



Annual Report 2020

Dear Sponsors, Members, and Supporters

Since our annual meeting of May 4, 2019, the Board has met three times, while also staying in touch between official gatherings.

We had the critical job of finding a replacement for Fabian Urech to serve on the Board, and luckily, we succeeded in reaching this goal. On our upcoming general meeting, May 3rd, we will nominate Isabelle Zürcher as Fabian's successor. Isabelle is a secondary school teacher, and economist with additional credentials in sustainable development. She is currently working in Bern with the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) as a fundraiser. She has had the opportunity to work in both Malawi and Zambia. In Zambia, she supported the career education program of the Pestalozzi Education Centers, assisting former women students with degrees in economic and social studies, to find managing positions in small businesses. She shares our goal of finding education to be the key to a secure future. What is more, she feels that a well educated population is vital to the development of a country. Already in Zambia, Isabelle was faced with the challenge of finding a sponsor for career education, and thus fulfilling the hopes of her students. Isabelle sees the possibility of furthering this hope by serving on our Board, and is highly motivated to turn words into deeds. We are looking forward to working together with Isabelle, and will propose her at the coming annual meeting as our new Board member.

We had the financial goal of increasing contributions, and with Fr. 8150 we have also succeeded in doing so. A gracious thank you to all who have donated for their generosity.

Unfortunately, I must also add that Lenzy Rimensberger has advised us of his withdrawal from the Board, to be announced at the forthcoming annual meeting. This will be a great loss. Not only because he handles our finances well, but also because he himself is a loving person who, with his Ugandan roots, is the best imaginable ombudsperson, building bridges that span the cultural distance between Switzerland and Uganda. He has acquainted himself personally with all our students in Uganda, has led workshops in Kampala, thereby presenting a clear picture of UECD. That was most valuable. Sadly, with his newly expanded career, he doesn't feel now that he has enough time to devote to the engagement he would like to give UECD. This is regrettable, but we are so pleased that Lenzy will remain a member, and serve as an advisor to the Board in cultural affairs. We wish Lenzy much success in his Start-up endeavor.

Our two new students, Brenda and Faith, have begun their studies in Law and Bachelor of Art with Educational Science at the KIU. They have also begun their contact with Elisabeth, Marianne, Annmarie, and Mirjam, who serve as sponsors. Brenda will be mentored by Obed, Patricia and Monica; Faith, by Susan, Cathy, and Monica. Monica is herself studying Law at KIU, so she can offer help and comfort in situ. Our two new students will be rooming together close by the University KIU. Our other four students, Andrew and Bridget in Medicine, Patience K, in Business and Administration, and Monica in Law, are all well on their way.

We had a brunch meeting with nine participants, arranged in order to plan a journey to Uganda over Christmas of 2020/21. Roman Vital as Film Maker and Diana Ulrich, the Photographer were also present who would like to film the experience. Unfortunately, due to the Corona pandemic, we were not able to make reservations for the Safari. At this point, we have to carefully observe how matters develop, possibly postponing our trip.

In order to insure that our endowments and donations are both secure and sustainable, we decided, as a serious NGO, to consult an official office of revision. Markus Boller helped us in this endeavor. RA Peter Isler recommended Dirk Stingelin, Examina AG in Küsnacht. Mr. Stingelin had already declared himself ready to perform an organizational revision for us. He is specialized in the area of NGOs and is the Revisor for the Alumni of the University of Zürich. We are more than satisfied with Markus Näpflin who was our Revisor until today. Cause he is also Sponsor and Member of UECD we were looking for an external neutral Revisor to show up seriosity outwards. He has performed with exactitude over all these years. We thank you, Markus, for your engagement for these annual controls. They were so helpful: we could not have managed without! Now Brigit can carry on with full wind in the sails as she looks for new endowment possibilities. And thank you, Brigit, for your heartfelt engagement working on the data necessary in this search.

The annual membership in the KMU Journal, "Success", unfortunately led to no success in gaining new contributions, despite three articles over UECD and our participation in "Giving Tuesday". We have thus decided to discontinue our membership in this journal. The presentation of our NGO in the Lion's Club of Zollikerberg, was also unsuccessful in drawing new donations. We are quite motivated, however, to continue our search, and are on the lookout for service organizations, clubs, or endowments, where members might be interested in learning about us; we are most eager to introduce new audiences to the work of UECD. So if you know friends or have relatives who are member of a Rotary- Lyons- or Kiwani-Club, please tell us. We need invitations to present UECD.

In the Swisscham-Africa, we attended an event where we could introduce ourselves. There we visited a Board member who had a business in Nigeria which supports the education of young African artists. In Mr. Alfred Spinnlers home we were treated to an impressive *exhibition* of Nigerian and Ghanaian modern art. His book describing this art, and the contributing artists, is also beautiful and unforgettable.

The alumnae in Uganda are heading the daily operations of UECD better and better. They are, moreover, open to the tips and support mechanisms we provide, which they can use to apply and seek support for new business sources. We can also

provide them, whenever possible, with addresses of Swiss firms located in Uganda. Other news: Ronald and Phiona have given birth to their third daughter, Patricia her second son, Jimmy will married, and Susan has found a job as teacher.

Brigit and I participated in the “Dialogue Days 2019 Zürich Kampala” with the theme of Communicable Diseases. Professor Jan Fehr from University of Zürich works in cooperation with the University Makerere and the Mulago Hospital in Kampala. We wished to introduce UECD to a larger audience. More news of this conference appears in our Newsletter, designed and written by Brigit. You can download this wonderful Newsletter on our website.

A big thanks to Fabian, Hannes and Peter for creating such a beautiful website. It is readable, pertinent, and well designed, well deserving the compliments it has received. Thanks also to Diana Ulrich for her super portraits of our students. The new website is a delight!

Appreciation also goes to our three Advisors, Daniela Erb, Fundraiser, Ruedi Schmid, and Peter Angehrn from innovage, for their management consulting of our Board with which they could support our fundraising strategies and leadership; we will have them available whenever we need them. What could we have done without these helpers!

Finally, a huge thank you goes to our Sponsors, Elisabeth, Annemarie, Marianne, and Mirjam, as well as to Philipp, Markus Nöpflin and Ronald, who each year are sending a contribution so that our students can progress toward their degrees. In the coming new year for UECD, we are looking again for more Sponsors, more donations, and a Successor for Lenzy. We are thankful for all the help we can get in these endeavors!

Last but not least we thank all our Supporters who donate us regularly with financial contributions we can use for necessities in the everyday life in Uganda.

That’s it for now! I thank you so much for your engagement. Let’s continue with enthusiasm into the future!

With warmest greetings,

Eva Winizki

President UECD Switzerland, April 2020

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