



UGANDA

Hands for Hope

News from Namuwongo

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 4 more women supported through Income Generating Activities
- 12 more children sponsored!
- Medical Clinic now open!
- Dr. Mike Nutt says goodbye

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A Special Appeal for Support

Nansande Cissy is one of the children under our Sponsorship Programme who attends St. Barnabas Primary School. Two years ago Cissy's parents became concerned after they noticed her right eye beginning to bulge out. Her parents took her to a government hospital where they were told she needed a scan. As scans are not free in Uganda, Cissy's parents had to save the necessary money before the scan could take place. Once the scan had been completed, her parents were told that Cissy needed a biopsy of the tumor behind her eye. However, once the biopsy was completed it was discovered that the biopsy was taken from the wrong area. Unfortunately, Cissy's parents could not afford a second biopsy and the tumor has

continued to press against her eye forcing it to bulge. Uganda



Nansande Cissy

Hands for Hope was recently able to pay for a second biopsy out of our Medical Fund. However, she now requires an MRI scan which costs £270. We

thought we would share Cissy's story with you, so that you may understand some of the challenges families such as Cissy's face. Our supporters are the back bone of the organisation and we are always grateful for the various forms of support we receive from people around world. Nothing we do would be possible without your generosity and support for the children and families here in Namuwongo slum. We would welcome any contribution to assist us in covering the costs for Cissy's MRI scan. Again, thank you to everyone that has shown an interest in the work we are doing. Your support goes a long way in encouraging the staff and enables us to assist the community of Namuwongo.

New Computer Lab!!

Several months ago we started discussing the possibilities of opening a computer lab for the children in our Afternoon Youth Programme in an effort to enhance their knowledge and allow them access to resources they would not get in the slum or in many other schools.

Thanks to a generous donation by Camara we received 6 computers this past March! With the computer programmes children will be able to sharpen their math and reading skills, and also gain valuable knowledge on the basics of operating a computer.



Income Generating Activities



New client Namande Bena poses next to her vegetable stand

With the bulk of the ladies we support being successful in paying back their business loans, we have begun a new round of assistance to lend support to more women within the Namuwongo slum. This past May we have distributed another four loans totaling \$250. For three of the women it is their first loan and so we are excited to reach out to new clients and anticipate

that this support will boost their quality of life. The three clients are involved in a variety of businesses including cooking local food, selling used clothes, and operating a vegetable stand. The fourth lady, Moreen, is a repeat client who has recently successfully paid back her first loan. After the completion of her first loan Moreen brought us plans to expand her

cooked food business in order to accommodate more customers. It is encouraging for us to see people such as Moreen who have worked hard and actually thought about how they could make their business better and as a result improve upon their livelihood. It will be exciting to see how this new loan will enable Moreen to take her business to the next level!

“Thanks to the continued support of friends, we are happy to announce that another 12 children have now been sponsored...”

Sponsorship Programme

Thanks to the continued support of friends, we are happy to announce that another 12 children have now been sponsored and have begun school. The 12 new children are all primary age that had been previously attending our Afternoon Youth Programme. The children are now enrolled in Kiwuliriza Primary School whom we have

recently formed a new relationship with. Kiwuliriza is located within Namuwongo and has a reputation for attaining good results among its pupils. This new relationship will allow us access to Kiwuliriza’s playing field which we can use for our Holiday Programmes. This will give us a lot more space for the children to run around and

play games. As our number of primary school children continues to grow, space to operate the Holiday Programme has become an increasing issue so we are thankful for the opportunity to build relationships with schools in the area. We will also still continue to partner with St. Barnabas school and build on our relationship with them.

Two members of the Undungu Family Performers practice their instruments before the dancing begins!



Afternoon Youth Programme

Our Afternoon Youth Programme continues to develop and we are very pleased with the direction it is going. We have recently partnered with the Undungu Family Performers. The Undungu group is a

group of young people that created their own Ugandan instrumental, dance and singing group. The purpose of the group is to reach out to other vulnerable youth and train them in traditional singing and dancing. The group come twice a week to work with the youth in the Afternoon Youth

Programme. It is encouraging to see the youth enjoying their time dancing and being able to express their creative side. When the children are not dancing they are also doing other creative activities such as painting, as well as utilising our new computer lab learning basic educational programmes.

Medical Clinic



Dr. Mike Nutt gives a young boy 12 sutures for a leg injury

I am pleased to say that our Medical Clinic is now open and fully operational. Since the opening, there are now over 1,500 people from the community of Namuwongo who can access its

services! The most common treatments at the clinic thus far have been for malaria and diarrhoea. As a clinic, it is also our mission to not only treat such illnesses but also take measures to help prevent them. Recently, we have been carrying out sensitisation in the community informing families on how to practice better hygiene. As well, we recently received a donation of

mosquito nets from Dr. Jan Stewart from the University of Winnipeg in Canada which we distributed to families after instructing them on how to properly hang and tuck-in the nets. This will go a long way in helping to prevent more cases of malaria amongst the families we work with. Unfortunately, Dr. Mike will be leaving us in July, but we have hired a nurse named Margaræt who has been working alongside him and will be confident to run the clinic on her own once he returns to the U.K.

“Unfortunately, the rainy season can have a devastating impact...”

Special Building Project



Many of the families we work with live in small one room mud houses. Unfortunately, the rainy season can have a devastating impact leaving them vulnerable to flooding, erosion and collapse. Thankfully, a visitor from America saw the vulnerability of a family living in such a situation and decided to assist by donating funds to build the family a more sturdy brick home!!



Tailoring Programme

In our last newsletter we reported that our Tailoring Programme had undergone some changes. We are pleased to say that the programme continues to evolve and that there seems to be a renewed energy and enthusiasm amongst the ladies. With the help of volunteer Brigitta Snellenburg we now have ten ladies attending the programme on a regular basis. We also have a new

instructor for the course who has agreed to come on for a 3 month term. For this period, the instructor (Aaron) has developed a curriculum which will give the programme some much needed structure. Currently the women are sewing aprons and from there they will move on to sewing dresses and children’s school uniforms. By the end of the three

months it is hoped that the women will be able to confidently sew these items on their own. For those women who have shown interest, skill and good attendance, they will get to keep their sewing machines at the end of the course.



One of the trainees hard at work sewing a new pattern.



Uganda Hands for Hope

P.O. Box 11319

Kampala, Uganda

Ph: +256 772913001

Email: handsforhopeuganda@gmail.com

www.onlinehope.org

Helping Uganda's poorest to help themselves



One of our newly sponsored children Shamim gives the thumbs up after completing her first day of school! Again, we would like to thank you all for the various ways you support and assist us in reaching the most vulnerable children and families facing urban poverty.

Volunteers

Since the March newsletter we have once again been fortunate enough to have received several volunteers who have all contributed a great deal to the progress of Uganda Hands for Hope. We currently have three volunteers from Australia all assisting us in various areas. Jade Maloney has been running our Afternoon Youth Programme. Having a background in Art, Jade has been able to add drawing and painting as part of the Afternoon Programme which has really enabled the children to express their creative side. Jade has also been involved with assessments of refugee families living in the slum. This is part of a new undertaking by Uganda Hands for Hope to determine the plight of refugee families living in Namuwongo slum. With the information that has been gathered

we will be better able to meet the needs of the refugee community in Namuwongo provided we have the capacity and resources to do so. As a nurse, Elyse Clelland has been assisting in our Medical Clinic and also giving educational lessons on sexual health, and basic hygiene to some of the youth in school and in



Jade Moloney doing arts and crafts with some of the youth

our Afternoon Youth Programme. Brigitta Snellenburg, has been giving a much needed boost to our Tailoring Programme. Brigitta has taken part in hiring on a new instructor while also working with the women and monitoring the programme's progress. Katie Swartz from the U.S. has been training some of our staff in crochet by re-using wool from old sweaters and scraps of fabric. Some of our staff have been making small bags and hats amongst other items. They will now be able to pass this skill along to some of our children in the Afternoon Programme. It is always encouraging to see both our staff and our youth learning new skills and being exciting about creating something with their own hands. We always welcome volunteers to come and share skills with us of any kind!