

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends of BOHCM

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter for 2024. Having personally witnessed the negative impact on families in Uganda caused by the global cost of living crisis, we want to assure you that your unwavering commitment and generous support continues to transform the lives of many people living in poverty.



### Children's Village

It is always wonderful to be greeted by the House Mothers, Aunts and children as we arrive at the CV. They especially loved meeting the new visitor who had joined our team of six for her first visit to Uganda. The children enjoyed a range of activities including, necklace and bracelet making with beads from the UK, face painting, learning new table games and making Frisbees out of decorated paper plates. Later in the week we all enjoyed a special lunch together followed by the ever popular Sack Races which always fills the garden with laughter and fun. Two of the boys and a House Mother enjoyed an overnight visit to the Game Park whilst others were excitedly preparing their requirements to go to Secondary Boarding School having successfully completed P.7 with excellent results. We have also received a donation of two computers from the Uganda Ministry for Approved Homes and the children were eager to show us what skills they were learning.







We will soon be planning the construction of the kitchen and latrine for the Twin House which is part of our “Moving On” programme and the interior of Genesis one of our homes has been redecorated and now looks very smart. During our visit we were made aware of two little girls who had been abandoned in the town by a mentally ill mother who then disappeared. Meetings were held with the probation officer and the woman who had found the children and we were eventually able to offer them a safe home at the CV. The girls have never been to school and were so excited to have regular meals, a clean bed, a school uniform and lots of loving attention. They have continued to settle in well but need reassuring that nobody can come and take them away.

### Bridge of Hope Nursery & Primary School

In February we visited the school as it reopened for the year. Our new member of the team, who works at St. John’s Primary School in Enfield, had the opportunity to visit all the classes and meet the staff. Her school had not only raised funds for her to join us but are eager to support another project. We were pleased to meet with the BOHCM Head Teacher who confirmed that the school had performed excellently in the P7 leaving exams. Dedicated teachers, good resources and children eager to learn is ensuring the children have every opportunity to receive a good education. For many this reality would have been only a distant dream. Further discussions highlighted how the children benefit from their daily free school meal. Children are no longer malnourished or regularly ill and subsequently their concentration has greatly improved. However, with the rising cost of food, feeding 460 children daily requires substantial resources. Each meal cost 20p per day and every child receives 180 meals per year.

*If you feel able to support our Free Meals programme and feed some of these children we would love to hear from you.*

### Child Sponsorship

Over the past years sponsors have had an annual opportunity to send their sponsored child a small gift parcel and message. However, this year we asked sponsors to send a financial gift and message as we knew this would greatly help the families to meet essential needs. These gifts were received with gratitude and joy and the children were very pleased to write to their sponsor. A photo was taken of each child and emailed to the sponsor and messages safely delivered. It was a very colourful and busy two days meeting all the children and guardians. We were able to provide some Bibles, mattresses and blankets and two more families received a goat. We also had a visit from 3 former sponsored children who are now adults working and living independently. It was a very special time talking to them and hearing how they still remember their sponsor.



Fifty of the sponsored children have progressed to Secondary School while another seventeen are undertaking a variety of Vocational Courses. Thank you to everyone who has been able to contribute towards these extra fees.

We also managed to visit and register four more children for sponsorship and respond to an urgent request to visit a sick widow with four children. On arrival at the home we discovered this poor mother was in bed, paralysed from the waist down and being cared for by her children. The whole place was in turmoil and they had no food at all. Despite this truly heart-breaking situation we were able to work out a care plan to support the family with help from a volunteer who lives nearby. On our second visit to this family we were pleased to see a transformation. The mother had been bathed and her bedding changed, the gardens had been prepared for

planting, rubbish had been burned and two of the children were back in school. We know that Jesus purposefully sought out the most marginalised and vulnerable people in society and in some small way we hope that we are able to do the same. There is still much to do for this family but with God's help we will see further changes and comfort brought to them.

### Youth Sports Programme

A generous donation of football kit, footballs, netballs and a parachute game for the younger children was



gratefully received by Hillary the Sports Leader and all the children present. This very popular

programme continues to run every Sunday afternoon and gives young people the opportunity to be included, develop skills and have some fun together.

### News

**Bible Based Holiday Club** – We are so pleased to confirm that our Holiday Club ran for 4 days before and 4 days after Christmas. The expected 350-400 children attended and we were able to join them for their final session. The children clearly had lots of fun, enjoyed learning about Jesus and appreciated the biscuits they received at the end of each day.

### Protected Spring

– We are pleased to announce that work is underway to transform another dirty unsafe water source into a Protected Spring.



### Prayer points

- Give thanks for a successful visit to Uganda in January 2024
- Give thanks for the growing success of our Education Programmes
- Pray that we can support more families
- Pray for all our decisions to be wise and led by God

### Dates for your diary

**Spring Fayre & Clothing Collection – Saturday 13<sup>TH</sup> April 10.30<sup>AM</sup> – 12.30<sup>PM</sup>**

**Afternoon Tea Dance – Saturday 4<sup>TH</sup> May 2.30<sup>PM</sup> – 5.30<sup>PM</sup>**

Tickets £15.

Both events at Enfield Baptist Church, EN2 6TG.  
More details on our website [www.bohcm.org](http://www.bohcm.org).



### Children's Books

A big thank you to everyone who donated children's books, we divided them between the School and the Children's Village. It is fascinating to see the joy on the children's faces when they open a book and see the pictures. Many of them read the stories themselves as their English improves.

**We are incredibly grateful and sincerely thank you for all the support you give to make the work of BOHCM possible. Your compassion transforms so many lives. We love keeping you updated so please do let us know if your email or postal address ever requires updating. God bless you all.**

Psalm 113:3  
From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

