



Dear Friends and Sponsors of Yamba Abaana,

March 28 2016

Welcome to Spring 2016! I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying this season of renewal and rebirth. Certainly for the children of Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary School of SW Uganda these are indeed happy times. The new Nursery School campus located just down the hill from the Primary School is about to open for the 60 children ages 4-6 years old. A secure brick wall is nearly completed, the latrines are being finished, and the water tanks holding fresh, clean water from the new well are being installed as I write this. All of this has been accomplished through the generosity of our Yamba Abaana supporters who provided more than \$80,000 in donations over the last 2 years to complete the school and water projects. We are within \$5,000 of achieving our financial goals to complete the entire project.



The nursery school children recently got a preview of their new school. They are so excited!

What do we still need? We need additional furniture, including desks and beds for the new dormitories and classrooms, and we need 60 new insecticide treated mosquito nets. We also want to dedicate and install one 10,000 liter water tank for the use by the local Rubanda community. They have been so generous in supporting our projects providing right of way for installation of underground pipes and wiring and helping us purchase the remaining land to complete the campus for the Nursery School. This will be the first source of clean water that the community has ever had! Finally we will need funds to purchase outdoor tables and playground equipment. We hope to have everything in place (including the children!) very soon. We anticipate that \$5000 will help us accomplish all of these goals.

The other very exciting news is that Yamba Abaana has its first on site representative at the school funded by our organization. Peace Uwimana has been doing special projects for us for the past 2 years. She grew up in nearby Kisoro and is currently completing her university degree in development. She brings very special talents to the school. These include teaching the use and care of the 50 Kindle Paperwhite electronic books we purchased in 2014 as well as supervising the letter writing campaign every 6 months so that the sponsored children keep in touch with their generous benefactors from the USA (and as far away as Australia and Taiwan!).

She will be able to strengthen the connection between the sponsored kids and their donors on an ongoing basis. Communication back and forth should be greatly enhanced.

She will help supervise all future projects funded by Yamba Abaana, track the progress and success of our graduates as they proceed on to secondary school (equivalent to our high school), and will be exploring funding sources and grants from within Uganda as well.



Dr. Bruce, Odeta (one of the YA sponsored children), and Peace Uwimana in November 2015

She is truly a very special lady who I first met as my translator at the Congolese refugee camp I worked at in 2013 for Medical Teams International. She is going to be an invaluable asset to us to foster even greater communication between the children and the supporters of Yamba Abaana backhome. We are indeed so lucky to have her join us. I asked her to write a little bit about herself so everyone could know of her remarkable life. I found her account so heartfelt and genuine that I only minimally shortened or edited it. I have enclosed it as a separate attachment to this newsletter. Please take a moment to read it and know why I feel that Peace represents the very best example of Uganda's future!

One other piece of great news: all of the children who recently graduated from the seventh grade passed their national exams allowing them to advance to secondary school. This is the third year in a row that all of our graduates have passed, a truly remarkable feat, unmatched that we know of by any other school in the region! Your generous support of the children on all levels has made an enormous difference in their lives and has helped unlock their unlimited potential.

Thanks again for all that you have helped us accomplish, especially in the past year. Father Dominic, the Board of Yamba Abaana, and I feel we are sharing a remarkable journey with all of you. Please continue to help us assist these deserving children! More pictures to come soon of the completed Nursery School project. Stay tuned. God bless you all!

Dr. Bruce (Murray),

President, Board of Directors, Yamba Abaana-USA

I have attached a donation form for your consideration. Any amount will be gratefully accepted! Please consider becoming a child sponsor. We have MANY deserving kids who need help.