

Year in Review

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

BELIEVING. BECOMING.

Michael's story. The spirit of Temple Talents in 2025.

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Dear Reader

2025 was a year that, for Temple Talents Foundation, ended better than it began. We received both cash and in-kind musical support from the D'Addario Foundation in July, a guitar from Guitars for Glory in August, and partnered with Zula Pros and Voorschoten-Wassenaar Library in the Netherlands to run a youth book campaign in September. At the same time, we welcomed more children into our music and literacy programmes and, beyond centre-based activities, began reaching communities directly.

Who could have predicted this at the beginning of the year? That by the end of it, international organizations would be supporting our work? Or that we would have a growing inventory of musical instruments? Until then, we had only a few ukuleles, a handful of storybooks, and the goodwill of our community.

Yet we carried on, sustained not only by the support we received, but by the children themselves. We watched young learners grow in confidence, take their first steps in music, and discover the joy of reading. Some arrived shy and unsure. Most had never held a guitar or opened a storybook before. After months with us, their reading began to improve, and their hands grew steadier on instruments.

One story that captures this year for me is Michael's. He first held a guitar when we accepted him into our music classes, having walked into our centre on his own. Even with every unsteady strum of the strings, we could see how much belief he carried. *"I want to become an instrumentalist,"* he said on his first day, telling of how he wanted to join the local church instrument crew. Today, he plays with confidence and is well on his way to becoming!

None of this would have been possible without you - whether as an individual donor, partner, volunteer, parent, or friend. Thank you. There is still much to learn, much to build, and many more children to reach. But as we enter 2026, I am encouraged by your support, that of the local community and by the growing recognition from international partners who share our commitment to helping every child play, learn, and create, regardless of background.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Larmbert Ebitu

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Strengthening Our Foundation

URSB Registration

2025 was not only a year of programmes and partnerships. It was also a year of building the systems and putting in place the structures that allow Temple Talents Foundation to grow.



In October 2025, we registered Temple Talents as a company limited by guarantee with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau. While our legal registration name is Temple Talents Centre, we continue to operate publicly as Temple Talents Foundation. Alongside our registration with Soroti City Council (since 2022) as a community-based organisation, URSB registration means we are now nationally recognized.



From Ukuleles to Keyboards

We started 2025 with music lessons using a few ukuleles. By mid-year, we had expanded keyboard lessons alongside guitar and ukulele, after we purchased a keyboard.

Since then, we have been able to give children more choice in what they learn, whether picking up a guitar, strumming a ukulele, or trying the keyboard for the first time.

Just as with the guitar and ukulele before, this was also the first time for many children to touch a keyboard.

Keyboard Moments from our Music Space

Taking turns at keyboard: [Watch video](#)
Peer Learning keyboard: [Watch video](#)



Learning Through Music

We started 2025 teaching with just a few ukuleles. As the year unfolded, guitars joined and we added more keyboard lessons, allowing more children to explore different sounds. Some gravitate toward strings. Others prefer keys.



Rebecca, our Music Teacher with first-time children. ©TTF

What matters is that each child finds a place to begin. Lessons are practical and shared. They take turns on instruments, watch one another closely, and celebrate small wins like playing a first melody, or keeping time.

On most days, music sessions begin simply, with children gathering on the verandah or in the backyard, instruments laid out, and curious hands reaching forward. Some arrive early. Others come straight from school.

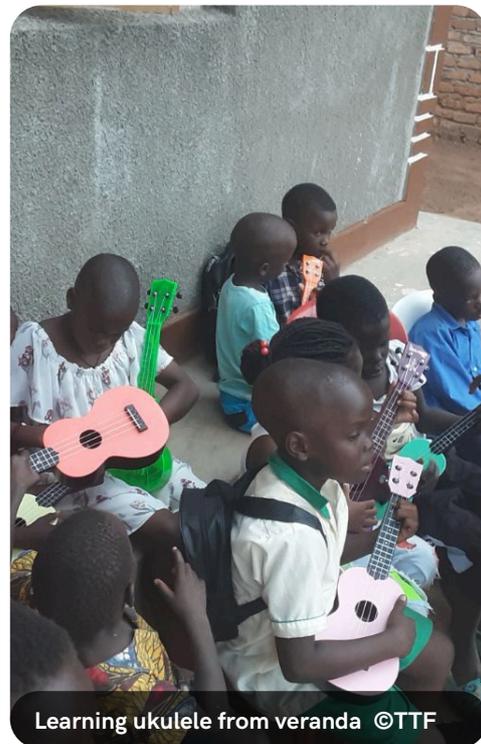
Learning Beyond Our Space

During the school holidays, we partnered with Harmony Pre & Primary School to use their classrooms while their learners were away. This gave our music sessions a more structured setting, with walls filled with letters, pictures, and learning charts. Children practiced guitar and ukulele in front of alphabet posters and reading visuals, bringing music and literacy together in one shared space.

It was a meaningful collaboration that gave children a more structured learning space in their music journey and showed what's possible when community spaces are shared.



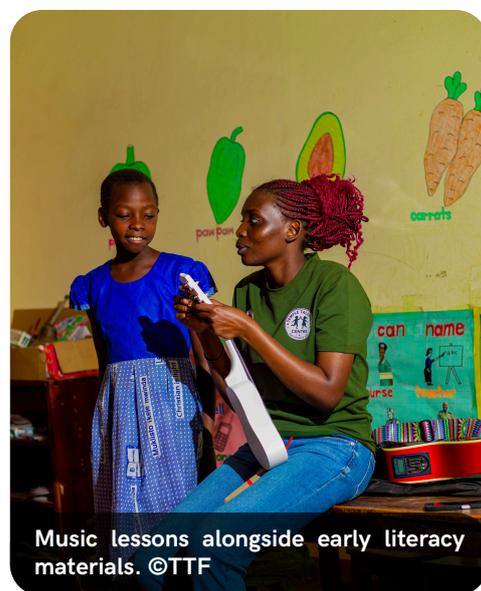
Holiday music sessions at Harmony Pre & Primary School. ©TTF



Learning ukulele from veranda ©TTF



Learning together in backyard ©TTF



Music lessons alongside early literacy materials. ©TTF

Reading for Life

Growing our Library book collection

In September, [ZulaPros](#) and Voorschoten-Wassenaar Library in the Netherlands ran a **youth book campaign** that brought together the Voorschoten-Wassenaar community to collect storybooks for our children in Soroti. Those books are on their way to us and will arrive at the end of February 2026. They will add to the growing storybook collection at our community children's library, and enable more children access books.



635+ Books collected during the September campaign ©Voorschoten Library.

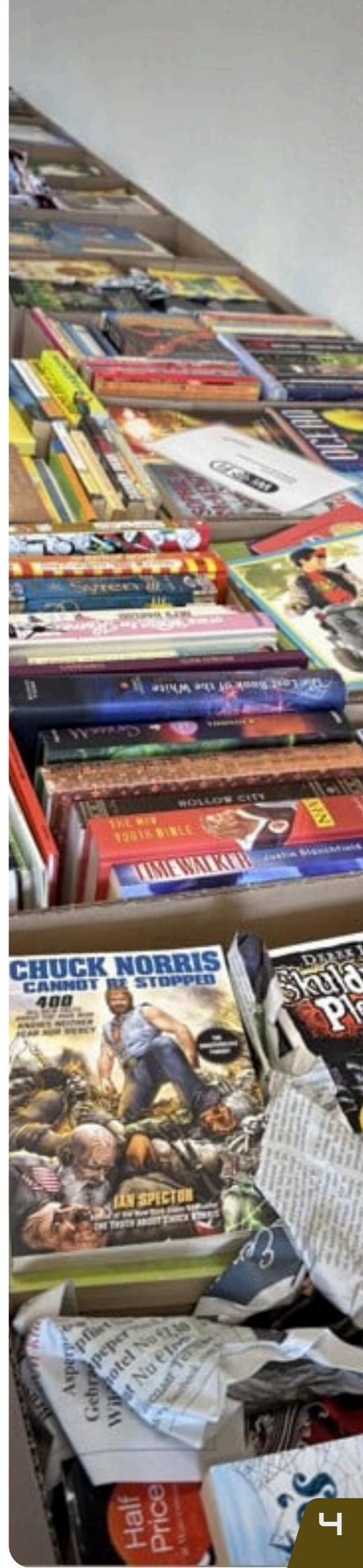
Music and Learning

Reading sessions often happen alongside music lessons. A child might finish a guitar practice and move straight to a story book. Another might read while waiting for their turn on the guitar or keyboard. Learning flows between sound and story. For many children, our library is their first and only experience regularly accessing storybooks.

Some children begin by pointing at pictures. Others sound out letters slowly, one word at a time. Soon, reading becomes less intimidating. A child who once flipped pages quietly now reads aloud. Another finishes a short story and reaches for the next book. These moments remind us why access to books matters.



Reading often occurs alongside music lessons ©TTF



Powered by Partnerships

None of what we do happens alone. In 2025, partnerships helped us move from small beginnings to wider possibilities.



D'Addario Foundation

Support from the D'Addario Foundation provided both cash and musical accessories, helping us sustain our music programme and care for the children who attend. Their support allowed us to replace broken strings, keep instruments in use, and provide simple snacks after learning sessions. As a result, we maintained consistent lessons and welcomed more children into our music sessions.



Voorschoten-Wassenaar Library

ZulaPros and de Bibliotheek Library ran a youth book campaign, mobilizing the Voorschoten-Wassenaar community to donate storybooks for our children. Those books are now on their way to Uganda, opening new reading opportunities for young learners and strengthening the connection between music and literacy at Temple Talents.



Harmony Pre/Primary School

During the school holidays, Harmony Primary School, Soroti opened their classrooms to us, allowing our music sessions to continue in a more organised learning space while their learners were away. This simple act of sharing space made it possible for children to practice music alongside early literacy materials and showed what meaningful local collaboration can look like.

Guitars for Glory

Guitars for Glory donated us a guitar in August that is now part of our daily lessons. It quickly became a shared learning tool, passed from child to child during practice sessions, helping beginners move from ukulele to guitar for the first time.



Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move into 2026, our focus is to reach more children, strengthen our programmes, and deepen the connections that make our work possible.

We will continue growing our music and literacy activities, welcoming new learners, and building on the partnerships that helped shape 2025. We also plan to get more instruments and books so that we can expand lessons and give children more opportunities to practice, play, and learn.

We also want to strengthen our community-based work to bring music and reading closer to children who may not yet be able to reach our centre.

There is still much to build, and much to learn. But we move forward encouraged by what this year has shown us: that when children are given time, tools, and encouragement, they grow. And when communities come together, small beginnings can turn into lasting change.

Thank you for being part of our journey.



Believing. Becoming. Belonging.