

Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. These are certainly challenging times and in the space of a few months all our lives have changed and the Corona pandemic has reached most of the countries in the world. Uganda was very quick to respond to the virus threat by closing their borders and airports and they remain in Lockdown with just a few concessions for travel and work. As we write this Newsletter the schools and churches remain closed and large public gatherings are banned as people are expected to continue with the social distancing guidelines. For many of the poorer people this is simply not possible as their homes are crowded together and water sources and latrines are shared by many people. We are fortunate that the District of Rukungiri where BOHCM works is a rural area and to date Covid 19 has not spread there and the 696 reported cases have been contained in the capital Kampala.



Child Sponsorship

Ben, our BOHCM manager in Uganda, worked hand in hand with the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) and the local police to gain permission for BOHCM to distribute the monthly support to the families over the past months along with a gift from their sponsors of extra food and soap.

One person in each family is allowed to collect their monthly support, giving Ben the opportunity to raise awareness about good sanitation, hand washing and social distancing. Ben reported that many of the guardians shed tears of relief knowing that their sponsorship support is continuing. They also expressed their sincere concerns about people in the UK as the news of our tragic loss of lives reaches them.

Bridge of Hope Nursery and Primary School

The last few months during our school closure has been extremely difficult for many children who rely on their free school meal. To address this need, our Head Teacher Respa along with Ben identified the most vulnerable families and we are providing them with essential food items to help them through this crisis.

Respa has also been very active in putting together some educational "Holiday Packages" for the primary 7 pupils to ensure they can continue to learn whilst the school is closed. The majority of the school staff have remained at home as required by the Ugandan government.



Bridge of Hope Children's Village

We are so blessed to have such wonderful House Mothers and Aunts who have risen to the challenge of caring for the 26 children living in the two BOHCM homes.

The children have been encouraged to develop their craft skills in basket making and crocheting. The gardens are being prepared for planting vegetables and



maize and the RDC gave permission for one of our teachers to visit them and provide some structured lessons. This has been so helpful to the House Mothers who have been with the children nonstop since the Lockdown started. We are currently seeking permission for the House Mothers to have a break and enable them to visit their own families who also live in Rukungiri. They have already sacrificed so much to be with our children when they have been so concerned about their own families.

Community Spirit

We were delighted to receive photos showing food being delivered to the Children's Village. Local well-wishers arranged to donate food to the children and



Prayer points

- Give thanks that Covid 19 is being contained
- Give thanks for the generosity of so many people
- Pray that our House Mothers can have a break
- Pray that the schools can soon open safely

also to some of the vulnerable families in the community. It is so very heartening to hear these stories of how people are pulling together to help each other during these challenging times.

BOHCM Projects

We are praying that we can soon restart our weekly Youth Sports Groups on a Sunday and commence with community building projects. Our Bible Based Holiday Clubs will be rescheduled in line with government guidance once the schools and vocational centres reopen.

A HUGE Thank you

Your financial support, prayers and commitment to BOHCM is the reason that so many children and families are managing to survive this Covid 19 crisis. The price of food and medical supplies has rocketed and without you we could not continue to help so many families. We sincerely thank you for all you do and look forward to a time when we can commence our fund raising events and catch up with many of you in person.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2020

BOHCM Coffee Morning & Clothing Collection
31st October

BOHCM Barn Dance 14th November at Enfield Baptist Church

All events are under review

Hebrews 10:24
*And let us consider
how we may spur one
another on toward
love and good deeds.*

