

Bridging the Gap

Dear Friends of BOHCM

Welcome to the March edition of “Bridging the Gap”. We hope you enjoy this latest update and seeing how your donations, prayers or volunteer hours are making such a difference to so many children in Uganda. We are deeply grateful for your faithful support.

Children’s Village (CV)

After a long journey from the UK to Rukungiri it was wonderful for our team of four to be greeted by the children who are always so excited to see us. Or possibly it was the 32 pineapples that we bought for them on route! This warm welcome is also extended to us by the House Mothers & Aunts and we were especially pleased to meet Emily, the newly appointed Floating House Aunt. Following a staff meeting later in the week we identified various repairs and needs for the CV. A former sponsored child who is now a carpenter came and expertly repaired beds, chairs and mosquito frames whilst the team purchased the required bedding that needed replacing.

The children were eager to tell us what a good time they had celebrating Christmas and appreciated the special meals, cake and new items of clothing that they proudly wore to the church services. The older children had made beautiful Christmas tree decorations from unwanted colourful plastic, plus the trees to hang them on. During our visit the children enjoyed a wide range of activities, many involving glue, glitter and stickers. They also learned how to play cricket and enjoyed endless games of football, with the grand finale on our last day of egg & spoon races, sack races and lots of balloons. Even the teenagers wanted to join in with this fun and laughter. An emergency visit was then arranged to a home where there was a very unwell mother and a young child. After discussion with the local authority it was decided that he would be safer at the CV. Of course he was welcomed with open arms by everyone and within a few days was settling in well.



Sponsored Children

The annual letter writing with 140 children and their guardians was successfully completed. Letters were safely delivered to the children and with the help of a translator they all wrote to their sponsors. Prior to our visit eleven young people had completed their Vocational Training and received a Start-Up-Package as a Graduation gift. These tools are selected according to the specific skills they have learned. It is so encouraging to know that these young people will now have a positive future. We also personally presented a sewing machine to another student who had successfully completed her Tailoring course.



This year we have 22 students commencing Vocational Training and we are sure their sponsors are pleased to see the amazing progress they are making.

A further 49 children are attending Secondary School – which is a great achievement for BOHCM – and we hope to continue to afford and manage the high increases in School fees. During the following weeks we undertook many home visits to assess more children to sponsor. These home visits are always very challenging and we never underestimate the impact on the team of seeing hungry and malnourished children, elderly or sick guardians whilst also experiencing the sense of despair that hangs over these homes. We truly thank our Almighty God that BOHCM can bring real hope into these situations and we can act immediately. One woman fell to her knees as we arrived and said “Now I truly believe that Jesus has come to my home”.

Bridge of Hope Nursery & Primary School

We are so proud of the Primary 7 students and all the BOHCM teachers as their exam results were excellent again this year. The reputation of the school is held in high esteem by the District Education Department and the parents and guardians really appreciate their childrens’ progress.



We continue to provide bursaries, uniforms and scholastic materials to those children who cannot afford to attend school and we subsidise all the needs of the other children from Nursery through Primary School. This ensures they all receive an educational opportunity and a free school meal every day.



News

The Bible Based Holiday Club was held on two sites and the theme was “The Prodigal Son”. Every child had the opportunity to join in and they were eager to present their age appropriate dramas and songs to us on the final day. It was a very lively and colourful afternoon and concluded with all the children receiving biscuits and sweets as a special treat.



The Youth Sports Programme runs weekly and encourages children to develop their skills and confidence. Hillary, the leader of the programme who is a sports teacher, is focused on including all children in sports activities and the sessions are always well attended.



Opening ceremony for the new Protected Spring

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee Morning & Spring Fayre – 5th April

BOHCM Quiz Night – 31st May at EBC

Barn Dance – 27th September at EBC

Coffee Morning & Craft Fayre – 18th October

Full details will be available prior to each event.

He was especially delighted to receive some new sports equipment and some kit from the UK. Even the very young children are encouraged to come along and play games with the Volunteers.

The Protected Spring Programme continues to provide life-saving clean water to communities. A family in the UK had funded a Protected Spring in memory of a loved one and a representative attended the opening ceremony. The community were so grateful for this gift and told us how they had been praying for clean water. We also identified and agreed another site and work is almost complete on this second facility.

Former Sponsored children: it was a wonderful surprise to hear that a group of Former Sponsored BOHCM children had arranged to meet and keep in touch with each other to share ideas, support each other and find ways to help other children in the community.

Clothes & Shoes are so valuable for the children and families and we really appreciate the many donated items. **Our next Clothing Collection is on 18th October 2025.**

Thank you once again for your faithful support, we pray you have a Blessed & Happy Easter.

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the safety of the recent team visit
- Give thanks for God’s faithful provision to the BOHCM Programmes
- Pray for the staff in Uganda that they can continue to meet the many challenges
- Pray for all our work to honour our Lord Jesus

Psalm 68:19

**Praise be to the Lord,
to God our Saviour,
who daily bears our burdens.**

