



# Beatrice's HOPE

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

VOL. 34, SUMMER 2021

## Pandemic Year Two Covid-19 in Uganda

The coronavirus continues unabated in Uganda. \*The number of reported cases increased from 200 per day in April to more than 1,500 per day in mid-June. At that time, more than a thousand people had been admitted to health facilities and there has been a serious shortage of oxygen. The number of deaths from the pandemic in Uganda was more than 2,500 in late July.

In an effort to control this latest surge, the Ugandan government has again imposed a very strict lockdown. People must shelter at home. No travel is allowed except for essential reasons, such as transporting someone who is ill to a health

facility, and no travel is allowed outside of each district. No visitation is allowed, even with neighbors.

Schools, including higher education institutions, are again closed. The lockdown continues until July 30 and perhaps longer if cases and deaths don't decline. If the Delta variant becomes dominant, the surge will likely worsen.

Very little Covid vaccine has reached Uganda. Out of a population of 45 million people, only about 1.1 million (.024%) have received at least one dose, and 0.01% have been fully vaccinated. No one at the Blue House has been vaccinated. ☹

\*Information on the ground from local press, and Rev. Sam Tindiwensi, former BHU board member living in Uganda. Data from Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, as of July 25.

## Blue House During Coronavirus

This time around the girls residing at the Blue House have been allowed to shelter there, rather than being sent to live with relatives, as was the case last year. The drought remains and food continues to be scarce.

Currently, 28 girls live in the Blue House: 16 primary students, 11 secondary students, and one studying tailoring at the Margaret Krohn Institute. In addition, 8 girls and boys are being supported at home, and 5 former residents are funded in postsecondary education away from the Blue House.

While schools are closed and the lockdown is in effect, the postsecondary students are staying with their guardians. Online classes are available and they have laptops and phones, but lack access to electricity.

Postsecondary students currently include Catherine (Kampala School of Health Sciences, in nursing), Christine

(Bukalasa Agricultural Institute), Lillian (Busitema University, in medical school), Monica (Mbarara Institute for Social Development) and Olivious (Bishop Stuart University).

The girls at the Blue House are healthy and keeping busy with learning activities, including computer skills, tailoring and weaving, and helping with the care of crops and livestock. During this lockdown no school tutorial classes are being offered via radio and TV. The staff are required to remain in residence during the lockdown, too. No visitors are allowed.

The staff is counseling the girls on strictly observing how to avoid getting and spreading the virus ... wearing masks, hand sanitation, etc. They are emphasizing becoming responsible adults and community leaders. ☹



The girls have more opportunity to use the sewing school equipment than before.



The older girls are learning computer skills, thanks to donations for laptops.



Working hard in the sun, the girls are clearing the bush to prepare for planting, in hopes that the drought will end.

## The Farm

**C**rop yields are reduced due to the continuing drought. Groundnut harvest yielded only one sack—enough for one month. The harvest of matooke from the banana plantation was only 14 bunches, enough for only three meals.

The animals are also affected by the drought. There isn't enough pasture for the three cows and two calves, but surplus livestock cannot be sold at present because of restrictions in the district. Likewise the pigs—the sows produced a total of 22 piglets but they can't be sold yet. The sty is being enlarged to accommodate all the pigs until more of them can be sold. 🏠

## New Clothing arrives from the University of Minnesota



The girls are stepping out, and joyfully modeling their new outfits, designed and made especially for them by University of Minnesota clothing design students.

**S**ince 2012, Prof. Lucy Dunne's Clothing Design class at the University of Minnesota has been designing and sewing new clothing for the Blue House. Ishaka Mawanda, US Board President, visited the Blue House in April and brought a large and generous supply of new clothing from the U students. These outfits had been made in late 2019 but had not been delivered before travel ended in 2020, and university classes went virtual that year. So after 2 years, the delivery of new clothes was a joyous event for the girls.

## Request for prayers and support

**T**he director in Uganda, Merab Gloria, the staff, and the girls ask that we pray for them during this new surge in the pandemic. Fortunately, thus far everyone at the Blue House has remained healthy, but without vaccines, the risk of contracting the virus continues. And the on-going drought is also making it very hard for many Ugandans to survive during the lockdowns.



Hope and Daughter are two of the Blue House girls who depend on our generosity.

Donations are needed for:

- food that cannot be produced on the farm
- essential operating expenses
- care of the girls and the facilities
- staff salaries
- the girls in post-secondary education

### Please become a Sustaining Supporter of the Blue House

Because of the pandemic, we have not been able to hold any fund raising events since 2019. We are financing the Blue House with your donations (thank you!) and reserves, which are dwindling.

You can help as a Sustaining Supporter by having automatic monthly, quarterly, or annual payments made directly from your bank account. Go to [Blue-House.org/donate](https://Blue-House.org/donate) to sign up, or see other donation options. The Blue House girls are depending on you! 🏠

## LOST FORESTER RUNS at Pine Valley Fundraiser



Beautiful Pine Valley is the perfect place for a fun family run or a challenging adventure run.

**Labor Day, September 6, 2021**  
Pine Valley, near Cloquet, MN

**Register for a fun 5.5K or 11K, or the more challenging 8 miler.**

**Learn more at [Blue-House.org](https://Blue-House.org)**



Cuddly hand-made bears are samples of the crafts you'll find at the Boutique.

## HOPE! Blue House Boutique is returning, December 2021!



**Saturday, December 4**

**Sunday, December 5**

The Boutique will possibly be held again this December. Boutique volunteers and crafters are preparing for a Boutique on the first weekend in

December. St. Matthew's Church hasn't yet re-opened but funds have been raised and work is underway to improve the ventilation system so that the building can be used.

The Boutique may be a little different this year: requiring the wearing of masks, limiting the number of shoppers at one time, and not serving lunch, for example. But as usual, you will find beautiful, hand crafted goods and the opportunity to support the Blue House by shopping for unique gifts. 🏠

## Thank You from the Blue House

"While at Blue House I enjoy everything, like meals, studies, sewing, learning how to use the computer and playing football with the other girls."

—Immaculate (Senior 6)

"I have been in tailoring class. I am enjoying it so much. I am already aware that the skills I am gaining now will help me in future. I thank you so much for funding the sewing project, and buying sewing machines, materials and thread."

— Christine (Senior 4)

"I would like to extend my thanks to all US Blue House Board Members and all funders that have contributed their money, love and time so that Blue House girls can live a happy life. I am always praying for you ... that God will grant you long life and your heart's desires."

—Immaculate (Senior 2)



Agnes, the associate housemother was one of the original Blue House girls. She married last September and recently had a fine healthy daughter, and is on maternity leave for two months. Grace, the social worker, is assuming Agnes' duties while she is away.



In weaving class, the girls make traditional baskets out of modern materials. They dismantle woven plastic carriers, re-using the plastic strips to wrap the straw to make coiled baskets. See some finished baskets on page 4.



**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.

Donations are tax deductible.  
See: [Blue-House.org/donate](https://Blue-House.org/donate)

### U.S. Board of Directors

Jim and Siobhán Colvin	Tim Krohn
Joshua Garubanda	Ishaka L. Mawanda
Marilyn Grantham	Pascal T. Ngoboka
Dr. Cynthia Howard	Joanne Kabajungu Roques
Hati Kobusingye	

**Contact us:** E-mail: [info@Blue-House.org](mailto:info@Blue-House.org)  
Telephone: 612-470-8316. Web: [Blue-House.org](https://Blue-House.org)  
Mail: Blue House Uganda, c/o St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
2136 Carter Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108



**Hope Multipurpose, Inc.**  
 c/o St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
 2136 Carter Avenue  
 St. Paul, MN 55108

Nonprofit Org.  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Twin Cities, MN  
 Permit No. 30308

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



*The girls are sheltering at the Blue House during pandemic lockdown, and learning new skills, like how to make these traditional baskets. They also have more opportunities to learn sewing, computers, and farming.*

**What's Inside**

- Pandemic Year Two—Covid-19 in Uganda ..... 1
- Blue House During Coronavirus ..... 1
- The Farm ..... 2
- New Clothing Arrives from the University of Minnesota ..... 2
- Request for Prayers and Support ..... 2
- HOPE! Blue House Boutique is Returning, December 2021! ..... 3
- Thank You From the Blue House ..... 3

[Facebook.com/Blue.House.HMI](https://Facebook.com/Blue.House.HMI)  
[Instagram.com/bluehouseuganda](https://Instagram.com/bluehouseuganda)



**DONATE** online or use the enclosed envelope.  
 Without fundraising events since 2019, the girls need your support more than ever.  
 Please be generous.  
[Blue-House.org/donate](http://Blue-House.org/donate)