



Autumn 2016 Newsletter

From the Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary School

Greetings to Our Friends, Donors, and Child Sponsors,

This past year has been nothing short of life changing for the children and community of Rubanda, Uganda. Thanks to your generosity and compassion, the campus and the village have been transformed by the completion of the well and new nursery school project. And just in time! The area just emerged from the worst drought in memory and had it not been for the new well the children would have been without water. As it was, the entire regional water table dropped significantly but the new manual hand pump sustained the school. The children never had to hand carry water from the only other water source which is more than 3 miles away, as they did in the old days (like last year!)



Children outside of the classroom/administration building.



Clean water at the school!

The new nursery school is full and prospering. We have nearly 60 children ages 4 to 6 residing in a beautiful and safe environment with classrooms, administrative offices, kitchen, dining hall and dormitories serving boys and girls separately. Earlier this year Father Dominic and I raised more than \$1500 by offering handmade paper bead necklaces

created by the children in return for a donation to Yamba Abaana. The money raised was used to buy solar panels for the nursery school to provide backup support for the school whenever the state-provided electric power fails (which is quite often).



Some of the nursery school kids in the well pump house only a couple minute walk from the school. Saved the kids from drought!

What else do we need at this point? We still need new mosquito nets for the dorms and play equipment for the young children. Most importantly, we need new child sponsors. There are still too many families living in abject poverty who sacrifice all they can afford just to keep their kids at the Solidarity School. They know that a quality primary education is the starting point for a better life and opportunities ahead. For less than a dollar a day (\$360/year) you can not only provide for the tuition, room and board, uniforms, and health care of your child but your contribution is also used to help with the food program and teacher salaries which benefit all of the kids. You will receive twice yearly personal letters from your child and you have the opportunity to communicate by email with them directly as well. Many of us have developed long term relationships with our sponsored children. I know some sponsors who consider "their kids" practically as members of their families back home.

Overall, in the past twelve months we have witnessed tremendous progress in improving the quality of the lives and education of our more than 300 students. They are extremely grateful to all of us. Yamba Abaana cannot rest on its laurels. We look forward to completing the projects above and anticipate in the future drawing up blueprints for new classrooms and dormitories at the main Primary School campus. They are currently working out of crude corrugated metal structures with dirt floors. More on that later... For now, you have the deep gratitude of the Board of Directors of Yamba Abaana for making the world a little bit better at a time when good news is scarce. God bless you all!

Very sincerely,

"Dr. Bruce" Murray

President, Board of Directors, Yamba Abaana, USA

October 23, 2016



How can you help the children?

Please think of us as you consider your end of the year donations. Remember your donations are tax deductible as Yamba Abaana is a certified 501(c)3 organization.

Child sponsorships: \$90 a quarter year or \$360 per year. You can request the approximate age (4-14) and gender of your child if you wish or just let our on-site sponsor coordinator, Peace, help chose those most in need.

Playground equipment including soccer balls: any contribution would be gratefully accepted. A new ball, for example, costs about \$10. They need at least 10 new balls. A designated playground with swings and ball court would be wonderful, as well.

Mosquito nets: We need to replace 195 older nets at the primary school with new insecticide treated nets. Since we started this project we have reduced malaria incidence quite significantly. We estimate \$15 per net including installation. (Now that's a bargain!)

Consider a Christmas gift of a genuine CHILD hand-made paper bead necklace! Dr Bruce and Father Dominic will likely have a new supply by Thanksgiving sent directly from the school. Contact us directly if you are interested. (Bruce at pbrucemurray@hotmail.com or Father Dominic at kakihumaa@gmail.com). Simply make a separate donation to Yamba Abaana and you will receive a necklace as a gift. For a \$15 donation you will receive 1 necklace and for \$25 you will receive 2! Shipping should be an additional ~\$2. All of the money donated goes directly back to the school to fund very meaningful projects at the school like the solar panels recently purchased for the nursery school.

How do I pay?

The easiest is to use PayPal at our website: yambaabaana.org. You can also print and complete the donation form enclosed with this email and send it to Bob Busch, Treasurer, P.O. Box 880, Grants Pass, OR 97527



We thank you so much!