

Beatrice's HOPE



Creating a
childhood and
opportunity
for orphans in
rural Uganda


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

VOL. 21, SPRING 2016

Stitching together their futures

During December holiday, nine Blue House high school girls made beautiful Christmas dresses for themselves, using skills they had learned from Vene, their housemother and sewing instructor. Vene also made dresses for the younger girls. After the girls returned from visiting their guardians, they received more sewing lessons until school started.

Eight nonresident students from the Kazo area have also

started their sewing classes. The program is already generating extra funds through tuition, fees, and the sale of school uniforms. There's also savings of the price of the girls' clothing and uniforms. The Christmas dresses, for example, cost less than half what they would have, if they had been purchased. 



Celebrating Christmas dinner in their Kitenge dresses. Look at that beautiful African fabric and the flattering fashions!



Vene (standing) teaches some local women how to use the sewing machines in the new Blue House sewing school.




Rosemary, a Blue House high school student, practices some embroidery stitches. Note the treadle sewing machine that she runs with her feet—no electricity needed!

New girls are moving in



This child lives under a tarp with her 2 siblings, often without an adult to care for them. She will be moving to the Blue House soon.

Alice, the social worker, has reported on the field assessment process to select new girls for the Blue House. Children are “critically vulnerable in our community requiring our immediate intervention,” including psychosocial or educational support, child protection, and shelter.

The Ugandan Alternative Care Framework is changing how children will benefit from the Blue House, which may be a temporary home for some girls until their family situations improve. Or other girls, who are safe and loved, may continue to live with their relatives but will receive educational support from HMI. Either way, HMI's funds can be stretched to help more girls. New Care Plans will be written for each girl every 3 years, to determine their needs. 



Little Angella, age 6, looks a bit overwhelmed as her big sisters are excited to welcome her to the Blue House, with a new mattress, blanket, and clothing.

Why we do this: Sarah, Agnes and Allen

The first three Blue House girls to graduate from high school are living proof that educating girls benefits their families and society. Sarah, Agnes and Allen were ambitious, received support for vocational education, and successfully finished their programs. We are happy to report they are doing well.

“When girls are educated, they lead healthier and more productive lives. They gain the skills, knowledge and self-confidence to escape the cycle of poverty. They become better citizens, parents and breadwinners. An educated girl has a positive ripple effect on her health, family, community and society as a whole.” ** (USAID)

In Uganda, according to the Peace Corps’ Let Girls Learn program: *

- 20% of females enter early marriage.
- 33% of adolescent girls give birth by age 18.
- Over 5% of adolescent girls are infected with HIV.

Let Girls Learn initiative of the Agency for International Development (USAID)** says:

- Girls with secondary schooling are up to 6 times less likely to marry as children than those with little or no education.
- Each extra year of a mother’s education reduces the probability of infant mortality by 5%-10%.
- An extra year of secondary school for girls can increase their future earnings by 10-20%.

Your support of HMI helps our girls receive an education and be successful after the Blue House. Thank you!

* www.letgirlslearn.peacecorps.gov/countries.html

** www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/let-girls-learn



Sarah and Family: Sarah earned a certificate in Business Management at Multi-Tech Business School in Kampala. She and her husband have a daughter, Faith. They run their own computer center in Ntungamo, Uganda.



Aine visited Agnes at the bookstore and stationery shop that she manages in Kampala.



Allen graduated from a catering and hotel management program in 2014, and works at a big hotel in Kalangala, an island on Lake Victoria. She and her husband now have a baby girl.

A visitor from the U.S. Board

Shartsi Musherure reported: “As an HMI board member living in Minnesota, I was fortunate to go back home to Uganda for a short visit and had a chance to visit the Blue House in Kazo. I was warmly welcomed by the board and staff. I received a tour of the various projects and shared lunch with the girls and board members.

“Seeing first hand what progress is being made and watching the girls do their chores, relate to each other and enjoy themselves was very heart warming. I had a chance to encourage them with regard to their education and shared with them my own educational path.

“It was good to experience life at the Blue House first hand.” H



Shartsi and staff: Aine Abel, Tumwebaze Veneranda, Shartsi Musherure, Alice Namirembe, Matene Ziporah and Festo Mutatiina (volunteer).

Mothers' Tea Party for the Blue House

In honor of mothers...

Remember the girls who don't have a mother.

Saturday, May 7, 2016

10:00 am - noon

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 Como Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108

You are invited to a tea party fundraiser for
the Blue House orphanage in Uganda.

Learn about life for the girls at the Blue House in Uganda.

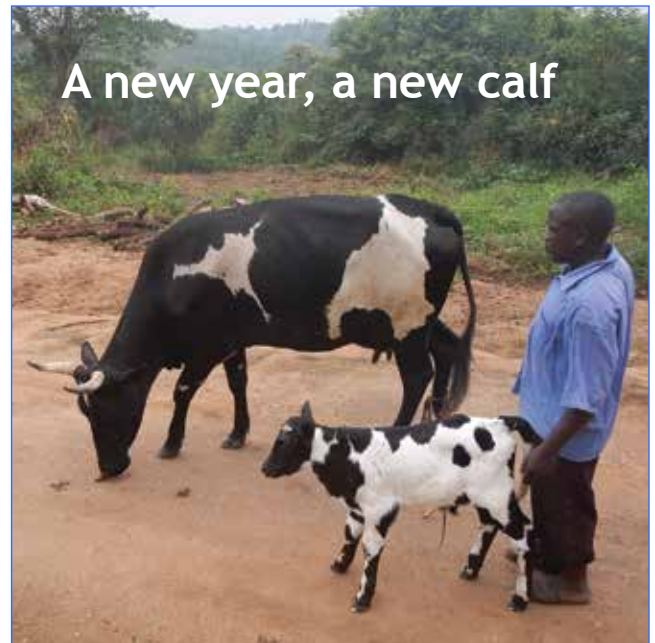


Enjoy the sweet harmonies of Sweet Rhubarb
www.sweetrhubarb.net



Moms, dads, kids, grandparents are welcome.
\$20 - adults; \$10 - children.

Ticket sales at SAPLC and St. Matthew's.
www.Blue-House.org for ticket information



A new year, a new calf

There are now three cows and three calves in the herd.



**BLUE HOUSE
BOUTIQUE**

Blue House Boutique shoppers
and volunteers earned a record
\$20,000 for operations in Uganda.
Thanks to all who participated!



It's Only a Hill Run

**Pine Valley Blue House Orphanage
5.5k and 11k Run**

LABOR DAY
September 5, 2016 — 8:30 am
Pine Valley, Cloquet

www.Blue-House.org

Appreciations & Ovations



A sundress made by the University of Minnesota Apparel Design students, who sent dresses and sleep wear for all the girls.



"We are the students in a 4th and 5th grade class in Lakeland, Minnesota. We are very happy to have the opportunity to send a donation that will help with your education.

"A generous person in our community donated the money to our class and told us that we could use it to a worthy cause of our choosing, but only after we earned the money by being kind and helpful to one another. The kindness was already happening, so all we had to do was write down what we saw and that earned money toward our goal!"

Thank you, John. HMI will miss your expertise.



Dr. John Wathum-Ocama has retired from the Minnesota HMI board after 11+ years. We are so grateful for all that he has done for HMI, and for his promise of continued involvement.

"John was the interpreter and catalyst that kept Uganda and Minnesota moving forward on the Blue House— together," said Carol Roeller, HMI's president for the first 10 years. "He

taught all of us about each other, always with sound thought and optimism, a very big job. (We) learned the joy that is Africa and its people, and we cherish John's friendship and this teacher's many lessons."

John wrote about why he served on the board for last fall's Gala: "One of the reasons is to honor Beatrice's request to me and to endeavor to make her legacy live on. Beatrice asked me to join the board immediately when she started HMI but of course shortly after that she passed away. I made a pledge at that time to do as much I could to support her vision... Looking back, I am very proud of what she envisioned and what we as a community have accomplished, although there is more work to be done."

John has been Vice-President of Ugandan Relations. He communicated with the director by phone and email regularly and reported to the board every month. In 2009, John spent most of the

summer at the Blue House, "evaluating the welfare of the girls, the capacity of the local community and facilitating the preconstruction process of a new Blue House." John returned for 6 weeks the following summer to recruit new board members from the local community of Kazo, develop a working relationship with the new board, hire staff, finalize construction details, and open the new Blue House.

"I know that it would have been almost impossible for the board at that time to have built the new dorm without John spending two summers in Kazo," said U.S. Board member Marilyn Grantham. "He's been invaluable in terms of being our liaison with the board and staff in Uganda. I can't imagine how we could have accomplished what we did without him. His contributions are immense."

John summarized his service: "As an educator, there is nothing more important to me than the well-being and education of children, particularly vulnerable children, especially girls. The educational success of any young person I have impact on, whether directly or indirectly, is the reason I have been in the teaching field for over 30 years. The success of the girls of Blue House has kept me on the board this long! I love the life stories we are helping them to create for themselves and I am glad I have been part of their venture through my continuing board membership."

Thank you, Dr. Ocama, for all your efforts on behalf of the girls of the Blue House! 🙏



John Ocama getting to know the girls in 2009

What's new with the board

Ishaka Mawanda began his term as the new president of the U.S. Board of Directors, replacing Karen Lilley. Ishaka, an Engineering Consultant, has been on the board since 2012. He hopes to use his personal and business experience and relationships in Minnesota and Uganda to support HMI. As a board member, he has taken the lead in HMI's financial planning and reporting in both countries.



Ishaka L. Mawanda

Pascal Ngoboka was welcomed as a new board member. Pascal is a professor and economist at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, who takes a group of students to Uganda each summer. He looks forward to continuing Beatrice's vision of educating and caring for vulnerable girls in Kazo, Uganda.



Pascal T. Ngoboka


The board continues to seek candidates. If you want to help, please tell us about yourself; a form is at Blue-House.org. Committee membership is an-



Linda Lopez and Marilyn Grantham discuss issues facing the Blue House at the board retreat, along with other guests in the background.

other option: finance, governance, fundraising/outreach, education, and communication. We'd love to hear from you! Contact: info@hopemultipurpose.org

A **board retreat** in January was an opportunity for supporters and the board to review the *Road Map for the Second Decade* of HMI. We envisioned how developments in Uganda and at the Blue House might affect its future direction, and discussed strategic imperatives, which will evolve and be implemented in the next few years.

Paul Gibson, board advisor for the past year, planned and facilitated the retreat. We would also like to acknowledge the input and insights provided by the retreat guests: Dan Glienke, Tim Krohn, Linda Lopez, Diane Martenson, Tina Maynor, Izooba Mugabi, Pascal Ngoboka, and Rosa Uy. 



HOPE MULTIPURPOSE, INC.

Creating a childhood and opportunity for orphans in rural 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 www.hopemultipurpose.org/donate.html**

HMI's U.S. Board of Directors:

Mentor "Duke" Addicks	Ishaka L. Mawanda, President
Marilyn Grantham	Sharti Kutesa Musherure
Brenda Hansen, Treasurer	Pascal T. Ngoboka
Karen Lilley	Joanne Kabajungu Roques, Secretary

Contact Us: E-mail: info@hopemultipurpose.org
 Telephone: 651-644-3927 Web: www.hopemultipurpose.org
 Mail: Hope Multipurpose, Inc. c/o St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
 2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

Reunited at university

Grace, left, is reunited with her Blue House sisters, Ovious and Peace, at **Makerere University in Kampala**. They could never have dreamed of a college education before generous HMI donors made it possible. Thank you!





DONATE online or use the enclosed envelope for your convenience. Help HMI add OPPORTUNITY to its mission:

- to accept young, vulnerable girls, and reach our capacity of 40.
- to support older girls have more education, to transition from orphans to independence.

www.hopemultipurpose.org/donate.html



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The Blue House
c/o St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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St. Paul, MN 55108

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Sarah, shown with her daughter Faith, was one of the original Blue House girls. She finished high school and vocational school, and now has a family. She and two other original Blue House residents exemplify how educating girls benefits everyone. See why on page 2.

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