

Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends

Welcome to the latest edition of *Bridging the Gap*. We are deeply grateful for all your support which is transforming the lives of so many children in Uganda.

Thank you to everyone who donated good quality children's clothes, they were received with great joy by 390 children who attended the final day of the *Bible Based Holiday Club*. The children enjoyed learning, singing and playing at their club and despite using both of our nursery classrooms and a hired marquee we were still short of space to cater for them all.

The *BOHCM Child Sponsorship* programme has also increased and we are now supporting 102 children, all of which we met. Each meeting was colourful and vibrant and the relentless grind to "simply survive" has lost its grip on these happy, hope filled people. The children excitedly received the gifts from their sponsors and were eager to write messages back to them.

We are currently registering more children for sponsorship as we believe it is highly effective in reducing poverty. Five of the children are now attending Secondary school and aspiring to use their education to support themselves and their families in the future. To manage the workload of sponsorship increase we have employed a fulltime Support/Field Officer to work with Ben, our onsite BOHCM Manager. She will assess, monitor and support vulnerable children and offer guidance to the teenage girls.

The *Bridge of Hope Children's Village* continues to be "Paradise" on earth; the family is expanding and is home to twenty-one children. Six-year-old Arnold moved there in June this year and since our return to the UK a little girl called Gift has joined the family.

It was a privilege to watch the House Mothers play



This baby is Gift, the newest arrival at the Children's Village



The guardians rejoicing as we gathered to meet with the children

with Arnold and encourage the children to greet their new brother with a big hug. Arnold very quickly settled into his new, secure home and became a child once again.



Arnold (left) on his first day at the Children's Village

We thank God for the joy of watching Arnold running, laughing, playing and his sheer delight when he received clean clothes and a pair of shoes. With only three more girls' places left at the Village our thoughts turn to what will happen to other less fortunate abandoned children.

The BOHCM pre-school nursery is offering excellent education and all places remain filled. The children are cleaner, healthier and livelier than when they enrolled a year ago and the guardians who are receiving a bursary are very grateful to see their child being educated. The first group of children will graduate to primary school in February 2014 and we are working on this next challenge.

The wonderful and energetic team from the UK threw themselves into various activities; visiting their sponsored children, buying and distributing goats and bags of groceries to vulnerable children, and providing two new roofs for elderly grandparents and orphans. The endless energy of the children at the Village further delighted and exhausted the team with requests to play.

We thank God that He has provided supporters for BOHCM which enables us to reach children who would otherwise have no hope. God bless you all.

Hebrews 6: v10

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

