



December 2016

We Wish you Peace and Joy This Christmas Season!

The Board of Directors of Yamba Abaana and the children, staff, and community of Rubanda, Uganda, wish you a very Merry Christmas! There was great joy in 2016 when the new 60 student Rubanda Solidarity Nursery School opened thanks to hard work (and your generous contributions!). In addition, the SW corner of Uganda saw a prolonged, severe, drought this spring and summer yet our new well installed one year ago did not go dry but continued to produce fresh, clean water for the children. No one had to walk the 3 miles to the previous water source and carry heavy jerry cans on their backs or bicycles. The school and community will never forget the gift of health and life that you have provided. In addition, thanks to a generous donation from friends in Australia and New Zealand (thanks Rachael and Zaal!) we were able to purchase >300 brand new mosquito nets for the Primary School. This project will be completed soon.



Dr Rachel and Dr Zaal generously helped us with donations raised at their wedding in September 2016 to fund the mosquito net project. Fresh water year round!

NEW CRAFT PROJECT

The children and teachers at the school have a new project to announce: the creation of a craft project featuring handmade lacquered paper bead necklaces. They are quite beautiful and come in a variety of colors. Make a donation to the school and receive a necklace! For a donation of \$15 you will receive one necklace and for only \$25 you will receive 2 (plus \$5 mailing regardless of number of necklaces). With funds raised so far they have purchased new solar panels for the nursery school. Every dollar donated goes back to the school for their collective use. Father Dominic and I have just received a new shipment of more than 150 new necklaces. If you wish to receive one or more before Christmas please

let me know ASAP and I will try to get them out to you. No two are alike but you may certainly choose red, green, blue, yellow, mixed, or earth tone. They are approximately 23" long and are refundable if they aren't to your liking. They make wonderful gifts. Please contact me directly if interested by email pbruce@murray@hotmail.com) or by phone (after 5 PM 541-660-0241)



The children cut colorful paper in strips, roll them tightly, laquer, and string them. Peace models a larger bead version. Different colors and bead sizes are available.

OUR STAFF UPDATE

As many of you know, we had very sad news recently. **Bob Busch**, founding member and treasurer of Yamba Abaana, passed away after a prolonged illness. He loved the school project with all of his heart and will be missed by so many.

On a much happier note, **Peace Uwimana**, our wonderful liaison at the school, married the love of her life, Bosco, in September. She continues to work for Yamba Abaana at the school helping to monitor our projects there and running the sponsorship program. She helps the sponsored children communicate regularly with their donors. She also keeps tabs on the graduates of the primary school tracking them as they go on to secondary and, hopefully, graduate education. We have another new addition to our volunteer team assisting YA back home in Grants Pass. Her name is **Jules Danford, RN**, and she is a child sponsor who helps us enormously with organizing our mailing lists and sending out our newsletters (such as this one!). We welcome her to our team!



Breaking News !!

Bob's daughter, Theresa Hurtt, is an accountant and has been helping us with bookkeeping tasks during his illness. She has graciously agreed to step in to be our new Yamba Abaana Treasurer!! We are so fortunate to have her join the Board. The mailing address for donations remains the same:

Treasurer, Yamba Abaana P.O
Box 880, Grants Pass, OR 97528

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2017?

Although much has been accomplished, much remains to be done. Below is a picture of the present classroom cluster at the Primary School. They have served their purpose well for the past 12 years but desperately need replacing. They are oppressively hot in the tropical heat and leak badly during the seasonal torrential rains. The oldest dorm is the Obama Dormitory and it, too, is primitive and uncomfortable. We hope to start developing plans in early 2017 to replace them so stay tuned!



Fresh water out of a tap rather than a polluted pond miles away is a new joy every day.



These metal roofed wooden structures have served as classrooms for countless hundreds of students over many years. We hope to replace them in the near future



We also hope to expand the sponsorship program so more deserving students can receive help for their educational expenses. Currently about 60 of the 320 kids have sponsors from around the world. For \$360 per year a student will have their education, room and board, healthcare, uniforms, and all school fees/supplies provided. Only those most in need (and there are so many!) are chosen by Father Dominic, Peace, and a select committee at the school. Sponsors may cultivate a long term relationship and a minimum of two letters a year are sent from each sponsored child.

Father Dominic is very busy cultivating new friends at his new posting in the town of Saco, outside of Portland, ME. As a result we may be seeing plans soon for a new library and computer center to be developed as part of a 5 year strategic plan. Also, a new webmaster may be able to help us modernize and augment our yambaabaana.org website.



Here is Father Dominic in Maine, very much longing to return to his ancestral homeland in January.

Once again thank you all for helping us assist this wonderful school. We are giving deserving children the opportunity to achieve life goals not even imaginable a few years ago. Father Dominic, the staff, teachers, parents, and children thank you with all of their hearts for this priceless gift of education. God bless you all. Have a very Merry Christmas. We pray for a more peaceful and just world in the New Year.

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