

# Beatrice's HOPE



Creating a  
childhood  
for orphans in  
rural Uganda

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

VOL.17, SUMMER 2014

## Ten Years of Progress

HMI is recognizing its 10th anniversary this year. The spring issue of this newsletter told the story of our founder, Beatrice Garubanda. In this issue we review our history, celebrate successes, and look to the future.

## Girls to Adults

We are so proud of Allen and Agnes, the first Blue House girls to finish secondary school, receive further education, and start supporting themselves. They both worked hard in school and at jobs, and recently graduated from a program in Institutional Catering and Hotel Management, in Kampala.

Allen now works at a hotel in Kalangala, an Island on Lake Victoria in Uganda. Agnes manages a bookstore in downtown Kampala and also runs a personal business venture, a small beverage shop in a Kampala suburb. They are wonderful role models for the younger girls!

Agnes and Allen were fortunate in that they had relatives who could sell a cow or a piece of land to help fund their post-high school training. But most of our girls don't have any family who can help them. It's a big accomplishment for girls



Allen (left) and Agnes (right): They both expressed how thankful they were for the Blue House in their graduation speeches.

to graduate, but further training or education is also necessary and costly, just as in the U.S.

One of HMI's challenges is balancing the educational needs of older girls with the need to support more young orphans. Our mission is "creating a childhood..." What does "childhood" mean? How much can we afford to support their transition to independent, productive adulthood? 

## Solar panels provide electricity



Kazo town still does not have electricity. Businesses may have a gas or diesel generator, as does the Blue House. But fuel is expensive and our old generator was always breaking down. Solar provides reliable lighting for the girls to study by after the sun sets at 6 p.m. A nonprofit, FRES, made solar affordable for NGOs like ours. A new back-up diesel generator was made possible by a grant from St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. 

At left, workmen from the nonprofit, FRES, lift a solar panel to the roof of the Blue House.

At right, a FRES workman, left, trains Blue House staff how to operate the system: Director, Aine, and housemothers Vene and Ziporah.



## Chickens are coming—lots of chickens

Can a poultry operation at the Blue House put it on the path to self-sufficiency? The director and board in Uganda think so, and developed a business plan to address “a high demand for poultry products” and currently “no viable poultry project” in the Kazo area.

Research of similar projects in Uganda identified successful chicken farmers who will train and advise them. Questions were asked, replies received, and risks debated. The U.S. board and an anonymous donor split the start-up funding to build a poultry house, buy supplies (feeders, laying boxes, egg trays) and 1,000 chicks. Income will be re-invested to grow the project, with no further funding expected from the U.S. We have high hopes! We’ll keep you informed... 



The construction of the poultry house has begun on the Blue House property.

## Rough ground to playground



The grass is filling in nicely on the playground. After weeding by hand, the girls enjoy playing ball on a level playing field.



Donate online or by check.  
See [Blue-House.org](http://Blue-House.org).



Many talented people are already making unique and clever gifts to sell at the Blue House Boutique, and more are needed. If you enjoy producing hand-made gifts and want to donate them to the Boutique, please email Mary at [mkdario44@msn.com](mailto:mkdario44@msn.com) or call her at 651-739-6263, and tell her what you want to contribute.



This little girl's cupcake apron (available in children's and adult sizes) is an example of sweet gifts you'll find at the Boutique.

We are especially looking for hand-crafted soaps, small pottery pieces, jewelry and mittens. If you like baking or canning, food items are also very popular gifts. In fact, we found a cute cookie cutter for making a special Blue House Cookie—are you good at rolling out cookies? If you are interested in helping, we can suggest ideas for crafts and food items.

**Mark your calendar for the Blue House Boutique:**

- **Saturday, December 6, 9 am – 3 pm**
- **Sunday, December 7, 9 am – 1 pm**

# Carol Roeller - Thank you for 10 years of service

by John Wathum-Ocama

Ten years ago a tragic event brought Carol and her late husband Jerry Roeller and me together. It was the sudden death of Beatrice Garubanda who had just started HMI, which was supporting 12 girls at the Blue House in Kazo Uganda. Carol was president of HMI's board of directors, which Beatrice had asked me to join.

After Beatrice's funeral, Carol asked me if I was willing to work with her and others to advance Beatrice's vision to give a childhood to orphan girls in rural Uganda. Carol was so convincing and passionate in her determination to ensure that Beatrice's dream lived on. She believes the success of the Blue House would not only be a tribute to Beatrice but a reflection of her original thinking of love and care for those who needed it most, girls whose parents had died due to war and HIV/AIDS.

In the last ten years until her resignation from the board this spring, Carol presided over a very successful organization, scoring notable milestones. She spearheaded a capital campaign to raise enough money to construct the beautiful building that now sits on one of the many hills in Kazo, Uganda. This effort resulted in increasing capacity for housing up to 40 orphans. By all accounts this



Carol Roeller, HMI president for 10 years

*She believes the success of the Blue House would not only be a tribute to Beatrice but a reflection of her original thinking of love and care for those who needed it most, girls whose parents had died due to war and HIV/AIDS.*

greatly improved the standards of living for the girls. Carol was instrumental in drafting policies and procedures that are now being used at Blue House successfully. She has worked closely with the crafters on the annual boutique, the biggest source of income for Blue House operation. Finally, she maintained appropriate and sensible operational oversight of Blue House activities.

I will always look back on HMI/Blue House with fond appreciation for Carol's efforts, energy, and her wisdom during times when we dealt with challenges that appeared to have no solutions. She held to her principles but was willing to listen to other people's arguments to find answers. Her wholesale investment in ensuring that HMI was a well run and managed organization was unquestionable. Carol gave HMI 10 great years of her life! I have no

way to find words to thank Carol enough for her dedication and her selfless services to make sure that Beatrice's dream lives.

One way to thank you Carol is to tell you in the local language of the Blue House, "Webale munonga!" **H**

## Pine Valley Blue House Run



The second annual Pine Valley Run is a fundraiser for the girls of the Blue House. The trail winds up and down among the scenic tall pines, birches, and aspens in this wooded area of Cloquet.

Everyone had a great time last year. Join the fun Sept. 1.

Learn more and register at [Blue-House.org](http://Blue-House.org).

## Brenda Hansen joins the board



The HMI board is happy to welcome Brenda Hansen as our treasurer.

Brenda is a retired elementary school librarian. In an earlier life, she was a bookkeeper for 14 years. Her volunteer activities in the community and at her church are too numerous to list.

Brenda has a soft spot for girls. After raising three sons, she enjoys caring for her three granddaughters. When the second one was starting kindergarten, Brenda agreed to become HMI's treasurer; then she learned that #3 was on the way. We're glad that she can still make time to balance the books for our girls. **H**

# Timeline of the Blue House

## Ten years of growth and accomplishment

### 2004

Beatrice bought an abandoned shop, painted it blue, hired a matron, and made a home for the 12 girls in the most need. A board of directors in Uganda oversaw operations.

The board in Minnesota began fundraising, learning about Uganda and running an orphanage.



*Like the rest of rural Kazo, they lived without electricity or plumbing, but they had kerosene lamps and clean water.*



*Some of the original girls in front of the first Blue House, with the housemother, and Provia (right), Beatrice's sister.*

### 2005

Beatrice acquired a 9-acre property for a proposed boarding school for 200 orphans.

In September, Beatrice died suddenly of a heart attack.

### 2006

The US board voted to continue HMI and carry out Beatrice's dream. Her husband, James Garubanda, and another board member visited the Blue House. The girls were healthy and happy, and attending public school.

### 2008

Plans were drawn for new housing on the 9-acre property. A capital campaign was begun for the first dorm and out-buildings. US board member, John Wathum-Ocama spent the summer in Uganda overseeing the project.



*A Ugandan contractor used local materials, labor, and building processes. A Minneapolis international nonprofit architectural firm supervised construction.*

### 2007

An expanded newsletter and a new website told the continuing story of 12 girls at the Blue House. They had good food, a roof over their heads, and education.

### 2009

Construction of the new Blue House began in September, 2009. The dorm has 10 bedrooms for 4 girls each, private bedrooms for housemothers, a director's office, and a large, central common room used for meals, study, and group activities.

### 2010

Construction was completed and an underground rainwater retention tank was added. Twelve very happy girls moved in. John Wathum-Ocama returned to help with new staffing, policies and the opening. The Ugandan board developed criteria for accepting new orphans. Seventy-one children were put on a waiting list.

### 2011

Aine Abel was hired as new Ugandan director. Twenty girls lived at the Blue House by Christmas.

### 2012

The new housemother, Ziporah Matene, had a green thumb, and the garden saved \$700 the first year in food costs. Purchase of two cows provided milk for the girls. Two treadle sewing machines were donated and the girls began learning new life skills. Aine visited Minnesota to make plans with the US board.

### 2013

Five of the older girls were chosen to be prefects, or resident leaders. By June, thirty girls lived at the Blue House. A second housemother, Vene Tumwebaze, was hired; she had been a sewing instructor and the girls' sewing skills took off.



*Both of the cows had calves, and are pregnant again.*

### 2014

Allen and Agnes are the first of the original Blue House girls to graduate from post-secondary training programs. The Ugandan board makes sustainability a priority, planning their own fundraising, and starting a poultry business.



*The girls helped harvest tomatoes.*

#### KEEP UP TO DATE:

See more great photos, and learn more about how you can participate — [www.hopemultipurpose.org](http://www.hopemultipurpose.org)

## Visitors from Uganda: partners to plan the future

**A**ine Abel, Blue House Director, and Oscar Mugabi, board member, will be in Minnesota for most of August. We are grateful for a grant from St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Minneapolis, which paid half the airfare, and made this trip possible.

Their visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of the founding of HMI and the Blue House orphanage. While this newsletter recognizes our past (page 4), HMI faces many changes and challenges as we start our second decade, including: the oldest girls reaching post-secondary



Oscar Mugabi, Blue House board member, and Aine Abel, Blue House Director, arrive in Minnesota in early August.

education level and heading into adulthood, new government regulations about orphanages, income generation and sustainability in Uganda, leadership transitions, and reassessing our mission and vision as we draw a new road map to the future.

Aine and Oscar's visit is a wonderful chance for the US board to spend a lot of time with them, discussing these many overlapping issues. You will have opportunities to meet them as well. Check the website, [Blue-House.org](http://Blue-House.org), for their schedule, or contact Karen Lilley at 651-644-3927. [H](#)

## Texas teens go all out for our Ugandan girls

### *The email came from out of the blue:*

"Hello! My name is Lindsey Ballard and I am writing on behalf of my church, Brazos-Pointe Fellowship, in Lake Jackson, Texas. We have a small group of high school girls that meets every week. We have heard about the Blue House orphanage and would like to donate! We are putting on a huge benefit for the orphanage and hope to raise \$10,000 to donate to the girls!"

The group was called *Hope for Her*. It sounded too good to be true! Tell us more, we asked. Lindsey replied:

"We are having a BBQ, a craft show, bake sale and a sand volleyball tournament! We felt God telling us to raise money for an orphanage in Uganda and I looked up on Google and found you guys!! And yes we have seen the website. I printed out the info and pictures and made a poster to have at church and the event to tell people what exactly the Blue House is." The day of the BBQ, they also had a silent auction, sold jewelry, crosses, and crafts they'd made, and t-shirts. She estimated 500-600 people came.

A few months later, we received notice of certified mail from Texas at the post office. Inside, a cashier's check for almost \$8,000!

In an interview with Ms. Ballard, she said they'd never done a fundraiser before, but their hearts went out to the Blue House because the orphans were all girls, and they had so little.

Those girls in Uganda are so blessed to have friends like *Hope for Her* in Texas! Thank you!

See more pictures of the *Hope for Her* event at [www.hopemultipurpose.org/hopeforher.html](http://www.hopemultipurpose.org/hopeforher.html) [H](#)



Love from Texas to Uganda.



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. See <http://www.razoo.com/story/Hope-Multipurpose>**

#### **HMI's Board of Directors:**

Interim President - Karen Lilley	Treasurer - Brenda Hansen
V. President - Esther Garubanda	Birdie Hix Carter
Secretary - John Wathum-Ocama	Joe Shalita

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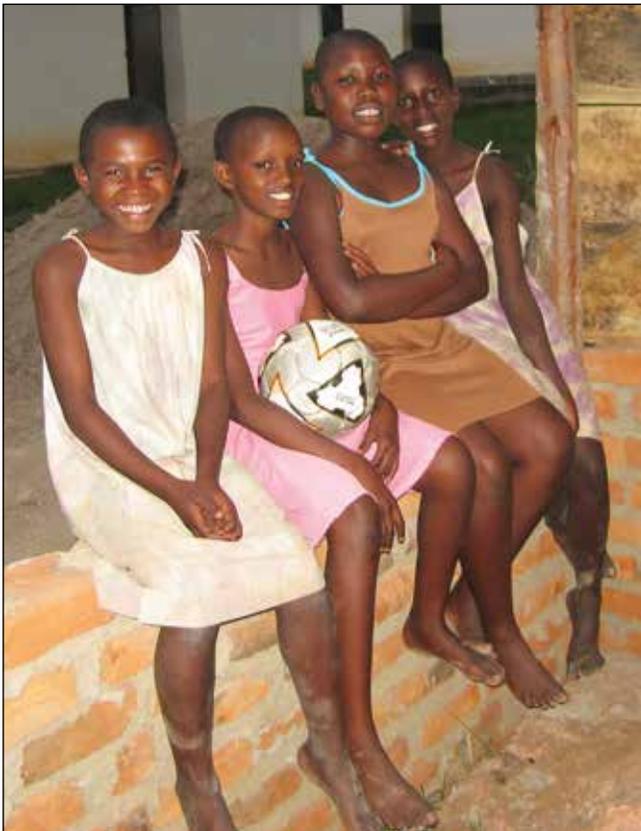


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*After a rousing game of soccer, the girls take a rest on the wall of the new chicken house. See page 2.*

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*Choose the mailings or emails you prefer.*

[www.blue-house.org](http://www.blue-house.org)

### ***Please tell us what you think***

***HMI is surveying our supporters to learn more about you, and provide a background as we plan for the future. Please answer some questions and give us your opinions—find the survey at [Blue-House.org](http://Blue-House.org).***