

FAMILY CARE UGANDA – NOVEMBER 2017

ALL BUILDING TOGETHER

Greetings dear friends. Thank you so much for your amazing care, prayers and practical gifts. Someone joked that we have a gift of stretching each donation so well it's like "squeezing a dollar till the eagle screams!" Ha! We do try that because we know that every single dollar, cent, yen, peso, pound, rand, yuan or whatever, is not easily earned and we want to be determined to make it go as far as we possibly can! Currently the exchange rate is far more Ugandan shillings to a dollar than normal—



3,620 for every dollar! It's a huge help and means each child you are giving to benefits more than ever!—full care: academic, medical, sanitary, emotional and in every realm.

Since we received the kind donation from [Nos Vies en Partage](#) we have been **busy building**. There have been so many obstacles—as you'll see below, the roads are almost impassable, and because we have a major road being built from Gulu to Kitgum, the main construction people have been using all the aggregate rock in a very broad radius. We know that challenges are par for the course



though and we take them on one by one.



Our kids are so excited that they're going to be able to have a dining room, and a community hall! We are very much looking forward to bringing in women's groups and small teams in our Community. It's going to really increase the impact we have in the whole community. In the meantime, it's a lot of fun, during breaks and after class in the afternoon, to see how they can help build.

EXCURSION TO THE CITY AND SAFARI FOR OUR TOP CLASS



Thank you so much for your prayers and donations. Each year, you may remember, we try to save up to take our



graduating class on a life-changing trip to the city, to see the university, hospitals, the airport, the museum, modern malls and to return through a

safari park, because these dear young Ugandans have seen almost nothing apart from mountains and farms. It was just wonderful, having the chance to swim in Lake Victoria. They come from an area where there is no body of water larger than a couple square meters, so this was a real highlight. Then getting a chance to ride an escalator and elevator had to be one of the biggest hi-lights. The boat ride along the Nile with crocodiles, elephants and scores of hippos was thrilling.

Apart from that though, we have 5 of our young people in secondary school, who were so impacted to their visit through a top hospital, they are now heading towards a career in medicine. It's not cheap to bus them all down, but staying in student centers makes it more affordable (and with monkeys trying to steal their food, tons of fun!!) Your gifts making this once-in-a-life time experience happen has really lifted the ceiling in their lives! Thank you!!



THE END OF THE DROUGHT!



These last weeks have been so wet! Uganda is called the "Pearl of Africa" because it's always so rich and green. One of the unique elements of this is that we almost always have hot sunny days (being on the equator) but it rains at night quite regularly. We don't have 4 seasons, but rather have hot and wet or hot and dry. Well, the rains have come, ending an extremely long, difficult drought in the region. The huge perk that comes with that is that crops



have been flourishing. We need to buy food in large quantities when it's available at the best low prices. So ... we've been going farm to farm, arranging to buy maize and beans in this season, then bringing the bulky sacks of what adds up to tons of food. Of course, because we are buying for so many, our dear farmer neighbours (and those many kilometers away) see us as an answer to their prayers, where we come and buy their entire crops.



One exciting element amidst all of this is --- vehicles are getting bogged in the heavy, extremely slippery mud every day. For anyone who loves off-roading, it's a blast and we have been able to help many people out of their muddy holes after they'd been helplessly

stranded. It's a fun extra community service and so nice to work together with people, fighting against these obstacles, so we can all continue living well.



PROGRESS!



The Problem: Government schools in Uganda struggle. The children come to them with almost no input from their parents or guardians, they are dull and unmotivated, but then, even after trained teachers have them in class for years, the standards are very poor indeed and the kids still have poor motivation to do anything with their lives. On a practical side, students are almost never given a snack or much less a meal before going to school, lunches are not supplied, and it's common that a child finding a piece of fruit from a tree on the way home,

becomes the first food he or she has eaten all day! Classes are seriously over crowded with 80 in one classroom and broken, inadequate desks. The situation creates an almost impossible environment for a child from a poor background to even learn basics, and far less to excel. We never would have opted to provide complete living for our kids, had we not faced the reality of early teenage pregnancies and boys learning to be thieves and drunkards at young ages. We really felt God was leading us to create a sort of haven for these kids and we bought land in one of the most war-damaged areas in our country. Donor funding does come into Uganda, but so little of it actually reaches anywhere outside the capital.



The Solution: Our kids, thanks so much to you, are learning to be able to make choices. If an uncle comes to them inappropriately, they are learning to say "No!" Understanding that they

can steer their lives, as they are close to God, is one of the biggest gifts we can give them. To pull out of endemic poverty, takes a real commitment to hard work, to kindness, to stretching beyond anything they have known. And our teachers and graduates who are excelling in secondary (high school) are the exact mentors and leaders they need.

OUR FARM PRODUCING LOTS OF MAIZE/CORN AND VEGGIES



Apart from the students taking turns to help on the farm in the afternoons after classes, we have a steady full-time farm team. They are very hard workers and have been doing great. This crop is going to be harvested by the end of this month/early December and will provide a lot of food for the dry months of the holidays through December, January and into February. They ploughed more acres this season than ever before. We're excited looking forward to the harvest, and in the meantime, the cassava has been abundant. It's a great change and the kids love it!

UPCOMING HOLIDAY

We are moving to a new step at the end of the year. Here in Uganda, schools stop for their annual 2 month holidays in December and January. My daughter has been in Uganda for 15 years and married locally. Their beautiful family is about to move to Australia and they paid for me to come a bit later than the parents, to bring my grandkids. I lived and worked in Asia for 28 years and now 17 in Uganda, so it's been 45 years since I've spent more than 3 weeks every many years there. I'm booked to come back at the end of February and believe God is arranging the timing so our team can learn to become steadily more and more self-sufficient.



I'm excited about a 3 month change, after all these years, to have a holiday, meet lots of new friends and possibly new supporters. I believe we have set things up well so that they can start the first month of school smoothly and responsibly. We have a good team, and appreciate your prayers to that end. I'll be in steady touch by Whatsapp. Kindly pray for the completion of this important building—our Community hall and for each child and young person to remain safe, growing and inspired. We really are so grateful for every prayer and each generous gift you send! Sincerely, Robin for us all