

September 2019

# NEWSLETTER



## 2018 TRIP

On arrival we found our students to be happy, healthy and receiving a good, solid education.. p. 02

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I am so happy to get the chance to reach out! p. 04

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## SUUBI LYABANNA

*by Cormac O'Modhrain*

What a blessing it is to be a part of something so meaningful, this is an amazing organization and as others have referenced in this Newsletter, it's only possible because you and people like you care enough to both trust and support us. I want to take a moment to share a little about our teams and how we have been investing this year.



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# 2018 TRIP

by Ali O'Modhain

They had weathered the transition and were now enjoying their new school, home and experiences. This was the first trip of the new regime. We were now interacting with our Primary school students in a community school setting, situated in downtown Masaka and instead of our usual 144 US2uganda children , we now had the joy of loving on almost 500 children who attend Masaka Baptist School.

The Vacation Bible School program was created by our wonderful team from the UK. It focused on God's unchanging nature; He is the same yesterday , today and forever. Our mornings were spent teaching through songs, stories, games, team building exercises and crafts, and our afternoons filled with sports, sewing, knitting, bracelet making and music lessons . A huge "Thank you" to Wigan Music Service UK, for donating 30 recorders. Our students now have their own recorder group .These were fun filled, jam packed, wonderfully exhausting days.

A highlight of our time with our younger students was the distribution of the baby dolls. Over 40 young girls received their very own baby doll for the first time. It was so moving to watch as each precious little girl held her doll close, rocking and kissing it almost immediately. Thank you to all who generously donated new baby dolls and handmade doll clothes to "Mercy's dolls" The plan for next year is to provide our younger boys with their very own Mattel action figure and our older primary students with new, sturdy backpacks.

Another highlight was most definitely our Sunday afternoon fiesta at Peter's farm where we celebrated our Primary 7 students who will be moving onto high school in February. Armed with fresh pizza, sodas, cake (handmade by our own nurse Lauren Formentini),lots of candy and copious amounts of fresh pineapple and watermelon, we partied well into the evening, dancing to a DJ, playing soccer, volleyball and discovering the wonders of Cormac's drone!

Our time was split between our primary students, high school and vocational students at their various institutions. We are pleased to report they are all doing well , in particular Henry Nyombi, one of our freshman High school students who was recently selected to be the main speaker in the Agriculture seminar scheduled to take place in the Mukono district. This is an all-expense paid honor where Henry will not only be representing his high school, but also his district. "Henry is our best student in our school and all his teachers are extremely excited for his performance" said Hope High School headmaster. We are so proud of this young man, and on a side note, Henry has never had a sponsor, so if you are looking to sponsor, or know someone who is, please consider this incredibly worthy student.

Last year we began a new tradition with our High schoolers, the NIGHT OF WORSHIP, an evening where we gather all our students, team, school staff and friends, along with a fabulous worship band under the leadership of worship pastor Kintu Julius for a "no holds barred," loud, incredibly sweaty, wonderful night of music, singing and dancing to honor and give thanks to our Mighty God who brings us all together and who makes all that we do, and these precious relationships possible. Many of our students tell us this is the BEST night of the year for them.

Please consider joining us next May for our 2019 trip and what promises to be a life changing experience. WEEBALE!





US2UGANDA4life is still a completely volunteer organization. Courtney heads up our sponsorship program with a focus on children in primary and secondary school education. Becki assists Courtney by overseeing the older students who attend vocational schools and Universities. Kristen has taken on our social media presence [Instagram and Facebook] & Lisa has volunteered to assist us with our accounting. We migrated from a simple Excel sheet to QuickBooks this year and Lisa has been a huge help in setting that up. We want to begin applying for grants to supplement our funding but to do this we need to have formal annual audits of our accounts and we are setting everything in place to have 2019 be our first audit year. Ali is the glue that keeps us all together, keeping in constant contact with Peter and the team in Uganda, arranging the trips and general overseeing day to day needs on the ground. My role is to ensure that there is money in the bank account! I manage the monthly budget process with Peter, manage projects, update the website and today I am the newsletter graphic designer. There is a lot to be done and I can never say thank you enough to this wonderful team.



Suubi Lyabanna is our in country community based organization. Today we employ four people to manage all of the moving parts. Peter Mukongo is our director, an amazing human being without whom I am convinced Uganda would stand still. He is assisted by Joseph, a Jireh graduate who looks after child welfare at Masaka Baptist, as well as the two secondary schools. James is our accountant and database manager. Fatuma is our student liaison and focuses on taking care of the needs of our University and Vocational school students.



Today we have 144 students in Masaka Baptist School, 13 Children at Yesu Akawagala Secondary School, 54 students at Hope Secondary School, 14 Students in Vocational Programs and 12 students in University.

This year we have invested in a number of projects. 1. Adding a Fence to totally enclose Masaka Baptist School. 2. Building a covered structure to provide a meeting and dining area for the children. 3. creating a "Boys House" that we have named Peter's House. As [Resty's house](#) is a home for girls during the holidays Peter's House will be a home for the boys.



Someone recently asked me what keeps me up at night relative to Uganda, the answer is FUNDING. This will sound crazy but we are victims of our success! As Becki explains below more children are moving Higher education. It's awesome but our current sponsorship model does not support it. Just the monthly upkeep expenses for our university students is approximately \$43.00 per month and that does not include fees, books and all of the mandated requirements. Obviously being less successful is not an option so I simply have to find new ways to finance these children's education, if you have any ideas we would love to hear from you. I need my beauty sleep!!!

If you have a question or a concern please feel free to reach out to me directly. My cell phone number is 949-677-2316 my personal e-mail is [cormac@omodhrain.com](mailto:cormac@omodhrain.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

*by Courtney Morey*

As we refer to you within our little organization as “the life blood” of keeping US2Uganda alive, we want to be sure to always keep you in the loop to the best of our abilities. Your monthly contribution keeps us going!

During the most recent trip we had many new children join us, which meant lots of new profiles created and an overwhelming amount of work ahead of us! However, our team members on the ground did an incredible job of sharing photos of sweet little faces and we had a record number of sign ups within a two-week span! Many of you reading this are new sponsors and we want to thank you!

We currently have 30 children on the website who remain unsponsored. We would love to have each child matched with a sponsor by Christmas! If you can think of anyone within your friends and family circle who might like to join we would greatly appreciate your support in that way.

The main thing I wanted to share in this letter is that we want to keep an open line of communication available between you and your sponsor child as best we can. Many of you know we have collected hand written letters in the past via snail mail that teams will take over, however, there are many challenges in doing this as many children do not receive letters from sponsors which creates many hard conversations with young children who do not understand. Collecting those letters via mail is also extremely time consuming and logistically difficult.

The easiest way to write your child is by sending me the letter directly at [Courtneyredwine@gmail.com](mailto:Courtneyredwine@gmail.com). I will then pass the letter to Peter who is usually great at getting a reply quickly.

If you ever have questions or concerns about your sponsor child please send me a note. I will strive to do my best to get you answers! Thank you for being patient with me as I manage this volunteer role while working and taking care of our new baby boy!



# FURTHER EDUCATION

by Becki Overton



## Taking it Higher

Yes, having a problem is actually a very good thing in this case- we are starting to see several of our children grow up and leave secondary education and enter either University or Vocational training! Many students are now successfully completing S4 or S6 and will require additional funding (the “problem”) for this next step in becoming self-sufficient citizens of Uganda. So before I go any further, let me thank every sponsor for the love and dedication you show which has enabled these students to reach this milestone!!

It is essential that we equip our students to succeed so that one day the goal of Uganda becoming a middle class country can be realized. Further education will help our children:

- compete for professional jobs in urban areas
- compete against the wealthy class which primarily attend University
- compete against trained professionals that are hired from other countries due to a lack of educated and skilled Ugandans (this is especially true in the financial and IT sectors which also tend to be the higher paid careers)
- build the confidence and capability for young Ugandans to become entrepreneurs which in turn builds the economy

We are asking that each of you share this need with friends and family and to donate if you can! One thing, and the most important as well, is that we can all PRAY in response to this need- that our students to have the health and mindset needed to work diligently, for the necessary funding and for positive change in the economics of Uganda. So many sponsors are already supporting their student at this level and we cant thank you enough! I will be sharing more in the near future about our students and their sponsors.

We have current reason to celebrate with 12 UNIVERSITY STUDENT (among them are future a financial manager, a computer science major, a doctor, designers and educators) and 14 VOCATIONAL STUDENTS (hairdressers, construction professionals and secretarial admins to name a few)!!

Much applause and a standing ovation to our 6 GRADUATES TO DATE!!!

Godwill Authaire, LVN, Kalungi Nursing School + Sponsor Susan DeKoch

Agnes Kamsiime, Early Childhood Development, Mummy’s Skills Institute + Sponsor Molly Shubert

David Lusamba, Mechanic, Mummy’s Skills Institute + Sponsor Kenneth Davis

Yusuf Segawa, Mechanic, Mummy’s Skills Institute + Sponsor Dalton Goodier

Ruth Ayebazibwe, Secretarial Administration, Mummy’s Skills Institute + Sponsor Theodora McCullough

Joannah Nakintu, Hairdressing, Mummy’s Skills Institute + Sponsor Barbara Florey

~I am currently in the process of emailing sponsors of existing University and Vocational students to give you an update on your child. I will also be emailing S4-S6 sponsors of children who will be hitting this milestone in the near future. If you are able to increase monthly sponsorship that is beyond fantastic, a one-time donation is also amazing and by all means maintaining current sponsorship is of exceptional value because all of that is going towards the current school payments.

My best regards! Becki 💎



2019 TRIP

## May 24th - June 4th

(Depart the US on May 24th arrive in Entebbe May 25th - Depart Uganda on June 3rd very late arrive in the US on June 4th)

As always everyone is responsible for their own flight details, so that those who have air miles can use accordingly. Our only stipulation is that EVERYONE is in Entebbe by May 25th where we will spend the night at Sunset Entebbe Hotel.

The cost will be approx. \$800. This covers all in country costs. You will need you apply for your VISA online. The cost for that is \$50. [[Click here for link to Website](#)]

Looking forward to hearing from you, if you have any questions or concerns call Ali at 949 677 6535 or email her at [.ali@omodhrain.com](mailto:.ali@omodhrain.com)

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*it always seems impossible until it is done.*

**Nelson Mandela**



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