

// Come True project  
// Abba Project  
// From Streets to Scholars 2017



# 2017 BECOME ANNUAL REPORT

Become is a non-profit  
organisation registered in  
Israel, working in KENYA,  
UGANDA and SOUTH SUDAN.

BECOME R.A. 58-0507879

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D O N A T E





## The Become team is proud to present the activity report for 2017.

2017 was the 5th year in which the Come True project brought refugee kids who were deported from Israel and found themselves refugees again, back into the school system. While our initial intentions, of bringing the kids back to school, is still the project's main goal, with time, Come True has developed to offer much more than that. We are no longer foreigners in an unfamiliar world but rather, equal partners in a fascinating journey together with Ugandan educators, members of the refugee community, families of the kids and many others. Together, we have learned to handle crises, conflicts and misunderstandings, and to support the kids' integration in their new world. Come True is not meant to be a project where "we", the Israelis, support "them", the refugees. From its very birth, Come True has strived to create a shared endeavor supporting the kids's integration. Five years after the project's birth, we can see some success.

This success touches the heart of one of the main challenges of our era. We believe the failure to integrate refugees and other immigrants in countries they are settled catalyses xenophobic social and political forces and at the same time, enhances the feeling of alienation among young refugees and immigrants. We, at Come True, believe that our five years of experience offers interesting/promising new ways to improve integration strategies for refugees, something that we desperately need in this time of refugee crisis.

Thank you, our dear donors, volunteers and supporters, for allowing us to do all of that.  
Yours,

The Become management team: **Jacob Berry, Paula Brambilla, Rami Gudovich, Ziv Gan-Or, Ben Vorspan, Lea Miller-Forshtat, Shelly Kagan, Anne Sophie Cardinal and Sylvain Ruhamia**



If you'd like to discuss opportunities or working together please contact us directly.

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# ABOUT THE 3 PROJECTS

01

## Come True project

Our flagship project, bringing South Sudanese children deported from Israel back into a school system

02

## Abba Self Help Group

Supporting orphans and vulnerable children at the Abba community in the rural areas of Homa-Bay county in western Kenya. Support is provided through income-generating sustainable activities

03

## From Streets to Scholars (FSzS)

A scholarships program allowing orphans and vulnerable children to receive secondary education and win a chance for a better future. a brighter future





# COME TRUE PROJECT 2017 ACTIVITY REPORT

PHOTOGRAPHY : RAMI GUDOVITCH







- Come True project brings South Sudanese children deported from Israel back to school.
- In 2017 the project provided scholarships to 169 children, most of whom studied at Trinity boarding school in Kampala, Uganda.
- This year, 17 more students graduated elementary school and sat for the national primary leaving examinations (PLE). We're proud to report that all our students passed these exams successfully, and nearly all scored within the top percentage of the grades.
- Our special programs – the One World Educational Platform, Be the One and the Extra Lessons program all continued during 2017.
- We continued our cooperation with Machanot Ha'Olim adult movement, with Ben Gurion University and with Inspiration academy for social change and the NIAAD academy for art and design in Namulanda, Uganda.
- With the help of Jacob Berry, our on the ground manager in Uganda, we completed the formal procedure of registering a local organization in Uganda, which will enable us to run the program in Uganda with greater efficiency.
- In accordance with the requirement of the Ugandan ministry of education, we have formally registered all of the Come True students in Uganda, including obtaining refugee status for all the students in the program.
- On September 2017 two of our students, Wayi and Tumbush, arrived at Israel to study at EMIS international school in Ramat Hasharon during the 2017 school year.
- On December 2017 producer Amir Sade and filmmaker Tamar Goren arrived to our holiday camp in Uganda, where they set up a recording studio and recorded original songs and covers with the Come True children.
- On March 2017 we held an event for the Come True volunteers and supporters at the Tel Aviv port, which included a great show by the indie band Sabir.
- On September 2017 two of our students, Wayi and Tumbush, arrived in Israel to study at EMIS international school in Ramat Hasharon. In recent weeks we were happy to welcome four other students to GHIS – Givat Haviva International School.





## COME TRUE SCHOOL REPORT

**In 2017 the Come True project supported 169 students.**

106 of whom studied at Trinity primary school in Kamapala, 23 at Clever's Origin Junior School in Kampala, 24 at Janan Secondary School in Bombo, 5 at Trinity Senior Academy, 2 students at Fram Vocational School in Bombo, 2 at the NIAAD academy for art and design and one student at Budo Secondary school in Kampala. Additionally, 5 students received scholarships to study in schools in Kenya and one student received a scholarship for a university degree in Nairobi, Kenya.

**The end of the 2017 school year saw 17 of the Come True students complete their primary education, all successfully passing the national primary leaving exams (PLE). The PLE grades of the Come True students were high and most of them ranked within the top quarter of the scores. All of these students went on to study in secondary school during 2018, and we will continue supporting them through secondary school, and hopefully in academic studies later on.**

In light of the growing number of students at Come True in general, and particularly secondary school students, we have expanded our activity in Uganda to 7 different schools: our first partners at Trinity Primary School, Clever's Origin Junior School, Janan Secondary School, Budo Secondary School, Hillside High School, Trinity Senior Academy, Fram Vocational School and the NIAAD academy for art and design.

Clever's Origin school prides itself with a dance company, and some of our Come True children are participating dancers. To watch a video of a dance show by this company, presented in honor of the visit of the project's directors in school, [click here](#).





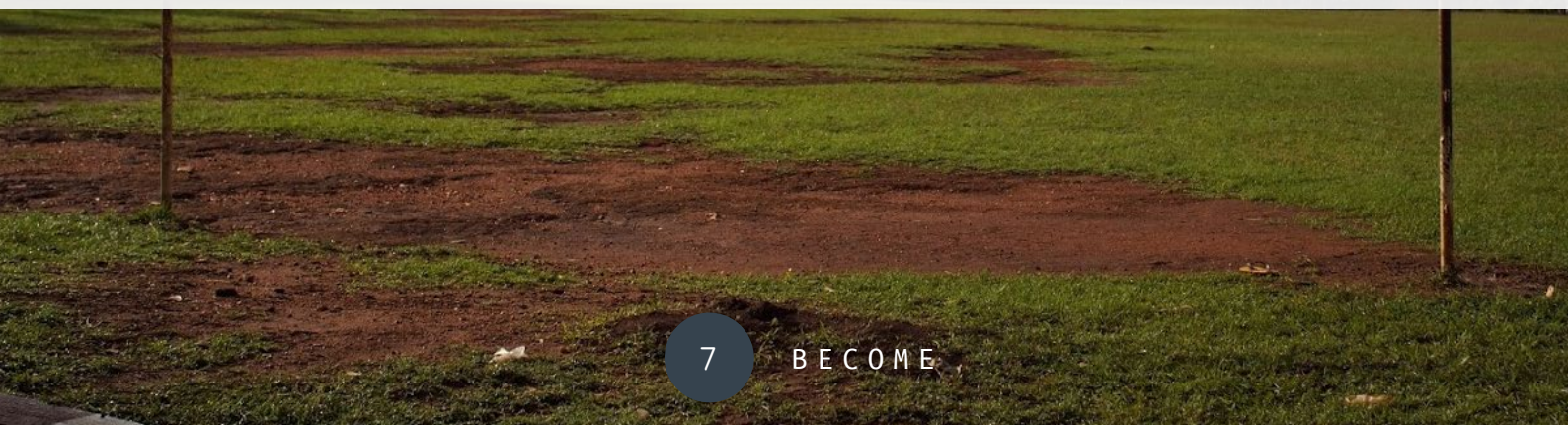
COME TRUE SPECIAL PROJECTS  
DURING THE 2017 SCHOOL YEAR



## One World Education Platform

From its earliest days, the Come True project was designed not only to help the community, but to integrate the community and our local partners in all aspects of its operation. The project brings together different members who come from different backgrounds, philosophies and traditions: the Ugandan educators, the South Sudanese kids and parents, the Israeli team members and supporters, each representing a unique set of traditions, experiences and ambitions.

While these values often converge, sometimes they do not, and integrating them into a coherent whole is essential to Come True's success. In an effort to make that possible, the One World Education Platform, developed specifically to that end, invites teachers, students, parents, Become team members and other parties involved to engage, debate and work through challenges faced in the daily life routine of the teachers, kids and parents.







In our previous report we were excited to tell you about our new team member, **Jacob Berry**, himself a refugee and now our country manager in Uganda. After more than a year of working together we are happy to report that Jacob was extremely successful in implementing many of our goals, and especially in spearheading the transformation of the Come True project into a community-centered project, managed and operated by the community, for the community.

This process's success is well illustrated by the change Jacob was leading in the way we operate the holidays. While in previous years the holidays were operated entirely by Israeli volunteers who took upon themselves all educational, administrative and social responsibilities, our recent holidays in 2018 were fully operated under Jacob's guidance, by the parents and the program's senior students. The Come True project no longer depends on Israeli and other foreign volunteers to cover the long breaks, when the schools are closed and the kids, are under our full responsibility. In taking leading roles during the holidays, the students exercise skills that will help them as future leaders and professionals in their country.. The process of delegating responsibilities to them also encourages and strengthens inner community support mechanisms, conflict resolution skills and other responsibilities. We believe that this transformation had just began and that our model of running a project with the community, rather than for it, will make Come True a model for an empowering project.







## Be the One

**Be the One** is a program aiming to provide refugee youth with a tool kit that will enable them to reach their fullest potential, develop leadership skills and overcome educational, personal and social challenges relating to their lives as refugees. The program encourages the youth to excel and be “the One”.

In 2017 we continued our cooperation with the adult movement of **Machanot Ha'Olim**. In December 2017 and January 2018 two delegations of educators flew to Uganda to stay with the Come True children over their holiday. They were preceded by a successful fundraising campaign, in which we managed to raise a significant part of the funds required for sending these delegations.

Here is how the counselors describe their experience during one day of the program – volunteering with refugee children in the Ndege slum, on the outskirts of Kampala:

“... Toward the weekend we went with the older children to do some activities with South Sudanese refugee children in Uganda (who are not a part of Come True). We rode a small bus from the school to Ndeje slum. More refugee kids arrived for this activity than we expected, and the range of ages was vast. Our older students led the activities impressively, with much respect for the children. They enjoyed themselves and also learned to be patient and creative. Their position as counselors allowed them a peek into the daily lives of South Sudanese refugee children in Uganda, and raised issues such as their connection to this community and their responsibility. The girls and mothers cooperated well during this activity.

With the younger kids, we took a trip to a spring and enjoyed a tasty salad lunch. On another day we were fortunate enough to reach a sandy area which was a great place for games for young children, youth and adults alike. Everyone experienced such freedom and happiness there... from the 5 year old who bathed in sand to the mothers who built castles and skipped ropes.” [// The counselors shared their touching experience on their blog. On the Edge of Light \(Hebrew\).](#)

In 2018 we intend to conduct the two short school holidays, in May and August, without Israeli volunteers – they will be organized and led by Jacob Berry, a group of parents and the older children from the program. Our cooperation with Machanot Ha'Olim will continue for the December-January holiday.





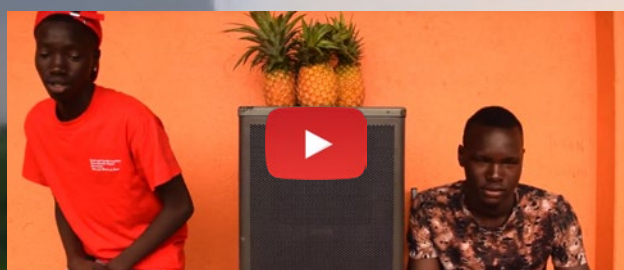
## Art for Change

The Come True students – **David Laverk** and **Viola Philip**, who study fashion design at the NIAAD academy of art and design, are highly commended for their designs, presented at the school's fashion shows. David and Viola are also involved in community work through Inspiration, an organization using art as a tool for social change.



Viola and David present their design clothes fashion show as part of the school in May 2017.

In December we had an extraordinary visitors in our holiday camp: producer **Amir Sade** and filmmaker **Tamar Goren** set up a recording studio at the holiday compound, and for two weeks have filmed and recorded video clips of original music by the Come True students and some covers to current hits. We invite you to watch these wonderful clips:



**It's Alright** – an original song by Come True student **Samuel Khalid**



**Game Locked** – an original song by the Come True student **Isaac Victor**





## Partnership with Ben Gurion University at the Negev

A delegation of 5 students from **Ben Gurion University** flew to Uganda from July to October. The students worked individually with some of the Come True children, organized the August 2017 holiday and began a process of brainstorming, business mentoring and empowering the group of parents living as refugees in Kampala.

**Anael Bentour**, a member of the delegation, described her experience:

“... I’m very happy that Efrat and I got to be involved with the older kids. We got to know quite a large group of high quality youth, ambitious and highly motivated. I could sit with those kids for hours, deep in conversation. It was an important experience for me. Before we left Israel, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I was thrilled to discover that each child is a whole world. Each child has his or her dreams, and I believe in their ability to get very far. One time, when I was talking with the boys, Isaac said to me: “when I’m the prime minister of South Sudan, I will let all Israelis come to live in South Sudan”. I will never forget this sentence. He didn’t say “If I’m prime minister” he said “when I’m prime minister”. This is only one example of the power that these kids hold in their dreams. I believe that it is thanks to the Come True project, which enables them to acquire education.

Each week Efrat and I did two social activities for the group – a fun one based on games, and a more profound one, aiming for empowerment. We were glad to see the kids cooperating in both types of activity.

When we asked the boys what they liked best about the holiday, they said that they liked having someone to talk to openly. It was great to hear that they felt so comfortable with us. We don’t take this for granted, especially with regard to the boys, who are not as naturally open as the girls.

In addition to the general activities, I was also responsible for kickboxing and self defense activities. I was happy to find out that these activities were a magnet to all age groups, including the mothers. It opened a new world to them. The kickboxing practice was flowing with wonderful African rhythm,



and the self defense was embraced with enthusiasm. When I visited the kids in school after the holiday, they immediately asked me about kickboxing and showed me the moves I had taught them.

I would like to emphasize that if it wasn't for Jacob's help and support, our task would have been much more difficult and our results less satisfying. Jacob's care for the children is apparent, he does so much for them and for the project, and he also helped us enormously.

I must confess that before I went on this delegation, I had no personal opinion on the issue of refugees in Israel. It felt like something distant that I preferred to ignore. My experience in Uganda has made me realize that these were special people, and that in another life I could have been one of them. I met people with opinions, dreams and ambitions. All they want is to go back to their homeland and live peacefully and quietly in a place where they will no longer be refugees. Each person is a world in its own."



## Extra Lessons program

Due to language barriers, differences in curricula between Israel and Uganda and the inability to regularly attend school since their deportation from Israel, older children are sometimes placed in grades lower than their age group. In 2017 we continued our efforts to assist these children to bridge this gap by skipping a class, while receiving extra tuition to fill in the gaps. This year 31 of our students skipped classes, a move which, in the long run, will save approximately 25,000\$ in the project's running costs.

Over 40 students are expected to skip classes during 2018.





BE THE *change* THAT YOU IN THE *world* (Gandhi)  
WANT TO SEE

## Cooperation with East Mediterranean International School (EMIS) in Israel

In September 2017, two Come True students – **Wayi Thok Aguer** and **Tumbush Ruey**, arrived in Israel. Wayi and Tumbush were admitted to an international program for leadership and social change at EMIS.



[// Watch a video about EMIS](#)



For the next three years Wayi and Tumbush will study at EMIS, which offers a combination of high level education with social activities and community work. We're proud of Wayi and Tumbush's achievements and wish them great success at school.





## COME TRUE PRESS COVERAGE IN 2017



**HAARETZ**

- Link to an article in [Haaretz](#) following some of the children who recently joined the project (Hebrew).



**HAARETZ**

- An opinion column at [Haaretz](#) by **Christina Philip Batista**, a student at Come True on 14.01.2018.



**HAARETZ**

- **Tsafi Saar's** column at [Ha'aretz](#) for International Women's Day about asylum seeker girls speaking up against deportation (Hebrew).



**3ן רשת**

- A short documentary about the story of the friendship between an Israeli boy and a South Sudanese refugee, [Ha'Ma'arechet](#).



**חיוכית ערוץ 23**

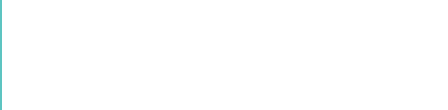
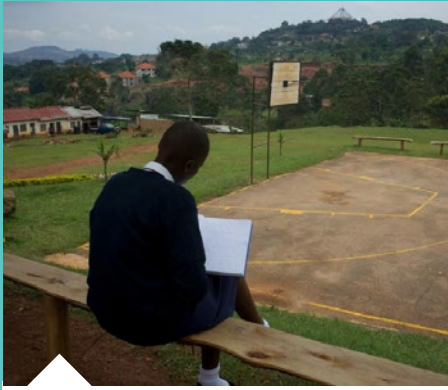
- **Rami Gudovitch's** interviews with **Kobi Meidan** on Channel 11 (Hebrew): "[Chotze Israel](#)".



**ynet**

- A newspaper [7 Days magazine](#) story about Come True student returning to study in Israel (Hebrew):

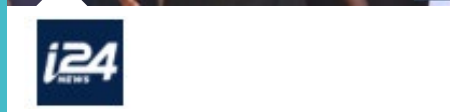




• A fresh link to a story about Come True at the French newspaper [The Observer](#).

• “The South Sudanese Children Who Dream in Hebrew in Uganda’s Capital”, a story by [Uzi Dann](#) at [Haaretz](#)

• A [Ynet](#) column by optometrist **Arza Fruchter**, who flew to Uganda, together with **Vered Ninio**, to make eyeglasses for the Come True children (Hebrew).



• A news story at the Israeli [Channel 2](#) (Hebrew).

• **Tami Harel**’s documentary aired in the US on [i24news Channel](#).



## COME TRUE FINANCIAL REPORT\*



Income		Expenses	
Source	Total sum in USD	Payment type	Total sum in USD
• Balance from 2016	• 8,500	• Tuition and ancillary payments to Trinity school, including payment to Trinity for the holiday	• 122,600
• Donations	• 290,000	• Tuition and ancillary payments to Janan school, including payments to Clever's Origin school and Fram vocational school, and including payment for 2 holidays over the school year	• 81,300
		• Tuition to NIAAD	• 2,400
		• Tuition to Bodo school	• 1,200
		• Tuition for the project students in Kenya	• 6,800
		• Equipment for the holidays	• 5,000
		• Purchases for the children	• 30,000
		• Medical expenses	• 25,000
		• Transportation	• 1,500
		• Salary for Uganda country director	• 3,600
		• Reimbursement of expenses	• 3,000
		• Bank and Israel Gives commissions	• 3,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>294,500</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>291,900</b>

\* The financial report is an estimate made by the project directors based on the expenses on ground, and does not reflect an accounting audit of the project expenses.





# ABBA PROJECT BECOME INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

## FS2S FROM STREETS TO SCHOLARS 2017 REPORT







## BECOME IN KENYA - 2017 OVERVIEW



Become's Kenya initiatives followed two primary focus areas in 2017: the continuation of scholarship activities and technical support following program implementation in previous years.

Become's **From Streets to Scholars (FS2S) Program**, launched in 2011, provides secondary school scholarships to high-risk orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). In Kenya, secondary school fees for one student often exceed the entire annual income of the country's poorest families. OVCs are often not supported at all, or are supported by family members burdened with school fees for other children in their care. They often are forced into the workplace as an alternative to secondary school, thus continuing the cycle of poverty.

In addition to providing youth with opportunities for college and employment, secondary school education also provides youth with important messaging around nutrition, health, family planning, and prevents early marriage. In 2017, the FS2S program funded secondary-school education for nine (9) OVCs supported by the Abba Self-help Group, Become's primary partner in the Homa Bay County. During this period, one of the FS2S students completed her secondary studies and placed 38th place in all of Kenya, underlining the importance of providing all youth with the opportunity to study.

In addition to the ongoing work under FS2S, Become provides informal supportive supervision and guidance to the ongoing initiatives launched or strengthened with Become funding. Such support includes guidance and the establishment of connections with other organizations or funders implementing similar work.





## ABBA PROJECT - FROM STREETS TO SCHOLARS (FS2S)



With a keen eye on sustainability, Become works with local partners, such as Abba, to support solutions that can be driven by the community long beyond the period of funding. To that end, Become and Abba renovated a community clinic in 2012 that increased the quality and availability of health care for the community through more hygienic conditions, and brought more income into the Abba project through increased service uptake.

Abba used funds gathered from Become-driven agriculture initiatives to develop fish ponds. Abba exists to serve as a community-based center caring for OVC from the region and houses over two dozen OVC. With funds raised from activities having received initial Become support, Abba built a dormitory for the girls in their care.

The above activities express the hard work and dedication of the Abba team, and the mutual emphasis on sustainability expressed by Abba and Become at the outset of all Become-funded activities. Income-generating activities that can be driven by communities and do not require outside funding pushes to be kept running are critical to Become's strategy of ensuring long-term, sustainable development.





# TOGETHER WE'LL KEEP ON CHANGING THE WORLD IN 2018 STAY WITH US!

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