

Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends, Welcome to this autumn addition of “Bridging the Gap”, it is so exciting to bring you this update on the work of Bridge of Hope Children’s Ministry (BOHCM) and to share with you the impact your support is making in the lives of many vulnerable children. The increased self esteem, confidence and improved health of the children is a testimony to the hope that your support has given to their guardians and grandparents. “Hope” that they have not been forgotten, can now feed and clothe their children and send them to school. Your support has turned an impossible dream into a secure future for so many families.

Whilst in Uganda in September a team of six people from the UK visited the homes of nine children who met

the criteria to be registered and receive support from BOHCM. All the children are orphans or have been abandoned and are living with “a good Samaritan” or an elderly relative. Because of your generosity we provided each child with a mattress, blanket, clothes and shoes.

All sixty guardians and the children later gathered at the council hall, for some it was their first time to receive this monthly support consisting of beans for planting to increase food production and some cash for essential items. Six more goats were given to families as part of the Income Generating Activity (IGA) and we learned that most of the original goats have now produced kids. Watching an elderly grandmother dance and rejoice, giving thanks to God whilst hanging on to her goat

Newly registered children receive mattresses and blankets





Children receiving goats

was such an amazing sight, in all her life she had never received such a gift. The guardians continue to request a Bible in the local language and we provided five more during these celebrations.

A visit to a community Home Church gave us time to reflect on the generous spirit of some of the poorest people we may ever meet. During the offering we witnessed people placing one egg, a handful of beans or a vegetable in the offering tray. Some people even gave a live chicken or the metal head of a hoe. Singing to and praising God for His provision accompanied all this giving. The items were then auctioned to turn the goods into money to support the church work. It is the first time in our lives that we have ever left a church holding a live chicken and a hoe!

We are particularly keen to confirm to you that Ben, our volunteer Coordinator in Uganda, will take up the post of full time manager on November 1st. Because of his love for Jesus, Ben has for the past two years faithfully given his time and expertise to support vulnerable children in Rukungiri. Ben envisages that the first two bungalows can be constructed very soon now that he is able to monitor the construction work. Following an advert for contractors in a Ugandan Newspaper, bids have been received and the successful bidders will soon be chosen.

The Protected Spring at Kebisoni has now been completed and provides clean water to many families. The Gravity Water pipes on our land have also been re-laid and repaired. This now provides an accessible water source to the surrounding community, serves the adjacent Health Centre which until now was without water and will provide water to the Children's Village. (See photos on website).

BOHCM were pleased to assist St. John's primary school in Enfield to set up a school link with Kahengye Primary School. We visited this school to exchange letters, messages and drawings from St. John's and on arrival we were greeted by singing and dancing all

beautifully accompanied by a drum. Then came the highlight of the visit. Gifts of footballs, netballs and sports tops were presented to the school. The children were delighted as these are the only sports equipment they have. In less than two minutes a game of football commenced whilst the girls organised a netball team. We later heard from the Head Teacher that the children are so excited with these gifts that she struggles to get them back into class.

If you have access to the internet we have photos on our website. It's also regularly updated with information about forthcoming events, so if you are planning an event please let us know so that we can include it. The home where children live alone now has secure windows, leaking roofs have been repaired and blankets, mattresses, Bibles and goats have been distributed. We are currently planning to respond to other "Additional Needs" identified during our recent visit.

Finally, with Christmas fast approaching let us share God's love and remember the true meaning of Christmas by providing the guardians with enough food to make a special Christmas Dinner for all their family. They would particularly like some meat with their meal, as this is a luxury beyond their means. If you would like to be part of "**Making Christmas Special**" we would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile we wish you a Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings.

Gravity water now comes to the land and to the health centre



Psalm 5: v11

But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy,
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

