

Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends of BOHCM

Praise God that after two long years of Covid restrictions a team of five were able to visit Uganda in February. We are delighted to send you this update on all the wonderful work your support is achieving. We couldn't have done it without you.

In Uganda, Ben (BOHCM Manager), Doreen (Senior Field Worker) and Lona (Field Worker) are doing an amazing job ensuring that so many children continue to receive the support they desperately need.

Bridge of Hope Children's Village

It was pure joy to finally arrive at the Children's Village. The gardens and play areas are all so well kept and bordered by flowering plants and fruit trees. The House Mothers and Aunts were so happy to see us and the only thing missing was the children as they were all at school. It was quickly arranged for the children to have an extended lunch break and they were soon spotted running home down the hill from the BOHCM School. Once we recovered from the shock of how all the children have grown we relaxed and enjoyed their exuberant welcome and singing and dancing.

It was wonderful to be able to arrange some fun activities and spend time with the children at the weekends; colouring, making pictures with stickers, face painting, balloons and bubbles were all enjoyed by the children (and the House Mothers). On Sunday we all went to church together followed by a shared lunch and on another occasion we celebrated a birthday with a delicious cake.

Another highlight of our visit was being able to welcome an abandoned little boy into the BOHCM family. He settled in so well and was soon receiving lots of attention from his new family.



Bridge of Hope Nursery and Primary School

In January, schools were allowed to open again and Respa, our hard working and dedicated Head Teacher welcomed 462 happy children into the BOHCM School. Every class is now full of children eager to resume their studies. The Primary 7 students were allowed some periods of study during Lockdown and due to the quality of the teaching they received we are pleased to report that they achieved very high grades in the district exams. With your support we continue to give all the children a daily free meal and we provide many bursaries so that the poorest children can attend school.



Our Teachers & Support Staff

Child Sponsorship

Another vibrant and colourful welcome greeted us as we met with all the sponsored children and their guardians. They shared testimonies of how much they appreciated the support they received especially during Lockdown and many prayers have been said for their sponsor. A home visit to one of the sponsored children who has a disability resulted in the provision of a specially designed toilet made by our local carpenter. This can also be used as a seat and a



Standing Frame. It was very special to see the smile on his face with this new equipment.

More home visits were undertaken by the team and



we now have four more children who need a sponsor. One little girl was abandoned in a field and a lovely lady, despite already caring for her own grandchildren, took her into her home and has already bonded with her. With support from BOHCM and a sponsor we are sure they will do well. If you have been thinking of sponsoring a child please contact us for more information. Sponsorship is £15 per month and the child and family receive 100% of this support.



Vocational Training Changes Lives

Due to the two year gap in school attendance, some of the older children requested to join a Vocational Course rather than attempt to catch up with the school curriculum. Students

were individually assessed and guided well into their chosen career.



We now have these students undertaking a range of courses including Motor Bike Mechanics, Carpentry, Shoe Making, Tailoring and a Nursery Teachers Course. When a student successfully graduates from their course we aim to help them establish how they can now begin to be self-sufficient. This is mainly achieved by providing the guidance, materials and tools they need.



News

Youth Sports programme – Good news, the very popular Youth Sports Programme is now up and running again. Teams of excited football and netball fans enjoyed showing us their skills and a crowd of younger children were all present using the variety of equipment on hand such as balls, skipping ropes and Frisbees.

Building projects – A home for an elderly grandmother and two children has recently been completed ensuring that they now have a safe and comfortable place to live.



Clothing Distribution – A school in the nearby district was chosen to bless the children with clothes. We managed to give over 300 children a nice item of clothing or shoes. It was a very special afternoon and only made possible by your kind clothing donations.

Another needy Family – A mother with 5 month old twin baby girls requested urgent support to buy some milk for her undernourished babies. Two



weeks later we again met with the mother and were delighted to see that these precious babies were already stronger and more alert. We will continue to support this mother and review the needs of the babies as they develop.

Women in Prison – A visit to a local women's prison enabled us to spend time with the women and to give their children some clothes. Women are allowed to keep a young child with them until approximately the age of two years. The women were very excited and proud to show us the lovely baskets they had made and were allowed to sell to us. We enjoyed a very relaxed time with the women but understandably we were not allowed to take photos.

Spring Fayre – This was a very special event, many thanks to everyone who made the morning so successful. We raised an amazing £797.97. We also received lots of clothes to take to Uganda and the rest are in the process of being sold to raise further funds.

Giveacar – This is a small social enterprise that recycles old vehicles. Owners of old cars simply contact Giveacar and donate it to a charity of their choice, it is then collected for free. We have already gratefully received one such donation. Please take a look at their website, it is very interesting: <https://giveacar.co.uk/>

Prayer points

- Give thanks that we had a successful visit to Uganda
- Give thanks that we are able to help more children
- Pray for new sponsors to contact BOHCM to support these precious children
- Pray for Ben the BOHCM Manager as we have just heard he has Covid

Psalm 9:9-10
The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

