

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends

With just a few weeks of 2020 to go we inevitably reflect on the impact that Covid-19 has had on our lives this year.

A second lockdown has again resulted in restrictions on our movements and freedom and we are about to greet Christmas with so many questions. Will we see our loved ones? Will our church be open? How will people manage if they have lost their job?

For children and families around the world who live in poverty, this year has been especially hard. In Uganda the pandemic has put the poorest people under unimaginable strain and those without any savings or medical care are extremely vulnerable. For many families the threat of continued hunger is more worrying than Covid-19. We sincerely appreciate and thank you for the generous gifts, prayers and regular support you have provided to BOHCM. This has ensured that the families we work with have not felt the full impact of Covid-19. By providing food, soap, hygiene training and medical care you have been instrumental in saving many lives.

### BOHCM foster carers

In August we faced a crisis when a baby girl was found abandoned and a home was urgently needed for her. The Probation & Welfare office in Rukungiri requested help from BOHCM to find this precious child a safe home. With food prices soaring and Covid-19 affecting everyone's lives we knew this would not be an easy task as people were focused on providing for their own families. However, miracles do happen and an older woman came forward to offer the baby a home. Our manager Ben was then able to take part in the assessment for this "Good Samaritan" to become a Foster Carer supported by BOHCM. We are now providing monthly milk and essential clothing for this baby who was aptly named "Miracle".

Supporting Foster Carers has become an essential part of the work we do, as there are more children in need of homes than we can look after at the Children's Village. Foster Carers continue to do an amazing job by providing homes for abandoned children. It is so encouraging to see how the children are included into a family and to see that they are loved and thriving well. We are so grateful to the carers as despite their own poverty they have the heart to reach out to another needy child.



### Bottles of coins saves lives

We are delighted to tell you that the coins you collected in empty water bottles has resulted in a community receiving lifesaving clean water. Although construction on the Protected Spring was delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions on movement, it was recently agreed by the local government that BOHCM should go ahead and build this project which would benefit many people, improve their health and hygiene and reduce water-borne diseases.





## Child sponsorship

At BOHCM we have always known how important our Child Sponsorship Scheme is. Every sponsored child receives additional food, medical care and a place at a school or vocational centre. During this pandemic sponsors became a lifeline to these children and their families who have all benefitted from the food parcels, hygiene training and care. All this was made possible because of their sponsorship.



## Bridge of Hope nursery and primary school

Although schools across Uganda are still closed the Government recently gave permission for Primary 7 candidates to return to school to prepare for their end of year exams. This caused a flurry of activity at the BOH School as we had to meet all the Covid-19 safety standards in order to receive the go ahead for pupils to return. Social distancing in small classes, a temperature



gauge, masks and sanitisers were just some of the requirements. Thirty children have now returned to the BOH School and are being taught in two classes of 15 pupils. We are hoping that all children will be able to return to their school in 2021.

## Bridge of Hope Children's Village

One of our teachers continues to teach the children who live in our two BOHCM homes. This is a great help to the House Mothers and also ensures the children do not fall behind in their education. The children also continue to learn the skill of basket making and mat weaving which is a traditional craft in the area.



## Medical care

We are currently providing five children with essential eye treatment in a private eye clinic 2.5 hours drive from the Children's Village. Three of these children live in the community and we are so grateful that they were brought to our attention. Medical care is very expensive and without the treatment provided by BOHCM these children would have lost their sight and faced a future of unimaginable hardships.



## News

**Building Projects** – Despite the difficulties faced this year, with your kind donations BOHCM has been able to provide six families with a latrine and a homeless family now have a house.

**Clothing Collection** – Thank you to everyone who recently donated clothes, we have selected many items to take to Uganda and the remaining clothes raised £525.

## Alternative gift cards for Christmas

Make Christmas special and buy your loved one a gift card that will support a child in Uganda. A range of cards are available to provide school lunches, school bursaries or a bag of essential food to feed a family during the pandemic. For a full range of available cards or more information please email [info@bohcm.org](mailto:info@bohcm.org) or ring Monica Wood on 020 8363 4555.

## A HUGE thank you

Once again we thank you so much for your ongoing generous support and prayers, you are truly giving to some of the poorest families in Uganda.

## Prayer points

- Give thanks that BOHCM is supported by so many generous people
- Pray that all schools and colleges can reopen safely in the New Year

## Psalms 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

