



Beatrice's HOPE

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

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Boys Join Blue House Support At Home Program

Information from Director Gloria Merab's monthly report.

Blue House which has traditionally focused on education and residential care for young orphaned girls recently began enrolling boys in our Support at Home Program. In compliance with Ugandan law that favors orphans being cared for by extended families, rather than being placed in orphanages, the Blue House Support at Home Program provides funds to families to pay for school and other needs for orphaned children in their care.

It was always the dream of our founder, Beatrice Garubanda, to care for both desperate boys and girls, orphaned by the death of one or both parents. This dream is now realized by extending the nurturing and supportive mission of the Blue House beyond its campus walls through the Support at Home Program to boys, as well as girls.



Garabuzi Crispus is seated next to his mother. Standing in picture is the social worker Grace Kyarikunda. He is a pioneer male orphan under Blue House. He is in top class.



Denis Nahurira in blue t-shirt seated next to his mother. Behind them is Grace Kyarikunda (Social Worker). He is in primary two (second grade).

Crispus, one of the two male "pioneers" has been enrolled in pre-K. He lost his father in 2017 and his mother cares for nine children. She works as a casual laborer to support her family. They do own about a half-acre of land where they grow food.

Denis is the second new boy and enrolled in second grade this year. He, too, has a single mother. To support her family, she rents a single room in Kazo Town which she has partitioned into two rooms. She runs a restaurant business in one room and uses the other room as living quarters for her whole family.

They don't have any land on which to grow food. Denis is a smart boy and has done well in school when he was sporadically able to attend but lack of money for his fees, clothing and school supplies meant that he couldn't consistently be in school.

We welcome Crispus and Denis and anticipate their rapid progress in school this year!

Donate online or use the enclosed envelope.

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

Announcements and Thank You's

- St. Matthews Church gifted \$2000 towards laptops for the girls in November, 2019.
- Successful Blue House Boutique event held at St. Matthews Church on Dec 7-8, 2019. Thank you to all well-wishers and supporters of the Blue House.
- Solar Power system donated last year continues to be a great help for the girls' to continue their studies after dark.

Home Visits



From left Social worker Grace Kyarikunda, Dir. Gloria Merab then Bridget's mother and aunt in front of their newly constructed house.



Dir. Gloria Merab in the middle and to her left is social worker, Grace Kyarikunda, and to her right is Barbara's mother. They are in front of Natukunda Barbara's newly painted house.

In June, Director Gloria Merab continued home visit connections with the girls' families. This time around Director Merab went along with Blue House's social worker Grace Kyarikunda, and together they visited the families of 12 girls. The goal of these visits was to familiarize the social worker with the families.

Director Merab was pleased to note improvements in living conditions of some families which included for example, repairs to doors and windows at Patience's and Barbara's homes. Also, Bridget's mother was able to complete construction on their small family home after the original family home collapsed due to heavy rains and strong winds.

Some families continue to face a few challenges. The kitchen in Brenda's family home was recently gutted by fire and a new one is under construction. Mollen's family home is further away from school and was not easy for the Director and social worker to locate.

Mollen's mother is working hard to earn enough money to construct a new home that is closer to town in about six months' time.

Agro-Business

Director Gloria Merab

The banana plantation is in good condition due to more recent rains. The gardener is doing a great job taking care of the plantation and we hope to have good harvests of Matooke (banana bunches) in the coming months. The girls enjoyed our recent orange harvest.

The piggery unit is doing very well. We planted sweet potatoes and use their leaves mixed with cassava (yucca) leaves as food for the pigs. This makes for a nutritious meal for the pigs. We also continue to ensure that the cows have the best care possible so that we can sell them at a good price if we need to. We plan to use the money from sale of the cows to buy a very good breed for milk production to supplement the student's nutritional needs.

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church: A Steadfast Supporter

Marilyn Grantham, Board Member & Fundraising Committee Chair

The St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church has long provided financial support for the Blue House. Long before Beatrice Garubanda founded the orphanage in southwestern Uganda, the church helped her financially at Luther Seminary where she earned a master's degree in Christian education.

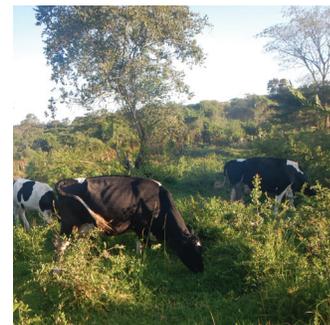
Beginning in 2012, the Blue House board began applying annually to SAP Lutheran Church's Special Ministry Fund for various needs. The first gift bought two milk cows and constructed a shed to house them so that the BH girls would have fresh milk. The next year, SMF money bought a diesel generator to provide electricity at the Blue House. Support continued in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 and was used to start a postsecondary education fund, establish a home-based support program to help extended families care for orphans, repair and paint the exterior and interior of the Blue House building, and install solar panels on the roof. In addition, applications to the Victorine Nelson fund provided vocational education funds.

In 2019 funding from SAP Lutheran was moved to a new, more secure level ... we are now receiving financial support annually from the church's Benevolence Fund. We no longer need to apply annually for grants. This is a significant blessing for any non-profit organization ... to be able to count on continuing financial support. We are very, very grateful to have changed funding status. And SAP Lutheran Church continues to be the location for an important annual fundraising event in early May, "A Mothers' Day Tea for Girls Who've Lost Their Mothers".

We are also grateful to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church's Social Justice Ministry for their continuing annual gift to the Blue House. Such consistent support makes our annual fundraising efforts less onerous. Heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and supporters!



Lillian in jean dress carrying a bunch of matooke with Brenda. Behind them is Catherine picking matooke for cooking from our banana plantation.



Blue House cows grazing. The black cow is milked often. The cow on the right is a recent addition purchased for 1.6 million ushs (approx. 400USD).

Field Trip to Entebbe & Kampala

Director Gloria Merab

In August the Blue House students went on a field trip to Kampala and Entebbe, a distance of approximately 170 and 182 miles respectively from their school in Kazo. The students were very excited when the bus arrived to pick them up from school at around 2:30am. They were excited to cross the Katonga river, a channel which joins 2 of Uganda's large lakes, Victoria and George. They were fascinated by the townships they had heard about along the way to Kampala

They visited Entebbe airport, Uganda's International airport and were extremely excited to watch planes take off and land. They thought that planes were only used to transport government officials and were fascinated to learn that ordinary Ugandans could also travel by airplane Their tour guide taught them many things, for example the difference between a passenger plane and cargo plane. The guide encouraged them to study hard in order to achieve their dreams. The children also visited the Entebbe Wildlife Sanctuary and got to see many animals including cheetahs, zebra, rhinos, elephants, chimpanzees, buffalo, snakes, ostriches, and the Uganda Crane to name a few. It was a great learning experience for the children.

In Kampala, the capital city of Uganda the children visited the Uganda National Museum. They saw many stone age tools and fossils used by early man, the first printing machine used in Uganda. They learned that the museum is a source of revenue. It also brings the Ugandan people national pride by its roles in preserving Ugandan culture.

The children were highly disciplined and we were very proud of them during this exciting adventure in their lives.



Learning outside Blue House walls. School study field trip to Entebbe International Airport.

Former Director Aine's Wedding

Former Blue House Director Aine Able recently tied the knot with Amy Kugonza. Aine was Director of Blue House since its start until his resignation in 2017. He is responsible for many projects and improvements over the course of his tenure, all of which greatly benefit the girls living within the walls of the Blue House.



Former Director Aine Abel and his wife Amy Kugonza after tying the knot at St. Luke Bugolobi Church of Uganda.



Aine, his bride, Amy and the bridal party after the Church service.

Exam Time for Blue House Students

The recent months have been a very busy time for the Blue House girls. Three students sat for the Uganda national primary school leaving exams (equivalent of middle school entry exams) in early November. Results of this milestone exam will be announced in February of next year. Blue House has one student who sat for her senior four exam (equivalent of high school entry exams) and two students sat for the senior six exams (equivalent of university entry exams).

Gloria Merab says "We visited all the girls in boarding section and they are doing well. They do appreciate your support towards their education and wellbeing." Gloria Merab is happy to report that Flavia finished her two year certificate in Catering and Hotel Management and is expected to graduate early next year.



**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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School Activities

From Director Gloria Merab's report

The girls continue to have their house meetings. They are so happy that the school year has come to an end. They continue to be determined to do well at their studies and promised to study hard to achieve their education goals for a bright future as is the wish for most Ugandan girls.

We had regular staff meetings throughout the year to discuss students needs and continue to encourage the girls to study hard to achieve their dreams.



Grace Kyarikunda in red, with 4th graders Sylvia, Mollen and Shallot and their teachers at career day at school.



Students at Margret Krohn Vocational Institute with sample of clothes they made on their own.



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Graduation day! Graduates of the Margaret Krohn Vocational Institute with parents and board members of Blue House Uganda.

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