



# Beatrice's HOPE

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

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## Wear your imagination – girls' clothing vision comes to life

The University of Minnesota students have been designing and sewing dresses for girls at Blue House. What started as a one day service-learning project at the University of Minnesota (UMN) under the directorship of Prof. Lucy Dunne in 2012 has grown into a beautiful partnership between the students of the Apparel Design Program in MN and the Blue House girls.

This past year, the Blue House girls sketched dresses they envisioned themselves wearing. The sketches were translated to technical drawings and garment patterns by the UMN students. Some of the dresses were actually tailored by the UMN students. One of many Blue House girls who participated in this program is Ampaire, a third grader, who is shown proudly wearing the dress she designed.

Lucy Dunne wrote a letter to the Blue House girls explaining the dress making process and describing each step the UMN students took to create the dresses. Her letter included sketches made by the Blue House girls and the UMN student's technical interpretation of those sketches. She explained that it was a learning experience for her students and mentioned some of the challenges her students faced. She suggested to try this kind of project again so the Blue House girls will have another opportunity to put their design skills into action.



Girls feeling styled up in fancy dress pants suits. The original sketch was created by Blue House student Olivia.

What a great opportunity for the Blue House girls to learn and be involved in the design of their dresses right from the start.



The inspiration, the art, the creativity. Creating her own fashion: An initial sketch by Ampaire



Turning Ampaire's vision into reality. The first sketch is now coming to "life"



UMN students creating the pattern and a prototype;



A very happy Ampaire models her beautiful final product.

### Other Highlights to Celebrate

- Installed lightening protection system on Blue House main building
- Completed renovations to Blue House
- Connected Blue House to water mainline
- Purchased the very first television for the girls

## School is back in session

*From Director Gloria Merab's report*

Girls are back in school after a long Christmas vacation which started at the beginning of December 2018 and ended in early February 2019. The girls stay with their relatives during the holidays to keep connected with their families. At the start of the school term each girl brought food gifts from their family to share at the Blue House. In addition, over 100 kgs of maize were harvested from the Blue House garden.




*Unloading food at the Blue House. Jack fruit, mangoes and maize brought from the girls' homes back to the Blue House.*

A significant amount of food was collected; 149 kgs of beans, 180 kgs of maize, 18 kgs of millet, 35 kgs of maize flour, 3 large containers of avocados and 5 loaves of bread. This will go a long way in reducing expenses on food during the school term.



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Please help the Blue House accomplish its mission:  
Creating a childhood and opportunity for orphans  
in rural Uganda.  
[www.Blue-House.org/donate](http://www.Blue-House.org/donate)



**BLUE HOUSE UGANDA** Blue House Uganda is a 501(c)(3) charity, sponsored by Hope Multipurpose, Inc., based in St. Paul MN, for orphans and vulnerable children in Kazo, Uganda.

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## Home visits make connections



*Director Gloria in middle, Matron Zipporah to her right visiting Angela's family.*

Director Gloria Merab and Matrons visited the girls' families to introduce themselves to the families and gain some basic understanding of living conditions the girls are faced with during the holidays. This was a great opportunity for Blue House staff to demonstrate their concern for the girls' well-being to the families. It was also an opportunity for the families to communicate directly with the Blue House Director and allow for relationships to be built between the Blue House staff and girls. This will go a long way to improve the overall well-being of the girls.



*Director Gloria (left) visiting Monica's grandmother (middle) with Matron Zipporah (right). Monica's family is very thankful for Blue House support over the years.*



*Director leaving Patience's home after her visit.*

**Grace Kyarikunda** was welcomed as the newly hired Social Worker, replacing Alice. Grace grew up at the Blue House, and was its first college graduate.





# Solar panels provide improved lighting

*From Director Gloria Merab's report*

November 23rd, 2018 is a date the girls at Blue House will not soon forget! It was the day a new solar system was installed at the Blue House. The system was turned on and all the neighbors noticed!!

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (SAPLC) provided a grant to the Blue House for the purchase and installation of a

solar system to provide electricity for the dorm, out buildings and sewing school. Solar energy lighting will increase productive hours for the girls and enable them to study longer to complete required homework assignments. The gift of solar energy is hugely appreciated by the Blue House girls.

The Uganda Blue House team would like to thank SAPLC for making a remarkable contribution towards empowering young girls' lives.



*Left: Assembling solar panels in their frames before installing them on the roof top. Right: Installing solar panels on the roof of a Blue House Building. Chairman of the Uganda Board of Blue House and Matron Agnes were present for the installation of the panels.*

Blue House Uganda online: [www.Blue-House.org](http://www.Blue-House.org)

## Appreciations & Ovations

- US Board Chair Ishaka Mawanda visited the Blue House in January, 2019.
- Blue House Boutique was a success, hosted by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



*A huge thank you to the shoppers and volunteers at the Blue House Boutique held last December*

- Donation from Girls Scouts: Thank you to the Girl Scout troops 55381 and 55909 who donated several hundred dollars to the Blue House and other charities.



## Mothers' Tea for the Blue House

*Saturday, May 4, 2019  
10 am ~ Noon*



Moms, dads, kids, and grandparents are welcome.

Enjoy a home-made brunch buffet.

Savor a variety of selected teas (and coffee).

Enjoy live music: Siobhan O'Malley's heavenly harp

Relax, chat, and indulge. It's for a good cause!

**St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church**  
2323 W. Como Ave., St. Paul, MN

# End of year party

*From Director Gloria Merab's report*

It was one of its kind! The girls and staff cooked food for the party. The girls entertained their families and guests with a traditional dance known as Ekitaguriro. They were dressed in Bitenge dresses (see photo) made by Adrine Kengoro, a former student of Margret Krohn sewing school who completed her tailoring course last December.

The guest of honor was councilor for Kazo town where Blue House is located. She appreciated the good work done at Blue House and promised to contribute towards the great work Blue House is doing. She encouraged the girls to pursue marketable skills and to be innovative. We rewarded best performers, prefects, well disciplined and the smartest as one way of motivating the rest of the girls.



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*Some of the beautifully patterned dresses the Blue House girls designed and were tailored by UMN students (see story page 1).*

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