

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends

We are already three months into this New Year and give thanks to our faithful God for each one of you. Your prayers, generous support and compassion continue to change the lives of hundreds of children in Uganda.



## Bridge of Hope Nursery and Primary School

Our team of seven people arrived in Rukungiri to be

greeted with the exciting news that our very first group of Primary 7 students had achieved excellent grades in the district exams and the overall performance of the school was outstanding. This is such an achievement for all the staff that has worked tirelessly with the children to enable them to accomplish this position. Because of your support, children that previously would not have been able to attend school are walking with their heads held high, confident that they have the ability to learn new skills. We were delighted to arrange a celebration for this pioneer group which was attended by their guardians, teachers and district officials.

The school is full once again and providing free meals to all of the 480

children which greatly improves their health and ability to concentrate. In the nursery class there was much excitement when we delivered some donated toys, including wooden

building bricks, stickle bricks and jigsaws. We are always in need of durable educational toys and would love to hear from you if you have any to donate.



## Child Sponsorship

Meeting with the 150 sponsored children takes place over three sessions and they are always vibrant and important times together. All the children had received an additional gift of food in December and send their heartfelt thanks to their sponsor for this Christmas blessing. Two of the team met their sponsored child and siblings and also visited their home.



January is a very important month as children receive their exam results and prepare to move to another class, school or vocational course. Sponsored children attend many different schools across the district and it is challenging for Bridge of Hope staff to visit every school to ensure that the fees are paid and appropriate support given. Two years ago four children joined their vocational course and have now graduated as a primary school teacher (now employed at the BOHCM School), a plumber, carpenter and a nursery teacher. Even more students will complete their courses this year whilst another eleven students have completed school and commenced vocational training.

## Bridge of Hope Children's Village

We currently have 26 children living in "Genesis & Hallelujah", our two family style homes. The youngest



are four year old triplets and the oldest are 16 year old teenagers. A highlight of our January visit was having lunch with the children then playing games, with their favourite being the sack race and egg and spoon race. This was followed by each child receiving a

Christmas gift including some sweets. Two of the children visited the Queen Elizabeth Game Park and enjoyed learning about their environment and seeing a variety of animals.

### Youth Sports Development Programme (YSDP)

Sunday afternoon is a very special time when local children can join in the fun and training at the YSDP. The provision of skipping ropes, bats and balls ensures that everyone can enjoy themselves whilst the netball and football teams play their matches.



In May 2019 our Youth Leader, Hillary, brought our attention to a sick child called Promise who was struggling to walk and was covered in sores. With BOHCM intervention, Promise was diagnosed with severe malnutrition and has been receiving nutritious food. We hardly recognised the healthy, happy and energetic child that greeted us in January and Promise was eager to tell us that she was going back to school now that she is free from pain.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**BOHCM Bring & Buy Coffee Morning with Clothing Collection 25<sup>th</sup> April at Enfield Baptist Church.** Check our website for more details.

**BOHCM Quiz Night Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at Enfield Baptist Church.** Details coming soon.

**BOHCM Barn Dance Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Enfield Baptist Church.** Details later in the year.

### News

- **Clean water saves lives**, improves hygiene practices, reduces water related diseases and improves child health. Another Protected Spring was completed providing clean water to a whole community. A further pond was assessed and deemed suitable for conversion to a Protected Spring.
- **A precious child was rescued** and a Foster Carer registered with BOHCM just in time to give this little girl a safe and loving home.
- **Many families were blessed** as we distributed Bibles, mattresses, blankets and more goats. Over 300 people received an item of clothing provided by our UK clothing collection.
- **Three more children were registered** for sponsorship to replace three students who graduated from the BOHCM Sponsorship Programme.
- **The Bible Based Holiday Clubs** were very well attended on both sites and the children continue to learn, play and enjoy themselves.

### Prayer points

- *Pray for the children to settle into their new class, school or vocational course*
- *Pray for enough rain to provide a harvest for the families*
- *Give thanks that the BOHCM school performed well in the District Exams*
- *Give thanks that BOHCM is reaching out to so many people in Jesus' name*

Colossians 3:15

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

