



BWINDI ECO CHILDREN UGANDA

School Updates

SEPTEMBER, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Greetings from Bwindi Eco Children Uganda.

We love you all and we appreciate all the support that you are rendering to us despite Covid-19. As you may be aware, Bwindi Eco Children Uganda started in 2013 as a small orphanage with only 27 orphans. Now we are providing shelter to 91 orphans and education to 424 children at our private school, Bwindi ECO Children Uganda. We are at full capacity with students in nursery class through primary seven. Our pioneer students are now in their senior year.

Our dream is once a child becomes a student at Bwindi ECO Children Uganda, they are guaranteed an education until they achieve their academic goal. For many students this will mean getting a diploma or a degree from a university while for others, a certificate from a vocational school after graduating from primary school.



All the 91 orphans in our care are in good health. We continue to take necessary measures to protect them from Covid-19 and other related diseases. At times, we find it difficult to provide for all their needs due to the fact that tourism in the area, which was our major source of income, has been closed since March due to Covid-19. Now the biggest problem we have is a lack of enough food to feed them through this year.

Apart from the 91 orphans, the other 424 day scholars we serve have been sent home. And since we do not have enough manpower to check on them in their homes regularly, we provide self-study materials to them. Two of 424 day scholars have been sexually abused and are pregnant now. They are not expected back to school. We have reported the cases to the authorities and the culprits are in prison.



School Updates

SCHOOL OPENING

After a thorough study by education experts together with Health Ministry Officials, it has been recommended that schools open in a phased manner starting with candidate classes. For now, 35 students of primary seven, have resumed their studies. Pending further authorization, the remaining classes are on hold. It is expected we will receive authorization on September 20. On their visit at our school, the officials, after considering the facilities, recommended that we should open school with 400 children and 67 orphans. We are looking into renting a home to house the remaining orphans. The government had a long list of items that needed to be completed at the time of inspection. With assistance from Bwindi Uganda Children Charities, Inc. (BUCC), we were able to satisfy the Education and Health Ministry Officials that we were ready to open.

THANKS

We have built and managed Bwindi Eco Children Uganda with the valued assistance of so many; especially the Gulbas family, the Beakley family, Bwindi Uganda Children Charities (BUCC), the Snisky family and sponsors of our children. Our school and children's home now stands on 2 acres of land, where we have five buildings, consisting of 11 classrooms, 2 dormitories, 2 offices and a school canteen. The institution is managed by a committed team of 30 staff including the managing director, 17 teachers, 1 enrolled nurse, bursar, farm manager, project coordinator, 2 matrons (housemothers), 2 security guards, 1 driver and 3 cooks.

Also with the help of Bwindi Uganda Children Charities, we have purchased 7.5 acres of school farm land at Kinisa-Iraaro, which we are utilizing now for food production. This will help to reduce our expenditure for food.

Thanks to the Gulbas family and BUCC for donating

funds to help up-grade two rooms into a boy's dormitory. We were getting pressure from the government about housing boys not having beds.

Through Bwindi Uganda Children Charities, we have managed to connect with the following sponsors this year:

1. Dale and Cherrie Brooks sponsoring Elijah,
2. Danny and Brenda Bramlett sponsoring Prize,
3. Autrey family sponsoring Rusiano, Faith, Trevaour, Elia and Hosea,
4. Cheryl and Gary Lowrey sponsoring Bianca, Profit, Partson, Clinton and Marverous,
5. Mary Lytle sponsoring Gift,
6. Jerry and Judy Welch sponsoring Collins,
7. Schmitz family sponsoring Abraham and Asa,
8. Board of directors BUCC sponsoring Nabasa Penuel
9. Gary and Beverly Lavender sponsoring Savior Kyatuheire.
10. Meyer community group sponsoring Cranmer Asijwme.
11. The Porch Gang sponsoring Ansinuza Blessed.
12. Hernandez family sponsoring Asimwe Melvin.
13. David and Donna Bolton sponsoring Arinda Broline.
14. Steve and Donna Campbell sponsoring Ampereza Jordan.
15. Kyle Scott sponsoring Niwamanya Dickson.

Other direct sponsors who we have got through entertaining visitors in Bwindi include Jris Sturn sponsoring Ashaba Norman ; David and Rosiland Judah sponsoring Akampa; Mary and Malcom Henry Nobbs sponsoring Yonahand Anita Haines McCraw sponsoring Miracle.

Thank you all our other sponsors and supporters who are endeavoring to help us to meet our basic needs. We cannot express the gratitude we feel when we think of your support. Your support has made a huge difference.

May God bless you abundantly.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SCHOOL FARM PROJECT

We would like to thank Bwindi Uganda Children Charities (BUCC) for kindly donating funds to help purchase 7.5 acres of farmland! Both teachers and parents are now helping on the farm. With this land we hope to meet partial sustainability of food through growing maize, vegetables, cassava and raising chicken and goats. We are sure our food burden will be reduced by a half. Since the land was purchased in July, we have planted 5.5 acres with maize in two acres, cassava in 2 acres, fodder in one acre and vegetables in 0.5 acre. The other two acres are reserved for planting maize in the next season in February 2021. We have also shifted our goat project from the school premises to that farmland where we have enough space and plenty of grass to feed the farm animals. Currently we rear 50 goats and 500 chickens.

Pictures are shown below.







CONVERSION OF CLASSROOMS INTO DORMITORY

A huge thank you to the Gulbas family and BUCC for the funds to convert two classrooms into a boy's dormitory, which was a great need for BECU. The dormitory is now complete and very beautiful. It comprises of one big room that accommodates up to 60 boys and one small house Mother's room. The new dormitory has truly helped us double our ability to provide a safe, stable learning environment for the children we serve.

In addition the new dormitory has helped us meet the standard operating procedures for schools during COVID-19 and has qualified us to re-open for primary finalists. Also with this good accommodation

facility with good beds and beddings, our children are now sleeping very comfortably and for that we have seen them improving in their performance. Because of sound sleep, they have more time to concentrate on classes and books. However, we still have a challenge of many young needy children who are homeless and at times are living on streets that are facing all forms of child abuse. Some have come to us seeking refuge or help but at the moment we are full and do not have any room for any new entrants. At times those who come to us and miss an opportunity to be accepted go back crying and in most cases end being forced into sex by strangers and infect them with sexually transmitted diseases.

It is our prayer that one time in future we build a big orphanage that can open more space for at least 100 more orphans/needy children.

Pictures are shown below.





APPROVING OUR SCHOOL TO RE-OPEN

Because of COVID-19, all schools in Uganda were forced to close in March 2020. Since then all schools have been on break until September 20th when authorities accepted those who meet standard operating procedures were allowed to re-open for candidate classes. When we communicated the requirements for re-opening schools, BUCC immediately came on our rescue and donated us COVID-19 relief funds for procuring thermometers, establishing hand washing stations, buying face masks, Hand sanitizers and paying salary for a

school nurse for 6 months. With this kind of help, we are among the few schools in Uganda that have been qualified to open school in a phased manner starting with candidate class. By the way, the school nurse has been a huge blessing to our children and the community.

SUPPORT OF ORPHANS

We have a number of orphans on our waiting list who are looking for sponsors. We receive many orphan children seeking help and therefore are in great need of sponsors. To sponsor a child, all you need to do is contribute \$42 a month or \$504 per year. You can do this through our web site or send the money to Bwindi Uganda Children Charities located at 1326 Asher Drive, Keller, TX 76248.

With your help we can ensure that orphans and children at risk of sexual abuse receive a quality education, food, clothing, protection and loving care. When you choose to sponsor a child, you will receive a letter, photo of the child, and progress reports on how the child is doing in school. Please help us by sponsoring a child.

CONCLUSION

Once again I take this opportunity to say thank you to all that have supported us since this year begun. It is by God's grace that the Lord gave you a sincere burden to help orphans and needy children of Bwindi. We could not reach the number of children except for your help.

GOD bless,
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