



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

**May, 2018**

Dear Friends, Family, Donors, and Supporters of Yamba Abaana,

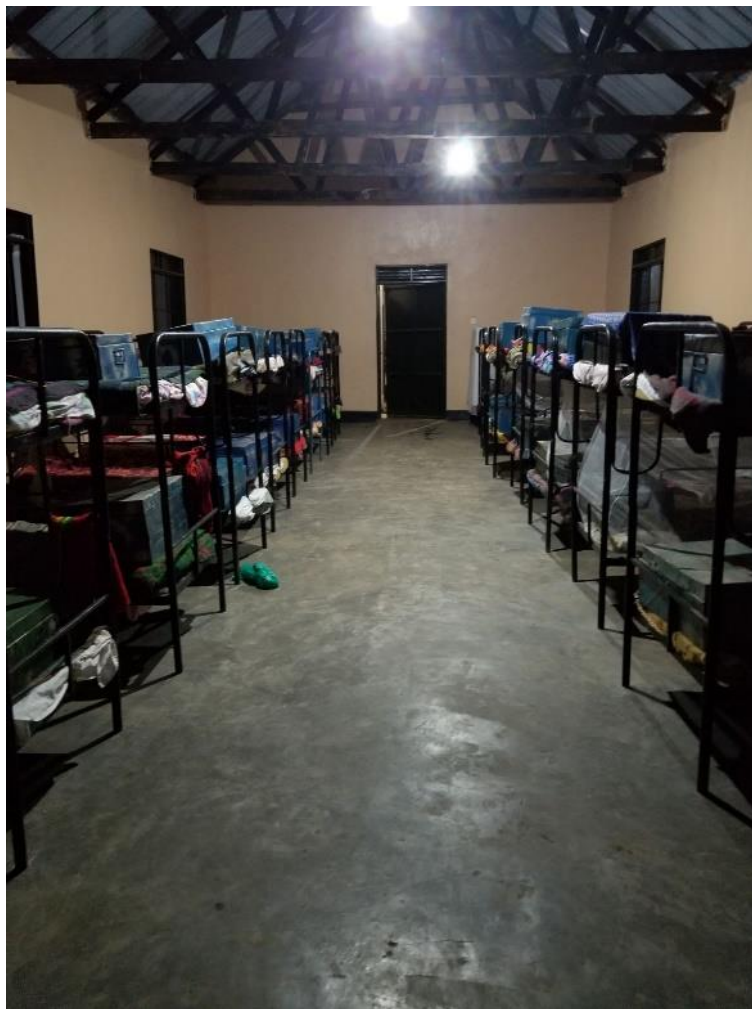
We wanted to give you an update on all of the wonderful activities that we have been working on and promote some of the goals that we have set for the future. It has been an amazing few months and we have faith that the next ones will be just as blessed. Hopefully you will be able to assist us in our next project, but first we'd like to take a moment to update you on what our community has already accomplished!



While leading a faculty-led study abroad class to Uganda to compare the infrastructure and environmental differences between Uganda and what we have available in the United States, I was fortunate enough to spend two days visiting the Rubanda Solidarity School with my nine undergraduate students. As we toured the school

and met and played with all of the students, we were constantly looking around to see what could be done to benefit the school.

In addition to soccer jerseys, soccer balls, and soccer nets and the delivery of some playground equipment, one story that stuck with me was “the story of the leaky roofs” in the nursery school. While the roofs themselves had no issues, blaming them was a means of reassuring a young child whose bladder had not made it through the night that they had nothing to feel ashamed about.



The mattresses would then be pulled out into the warm Ugandan sun to be cleaned and dried. To assist with this situation, we proposed two different solutions. The first was to restrict water consumption within an hour of bedtime to make sure that the youngest children were able to go to bed with an empty bladder. The second was to purchase waterproof bed liners for all of the beds in the nursery school in order to preserve and extend the life and cleanliness of the beds. The funds necessary to fulfill this were generously donated by YA board member Rebecca Brown and her husband Evan.



We whole heartedly welcomed our newest board member Dan Bedard in March. Dan was fortunate to be able to accompany Father Dominic to Uganda and spend an entire month generously donating his time and vast gardening knowledge into kick starting this season's crops at the school with some novel techniques and a large package of heirloom seeds that will eventually provide some unique flavors as well as an increased crop yield. Currently, Dan estimates that the gardens are growing about 3-5% of the produces needed to sustain the school. He believes that the available farmland owned by the school can eventually be organized and cultivated in order to produce nearly 30%! The seeds procured are of the heirloom variety so that they can be stored and reused every season so I look forward to providing you updates on our ever-growing farming project.



And finally, we are thrilled to announce the construction of our newest building, the reconstructed Obama Dormitory. We have received the final construction reports from the engineer. We are able to announce that our major fund raising project from last year was a



complete success! As you know, the previous dormitory was structurally unsafe. It leaked badly in the winter, was swelteringly hot in the summer, and was infested with termites, rodents, mosquitoes, and the occasional bat. Replacing a dirt floor, non-functioning windows, and a leaky roof, this colorful and safe building's cement foundation, water collection gutters, water channels on the ground, and increased overall size will ensure that our students enjoy safe and sound sleep in order

to continue to advance their academic success. With the additional construction of a safe

footpath up to the higher level of the school and new bathrooms dedicated to the dormitory, this truly provides our students with a haven to return to after a long day of learning. These pictures and smiling faces only represent a small portion of the joy and comfort that you have helped provide to the community.

**Building upon these successes, we are excited to announce our major project for 2018- New classrooms for our students!**

Our five classrooms that serve our first through fifth graders on the main campus are, to be blunt, falling down. They are structural and health hazards constructed mainly from aluminum roof cast-offs that are loud when it rains and dusty and distractingly hot during the dry season. In addition to these suboptimal conditions, we have been informed by the school that the Ugandan government is mandating that replacing these classrooms is the top priority on account of their current form.



Now that we have been succeeded in providing our 300 students with clean and safe dormitories, delicious water throughout the dry season through the installation of a well, and strengthening food during last year's food shortages, we ask that you open your hearts to help us to bring their learning environment up to the same standards as their sleeping one. It is imperative that we move forward to replace these dangerous classrooms and your donations are their foundations for the future.

We are currently getting a quote from our builder and expect to begin our 2018 fundraising campaign this summer! We are currently working on the blueprints and the pricing of the beautiful new classrooms and are excited to begin construction as quickly as possible. In order to maximize the school's design and functionality, we the board have authorized funding to negotiate and purchase some additional land

surrounding the classroom that is earmarked for this new building. Not only are we working to increase the safety, comfort, and education of the students, through this land purchase we are also increasing the size and utility of the school grounds in preparation for future projects!

The support of our generous sponsors, friends, family and donors are the backbone of this effort and 100% of your donations are tax deductible and go directly to the school, the kids, and these projects. **We, the volunteers on the board, are thrilled to announce that we have been offered a price match by an anonymous donor who will donate \$1 for every dollar we raise up to a very generous \$25,000!** Once we officially begin this fundraiser, every donation you make will be doubled thanks to this donor.

With your help, we can continue to offer our students and their families the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty and into a successful and brighter future. We are humbled by your continued support and love and cannot wait to share with you the next chapter of accomplishment in a book of grace that we are all writing together.

In Service,

Dr. David Sharp, Ph.D.

Member, Board of Directors, Yamba Abaana-USA

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