



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

November 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. 2018 has been an amazing year and we have faith that 2019 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, Board Member David Sharp was fortunate enough to spend two days visiting the Rubanda Solidarity School with nine undergraduate students. As they toured the school and met and played with all of the students, they 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 David 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, two solutions were

proposed. 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.

One of our newly welcomed Board members, Dan Bedard, 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 year'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. We look forward to providing you updates on our ever-growing farming project.

And finally, we are thrilled to announce that last year's major fund raising project, the construction of our newest building, the reconstructed Obama Dormitory, 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 2018-2019: A two-story building to include five new classrooms for our students, a library, staff offices and an assembly hall!

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

The support of our generous sponsors, friends, family and donors are the backbone of this effort and 100% of your donations qualify as a charitable donation 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 one dollar for every dollar we raise, up to a very generous donation of \$25,000!** Any payment you send will be doubled thanks to this contributor. The good news is we have already received incredible donations totaling \$15,000 to kick this project off. That means that if we are successful in our effort to raise an additional \$10,000, we can make the dormitory a reality by the time the students return for their winter semester around February 1, 2019. We are so hopeful that Father Dominic will be able to open and christen this new building while he is in Rubanda for his annual visit after the first of the year.

We know there are many catastrophes in the world currently competing for donations. We hope you will think of the Rubanda Nursery and Primary School as you consider how best to help those in need. Please send any amount you are able to spare to: Yamba Abaana, P.O. Box 880, Grants Pass, OR 97528. If you prefer contributing using technology, our newest board member, Bill Martel, along with his wife Joanna, has setup a GoFundMe campaign entitled "Rooms To Grow". You may also send funds via PayPal and enter "yambaabaana@gmail.com" for the recipients email address. God bless you for your caring spirit!

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Busch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Phil Busch,
President, Board of Directors, Yamba Abaana

Along with Board Members:

Pat Murray, Vice President

Rebecca Brown, Secretary

"Dr. Bruce" Murray

David Sharp

Dan Bedard

Bill Martel

Theresa Hurtt