html](http://www.solidarityuganda.com/give.html) to support us with a monthly or one-time donation of any amount. Checks can be made out to Solidarity Uganda, Inc. at:**

1937 Smith Station Rd, Hanover, PA  
17331 USA.

(717) 632-7073

[info@solidarityuganda.com](mailto:info@solidarityuganda.com)

Learn more from our website at  
[www.solidarityuganda.org](http://www.solidarityuganda.org).