



SUNRISE OF LIFE

Annual Report: August 2014 – March 2016

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INTRODUCTION

Sunrise of Life is an organization guided towards saving the lives of street children in Arusha, Tanzania. Guided by its mission statement, Sunrise of Life seeks to create opportunity for those whose circumstances have hindered them from realizing their potential and achieving their goals. Sunrise of Life is committed to maintaining a culture of transparency and openness within the organization and its donors. With the assurance of shelter, safety, and security, former street children are guided through a three-tiered program that sets a child up for success.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITHIN THE CENTRE

A Three-Tiered Program

Sunrise of Life recognized early on that a holistic approach was needed for the rehabilitation and reintegration of street children into society. As such, a three-tiered program was developed. Outreach was done to place the children in the drop-in centre. Once addictions are overcome, rehabilitation becomes possible. If reuniting with family is not possible, children transition into the residential centre where they will live a family oriented life. Upon completion of high school, youth begin the transition process where they learn skills or continue with further education to work towards self-sustainability.

The Outreach Program & Drop-In Centre

Due to the high and increasing number of street children in Arusha, Sunrise of Life has created a program that targets this population. By providing an open program which is focused on rehabilitation and reunion, street children are given the tools and support necessary to effect positive change in their lives. The outreach program is designed to build and maintain relationships with the children on the streets. As trust is built, the children begin to recognize the support Sunrise of Life provide, and realize the opportunities before them.



Over the past 18 months, the outreach program and drop-in centre have been operating smoothly. Of over a hundred children that have been interacted with on the streets, approximately 30 children and youth utilized the drop-in centre. Of this number, seven children joined the residential centre, and two were reunited with their families.

In many instances, children will stay at the drop-in centre for several days, and



thereafter return to the streets. Often, the pull of addictions and the freedom of the streets overpowers the desire to stay, and children will return to the streets after a few days or even weeks. The outreach program staff continue to follow up with the children on the streets, encouraging them to return to the drop-in centre and again try to reform their lives. Outreach has increased to three to four times per week, both during the day and at night.

A recent project has the outreaching centre opening its doors to all street children once per week, where a hearty meal is served and the opportunity to wash themselves and their clothes is given. Support workers from both centre come in to interact with the children and talk to them about their futures. Sunrise of Life realizes that through the building of relationships, children will eventually come to trust the networks and supports provided, and utilize the rehabilitation space and transition opportunities.

In 2015, the organization hired an assistant manager to help improve programming at the drop-in centre. As a result of the challenges the street children have faced, Sunrise of Life recognizes that small steps must be taken to guide them and provide them with tools to make positive decisions. Daily walks are taken with the children and a social worker around the city, providing an outlet for discussion. This can provide inspiration, and also shows the availability of programs to assist them in reaching their goals. In addition, a rapport is built between worker and child, a building block of positive change.

Visits are also taken to the residential centre, and as the children interact with each other, friendships are formed. These friendships are also foundational in the decision for a street child to continue working towards a healthy lifestyle. Being able to see a normal, family oriented life at the residential centre inspires the children at the drop-in centre to work towards it.

In addition, volunteers were at the centre throughout the year, implementing multiple creative education programs. As most street children are not currently enrolled in school, it is important to keep their minds active, and the children spend a number of hours per day, catching up on studying and receiving one-on-one tutoring.



Typically, the children at the drop-centre stay for two to months. In this time, conversations are had about their pasts and the circumstances that drove them to the streets. If the situation allows, visits are made with the children to their homes to inquire about the possibility of reuniting. Some children simply



disappeared or got lost, and for them, reuniting is possible and the family welcomes their lost child back in. Sunrise of Life maintains contact for a number of months to ensure that the situation is indeed safe. For other children who come from broken, abusive families, Sunrise of Life cannot reunite them with their families. For these children, arrangements are made to transfer them to the residential centre when the cycle of addiction appears to have been broken.

A program was also implemented in 2015 to help the older street youth who can no longer attend primary or secondary school. For these children, the goal is to give them a life skill which they can use to provide for themselves. Several boys were not sent to the residential center, but after successfully rehabilitating in the drop-in centre, joined vocational schools in the city of Arusha. Programs included driving courses, mechanics, welding, and woodworking for these youths.

With the developing programs at the drop-in centre, Sunrise of Life maintains its promise to provide the most vital of necessities to these children: safety, shelter, and security. Every child, no matter where they are on this earth, deserves an equal chance at life. Sunrise of Life is committed to providing that to one of the most marginalized groups in Arusha, by meeting the children where they are at, and leading them to the doors of opportunity.

The Residential Centre

The Residential Centre continues to operate smoothly with improvements happening every day. The foundation of this Residential Centre is to ensure a safe place for children to live who cannot be reunited with their families. Some reasons for failed reunions can include, but are not limited to, addictions tormenting core family members, orphaned children, the safety of the child being in jeopardy, and basic needs, such as food, not being provided.

Children from such circumstances are provided with a safe place to live at the Residential Centre. In addition, all the children who reside at this centre are required to attend school. About seventy percent of the residents attend one of two primary schools, while the other thirty percent attend the secondary school. All of the schools are within walking distance to the centre. The children are also provided with extra educational support at the centre to supplement the weaknesses of the government schools.

There are many projects which allow progression and movement towards increased self-sustainability at the Residential Centre. Sunrise of Life moves toward improving these projects and making them more efficient. With additional education, staff members implement changes that help move these projects forward at every opportunity.





Projects at the Residential Centre include the Milk Cow Project, which includes 5 cows; the Garden Project, which includes approximate three acres planted with vegetables, maize and fruit trees; the Chicken Project, which includes 100 chickens, both for selling and for eggs; and the Goat Project which includes 12 goats.

A recent development of the farm projects include the addition of a bore hole dug deep into the ground, providing the farm projects with constant access to a good supply of water. This ensures that the Garden Project can continue to provide food even in the dry seasons.

An extension of the Chicken Project is another recent addition to the farm projects at the centre. Sponsored by a Rotary Club in Canada and in part by individual donors, the centre has added two split chicken houses so broilers can be rotated. Thereby, constant income is projected.

Both the cows and the goats are milked, providing the children with the much needed nutrition that milk provides. Any additional milk is sold in the village to bring profits. Each year, the cows are bred and any male calves are sold at the local market when ready. The goats also kid each year, and some of the older males are sold at the markets to keep the age of the herd down.

The centre also has a Learn-and-Earn project: in conjunction with local carpenters and welders, children at the centre can work in our workshops and learn cabinetry, bed-making, and the skills for welding. The carpenters pay rent for the building and maintenance of the equipment, and the children are given valuable skills to become self sufficient.

A recent development at the Residential Centre includes the extension of the Girls Dormitory. While the street population of girls is much different than boys, it was evident to the organization that the ability to provide and protect a vulnerable group was important. It was also increasingly evident that space for these girls must be available so that the organization can continue to target this population.

Currently, there are 8 girls at the Residential centre. When the organization had only a few girls, they slept in a small room attached to the centre classroom. Now, the organization has renovated a self contained room off the side of the workshop, and made a large dormitory for the girls. There is room for 7 large bunkbeds in this dormitory, which has the potential to hold up to 14 girls. A matron sleeps in the dormitory every night and provides them with ongoing support.

When food, shelter, safety, and education are provided for the former street children, Sunrise of Life fulfils its mission to create opportunity for those who have no opportunities available to them.



The Transition Program

When Tanzanian children finish with the mandatory secondary school and take their national Form 4 examinations, a decision must be made whether to continue with high school, or to transfer into vocational training. At this point in their lives, it is no longer possible for them to continue living at the residential centre due to government regulations. Sunrise of Life, however, recognizes that to send unskilled youth into the job force with no support is unwise. For this reason, the transition program at Sunrise of Life has been developed.

When a youth passes Form 4, the government gives permission to continue their high school education, and sends them to a randomly selected school. All Form 5 & 6 schools are boarding schools, and the youth live there for the semester. When school breaks, students will then return home to their parents or other family members. Sunrise of Life recognizes that recreating and maintaining family ties is very important, as it will ensure they have support as they continue to advance in life.

When a youth does not pass Form 4, they cannot continue with their high school education. Sunrise of Life recognizes that in order for these youth to be self-sufficient, they must be given a skill to work with. Students are sent to college to learn a vocation of their choice, where they board. When the term breaks, they too return to their families.

Currently, Sunrise of Life has two youth in Form 5, and one youth in Form 6. One youth is studying and apprenticing under a welder, one youth is taking management classes, and two youth are deciding which avenue to pursue. In 2015, a youth of 16 years came to the drop-in centre. After a number of months in that program, he showed considerable interest in becoming self-sufficient. Because re-joining school was not an option for him, he moved to the residential centre and began apprenticing under a welder. A number of months later, he requested to leave and go to work with his brother, who had offered him a job in his welding shop. Staff at Sunrise of Life followed up to ensure a safe environment, and since December 2015, he has been working with his brother at a successful family business.

With a transition program, the organization can assist with reintegration into society. Mentorship is provided for the youth in the transition program as they make these large decisions. Sunrise of Life seeks to ensure that more children follow programs that provide them with the mentorship, knowledge, and skills to provide for themselves.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Summary

Sunrise of Life maintains an active volunteer program to bring skills to the organization, as well as to build and maintain a good network both in country and abroad. As Sunrise of Life has local staff who fill all the roles in the organization, volunteers are not required to continue day-to-day management of the centre. As such, individuals who apply to volunteer with Sunrise of Life undergo a rigorous interview and follow-up meetings to guide them in their upcoming trip.



When approved, volunteers who apply to work with Sunrise of Life commit to fundraising in their home country, thereby covering costs associated with the projects they might work on. As well, this ensures that volunteers take a personal interest in the organization, not simply using it as a way to see a country, but to adopt the mission and value of Sunrise of Life.

Once in Tanzania, individuals are responsible for taking their own initiative and working with the staff on projects that are pre-approved. Highly motivated individuals excel at Sunrise of Life because there is a lot of freedom to work on a project if one puts the effort in to develop it.

Janine Van Maren, a 25-year-old teacher from Chilliwack, BC, travelled to Tanzania in July 2015 to volunteer with Sunrise of Life. She writes about her experience below:

LOVE. A Personal Reflection

I've traveled before. I've come home with varying emotions. There was the time that I came home from a trip with a friend, bursting with energy, excited to look through all of the crazy and fun pictures we had taken. There was the time I came home feeling relieved: happy to be back with family, in a normal environment. I was taken far out of my comfort zones, and came home different than I left. I had moments of joy, of fun, of meaning, but always came home.



But this time was different. This time I left, and I came back in love. Perhaps it sounds cliché to say “I loved the trip” or “I loved the kids” or “I loved the organization.” But this time I got back, and the only word I could think of to describe my trip was love. I fell in love.

My first days with Sunrise of Life in Tanzania were spent taking it in. Read my journal from the first days, and you'll hear of the loneliness that comes with being an English-speaker in a country where Swahili is the first language. You will hear of the challenges that come with trying to make a schedule, but then after only a day realizing that the schedule won't be followed. You will hear of the frustration that comes with teaching a big group of teenagers English. You will hear of the wish for internet and communication with home. In those first days I spent a lot of time sitting: not because I didn't want to work, but simply because it needs to be taken in.

But on an ordinary Thursday morning I traveled to the Drop-In Center. It was there that I heard the stories of the three boys who were living with the Social worker there at the time. I think it was that morning that my perspective started to shift. I came home and joined in a rowdy game of soccer. I kept stopping myself, asking myself “how can you laugh when you have just heard such stories?” But, there were goals to be scored, boys to be fist-bumped, and sunsets to be watched. The next morning, back at the Residential Center, I looked into the faces of Joshua, Joseph, Kelvin, Diana, and John. I now no longer saw the cute, bouncy, hyper little preschoolers, but I also had a glimpse into their past. I helped wash their laundry, I hauled water in the garden, I chopped veggies in the kitchen. But I couldn't stop thinking about what I had heard. Spending a few mornings doing outreach meant that I now also couldn't stop thinking about what I had seen.

Trying to pinpoint the moment that I fell in love is difficult. Maybe it was the morning I woke up and thought “I don’t have any plans for my teaching today, but I can’t wait to teach anyways.” Maybe it was the night that I sat on the front stoop, chatting with the teenagers about travel and far-away countries, watching the stars that are the same around the world. Maybe it was the day that we played “Duck-Duck-Goose” for the first time, and ended up with close to twenty people playing. Maybe it was the night when talking to Peace about all the challenges that come with working with street children. But I think mostly it was waking up and just feeling so blessed to be with them.

Let’s skip forward in my diary to late August, the days that I was leaving, the days that I came home. My impending departure meant that everyone held on a little extra tight: longer snuggles, lots of conversations, endless “I’m going to miss you’s.” Seeing them gathered in front of me to say goodbye, I laughed. I laughed because it was either that or cry. I laughed at the speeches they gave, I laughed at the faces they made for my pictures, I laughed because I just liked them so much. I admired the sunset, craning my neck backwards in the truck to catch every last glimpse of the golden sun as it went behind Mount Meru. I chatted with everyone around me in the airport, agreed with the Customs officer who said “we will see you again” and boarded the plane. And that’s when I knew. I knew I didn’t want to go home where everything was comfortable. I wanted to stay. To stay through the good days and the hard days and the frustrating days. I wanted to be the one to finish teaching the alphabet. Who will teach Adam and Twaha long division? And what about Kelvin: he needs my help with this Literature homework at nights. And so, the return from this trip was different from all others.

I’ll be back, Sunrise of Life Family, because I like you. I like the work that you do. I like that you tirelessly work towards your mission of helping street children. I like that even on the hardest of days, you are making a difference.



Volunteer Update

Since January 2015, Sunrise of Life was able to expand their volunteer base and was able to host 16 volunteers from Canada, the United States, and Germany. In March of 2016, a group of 10 volunteers travelled to Maji ya Chai, Tanzania, to spend their time helping the staff in both the drop-in centre and in the residential centre.

At the residential centre, volunteers assisted with many tasks including tutoring kids, helping branch the sustainability projects, and maintenance projects. In addition, some worked with the staff on policy, reporting, and procedure. By maintaining an active role in such responsibilities, the Tanzanian staff and the Canadian and American boards are able to work very closely on projects. As well, Canadian and American reporting policies are then followed. At the drop-in centre, volunteers helped organize and hold street children picnics, and develop educational programs for kids coming in off the streets via the outreach program.

While the volunteers spent their time at the two centres, they built close relationships with the children. As well, they became exposed to the many different issues that street children in Arusha face every day. With these experiences, Sunrise of Life hopes that the volunteers will take the personal lessons they

have learned back to their communities, to continue to spread the mission of Sunrise of Life. In so doing, they will bring awareness of the hardships faced by street children in Arusha.

Robyn Vandenhoeck, a 17-year-old student, travelled to Tanzania in March of 2014 and spent two months working with the children. She writes about her experience below:

I AM SMALL: A PERSONAL RESPONSE

I am small. If there's one thing I've learned since coming to Tanzania: it's that. Just the other day my aunt was asking about the Tanzanian flag and I asked my cousin: "What's the flag of Africa?" She just looked at me and said: "Robyn, does North America have a flag?" "But Africa is a country....wait, no it's not." I had always understood that continents are not countries and vice versa, but for some reason Africa was smaller than it actually is in my mind. I had condensed an entire continent into "that third-world place". In reality, Africa is made up of 53 countries including islands, each sporting their own flag and featuring their own landscapes, languages, and even cultures.

As for the culture shock, I'm not sure what "shock" is supposed to feel like, but so far I haven't found myself living in a constant state of shock. The culture is definitely different, but I was mildly disappointed to discover that yes, they have billboards and roads and intersections just like in Canada. People are much pushier about you buying things, and the streets are much louder, but in general a market in Arusha resembles and serves the same purpose market in Calgary.

One glaringly obvious difference, however, is the perception of time. It is perfectly acceptable to sit in your shop all day and not lift a finger unless someone asks about something. Coming from North America, where it is normal to have every minute of your day planned out, I did not understand this. I felt hopelessly bored and useless: like I wasn't fulfilling my purpose in coming here. And then I asked myself: what purpose? Did I really think that as an uneducated seventeen-year-old white girl who does not understand the language or culture of these people I was going to somehow improve their lives? It would be an incredible blessing if I manage to touch at least one life, but in reality, unless I have a valuable skill set, or a lot of money and power, or, I suppose, my own army, I am not really going to solve Africa's problems.

After I realized this, I stopped checking the time every five minutes. That nagging voice that complained because I wasn't having a phenomenal, life-changing "experience of a lifetime" disappeared. Don't get me wrong, I am. Being immersed in a culture that is not my own has filled me with a knowledge that I did not have before. It is not a knowledge that is learned from being in a classroom or reading a textbook. It is an experiential understanding that the world really is so much bigger, richer, and more beautiful than I ever imagined. It is being recognized as "Robyn" and not "Mzungu," as a child I didn't know existed three weeks ago runs up to give me a hug. It is seeing logos that I recognize from Canada in this country and realizing that although this is a completely different country, the world is a global



village. That's the experience of a lifetime. I learned to be content in the present, and I can say that I truly understand what Thoreau meant when he said: "Happiness is like a butterfly: the more you chase it, the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder..." The cliché about 'happiness being a journey, not a destination' finally became my experience.

I also discovered that Africa is not a foreign land so much as I am a foreign to the land. When I first came here and tried to communicate with one of the mamas at the centre who does not speak English, she simply doubled over in laughter. At first I was slightly offended. Why would she be laughing at me? Then I realized that in this country, I am the different one. In their eyes, I am the one with a strange accent, weird facial features, and a funny language. The cultural barrier makes communicating with people so much more difficult, but also so much more beautiful when you break through it. I have been here for just over a month now and the suspicious looks I have been receiving are being replaced with a cheerful, "Mambo!" The kids are finally getting used to the fact that I am a girl with what is a name used only for boys in their country, and use it gleefully. As the landscapes, the language, and the culture become more and more familiar I am learning, slowly, that perhaps Africa didn't need me as much as I needed Africa. And I'm okay with that.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Summary

The Sunrise of Life Sponsorship program has been a primary focus of the organization throughout its existence. The goal of this program is to help raise funds to directly support the operational needs of caring for an individual child at the residential centre. These needs include, but are not limited to: food, clothing, housing, and education.

The sponsorship program functions by finding individual sponsors to donate on a monthly or annual basis towards the needs of one child. Sunrise of life has determined that a donation of \$45 monthly or \$540 annually is needed to meet the financial obligations for each child living at the residential centre and attending school.

At present, we have a number individual sponsors supporting approximately half of children. The goal of the program is to have every child covered by a sponsor. For each new child that is sponsored, Sunrise of Life is able to allocate more of its general funds to hire staff, develop outreach projects, and work on infrastructure improvements.



Thankfulness

Sunrise of Life is grateful for all the commitment that volunteers have shown to the organization. In Canada, Sunrise of Life has a wonderful team who constantly is dedicated to raising awareness and money on various different projects. In America, the organization has a team committed to finishing the American registration and running both the financials and the sponsorship program. From countries

around the world, Sunrise of Life has received both support and countless volunteer hours. For this, Sunrise of Life is incredibly grateful. Without this support, street children in Arusha would not have all the opportunity that they have today.

CHALLENGES

Sunrise of Life has made amazing strides throughout the past year, but it did not come without some challenges. As an organization committed to helping *all* street children that enter their doors, Sunrise of Life must always be looking for a way to grow. As the organization must maintain its commitment to safety, shelter, and security for street children in the Arusha district, Sunrise of Life will constantly be looking for opportunities to grow.



The biggest challenge carrying forward from 2014 is the budget restrictions on staffing. Over the past year, the number of children at the centre has increased dramatically from approximately 20 children (December 2014) to 55 children (March 2016). This increase in the number of children has put pressures on staffing workloads. Although more staff has been hired to account for this increase, the budget ceiling does mean that there is a limit on the number of staff that can be hired for both centres.

The outreach program and drop-in centre have experienced challenges in consistency of program implementation. When street children who have been on the streets for multiple years first come into the centres, the pull of addiction, freedom and the desire to return is the strongest. The limited amount of recreational space at the drop-in centre makes the development of consistent programming challenging. To combat this, the centre staff have implemented daily city walks and weekly residential centre visits with the children of the drop-in centre.

Street outreach continues to be a challenge. Over the past year, the centre staff realized the importance of resuming night outreach. Some children in Arusha run around and beg during the day with the street children, and return to homes at night. However, doing night outreach ensures that outreach is done among the target population: full-time street children. Night outreach continues to be dangerous for the staff, but maintaining a policy of groups of three or more staff members have helped combat this challenge.

Sunrise of Life continues to see a high demand for the services it provides in the city of Arusha. As this demand rises, the request to lift the limit on the number of children that can be housed at the residential centre is ever present. Over the past year, this limit was raised from 50 children to 60 children, based on the expectations of adequate donations throughout the coming year. Although the residential centre has space to house up to 120 children at any time, due to budget restrictions the limit will remain at 60.

In 2016, Sunrise of Life hopes that sufficient money will be raised so that these various ceilings might be lifted. With every ten children over the age of six, an additional staff member must be hired to help care

for these children. As children numbers increase, staff members will also increase. As staff increases, it will be more important to maintain procedures that can be carried from one staff member to the next. As with every organization, things must grow on a healthy scale.

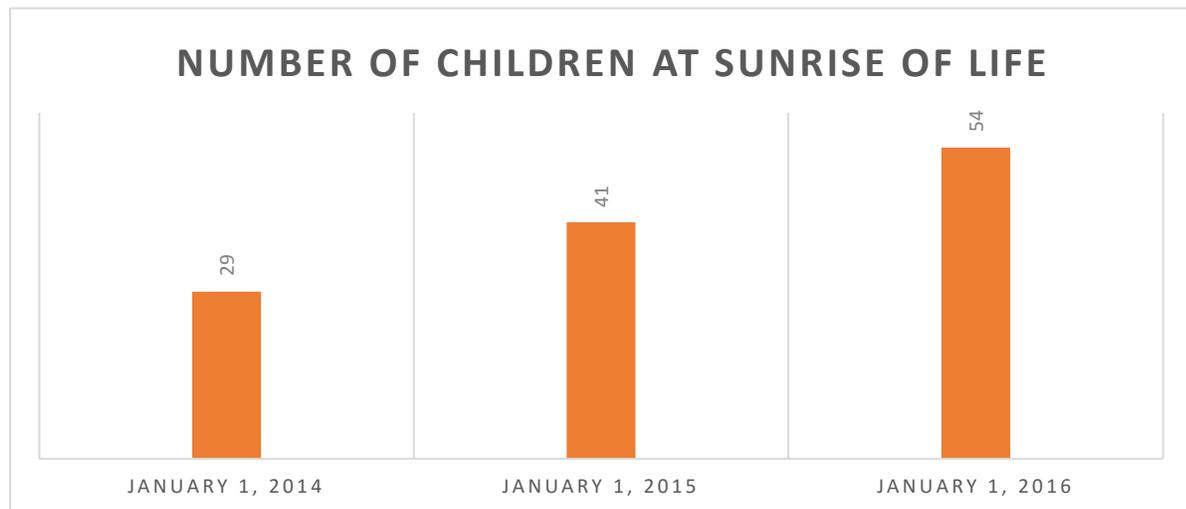


DEMOGRAPHICS

Children at the Centre

At the beginning of 2014, 29 children were living at Sunrise of Life. Three children completed the program at the end of 2014 and became self-sustaining citizens. At the end of 2015, four months into the 2016 fiscal year, 54 children were living at the centre.

All of these children live a family-oriented, normal life. They attend school, they have chores at the centre, and they help out their mamas, their brothers, and their sisters.



FINANCIALS

Fundraising

Sunrise of Life achieved its revenue goals through the help of many generous donors. A charity event was put on and hosted by RealEstate Centre of Coaldale, Alberta. The 4th Annual Fundraising Dinner was hosted and put on by Sunrise of Life. In addition, many generous donors privately donated.

Corporate Donors

A huge thank-you goes out to the following groups for their corporate donations:

The Government of Alberta

RealEstate Centre
Edmonton Urban Spirits Rotary Club
Scenic Landscaping
Solterra
Broxburn Vegetables
Hilltop Greenhouses
Paradigm Heating & Air Conditioning
Zircon Graphics
Live Electric Inc.
RBC Royal Bank
HC Forest Products
Van Straalen Construction, LTD.
FURSA- Education for All
Help for Africa

Grants

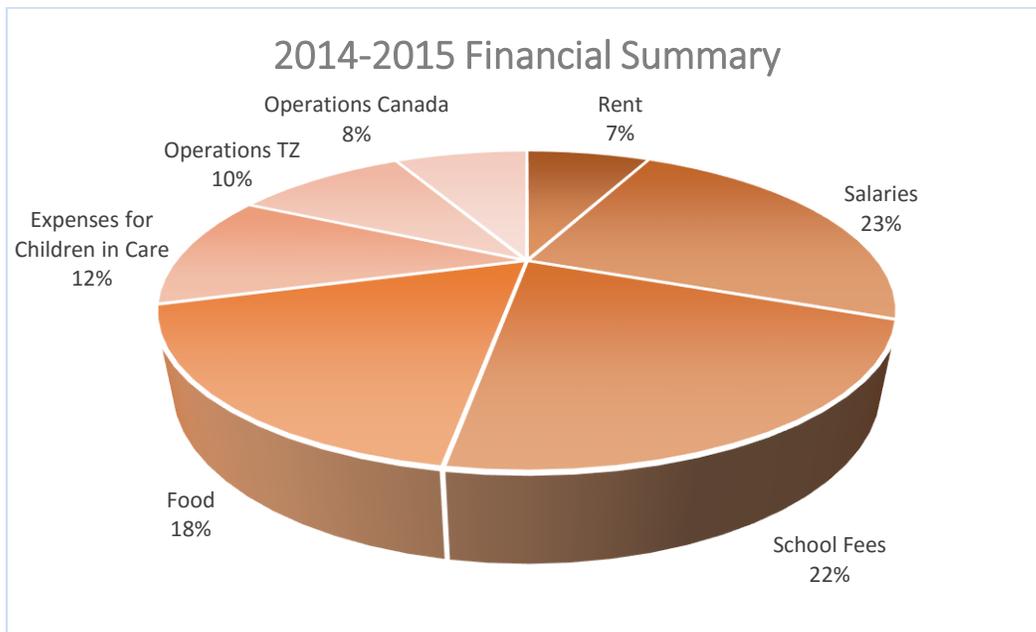
Edmonton Urban Spirits Rotary Club sponsored the chicken house project. A grant was received from the Government of Alberta to support the outreach program and drop-in centre.

2014-2015 Fiscal Year

Sunrise of Life’s financial year runs September to September. In 2014, revenue was \$62, 311.00. (Note: the 2014 financial year ran January to September. Expenses in 2014 were \$54, 593.00. In 2015, revenue was \$92, 947.00. Expenses in 2015 were \$67, 710.00.

2015-2016 Fiscal Year

Sunrise of Life is currently in its seventh month of the current financial year. Reports are projected to be available on or before March 2017.



All financial reports can be found online at www.sunriseoflife.org, or emailed upon request.

OUR THANKS

Sunrise of Life has had an incredible year. Due to the incredible support and generosity of so many donors, the organization has managed to provide safety, shelter, and security to 54 children at the residential centre. In addition, Sunrise of Life reached out to over a hundred street children, building trust and rapport with these children. As a result, many children on the streets of Arusha know of a safe rehabilitation space and a place where opportunity lies.

Without our donors, Sunrise of Life would not be the medium between street and opportunity. Our deepest gratitude to everyone involved.

OUR PROMISE

Sunrise of Life is committed to continue providing a holistic program for street children. This will give them the equal chance at life that all children deserve. Sunrise of Life is committed to nurturing a culture of openness and hope within the organization.

