

# Beatrice's HOPE



Creating a  
childhood  
for orphans in  
rural Uganda

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOPE MULTIPURPOSE, INC., FOUNDED BY BEATRICE GARUBANDA

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## Celebrating the Blue House Opening

Construction of the new Blue House began in September, 2009 and was completed in March, 2010. The drawings were done by a nonprofit firm, MSAADA, which is based in Minneapolis and has offices in Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and India. We also contracted with MSAADA to supervise building the project in Uganda, and Jeff Potts, a young architect from Tennessee, was on site in Kazo for six months. The building contractor was Balex, a corporation from Mbarara, who had done some construction in the Kazo area and many large projects throughout Uganda.



The project consists of four buildings—a dormitory with 11 bedrooms for 4 girls each, a private bedroom for the Housemother, an office for the Director, a sewing room and a large, central common room with a designated reading area. That community space will also be used for meals, study, and group activities. The second building is a cooking “shed” with a locked storage room for food and cooking equipment. In Uganda, cooking is mostly done outdoors using wood or charcoal stoves. A combination laundry and shower building and a separate latrine are the third and fourth buildings on the site. When the second dormitory is constructed, it will share the same cooking shed, laundry/shower and latrine.

### A good value

The total cost of the project construction above was \$125,758. This includes \$16,435 to MSAADA for drawings, plans and construction consultation, \$700 to Jeff Potts for additional post-construction consultation, and an additional payment to Balex mid-project to replace the donated bricks found to be sub-standard.

Although the final price is considerably higher than expected, we are very pleased with the construction. Jeff Potts assures us that the materials and the work of Balex are the very best he saw during his stay in Uganda. Hopefully, this will prove to be a good value over time. [H](#)

## Dinner & Auction raise funds for furnishings and clean water

*The African dinner buffet and silent auction raised several thousand dollars to help equip the new Blue House. See inside for more...*



## May 8 Dinner & Auction Celebration a fundraising success

To salute the completion of construction and to raise money for furnishings, a water system and landscaping, an African dinner buffet and silent auction were held at St. Matthew's on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Architect Jeff Potts, having recently returned from Kazo, shared his pictures and comments on the people he met and worked with, his varied experiences, and, of course, the construction itself.

Generous diners and other donors contributed over \$2,000 for equipping bedrooms, the community room, office and the sewing room. Sales of dinner tickets, wine sales and donations from the event generated another \$2,600 and the silent auction realized just over \$1,800. Expenses were about \$700. All proceeds from the event are being used to finish and furnish the orphanage. In addition to tables and chairs, mattresses, linens, and office furnishings, the Boards felt it was essential to provide better water for the girls.

### **Better water**

Board members decided to move ahead with an underground rainwater retention system, a method of collecting fresh water

commonly used in the area. The water available in Kazo is from a local source other than a bore hole as bore holes cannot be drilled there. This water must be boiled before drinking, and is, at best, distasteful. (Visitors must drink bottled water.) Earlier, we had been told that the water which collected in a pond on the Blue House property could be used for bathing and drinking, but the quality was found to be very poor...Jeff said it gave him a rash! The rainwater system was nearly \$12,000 beyond original building costs, but it provides good water and the system is extremely durable. The Director said the girls were absolutely thrilled to have clean water, and water they didn't have to transport in jerry cans atop their heads for long distances!

The evening was filled with lots of talk and laughter, great and plentiful African food, and a delightful silent auction. Grateful thanks are extended to all who produced this celebratory evening... Birdie Carter and Lisa Van Valkenburgh, event co-chairs; Rosa Uy and Karen Pfeifle, food and kitchen managers; the absolutely marvelous Ugandan cooks; Katharine Holden, postcard and poster design; Marilyn Grantham, publicity; Linda Lopez, tickets; and, last but not least, Mike Christiansen, silent auction MC! 

## Opening the Blue House!

Working together, Dr. John Wathum-Ocama and the HMI Board members and staff in Kazo officially opened the doors to the new Blue House on July 31, 2010. The event was filled with all the requisite elements...invited guests, special refreshments such as soda and a whole cow, a large white tent for shade and

*In the morning, before the guests and the speeches and the food, the girls walked with their possessions to this amazing new place they had watched being built for so many months.*

white plastic chairs for seating the guests, a beautiful program of song by the Blue House girls, a blue and white balloon arch and, of course, speeches by dignitaries. A television reporter from Mbarara conducted interviews and recorded the grand opening ceremonies on video for viewers. Fortunately, we were able to purchase a copy of that tape and look forward to sharing it with our supporters.

The festivities were the culmination of great effort and high anticipation within this little village in the bush. Although they still wait for clean water and electricity to come to Kazo, townspeople watched as this project was constructed at the top of the nine-acre property chosen for it by Beatrice Garubanda in 2004. The supervising architect, Jeff Potts, observed that the construction process was a remarkable sight and inspired hope and optimism for everyone who passed by on the road below.

Perhaps the most special aspect of the day was when the girls actually moved into their new home. When, when, when? was the first, last and only question they asked "Dr. John" once he stepped onto Kazo soil in mid-June. They had swept and polished, washed windows and cleared the grounds in preparation for this wonderful day.

In the morning, before the guests and



the speeches and the food, the girls walked with their possessions to this amazing new place they had watched being built for so many months. They opened the windows, made up their new beds, and tucked clothing and trinkets into their personal storage lockers and the drawer beneath their bed. How nice was it to have screens? How nice was it to have space to walk around each bed? How nice was it that the roof didn't leak? How nice was it to have a bedroom for four rather than all? 

# Six weeks at the Blue House: Building confidence & understanding

Once again this summer, as last, John Wathum-Ocama, Ph.D., Vice President of the HMI US Board, traveled to Uganda. His mission was two-fold—to work with the HMI Board in Kazo to open the just-completed Blue House, and to strengthen a rather new relationship between the Boards.

The opening of the House involved working with the contractor to finish the checklist of items that needed a bit more attention, purchasing and installing necessary furnishings, equipment and window coverings, assessing the water situation, hiring staff and planning the grand opening ceremonies. Strengthening the new relationship between the Boards happened simply as they worked together on the many details involved in opening the House. John met with Board members individually, in full meetings and in meetings of the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee.

The original Board members held meetings in Mbarara, several hours from Kazo, because Mbarara was the most central to where they lived. Meetings were infrequent and often brief. With construction and then occupation of the new House, it was recognized that more immediate oversight was necessary. Board members were recruited from Kazo, and they began to learn about the large new building with the bright blue roof



Board members Sere, Oscar, Provia, and Steven meet with a Kazo official and Dr. Ocama in the Blue House to select job applicants for interviews.

intended for orphaned girls in their community. In a sense, it was almost like starting a second and new relationship with introductions and handshakes...lots of good will, but short on background and experience with HMI.

The new Board members include two local officials from Kazo, a teacher at the girls' secondary school, a Reverend from the church attended by most of the girls, and an AIDS counselor at a nearby hospital. Sere and Provia, Beatrice's sister and brother-in-law, continue as active Board members as they live in Kazo...actually making their participation easier! John found the new Board members eager, competent and pleased to contribute work on this wonderful resource for Kazo's orphaned girls. John also met others from Kazo who were both curious and interested in the Blue House. John said it this way: "As I worked and visited with Board members from Kazo and the business and community people, I got a sense that they are all very proud of the project and want it to succeed."

At the grand opening, the Board Chair, Alex Byugaruba, offered, "Together with our committed and generous partners in America, we can turn hope into positive life experiences for these vulnerable girls"

Since Dr. Ocama returned home, he and fellow Board members here have worked closely with the Kazo Board and staff. There have been a number of problems, all pretty typical for the start-up phase, but they are being resolved. The skills and confidence of the new Board has grown, and they have become more cohesive and purposeful. Budgets, policies, and processes are being developed and finalized. Furnishings and procedures are being put in place. Communication, while still a challenge and often a barrier, is becoming easier as understandings grow. Recruitment of new girls is well underway, and the cook will soon need bigger pots and pans!

We are filled with optimism and pride in what has been accomplished on both continents, and look forward to the exciting months and years ahead for the Blue House! 

## Business of the Boards

After five years of running the original Blue House and construction of the new building, the HMI Boards in both Uganda and the US are evolving. The Board in Uganda has added new, local members and now meets in Kazo. Primarily, they are focused on management and community building. While the US Board will turn its main attention to fundraising, it is also working to continue to develop a solid partnership with the people in Kazo. The issues of communication remain very difficult and time-consuming.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in working with HMI to raise the \$40,000 or so needed annually to operate the Blue House, please let us know. We are looking for Board members who would enjoy developing the partnership, fundraising and learning about the people of Africa.

We are also seeking others who might volunteer their time and talents to move us forward. This could be in an advisory role, in outreach, or in fundraising activities... there are at least 4,769,338 ways that you can help to provide a home and education to orphaned girls in Uganda.

The number to call for information is (651) 429-3798. Explore the possibilities and expand your view! 



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HOPE MULTIPURPOSE, INC.

HMI is a 501(c)(3) charity founded by Beatrice Garubanda and based in St. Paul, MN. HMI sponsors The Blue House orphanage in Kazo, Uganda. Donations to HMI are tax-deductible.

### HMI's Board of Directors:

President Carol Roeller	Joshua Garubanda
V. President John Wathum-Ocama	Esther Garubanda
Secretary Lisa Van Valkenburgh	Michael Johnson
Treasurer Birdie Hix Carter	

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Mail: Hope Multipurpose, Inc.

c/o St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

## *Blue House Boutique!*

Saturday, December 4 – 9 to 3  
Sunday, December 5 – 9 to 2  
Lunch on Saturday only, from 11 to 1

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
2136 Carter Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108  
Lower level, Chelmsford St. entrance



Jewelry, toys, knitwear,  
home decor, gourmet food,  
artwork, stationery, ornaments, Ugandan  
crafts, and more!



Art exhibit on display  
“But I Know What I Like”

*All proceeds benefit the HMI Blue House: an  
orphanage for girls in rural Uganda.*



*The girls of the Blue House will soon have many more sisters  
to share their new home. Incoming residents will be between  
the ages of 5 and 12. Aren't those smiles hard to resist?*

*See more great photos, and learn more  
about how you can participate,  
on our website —*

[www.hopemultipurpose.org](http://www.hopemultipurpose.org)