

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends

We have recently returned from Uganda where a team of six volunteers experienced first-hand how Bridge of Hope Children's Ministry (BOHCM) is transforming the lives of vulnerable children. We thank you and our Almighty God for your ongoing support, prayers and generous financial giving, without you these precious children would still be suffering.

## The homes you built

The children are always so excited to receive visitors at the BOHCM Children's Village. They know that they will have many fun activities, lots of attention and an opportunity to entertain us with their wonderful singing and dancing. One of the team had a "special" birthday and all the children received a party bag, balloons and played "Pass the Parcel" for the first time in their lives. It is wonderful to see children growing in confidence, very lively and extremely noisy. It is almost



impossible to recognise these children as the same traumatised and neglected children that first came to join the family.



## Child Sponsorship Scheme

September is a difficult month for poor agricultural farmers as food is running short and they are planning to plant new crops if the weather conditions are favourable. There was much rejoicing when 150 sponsored children each received a gift of food and extra financial support from their sponsor.



## Clean water saves lives

Two more communities were blessed with clean water and no longer have to collect water from dirty ponds. Two members of the visiting team who had raised money to provide one of the Protected Springs were present to personally meet and celebrate with the beneficiaries and officially hand over this life saving gift.



### Abandoned Baby Boy

Our good working relationships with local government organisations continue to benefit many children. Advice and concerns about children are shared and we value support from each other. We received an urgent call from the Senior Social Worker in Rukungiri asking if we could find a home for an abandoned baby boy as all attempts to trace his family had failed. Fortunately we were able to settle him with one of our new Foster Carers and he is doing well and enjoying eating, playing and being loved by her.



### Alternative Gift Cards

Christmas is fast approaching and the commercials on TV are already encouraging us to spend our money. Why not make Christmas special, take the stress out of shopping and give your loved ones an Alternative Gift Card. When you buy a Gift Card you will bless and support some of the poorest children in Uganda and your gift will definitely be appreciated. We have a range of cards for essential items such as a school uniform or sweater, school lunches or an educational bursary. For more information and a full list of cards available please contact us: info@bohcm.org or Tel: 01992 712427.

### News

**BOHCM School** – We are now in the third term at the Bridge of Hope Nursery & Primary school and 303 children are receiving good quality education. In February 2017 we will be opening the newly constructed Primary 5 classroom and interviewing to appoint another Primary teacher. There will be 34 nursery places available as children graduate to a higher class. We aim to continue giving the children

a “Free Meal” each day as many come to school hungry and not knowing when they will next eat. The head teacher told us that the children used to run to the lunch queue as they were afraid that the food would run out. But now they form an orderly line as they are assured of a good meal.

**Bible Based Holiday Club** – It was a warm sunny



afternoon as we joined over 470 children at the BBHC. The children love meeting together to sing, pray and learn Bible

stories. After their playtime they go to their own age based group to learn about such topics as hygiene, nutrition and socialisation skills.

**Youth Sports Development Programme** –

The football teams were very excited to be invited to participate in a local tournament at the Rukungiri Stadium.

Everyone had the opportunity to play and the children really benefitted from this experience.



### Prayer points

- Pray that Jesus is the centre of Christmas celebrations
- Pray for favourable food growing conditions
- Pray for the appointment of a Primary Teacher
- Pray for the team planning to visit Uganda in January 2017
- Give thanks for Foster Carers

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee morning, Bring & Buy and Clothing Collection Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 10-12 noon at Enfield Baptist Church

BOHCM Annual Quiz Night Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at Enfield Baptist Church

Psalm: 28 verse 7

The Lord is my strength and my shield;

My heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

