

# The University of Minnesota and Blue House partnership

In 2012, Sherri Gahring, U of M apparel design professor, offered to have her beginning sewing students make sundresses for the Blue House girls, as a one-day service-learning project. That small beginning grew when Lucy Dunne expanded the effort into a semester-long project for upper-level students that had students developing and producing shoulder bags, play pants and rain ponchos for the girls.

Lucy Dunne's third year apparel design class focuses on the mass-manufacturing process for clothing and sewn products.

For the last six years students have designed and manufactured outfits and accessories for the Blue House each fall semester. Her students see a presentation about the girls, ask questions about their life in Uganda, and then design and mass produce functional clothing specifically for their needs. The students produce between 100 and 200 garments each year that are carried to the Blue House by a volunteer. For most of these girls, their U of M outfits were the first new clothes they'd ever had. The University students love having such special customers! 🏠



**2012** - Lucy Dunne and Sherri Gahring show the first dresses to Minnesota board president, Carol Roeller, and board accountant Jerry Roeller.



**2012** - The University students attached photos of themselves making the sundresses. The Blue House girls sent back their own pictures holding the photos of the dresses they were wearing.



**2012** - At the first sign of a sprinkle, Immaculate put on her poncho. The girls walk to school even during rainy season, and they really appreciate the coverage, including over book bags.



**2013** - Tracy looks like she wore her sundress every day for a year, and washed it by hand in the pond water. These clothes are loved to death!



**2013** - Fleece jackets made for walking to school on chilly (70°F) mornings.



**2014** - Play clothes were welcomed by girls who wear uniforms to school.



**2015** - Charlotte, left, and Angella, right, in their play dresses. Sylvia, center, might be wearing a Goodwill-type import.



**2016** - Lovely young ladies loving their blue print cotton dresses.



**2016** - Better than shopping: the younger girls got first pick of tops, crops, and dirndl skirts.



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

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# New designs from the 2017 U of M clothing class



Modeling a colorful wrap top and gathered skirt. Other students inspected and sorted more clothing, soon to be sent to Uganda.



Across the globe, from a land of snow-covered trees, to a lucky girl who lives on the equator.



Monic and Elizabeth, "looking smart," as they say in Uganda.



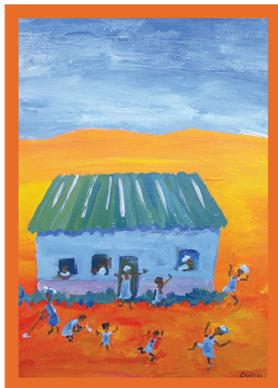
The younger girls look tickled to show off their new fashionable dresses.



Secondary students in flannel hooded jackets— Ruth, Annitah, Lillian N. and Lillian T.

See more pictures at  
[www.Blue-House.org/U-of-M-clothing](http://www.Blue-House.org/U-of-M-clothing)

## The Margaret B. Krohn Sewing School awards certificates to new graduates



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

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Musiime (right) instructs students of the sewing school.

Certificates are ready to distribute to new graduates of the Margaret B. Krohn Vocational Training Centre at the Blue House. 🏠

