

Beatrice's HOPE



Creating a
childhood and
opportunity
for orphans in
rural Uganda

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOPE MULTIPURPOSE, INC., FOUNDED BY BEATRICE GARUBANDA

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When the Peace Corps came to Kazo

The Blue House - Peace Corps Camp

When Charles Lilley joined the Peace Corps at age 60 (yes, they take them that “old”), he was surprised to be assigned to Uganda, a country he knew of through his sister, Karen Lilley, US Board member of HMI. Karen had visited the Blue House in Kazo Uganda during the 2013–14 Christmas holidays, along with their sister Marian and her daughter Hannah. She knew Charles would love the people and the country as much as they had. And he has.

In March, Karen and her husband, Dave Hansen, went to Uganda to see “PC Charley” and of course, the girls at the Blue House. Charles did what Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) do best: organize, engage, involve, educate, and have fun. He invited other PCVs to put on a camp for the Blue House girls and the Kazo community.



The Peace Corps Camp made learning fun

Charles, now having lived in eastern Uganda almost 2 years, teamed up with four other PCVs: David McHolland, Kelly Drummond, Scott Walters, and Mackenzie Leonard, who came from the north, south, and west of Kazo, to converge at the Blue House for a couple of days of learning, games, and camp t-shirts.

The Blue House girls and staff, as well as the girls who live with relatives, the sewing school students, and some Kazo-area farmers, benefited from the Peace Corp Camp. The photos on pages 2–3 tell the rest of the story. [H](#)



Peace Corps Volunteers: Kelly, Mackenzie, Scott, Charles, and David

About the Peace Corps

Peace Corps Volunteers are US citizens who work at the grassroots level in over 60 countries, to create change that lasts long after their service. Volunteers live in the community where they work, sharing the same language, living conditions, food, and culture. They commit 27 months of their lives to work in agriculture, environment, community economic development, health, education, or youth in development.

President John F. Kennedy started the Peace Corps in 1961 as an opportunity for Americans to serve their country and their world. Its mission is to promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals: To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

In Uganda, more than 165 Volunteers currently work with their communities on projects in agriculture, education, and health. More than 1,600 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Uganda since 1964.



More photos
from The Blue
House - Peace
Corps Camp
inside on pages
2 and 3



An energizer: Making rainstorm sounds.

When the Peace Corps came to Kazo



Scott played a game with the younger kids outside, while inside, the older ones talked about HIV/AIDS, consent, and safety.



A beautiful day to learn about malaria, and the importance of using mosquito nets.



Charles chatted with Elphaz Tumuramy. He serves on the Ugandan board, and is the brother of Beatrice, the late founder of Blue House. At one point he was caring for 20 children under his roof.



Mosquito tag! A girl with a cardboard mosquito tries to 'infect' her mates with malaria.



Primary school-age girls learn proper hand-washing methods.



Mackenzie encouraged a shy girl in a nutrition exercise.



Kelly taught a class in making RUMPs— ReUseable Menstrual Pads, which help prevent missed school days every month.



A woman from the sewing school showed how the RUMP fits into a pair of "knickers," a more affordable and ecological option to sanitary pads.



At left, Fortunate Abaho, the district probation officer, gave an inspirational talk.



RUMPs are made with washcloths instead of banana leaves.



Kazo townspeople learned how to dig a demonstration permaculture garden. Water from the roof will drain rain into the deeply dug garden.



Scott taught record keeping, inviting Kazo farmers to record the cash book entries.



David showed how permaculture seeds can be planted closer together because roots go deeper, and water is retained.



Everyone participated in digging and planting a permaculture garden at the Blue House. It's a technique that provides vegetables year-round, even in drought.



Dave Hansen's photos document most of the camp.



It's Only a Hill Run

Pine Valley Blue House Run
5.5k and 11k Run
+ NEW Lost Forester Run*

LABOR DAY
September 4, 2017 – 8:30 am
Save the date!
Pine Valley, Cloquet

www.Blue-House.org

***For a bigger challenge consider the new LOST FORESTER run, designed to be hard, a 20K trail and off-trail race up and down the steepest hills in Pine Valley, through swamps, in creeks, and through dense brush. Sound fun? Sign up!**



THANK YOU to everyone who donated gifts, shopped, and worked at the Boutique. I send my heartfelt thankfulness for the generous efforts of all those involved.

One of this year's heart-grabbing moments for me came while working at check-out. I thanked a gentleman (unknown to me) for coming—and he quickly and emphatically responded,

“Thank You for what you are doing. We are happy to support this.” Wow! That’s not something you hear shopping elsewhere. It reminded me that we were all there for the same reason.

We all care for the Blue House girls in a small village in Africa. Customers weren't “just stopping by”—they were deliberately and compassionately responding to the need, and right, for a group of girls in Kazo, Uganda, to have a bed to sleep in, clothes to wear, food to eat, and schooling that gives them hope for their future. ~ Nancy Hall



Facebook.com/
Blue.House.HMI

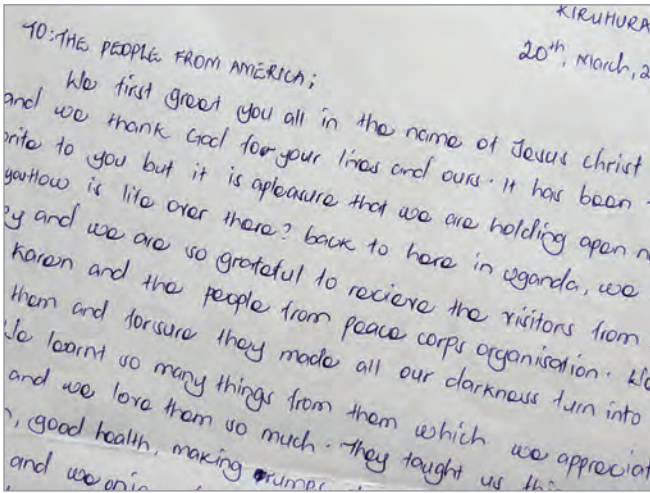
See more photos
and video.

A Letter from the girls

TO: The people from America

“We first greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ our savior and we thank God for your lives and ours. It has been very long to write to you but it is a pleasure that we are holding open now writing to you. How is life over there? Back here in Uganda we are very happy and we are so grateful to receive the visitors from America...

... We thank all of you who provide support to us so the we can go to school and all those who love and sacrifice for us, may God bless those hands which donate something towards our well being. We really appreciate that kindness. We love you so much and wish you only the best in your lives.”



All the girls signed letters to their visitors and supporters.

U of Minnesota clothing project

Students of the U of M clothing design class outdid themselves for the girls this year. They made tops and crops for the younger girls, dresses for the older girls, and skirts, backpacks and shoulder bags for all of them. The girls were thrilled! They wear uniforms to school, and used clothing the rest of the time. The U of M outfits are their only new clothes.

The clothing students learn about the Blue House girls and get a sense of their daily routine living on the equator. Their assignment is to design clothing or accessories that are fun and practical for how they live. The students then produced the winning designs in a range of sizes for ages 6 – 18. [H](#)



From Blue House to independence



What a thrill to see some of the young women who grew up at the Blue House and who are now at university, vocational school, or graduated and working. L-R: Peace, Dorcus, Agnes, Ovious, and Grace show Karen their phone photo. All are in school or living independently in Kampala.

Blue House staff awarded leadership programs

Alice Namirembe, Social Worker – Young African Leaders Initiative

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) was launched by President Barack Obama as a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders.

Alice was one of 10 Ugandans chosen—along with counterparts from 13 other East African countries—for a 3-week leadership conference in Nairobi, Kenya, followed by coursework, networking, teamwork, and virtual learning to solve real-life challenges.



Aine Abel, Director –Young Agripreneur Program, US Embassy

“Ten up-and-coming farmers improved their knowledge and skills in agribusiness through an immersive program at the model farm of Dr. Emma Naluyima... Participants learned how to create business plans, manage their finances, add value to and market their products, and much more,” says the Embassy blog. Aine plans to apply this knowledge to the Blue House farming projects as he continues to serve on HMI’s Ugandan Board.



Aine Abel moves on to new challenges

by Hati Kobusingye

Please join Hope Multipurpose Inc. in extending best wishes to Aine Able who will be retiring from his role as Director of The Blue House on May 31, 2017. Aine was appointed as Director in Jan 2011 at the young age of 23.



Over the last six years Aine has been very instrumental in his commitment to carry on Beatrice's dream. Beatrice had an unconditional love for children and dreamt of creating an orphanage for girls living in poverty in the Kazo area, and providing these girls the opportunity for education, care, and mentorship needed to secure a bright future.

Aine's dedication to the Blue House has been invaluable. Very early on he demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to

excellence. Under his leadership the Blue House has seen the number of girls grow from twelve desperate orphans to 30 happy, healthy girls, with several young women currently in university or vocational programs, or employed. In addition to attention to detail required in overseeing management of the Blue House, Aine continued to keep a broader vision of the Blue House in mind.

Aine's long term vision has been for the Blue House to be an independent self-sustainable organization within the Kazo community. He implemented several programs to make steps towards this goal, one of which was creation of a vocational

sewing program, from the generous donation of the Krohn family in Minnesota. By investing in sewing machines and teachers to help the girls learn to sew, this program has reduced Blue House spending on uniforms and garments. It also provides revenue from students in the community who pay tuition to attend. Finally, the girls develop unique skills that will financially empower them as they graduate and move towards independent living.

Aine has also initiated both livestock and poultry programs which produce milk, eggs and meat which has improved nutrition for the girls and has been sold within the community.

Aine has been a remarkable contributor to the Blue House in so many ways. We can't say enough about Aine's accomplishments. He pledges to continue supporting agribusiness projects at the Blue House, possibly from a seat on the Ugandan board of directors. We would like to thank him for his vigorous work as Director and wish him the best in his new endeavors. **H**

Mothers' Tea for the Blue House

Saturday, May 13, 2017

10 am ~ St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church



Join us for the 3rd annual Mothers' Tea.
It's become a Blue House tradition. Make it yours!
Moms, dads, kids, and grandparents are welcome.

- Savor a variety of specially selected teas (and coffee)
- Listen to live music, the sweet harmonies of Sweet Rhubarb.
- Enjoy a home-made brunch buffet.
- Shop at the African Market.
- See a show about the day the Peace Corps visited the Blue House
- Relax, chat, and indulge. It's for a good cause!

Supporters are helping to fill the role of mothers/fathers for the girls.

More information at Blue-House.org or RSVP at 651-644-3927.



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HOPE MULTIPURPOSE, INC.

HMI is a 501(c)(3) charity founded by Beatrice Garubanda and based in St. Paul, MN. HMI sponsors The Blue House orphanage in Kazo, Uganda.

Donations to HMI are tax deductible. See www.hopemultipurpose.org/donate.html

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DONATE online or use the enclosed envelope.
Help HMI add OPPORTUNITY to its mission:

- to accept more young, vulnerable girls
- to support more education for girls and young women

www.hopemultipurpose.org/donate.html



The Peace Corps Blue House Camp (p. 1) involved the home-based girls shown with Aine Abel, soon to be departing director (p. 5).

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More photos on our website at
www.blue-house.org and
[Facebook.com/Blue.House.HMI](https://www.facebook.com/Blue.House.HMI)



New play clothes bring smiles (p. 4).