



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

**August 2019**

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

We have had some incredible progress at our school and are excited to be able to share these experiences with you. One of our board members, David Sharp, was once again able to visit the school with his university students and has brought back stories and pictures that showcase how our community has progressed since our last newsletter! None of this can be accomplished without the continued love and support from our sponsors, so we want to start this newsletter by once again thanking you so much for everything that you do to bring these projects to life. You have touched countless hearts and improved the lives of an entire community.

### **The classrooms are finished!**



Through the winter and spring months, construction progressed on the foundation, walls, and roof of our five new classrooms within one contiguous, L-shaped building. The cement had hardened but was still curing when David and his students visited in May and the finished facilities are truly a sight to behold. Vibrantly colored and easily twice the size of the prior classrooms, these new centers of

learning have replaced dusty aluminum panels with thick concrete for walls and a ceiling, dirt floors with a cement slab, and include electricity and windows. These improvements not only provide better lighting, temperature control, and noise and dust reduction, they also reinforce the significance of an education and just how seriously we believe in their future! The extra

land that your generous assistance helped us purchase to make space for these amenities were put to great use and we couldn't be more pleased with the outcome. Providing an engaging and comfortable atmosphere to promote education is a gift that the children will benefit from for a long time. As we stated last year, the government had mandated the replacement of these classrooms on account of their suboptimal conditions and this new building has exceeded all expectations. It is truly a gem and it is impossible to put into words just how much the students love their new rooms.



### **New and improved Mosquito Nets have been installed!**

One project that we have been working on has been the continued prevention of malaria in our students. Prior mosquito nets available to us have provided some frustration as they were sometimes too short to reach from the ceiling to the ground or were not wide enough to easily cover the footprint of the bed. These issues were showcased as rips and tears in the fabric when the netting was asked to perform a role that it was not perfectly suited to. The new nets, installed in April, are as gorgeous as they are functional, and we have only praise for them! We were also able to purchase a small quantity of additional nets to keep on hand to replace any faulty or broken nets over the next year to ensure that students remain safe and mosquito free throughout the school year. These new nets also are a beautiful hue of pink, bringing a joyful glow to the dormitories and serving as a constant reminder to the students that we love and support them.



These are just a few of the new projects and infrastructure improvements that have occurred in 2019. Please visit [Yambaabaana.org](http://Yambaabaana.org) for a more complete listing of how your donations have benefitted the school this year!

## Which brings us to our next exciting project and 2019 fundraising drive- Adding a second story to our classroom building!

Even with the multitude of improvements that have been implemented recently, this entire building is without a doubt a keystone in the development of the school as an autonomous and growing landmark in the community. Our objective is to construct a large, multi-use gathering hall and a library as the primary facilities for the second floor and the value of these new areas can be represented across all three pillars of our school: Academics, Life Skills, and Faith. In addition to the quiet space and academic hub that is a library, the large gathering hall will serve as a location for all of our students to gather for assembly when the weather is poor, gives us the opportunity to provide larger educational and entertainment opportunities for current and visiting guests, and provides us with plentiful room to showcase arts and crafts from our students and local craftsmen to encourage artistic expression and the cultural competence of our children. It also provides us with the ability to seat our own students for their year seven exams.

### **New Desks for examinations!**

No building can truly be considered complete until it is equipped with furniture and ready for the students to use. While the construction crews have been hard at work on the outside and in preparation for our new fundraising drive, local craftsmen have been diligently working to design and build a fleet of locking desks that are a requirement for students wanting to take their year seven examinations. Before the construction of our new multi-purpose hall is completed, the Rubanda Solidarity School is unable to proctor these end of school examinations at the school and must send the students to a different location in order to sit for the exam. By improving our facilities and providing the correct desk accommodations, we will soon be allowed to have our students take their exams here at our school! Being able to accommodate these exams removes an additional stress from the difficulties of an examination. Students will no longer need to organize and afford additional transportation and lodging for their final exam, nor will they need to spend any extra time traveling. These resources can be used to study, get the best scores possible, and maximize the educational success of the students.



Our 2019 push is to generate the funding needed to complete this second floor and not only raise up the building, but also create a beacon of learning and gathering that all our of community can be drawn to. It is essential that we move on this project quickly and your donations get us closer to making this happen! **We have currently raised about \$15,000 this year which is fantastic, but we are only halfway there. We need to raise another \$16,000 to fund the second floor and complete this new building.** While we continue to explore creative and new funding options, our donors and sponsors are the heart and soul of Yamba Abaana and have helped us more than double the number of children able to be fed, housed, and educated in this impoverished area of rural Uganda. You are truly changing the lives and futures of an entire community with your support. **One key fact to remember: All funds raised by Yamba Abaana is tax deductible and goes 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 thankful children the safe and nurturing environment they deserve so they can continue to learn and prosper.

With your help, we can continue to offer our very grateful students, their families, and the associated community 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, with your help, look forward to sending you pictures of the completed building in December!

**A donation of any amount may be sent to: Yamba Abaana, P.O. Box 880, Grants Pass, OR 97528. You may also send funds via PayPal and enter [yambaabaana@gmail.com](mailto:yambaabaana@gmail.com) for the recipient's email address. Blessings to you all!**

In Service,

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

We are also pleased to introduce you to Peace's new daughter, Dasia, born in early May. The whole family is doing great and send their love to you.

