



UGANDA

Hands for Hope

News from the second quarter

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Expansion of office space and services offered
- Many more children come on to our sponsorship programme
- Volunteers making an impact.

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An Overview of What's Happening

April seems like a long time ago, as it's hard to believe that June is over and July is already here! Time flies when you're having fun and keeping very busy. The rainy season has now come to end and with the exception of the odd down pour here and there the dry season has set in bringing with it a lot of dust. Since the last newsletter in April we have been very busy at Uganda Hands for Hope with a number of new developments. We have recently been given a donation to take on a second building which will allow us to expand our nursery services as well as our other programmes. As well, the number of people coming forward wanting to sponsor children also continues to grow which means the

number of children under our sponsorship programme now going to school is steadily increasing! This growth has also meant that we have taken on a



Pepe and his friends pose for a photo in the slum.

new nursery teacher that has begun a fourth class to handle the influx of children. We have also had the privilege to have a number of volunteers come and

help us out in various areas over the last few months. The next time any of you come to visit you will see our newly completed mural, which brightens up the street and is a positive contribution to the community. We have also begun a tailoring programme at our premises for some of the mothers of the children we support. As well, we have continued to receive generous donations of clothing, shoes, school supplies, games and puzzles from our wonderful supporters at both KLM airlines, and British Airways. There is still plenty of work to do and many new ideas buzzing around in our heads on how we can improve upon what we're doing and reach more families and children.

Expanding Our Capacity

Recently we were faced with the sad news that we were going to lose a large section of our nursery playground due to some confusion over property lines that had been drawn incorrectly in the past. Already tight for space, this meant that if we were to accommodate the growing

number of children coming into our nursery as well as being able to have enough space for our other programmes we needed to look at taking on another space. Thankfully, a generous supporter came forward providing us with enough funding to take on a second building. The new space

is currently being renovated, but should be ready within the next week or two for us to begin our new nursery classes as well as move our tailoring programme to the new location. This will allow for more space in our current nursery, as well as our afternoon youth programme.

Child Sponsorship Programme



Evelyn from our nursery shows off her coloring work

We are happy to say that despite the global economic downturn the number of people coming forward to sponsor children has been steadily increasing. Within the past two months we have seen another 20 children from Namuwongo slum come onto our sponsorship programme thanks to the generous support of individuals that decided to get involved because they believe in the work being done in Namuwongo slum. These kids

will now have the opportunity to go to school and receive a quality education, plus we provide them with 2 meals a day. Without sponsorship receiving an education is often out of the question for many of the families in the slum as they cannot afford the fees. With more children due to come onto the programme within the upcoming months we have had to start a fourth nursery class and hire on a fourth teacher as well. We are very excited about being

able to provide so many more children with the chance to go to school. With the increase of children coming on to the programme space has become an issue for us, so our plans are to also begin classes at our new building as soon as the renovations have been completed.



A young girl reads to her peers

Youth Programme

We have recently added another programme aimed at youth from the slum. Structured similar to our Saturday Reading Club for our sponsored children in primary school, the Youth Programme runs 3 afternoons a week and is centered around children ages 5-8 that are not yet sponsored or going to school, but who are on our waiting list

for sponsorship. During the programme the children learn to read various words, form sentences and also enhance their writing skills. Although not a formal education, we believe that this programme will be beneficial to these children as it will prepare them for when they eventually do begin school by providing them with the necessary foundation

needed to excel at school. As well, attending this programme also places them in a positive learning environment where they are not sitting idle roaming around the slum being tempted by negative peer pressure that will only get them into trouble and lead them down a path that will be harmful to their development.



Women gather around to cut and measure fabric.

Tailoring Programme

This past March The Global College at the University of Winnipeg, Canada held a fundraiser for Uganda Hands for Hope to benefit war-affected families living in Namuwongo slum. In one evening the university was able to raise \$3000 for our work

here in Uganda. With those funds we have started a tailoring programme for some of the women living in the slum. The programme started at the beginning of June with 10 women the majority of whom are war-affected. Many of them are also single parents who struggle to provide for

their families. The goal of this programme is to pass along a skill that these women will be able to use as a way to generate income and increase their quality of life by enabling them to provide for themselves and their children.

Personal Stories



Quite often the stories one hears about the lives of the families living in Namuwongo slum will break your heart and leave you wondering how can some of these families continue to smile and be happy in spite of what they have endured in their pasts. One night in their village in the DR Congo Patrick, his wife Esperance and their children were attacked by rebels in their home. The rebels took Patrick away as Esperance and their four children fled their burning home. Unfortunately, the oldest

son was shot by rebels, and their other son got lost in the chaos as Esperance and the other two children were fleeing the home. Patrick was severely tortured by the rebels having all the fingers on his right hand cut off, along with deep scares on his chest. Happily, Patrick reunited with Esperance and their two remaining children in Uganda. Their two girls are now under our sponsorship programme, and Esperance is in our tailoring programme. The family now has hope at a brighter future.

Visitors

Since the last newsletter we have been very fortunate to receive many visitors interested to see what we have been up to. Most recently, a group of students from the University of Liverpool in partnership with VMM UK spent a few days with us to help out and learn more about the work we are doing and the need here in Uganda. It is our hope that when visitors

come and visit us, they will be inspired to become actively involved in making this world a more peaceful and loving place whether that be through supporting us here in Uganda, or other initiatives in their own communities back home. The picture to the right shows Joanna from the University of Liverpool dancing with some of the children in the slum.



Volunteers

We are always thankful for the work and support of our many volunteers that come throughout the year. Most recently we have had a wonderful group of volunteers that have been assisting us in many different areas. Richard Ellingham, a volunteer from the UK that has just left us assisted us in computer related areas including doing a lot of work in getting our

website functional. Hugh Karran and Luci Carreras were also recently with us assisting in our literacy programmes as well as doing community visits. We currently have two interns from Canada that have been developing our tailoring programme, as well as another volunteer from the UK who has been helping us renovate our new building and working in

our library. Without our volunteers we would not be able to impact the community in the same way. We are always happy to receive volunteers no matter what your skills or experiences, we welcome everyone to join our team!



Luci Carreras assists in conducting family visits



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Helping Uganda's poorest to help themselves



Part of our new mural and two members of the Namuwongo Youth Group that helped out.

In Urgent need of Sponsorship

Like many of the families living in Namuwongo slum, Odongo Patrick's family came to the slum after fleeing the war and violence in northern Uganda perpetuated by the Lord's Resistance Army. Born completely healthy, but lacking basic immunizations, Odongo contracted measles at a young age and consequently lost his eyesight. Odongo's father left the family sometime back and hasn't been heard from since. His mother has been left alone to care for Odongo and his 6 other siblings. Life is not easy for Odongo's family as their mother struggles to provide basic needs. In many cases a child with disabilities such as Odongo can be seen as a burden on the family as they lack the resources to care for such special needs. We have identified Odongo

some time ago as a child with high vulnerability who would never have the chance to go to school. As an organization we decided we needed to act and see what we could do for this precious child. Currently we have been paying for Odongo's school fees out of monies that have been donated to us as one off gifts. However, we are aware that this is not a sustainable way to ensure Odongo's education. That is why we are seeking a sponsor for this boy. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to find him a sponsor as the cost of sending him to school is significantly higher than the other children on our programme. But perhaps two or three of you could partner together in sponsoring Odongo. £45/month will cover Odongo's school fees, boarding, food, transport, and

Holiday Programme. Please contact us if you would be interested in sponsoring this wonderful boy!

