



# Beatrice's HOPE

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

VOL. 32, SUMMER 2020

## Pandemic Response at the Blue House

*Information from Director Gloria Merab's report*

Blue House staff reported back to school on January 20, 2020 and students reported back a week later. Both staff and students were looking forward to the new school year and to settling into their new routines.

Students were at school for only 2 months when the COVID-19 pandemic forced shut down of in-person schooling in Uganda. The Blue House students, thirty-one in total, were sent to their guardians' homes on March 22, 2020. They left with few of their belongings because Director Merab, like most of the general public, thought the COVID-19 shut down would last a few weeks or a month at most.

The Ugandan government continues to maintain a shut-down on in-person schooling to date. Since the enforcement of the COVID-19-imposed lockdown in Uganda the whole education sector is under a cloud of uncertainty with no clear direction on how or when to safely re-open schools after the lockdown. The government provides alternative methods of learning, for example classroom lessons via radio stations and TVs. Remote online education is also available for schools in the capital city, Kampala, and schools in a few other large cities. Unfortunately, all of these avenues are not accessible to Blue House students.

Since the students left the Blue House in March, Director Merab together with a staff of seven manage daily maintenance of Blue House grounds, livestock and gardens.

They recently harvested 2 sacks of groundnuts, and 95 kilograms of beans. Maize plants (corn) are still growing and harvest is expected at the end of July. Food is stored at Blue House and some of it is consumed by Blue House staff. Milk from the cows is converted to ghee which is consumed by the Blue House staff.

### Outreach During COVID-19

Director Merab has reached out via phone to Blue House students and their families. Guardians have informed her that the students are doing well under the circumstances. Director Merab has had limited direct contact with students and is exploring different ways to reach the students.

### Food Distribution Plan

Since home visits are not a possibility currently, Director Merab has planned three ways to distribute food to Blue House students. Food distribution will be conducted in the month of July.

*(Food Distribution, continued)*

- 1) For those students who live close to Blue house, Director Merab will contact their families and instruct them to come to Blue House to pick up food.
- 2) For those students who live further away from Blue House, former Director Aine's home will be used a central location distribution point for their families to collect food.
- 3) For those students who are unable to go to either Blue House or Aine's home, Director Merab and Uganda Board Members plan to have their food delivered directly to their homes.

## Students who joined Blue House on February 7, 2020



*Ikiriza in front of her home.*



*Kangume and her mother at their home.*

*See another new student on page 4.*

# Lillian is Headed to Medical School on a Full Scholarship!

*Information from Director Gloria Merab's report*

In March, 2020 Uganda National Examination Board (UNE) released Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) 2019 results. A total of 104,481 candidates in the country sat for the 2019 UACE exams at 1,982 centres.

Lillian of Blue House scored especially high grades in physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics allowing her admittance to Busitema University to pursue a 5 year degree in medicine and surgery on a full government scholarship.



*Lillian, in white dress, has been accepted to medical school on a full scholarship!*

## Lillian's story in her own words

The journey of A' level is not just a cup of tea; it needs hard work, determination and sacrifice. It was so exciting to join Advanced level of education especially after being given a chance to join the best school that I have dreamt.

The Blue House director got me a vacancy at Maryhill High School and I was given physics, biology and chemistry and sub-maths for my combination. It was not an easy task and I had to work very hard. I prayed for guidance from God in order to get good results.

I had quite little challenges especially in the first term at a new school: the reading system that I was not used to, the punctuality of the students and all in all the environment of the school. Students used to wake up very early in the morning and go to sleep very late in the night, which I found very hard to adopt. Research work was hard for me, with going to the library every now and then. It was so confusing that I felt that going back to my former school (Kazo Secondary) was better. I greatly thank the Blue House Director (Merab Gloria) and the matrons (Zipporah and Agnes) who gave me words of encouragement, especially on my first visitation at school by the Director; that's when I felt I could manage such an environment.

I was encouraged and hoped to do better once I got used to the school. My termly results were not always very bad up to my mock results when I was too disappointed. I tried hard to improve on those bad results, read overnight, consulted my teachers and hoped in God that I could make it. I thank God who answered my prayers. I can't explain the excitement that I got in words after receiving my UACE (Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education) results. I got 18 points in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Sub-maths plus general paper.

That was not all my making but the support I got from my teachers, mostly the Blue House staff and my former teachers from Kazo Secondary School who always coached me during holidays when I had problems in some topics. Am so GRATEFUL to all of them.

Am also grateful to the AMERICAN BOARD who gave me an opportunity to go to the high school of my dreams by funding me. I am so happy that I excelled and even got gifts of excellence from school. On Sunday of 8th, March, 2020, the school gave me a suitcase, a flat iron and a towel with a very delicious lunch meal together with my guardians. It was all exciting.

In the next five years I see myself as a great doctor in a big hospital and also giving help to the poor in order to improve their standards of living. I encourage all the Blue House girls to always be confident, trust in God and do the right thing at the right time. They should know that nothing is too impossible for God and their hard work.

Finally I extend my SINCERE THANKS to the BLUE HOUSE Board members, AMERICAN BOARD, BLUE HOUSE STAFF and all the GIRLS for their support towards my success. May God bless you all. Love you so much.

## More Education News



*Catherine with purple scarf, preparing to report to Kampala School of Comprehensive Nursing, graduating in 2021.*



*Flavia graduated in January with a Certificate in Tourism and Institutional Catering, shown with her uncle.*

The Blue House Director and staff are very proud of Lillian, Catherine, and Flavia and wish them every success.

# Christmas Thank You to the Blue House Board Members and Funders in the USA

I hope you are okay. How is America? Back to us, we are fine. I want to thank you for the good work you are doing for us as Blue House staff. Thank you very much for caring for our girls and boys and staff. May God bless your hands always.

I appreciate you for supporting us and thanks so much for increasing our salaries, we are so happy. This has helped me to pay school fees for my children and provide them the basic necessities. Thank you very much for supporting us through Blue House Uganda which supports us by employing us.



Matene Zipporah

Blue House Uganda is looking good because of your support. Thank you for providing money to fence Blue House land. The cows used to destroy our crops but now we have enough security since our land is fenced. Thank you for the girls and boys study trip to Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, and me too as their house mother. I was lucky to

travel with them and it was my first time to reach Entebbe International Airport and Entebbe Zoo.

Thanks for the girls' and boys' school fees and scholastic needs which has enabled them to meet their education goals. I also appreciate you for providing money to roof our kitchen; the iron sheets were old and leaking. Whenever it rained, it used to make the kitchen floor and tables and uncovered food dirty.

I appreciate the great work done by our Blue House Director at Blue House. She is a young lady but clever and wise, doing a lot of work at the project. A good ambassador and we are happy to have her as our Director.

I also want to appreciate you for the staff Christmas package and rewards. It was a surprise to me and I was so excited when I received it. Thank you so much for timely release of funds which has enabled us as staff for timely implementation of our planned activities.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you always. I love you so much and am ever praying for you all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020.

Yours sincerely,  
Matene Zipporah  
House Mother

## Agro-Business



Blue House piggery project.

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 also doing very well. We planted sweet potatoes and use their leaves mixed with cassava (yucca) leaves as food for the pigs. This is a very nutritious meal for the pigs. We sold 26 piglets from four mother pigs and one big pig which failed to reproduce for 500,000 Ugandan shillings (\$135) and cash was collected totaling 1,440,000 UGX (\$390). Grand total collected 1,940,000 UGX (\$525).

**Donate online or use the enclosed envelope.**

**These are challenging times.**

**Now is the very best time to support the Blue House students.**

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



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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*A new student joined Blue House: Twinamatsiko and his grandmother in front of their home. See other new students on page 1.*

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