



Dear friends and supporters,

Merry Christmas! I hope and pray that the Lord has kept you well. I am pleased to share the latest happenings at African Hearts Community Organization.

► School



Our school year came to an end, and we ended the year with the school album launch and an exhibition of children's talents in music. It was a great time out of this world!!!! It is the rainy season here, but we prayed that God would give us good weather with no rain and He did it! Parents, guardians and many well-wishers all attended, and many people supported the school by buying this DVD and some contributed even more. We hope to put this money towards the second phase of the dormitory/ vocational center construction. At this moment this has become an urgent need as we move towards school sustainability.

I am also pleased that the Creative Learning Center was started with the few resources that we had. We have over 10 young girls at the center, some who had dropped out of school for various reasons, and African Hearts is giving them an opportunity to love education again. Issa has been gracious to offer to train them in tailoring as they learn English and math.



The African Hearts Children's Choir

► Slum



We were finally granted permission by the local council to construct a public toilet to help children living on the streets and the greater community. It should be noted that in the slums they charge a fee to use toilet facilities, and in most cases, street children who survive by the day have to make a choice whether to eat or use their money to pay for the toilets when nature demands. So we know these toilets will be a great blessing to them. Our budget is out, but we believe God for provision. The programs are moving on well, but more than two youths have died in the slums recently. One teenage girl also gave birth, but currently we can't find her as several men claim the baby so she is hiding. As our practice, we are hoping to have a celebration of Jesus' birth with our brothers in the slums, and more than the good food, we get an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with them even in their difficult conditions.

► SSENGE HOME AND HOSTEL

The younger boys' home is moving on well, and we are hoping to make many changes in response to government demands and also Christian mandates. We have learned that children need to be in families, not institutions, unless their situations cannot work out for them to live with their families. We have been working hard to see if we can find these children's families. Some we have found, but others we are still searching. Some boys may be resettled with their extended families but still come to African Hearts School. We have also revised the mode of caring for the children from the slums to the home. We hope not to keep them in the home for a long time, but rather do a lot of work with them while still in the slums so that that it is easier to work with their families.



All the boys are attending the Word of Life Camp where they will eat food, play games and have fun while learning from God's Word and being challenged and encouraged in their faith. They have also chosen friends to take with them, some of whom may be hearing the Gospel clearly explained for the first time. All of the boys in the Ssenge Home have been promoted to the next class. Musoke Sowedi, Wasswa and Sentongo Peter are once again top of their classes in their exams, and Regan came in third in his class.

We are looking for new staff for the Ssenge Home as a matter of urgency. They need to be people who can train the boys in the love and knowledge of God.

We finally got clearance from the Ugandan court for Kenny and Ivan so now we can take them home from the slums any time, but the order came when Kenny is out of sight so now we are looking for him.

The Youths Hostel is also well, and we have all these young men back from school. Some are performing with the band in Kampala while we are helping others to find jobs to do during this long holiday.

► Brass Band



The band did a great job leading the marching on the school concert day, and this being Christmas season, we have the boys performing at the Nakumatt Shopping Mall as usual. We are in the process of making new uniforms for the band. I am very grateful for these young men working hard to raise money to send some of their brothers to school and meet their expenses and helping out in the slums whenever there is a need.

► **Success Story**



Onyango Regan is a lovely boy who is the newest boy in our home. He arrived in August 2012. He is hard working, good at dancing, very affectionate and trustworthy. At school Regan performs consistently well and is always in the top five in his class in exams. He is also excellent at learning Bible verses and can recite lots of scripture. Since being in the Ssenge Home, Regan has come to understand that the Bible stories he has learned are TRUE stories!! Regan doesn't remember much about his family, and he has only told us little about his background. Pray that we will be able to identify some of his extended family members and that Regan may be resettled into a loving and accepting family.

► **Praise!**

We are grateful to God for His provision. He provided a car for the organization making it easy for us to travel to the various places we have to go to do work. This was a direct answer to prayer.

► **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- God's wisdom in the big changes we want to make in the ministry.
- Provision for second phase school construction, toilets for the street children and the street children's Christmas party.
- God's protection for all the children and staff during this festive season.
- Pray that I and all the staff would not take so much pressure but rest in the Lord

LUTAAYA ABDUL

Executive Director of African Hearts Community Organization

EMPOWERING A GENERATION TO WIN A GENERATION

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
AFRICAN HEARTS.
YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

*"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19*