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## Annual Report 2017 – CEED Concordia



### *A note from the Director*

“2017 was a very successful year for CEED in Uganda and Canada. Our internship projects in Gulu took significant strides thanks to the dedication and hard work of our interns from May to August and the year-round efforts of our staff in Montreal and Uganda. Many projects were re-worked or modified from earlier years based on the lessons we have learned and the feedback we get from young people in Gulu who interact with our organization and participate in our events and programs.

I was especially excited for the developments to enrich and strengthen the learning curriculum and mentorship offered to our Concordia and Ugandan interns. For many Ugandan interns, CEED’s program is foot-in-the-door on their CV: a first professional work experience that can help them to get a job. The skills they gain working on a team with people from widely different backgrounds and upbringings and leading activities to educate and engage youth in Gulu are just some of the many things they take away from CEED. When I am in Gulu and meet some of our Ugandan alumni of the CVAP/CEED program, I love hearing about how that small few months helped them to mature and harness the tools that today are helping them to succeed.

For our Concordia interns, Gulu will always be a magical place it seems. Year after year new lasting friendships are made, and rolex and meat sticks are over-indulged. For some students it is their first time outside Canada, for others it is another step in a journey to gain experience in international development. As CEED has refocused its vision and projects in Gulu, many Concordia students have found more alignment with their studies, and they have been able to use their skills outside the classroom, or pull the lessons learned in the field back into it. With the generous support of Concordia University faculty and administration, we continue to seek new opportunities and paths for students to earn credit for their learning in Uganda, and to engage the community in their research and research outcomes.

More than 24 months after the first steps taken to evolve CEED from CVAP, we continue to learn and continue to improve our model. With its increased autonomy and independence, CEED Uganda takes leadership in how we engage young people in Uganda and our future projects, partnerships and activities in Gulu. CEED Concordia is working actively to diversify our funding, and increase our activities in Montreal to engage, educate and create opportunities for Montreal youth to be active change-agents within CEED and within their different communities.

In closing, I thank all the students at Concordia University who contribute to our fee levy, to all the students who volunteer at our events, sit on our Board of Directors, take up positions as staff, and contribute in so many different ways. And most especially thank you to our partner and sister organization, CEED Uganda, to your Board of Directors, staff, interns and alumni.

Thomas Prince  
Executive Director

## Summer 2017

21 students and recent graduates from Concordia University and different universities in Uganda worked hand-in-hand from May 19 to August 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Gulu internship program ran for 13 weeks and accomplished some of the following:

- Trained 35 young people on entrepreneurship to start a business or grow their existing business
  - Awarded over \$2,500 in cash prizes to the 3 business teams who won our 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Entrepreneurship Competition held August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Identified Young Achievers for the CEED's montly radio talk show on Radio Rupiny, and joined these inspiring young women on air for the shows in June and July.
  - Hundreds of listeners in Gulu benefit from this radio show which gives a platform for young people from Gulu to share their own experience to inspire and mentor other youth in the community
- Events partnered with PACTA to educate 100 youth in schools about the issue of addiction
  - The students used this knowledge to craft songs, poetry, drama and dance and presented to their peers, family and other guests in a friendly competition.
- We opened a computer lab and library that is free to use and open to young people Monday-Friday during the months of September to May and partnered with schools on ITC skills training.
- Partnered with secondary schools to test a waste management pilot project, expanding CEED's environmental activities in Gulu; trained over 70 students on waste management and composting curriculum.

Read on for more in-depth details on each project

CEED's cross-cultural learning model provides real world experience for our participants. From June to August it is the interns who implement their work plan and manage their program budget. For many, this is the first experience to work with students from a different country and cultural background. Teamwork, communication and community engagement are just a few of the critical skills they develop, sometimes amidst shouting, crying and laughing. In 2017 we also introduced more extra-curricular activities for our interns, including a trip to Aruu Falls, a mid-summer teambuilding activity at The Recreation Project and a BBQ to celebrate Canada Day.

## 2017 Internship Projects

Five different internship projects were conducted in 2017: Youth Entrepreneurship, Youth Advocacy and Communications, Environmental Sustainability, Youth Events and Technology Education and Information Sharing

### Youth Entrepreneurship Project (YEP)

Oyella Joan, Amanda Marrocco, Collins Kanyansi, Kassim Zahara

This team was tasked with the ambitious tasks of selecting youth groups, delivering specialized trainings and finally hosting a business competition where the youth groups showcased their businesses and competed for start-up capital.

The YEP team designed the selection criteria to ensure young people who were not able to access this specialized training for various reasons,(including gender considerations, youth age limits and group size of 5-10 members) would get their chance with CEED, and 78 groups took up the challenge. The interns shortlisted 15 groups for



**CEED PROUDLY PRESENTS:**



### Dreams, Fashion and design

**ABOUT**

Started in 2014, Dreams Fashion and Design focuses on designing and producing clothing in styles that are bold, bold and unique. Their market is among young actors & musicians, looking for a signature style in order to stand-out amongst the herd. They aim to distribute a portion of their income towards their sister project, Girls for Change a project that aims to change the lives of young, abused women. Visit them today at Sulu Hole Market #H420, and take your wardrobe from basic to one-of-a-kind!

**VISION**  
"To become a National brand name by the year 2022"

**MISSION**  
"Changing lives of sexual abuse victims through fashion and design, reintegrating them into society and giving them a better purpose in life"

**GOALS**

- To develop a unique sense of taste for fashions & designs in the global fashion arena
- To infuse traditional designs with modern fashions
- To take the fashion and design industry to another level with quality designs
- To use fashion as a means of touching the lives of disadvantaged and unjustly treated young women

**PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

- Ladies wear and accessories
- Imported European fashions
- Traditional African styles
- Tailoring services




*"It is difference and uniqueness that we want to promote"*

interviews, and 6 groups were selected to participate in the entrepreneurship and business trainings and mentorship. After preparing business plans and their presentations, these youth competed in a business competition and 3 teams were awarded start up capital of approximately \$800 CAD each.

Congrats to Awoko Kwo, Dreams for Fashion and Rhino Confectionaries, our 3 winners! Interestingly, many of the groups reported that the training was more significant than the start-up capital.

## Youth Advocacy and Communications

Branden On, Babra, Nyeko Geoffrey, Julie Hoang, Travis Sanderson



The interns built on the model of 2015 and 2016: identifying young achievers in Gulu to host on the monthly radio talk show, and using social media and video/audio platforms to spread the stories of these and other young achievers as a means of motivation.

Beyond doing talent scouting to identify young women to go on the radio show

during their internship and in later months, the team also followed up with achievers who previously appeared on the radio show to get feedback on the impact of CEED and our radio show. The team also worked to be more active through their social media channels

and to support all the different projects to capture photos and other materials to share online and raise the profile of CEED.



The team this year has also handed over some great resources to management by the close of their internship. They shot videos to put online, and built a strong relationship with The Concordian student newspaper to run their stories during the Fall 2017 semester.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

Joan Akullu, Gabrielle Bruser, Francis Kilama, Kelly MacDonald



2017 was the second year for CEED’s Environmental Sustainability internship, and it has quickly become part of CEED’s core identity, in part because of the Gulu Go Green marathon. The team researched, designed and constructed compost systems 3 secondary schools- Negri College, Graceland Girls School and Pope Paul II. 70 students from the 3 schools were trained on waste sorting the practical skills to successfully repurpose some of the schools waste.

The CEED interns also lead monitoring and evaluation of the trees planted in 25 schools as part of the Gulu Go Green and Concordia carbon-offsetting, as well as reviewed and re-worked the compost and waste management practices within the CEED compound. Since Gulu Go Green began in 2016 over 40,000 trees have been pledged by partners and supporters from private sector, government and other well-wishers.

## **Youth Events**

Margaret Dubyk, Faith Akatakunda, Courtney Witter



The events project was brought back in 2017 to identify a critical theme for youth in Gulu and organize an activity to provide young people a platform to engage the theme. They selected the topic of addictions, hosted “Knowledge Cafes” in

3 different secondary schools (Sacred Heart, Layibi College and Samuel Baker) and organized a Talent show on July 29<sup>th</sup> for the students to educate the wider community about the risks youth face and how to avoid addiction. The Knowledge Cafes were attended by more than 150 students, and over 400 people attended the Talent show.

## **Technology Education and Information Sharing**

Kayla Ali-Joseph, Ajok Brenda, Oola Gerald, Stephanie Levesque

In September CEED opened our library and computer lab to Gulu youth seeking access to



educational resources and a quiet place to study or read for leisure. The interns coded and sorted over 100 donated titles that are a range of fiction, non-fiction, academic and pop culture. Many thanks to Concordia University, the students and everyone else in Montreal who donated books and

laptops for this project.

The team also developed ITC curriculum for Negri College, Graceland Secondary and Pope Paul II Secondary schools. Over 60 students were able to benefit from the different levels of training offered to first-time users up to programmers.

## Other Activities from 2017

### Emmanuel Jal and Shanna Strauss – Change Agents of East Africa



In April 2017m we organized a 3-day photo exhibit (shown at both campuses) and culminated in the Change Agents of East Africa speaker series. The event was well attended and helped to increase CEED’s visibility and presence on campus. Nearly 100 people came out to hear Emmanuel Jal, a recording artist from South Sudan now based in Toronto, and mixed media artist Shanna Strauss present.

### Gulu GO Green and Running in the Scotia Bank 10 km (Mtl)

Since 2013, CEED has been contributing approximately \$75/Concordia student towards off-setting the impact of flights between Canada and Uganda. In 2016 CEED



launched its own carbon off-setting project with the Gulu Go Green (mini) marathon, a 5km and 15km run that allows anyone in Gulu to show their support for combatting deforestation and encouraging tree planting. With support from the local government in Gulu and other NGOs, the Gulu Go Green run

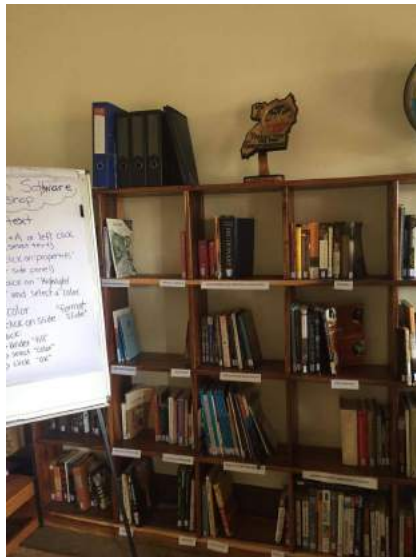
raised awareness about deforestation and invited members of the community to come out and run to get involved. Over 600 runners from Gulu participated, and



over 30,000 trees were pledged by Ugandan organizations to be planted at schools in northern Uganda.

In Montreal, the CEED staff and past participants ran in the Scotia Bank 10 km run. Our team was able to over \$2,500 to further our carbon off-setting and to expand CEED's environmental sustainability activities.

### CEED Compound upgrades



In 2016, CEED opened a computer lab at our facility using laptops donated by Concordia University's Instructional and Information Technology Services (IITS). In 2017 we added a library, carrying books donated by CEED past participants and other Concordia students. Both these are open to youth in Gulu at no cost to help provide greater access to education resources and find new ways for youth to use our facilities.

Construction on the Rainwater Catchment System designed by CEED interns in 2015 was



started in 2017 and will be completed in early 2018. With financial support from the Molson Sustainability Group ensures that interns have access 24 hours/day to water and will serve as a demonstration model to raise awareness about this innovative approach to harvesting rainwater

for household, commercial and agriculture use.

## Visit by Concordia University Vice President William Cheaib to Gulu



In July, William Cheaib and Awel Uwihanganye visited Gulu to meet with key stakeholders and our 2017 interns. It was a wonderful visit, and the first time that a member from Concordia's top administration visited CEED in Gulu to interact with our interns and staff.



### Intern Showcase 2017

During Homecoming week 2017, CEED organized an evening for our most recent interns to present to the public their projects and the impact of CEED's activities in Montreal. The event had one of the highest turn outs of CEED alumni and members of the

Board of any event in 2017. Many thanks to Amrita for organizing a great event, and to the Centre for Teaching and Learning for providing us with an amazing interactive learning and showcase space. We plan to do the same in 2018 making this a regular part of CEED's calendar in Montreal.

## CEED and Academics

### Pre-departure course

This winter, CEED's pre-departure course was hosted by Arts and Science in the Loyola College for Sustainability and Diversity, and taught by Peter Graham. As in 2015, the course is cross-listed between the three faculties of Fine Arts, JMSB and Arts & Science, and thus all undergrads in these departments can earn credit for the class. In 2018, the course will be hosted in the Department of Design under the Faculty of Fine Arts.

## LOYC 420 Internship Course

2016/2017 was the first year CEED interns were eligible to earn credit for their time spent in Uganda. The Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability allowed undergraduates the opportunity to earn 3 credits after completing their internship listed as LOYC 420 offered in the winter semester 2017. Students are able to earn credit based on their experiences and learning in Uganda. This class was renewed in 2017/2018, and students from the 2017 summer program have registered for Winter 2018.

## CEED Educational Curriculum and Year-round engagement in Uganda



Building on the experiences of three summers, CEED continues to work on strengthening the educational curriculum of our internship in Gulu and the sustainability of our core projects in Uganda. In 2017, Ugandan interns received cross cultural, project management, leadership

and other trainings prior to the arrival of the team from Concordia. This resulted in a higher level of ownership and responsibility for the interns.

## Debrief

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, past participant Audrey Au facilitated a debrief with Concordia interns in the Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre kitchen, at the downtown campus. Providing a debrief after interns return to Montreal is an important component of CEED's experiential learning curriculum.



Thank you