



A Non Profit 501(c)3 organization to assist the children of Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary School in SW Uganda

May, 2017

Dear Donors, Child Sponsors and Friends of Yamba Abaana,

We are approaching the half way point of the academic year in Uganda so I thought an update of new developments at the school was in order. Many things have occurred since the last newsletter of December 2016. Here are the highlights:

1. All 29 of our 7th grade graduates of 2016 learned in January that they had passed their national qualifying exams to proceed on to secondary school, if they so choose. This is the fourth straight year that all of our graduates have passed, a rate almost unheard of in rural Uganda.
2. Southwest Uganda was hit by a series of natural disasters in 2016, including drought with severe water shortages, crop failure worsened thanks to army worm infestation (largely destroying the corn crop), and resulting rising food costs and famine. Many schools in the area had to simply close down in the fall of 2016, but NOT our Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary School supported by all of you! Although food rations were reduced temporarily, the worst is now over and Yamba Abaana is helping the school with additional plans to supplement the food budget. Our promise to the school is that the children will not go hungry again!
3. As a result of the drought and further lowering of the water table, the capacity of the well put in by Yamba Abaana in 2015 was temporarily compromised. The electric pump broke down due to the stress and was quickly replaced by your generous donations. Due to our previously installed on site hand pump, the children always had access to fresh water, even during the worst part of the drought. This never would have occurred without the help of Yamba Abaana! The new, improved electric pump is functioning great and the drought is over (for now!)



This hand pump saved the day during the recent drought.

4. The new nursery school, paid for entirely by Yamba Abaana, is serving nearly 50 children age 4-6 years old in 2 grades. The new classrooms, dorms, dining hall/kitchen, and administrative offices are beautiful and fully functional. Mosquito nets are in, a security fence is in place, and solar powered security lights provide for a healthy and safe environment. Thanks to all of you for making this possible!



The younger kids love their new nursery school

5. Peace, our wonderful Yamba Abaana Liaison in Uganda, had a baby girl! Deborah was born in April 2017. Mom, baby, and proud Dad, Bosco, are all doing well! Congratulations!
6. Peace has a new protected computer, modem, printer and internet access thanks to your generous support. She will now be able to facilitate communication between our sponsors and donors and their children in Rubanda more easily. Give it a try: Send Peace a note at yambaabaana@gmail.com and she will respond as soon as she is able to (remember, she's a new Mom!)
7. Speaking of sponsors! We are now up to 62 generous sponsors who support their children with a portion going to assist all of the kids and the school. We can always use more sponsors (\$360 per year)! Please contact me (pbrucemurray@hotmail.com) or Theresa Hurtt, our Treasurer, at yambaabaana@gmail.com if you wish to learn more.
8. David Sharp, PhD, our YA Board Member and Professor of community nutrition at Kent State University, will be taking a class of 9 undergraduates to Uganda at the end of this month. They will be examining the challenges of accessing adequate nutrition in Uganda. They will visit the National University, Makerere, in Kampala, our school in Rubanda, and a model health system with a large community garden and nutrition program in the high mountain jungles of SW Uganda (2 hours west of Rubanda). Wow, what an ambitious and timely project this will be. Expect a report back from David when he returns. We hope some new ideas will emerge to provide improved food production and security at our school!

9. I will be in the vicinity of the school for all of June while working and teaching at Bwindi Community Hospital and Nursing School (same town David will be visiting). I will try to visit the school when I can and will send back some fresh pictures as well.
10. Our annual, comprehensive auditor report in December revealed no financial irregularities at all. A strong recommendation was made to replace five dilapidated (ie, literally falling down) classrooms at the primary school. (See below).

Our Current Needs and Plans for the Future

1. Some of our buildings at the main campus of the primary school have become structural and health hazards. This is a picture of three of the five classrooms that must be replaced. Estimated cost is \$32,000 for a new classroom wing. These current classrooms are literally falling down and they are very dusty and hot as well.



These classrooms are unsafe and uncomfortable

2. This is the dormitory at the primary school that has to be replaced as well. It is structurally unsafe and is infested with termites and rodents. It leaks badly during the rains and is sweltering in the heat. Cost of replacement is \$29,000.



The dormitory is leaning rightward, not the camera! Obvious holes in the roof allow in rodents, bats, other pests, and rain!

3. Plans for a computer lab and library project are taking shape. Stay tuned!
4. Plans for an improved garden and pig raising facility to improve food independence and security are under discussion at this time.
5. We are in the process now of improving our website, and Facebook page to expand our reach and to improve our communication with all of you with our friends in Uganda. Also, Peace is already facilitating better communication between our supporters and the staff and children at the school. Give it a try by sending Peace an email at: yambaabaana@gmail.com
6. Improved fund raising avenues (block grants for new structures through international NGOs and crowd sourcing platforms) are being investigated. If any of you have other input or ideas to offer, please contact me!
7. The insecticide treated mosquito nets, placed nearly 5 years ago over each child's bed in the dormitories of the primary school, have started to deteriorate and must be replaced. Malaria is just one of the serious mosquito borne diseases in this area of Equatorial Africa. We need more than 200 new nets soon.

Whew! I know that is a lot of news to absorb! Father Dominic, and the Board of Directors welcome your input and suggestions. Our big push the next 6 months is to find the funding to replace the badly outdated and dangerous classrooms and one dormitory on the primary school campus. It is absolutely essential that we move on these projects and your donations would be so appreciated. We have currently raised about \$13,000; which is great, but still leaves us with a deficit of about \$50,000. We are exploring new and creative funding options. However, the support of our valued sponsors and donors to Yamba Abaana will always be the life blood of our effort to help the ~300 children in this impoverished area of rural Uganda. **One key fact to remember: All funds raised by Yamba Abaana go directly to the school for a specified purpose. Yes, that is 100% of all money raised serves the kids.** Everyone on the Board serves voluntarily. Postage, labels, printing, etc., is all paid for by members of the Board. Let's continue to give these very grateful children the safe and nurturing environment they deserve so they can achieve a quality basic education. This will offer them a chance to pull themselves and their families out of poverty and hopelessness. God bless you for your continued support and love!

"Dr. Bruce" Murray, M.D., DTM&H
President, Board of Directors, Yamba Abaana-USA
Phone 541-660-0241

**Donations can be sent to our Treasurer. Please make checks payable to:
Yamba Abaana
P.O. Box 880, Grants Pass, OR 97528**



Nursery School Graduation, December 2016



Website: yambaabaana.org
Email: yambaabaana@gmail.com

DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

(In order to keep administrative costs to a minimum, we prefer to communicate by email whenever possible)

I choose to donate \$ _____ for the purpose of general fund/current critical need
-and/or-

I choose to pay ____ child sponsorship(s) of \$360 per year per student, on the following payment schedule (You may certainly choose to sponsor more than 1 child!):

- Annual lump sum payment of \$360/child, to be billed yearly
- Semi-annual payment of \$180/child, to be billed every six months
- Quarterly payment of \$90/child, to be billed every 3 months
- Monthly payment of \$30/child, prefer automatic payments in order to save billing costs

Please make check payable to: **Yamba Abaana**

This donation will be used for children's needs at the Rubanda Solidarity Nursery and Primary School, particularly orphans and HIV/AIDS victims under the Child Education Support Program.

I authorize the usage of my personal data only in connection with Yamba Abaana and the Rubanda Solidarity Development Association. My personal data is not to be sold or used or given to any other organization without further consent.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Please send form and donation to:

**Yamba Abaana
c/o Theresa Hurtt, Treasurer
PO Box 880
Grants Pass, OR 97528**

Questions?

**Contact "Dr. Bruce" Murray
pbrucemurray@hotmail.com**

Thank you!

Yamba Abaana makes every effort to use funds per donor request. In some cases, funds may be re-allocated to meet critical needs as consistent with our exempt purpose. Donations to Yamba Abaana are tax deductible under IRC code 501(c)(3) status under Federal Tax ID 46-0578231. No goods or services were provided to donor in consideration of any donation.