

Beatrice's Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Multipurpose, Inc., the 501(c)(3) charity founded by Beatrice Garubanda
Vol. 5. Spring 2007

A Blue House Update

By all accounts, “our girls” at the Blue House continue to do very well. James Garubanda, US HMI Board member, talks regularly with Sere Tuhairwe and his wife, Provia, members of the Uganda HMI Board, who live near the Blue House and serve as its caretakers/managers. Provia, Beatrice’s sister, is a teacher at the girl’s primary school and guides them personally as well as academically. Sere left teaching to devote time to his farm and the Blue House. He visits the house several times a week. James also talks

frequently with Alex Byarugaba, Board President, and others.

Three of the older girls took their PLE’s (Primary Leaving Exams) in November 2006. (In order to move into the secondary level, students must pass their PLE’s after grade 6 or return to primary school for a year and try the exams again.) You will be happy to know that Sarah, Allen, and Agnes were successful; they passed their PLE’s and started their new school in February. Since this is a day school, not a boarding school, the girls will continue to live

at the Blue House with their sisters and friends.

And more good news: Sere, a friend of the school’s headmaster, asked that the Blue House girls be considered for the government tuition subsidy which has just been made available to some secondary schools this year. All three were granted this assistance, so HMI expenses are limited to uniforms, school supplies and their lunches. Sere’s efforts will save HMI nearly \$5,000 per school year!

A Footnote—

Since the above was written, Sere reported that one of the girls, Rosemary, has left the Blue House. (If you’ve seen the video, Rosemary was the girl clowning around using a wash cloth as a mustache.) Her mother, who had abandoned her years earlier, came to “claim” her child. Sadly, Sere has searched for Rosemary, but has not found her. Sere and Provia will look for a new resident for the opening at the house. Should Rosemary return, we will find a way to reunite her with the other girls.

Closer To The Dream— HMI President's message

With tears in her eyes Beatrice whispered the words that have set us all in motion — “I had to start.” When visiting Uganda in 2004, Beatrice created the current Blue House as a stopgap measure to help a number of homeless, hungry girls. She enlisted several HMI Uganda Board members to help her convert an abandoned store into temporary housing

“I had to start!”

—Beatrice Garubanda, Aug., 2004

so that the girls would have food and shelter and be able to go to school. It was never intended to replace her dream of building a new structure on the land that she and James had purchased for the project. She responded to a pressing need and then, almost apologetically, wondered and worried how to continue what she had promised. It was her way.



Blue House Matron, Medius (far left) and HMI Uganda board member, Provia (far right), and many of the girls pose in front of the Blue House.

—ca. 2004

(Continued on page 2)

Closer to the Dream [continued]

(Continued from page 1)

The current Blue House is small, in need of various repairs, and a distance from water. Rather than put additional money into the makeshift structure, the Board decided to begin development of the permanent site. Besides being new, better quality, and more suitable to the need, the project will accommodate many more girls, have its own source of water, and be closer to school. Work on the project has started to make our hopes and dreams seem real – it's in its infancy still, and there are many hurdles to clear, but the effort has started!

Originally, Beatrice envisioned a much larger project with housing for 200 children, a community center, a school, and other structures. She wanted to develop a response in proportion to the need she saw in her beloved village of Kazo, and the \$6,000,000 estimate she received for her project was simply a minor detail... nothing to worry about.

The HMI Board has taken a more cautious approach. While mindful of the staggering need among orphaned and vulnerable children in Uganda, we decided to break the mountain into molehills and climb them one at a time.

The Project committee, charged with planning the project, has put together a preliminary concept of what Phase One of the permanent site might be. This concept was presented to the HMI US Board in March, and its features and feasibility are being discussed thoroughly. When approved by the US Board, the concept for Phase One will be forwarded to the HMI Uganda Board for their input.

A Capital Campaign will follow, to raise the estimated \$60,000 to \$75,000 needed to construct Phase One. At this time, a double bungalow is being considered. Since we've had the good fortune of receiving donated bricks, these are the likely exterior material. We will be working with the HMI Uganda Board as well as architects, builders, bankers, politicians, and others with knowledge and skills appropriate to the task. We hope you will stay with us as we embark on our journey. We will keep you informed as we proceed!

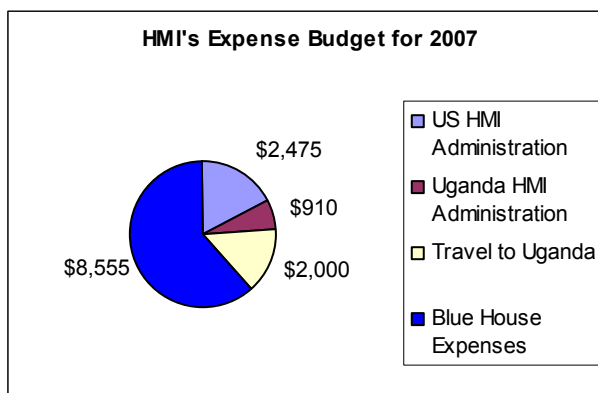


HMI Uganda board members look over the bricks intended for the new Blue House. —Aug. 2006

Money Matters

Operating expenses for HMI in FY2007 are budgeted at \$13,940. This includes \$2,475 for US administration, \$910 for Ugandan administration, and \$2,000 for travel (optional) to Uganda. Expenses for the Blue House in Uganda continue to be modest by American standards – \$8,555 annually or \$713 per month. In the past, HMI budgets have been higher, but, in both Uganda and the US, these amounts have been sufficient to operate this mostly volunteer non-profit. In the US, our largest real expenses are postage and printing. In Uganda, it is food.

HMI operating expenses are supported by contributions, fund raising events such as our September dinner



and the Christmas Boutique, and sales of Blue House note cards and African art works. Due to the generosity of those who knew Beatrice and so many more who now share her vision, we have generated a small operations reserve. This gives us a sense of security as we look to the new project. Although we will con-

tinue to seek operating funds, we will focus marked effort this year on a Capital Campaign to begin building permanently on the designated 8.7 acre plot in Kazo.

Grants, particularly international grants, are generally designated for capital expenses or demonstration projects. (It is difficult to obtain funding for operations from grants.) As HMI begins the development of the permanent site in Uganda this year, Board vice-president Marilyn Grantham will lead HMI's efforts to secure capital funds through grants. HMI's Capital Campaign will also include special events, appeals and other good ideas that will be generated.

Visiting Uganda — by Nankya Senungi

In December 2006 my mother, Theresa Senungi, and I went to Uganda. It was a trip that would re-unite us with our families and our beautiful native land.

At the Entebbe Airport we were greeted by an entourage of family members and friends. After six years of separation it was a tearful and happy reunion. Our ride from the airport to the capital city of Kampala took us along the majestic shores of Lake Victoria – the second largest fresh water lake in the world. The lake was full of fishing boats and you could see families picnicking on the white sandy beaches.

Most of our families live in the Kampala metropolitan area. Like a child, it is a joy to see the growth of a developing city. Kampala was dotted with internet cafes, full service grocery stores, malls, and new hotels and resorts. The streets were jammed with cars, taxis and motorcy-

cles. It seems as if there is no such thing as “rush hour” because in Kampala it is “rush hour” 24 hours a day.

Due to the holidays we were not able to visit the Blue House, for the girls were away spending their holiday vacation with their family member or guardians. With a special collection, the HMI US Board bought each girl an Old Navy fleece jacket to keep them warm during the cool nights and early morning walks to school. They were delivered by one of the HMI Uganda board members, Alex Byarugaba.

Despite poverty, lack of employment, disease and potholes the size of volcanoes, Ugandans are naturally happy people. They are a reflection of the natural beauty that surrounds them and they love to celebrate life. We spent the rest of our sunny days attending to family celebrations and basking in the company of our loved ones.

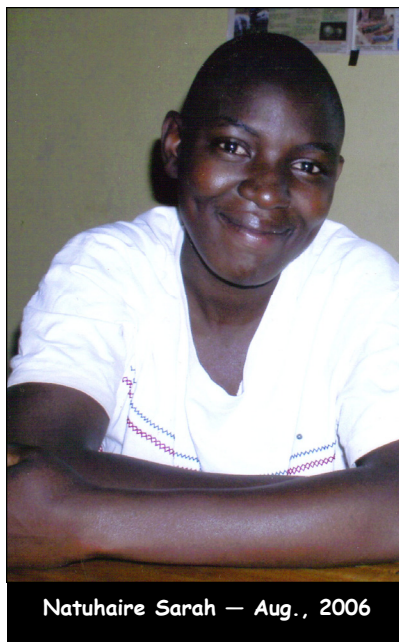
Natuhair Sarah — by Pat Owen

— Pat Owen and fellow board member James Garubanda spent three weeks in Uganda last summer, visiting the Blue House and getting to know the girls. Pat wrote this portrait of Sarah when she returned.

Imagine you are 16 years old and your parents have died from AIDS. You are at least two years behind in school because, as the oldest girl in the family, you took time off to keep the family together as best you could while your parents were sick. Now you are living in an orphanage with your little sister in a remote rural area of Africa, with no electricity or running water. You go to school with 933 other children in a crowded school with only 18 teachers and no textbooks. The country-wide standardized examination test is coming soon, determining if and where you might be allowed to go on to secondary school. You stay at school every day until 7 PM, most of the day on Saturday, and study by a single dim kerosene lamp with your 10 other roommates after supper. Sundays provide a break, with church in

the morning and time to wash your clothes in the afternoon. During holidays, when school isn't in session you might return to your home village where some relatives remain, but all you do there is work. With a large heavy hoe you dig up potatoes or land for new crops. Or graze your uncle's cattle. Or find wood and fetch water. You love pretty clothes, but all you have is your plain blue school uniform and a couple of skirts and blouses that you try to keep clean and pressed in this harsh, dusty place. How would you feel? Sorrow? Resentment? Despair?

Not if you are Natuhair Sarah. You'd take my hand, flash a genuine, warm smile and say, “Thank you for my quilt. I am happy to know there



Natuhair Sarah — Aug., 2006

are people in America who love us. I am happy to be at Blue House.” And then you'd give your little sister a playful shove toward the kitchen and suggest you all go and serve supper. Gratitude, joy, and the ability to appreciate life permeate life at Blue House.

James and I went to Uganda to give handmade quilts and new sheets and learned

that these girls were ready and waiting for us, not just to receive, but to give of themselves—a welcome program with songs, dances, and even a recited poem, and a big meal of chicken, beans, potatoes, bananas, rice and groundnuts they cooked mostly themselves. The songs still ring in our ears, especially the one with the refrain, “We welcome our visitors from America...God bless you forever and ever...”

St. Matthew's Pledge Benefits Blue House – by Marilyn Grantham

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is donating its pledge for the Millennium Development Goals to the Blue House.

In 2000, as the result of an effort by the United Nations, 181 countries signed the Millennium Declaration, pledging a massive shared global mobilization against poverty. (The United States was not one of the 181.) This historic covenant has eight measurable, interwoven goals to be completed by 2015 with the intent of reducing poverty by half.

Although our government has not joined this effort (we are among the lowest contributors to international aid of any "developed" country – only 0.16% of our GNP annually), many faith communities have, among them Anglican Communion worldwide. The Episcopal Church in the USA is a member of Anglican Communion and this year is asking individual congregations to pledge 0.7% of their annual budgets for contributions to one or more charities that address one or more of the eight MDGs. The Vestry, or board, of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, (the "home" of Hope Multipurpose, Inc., the parent organization of the Blue House), re-

cently decided to make an MDG pledge and is donating their \$2,175 to Hope Multipurpose/Blue House (HMI/BH).

They are also making an effort to contact the other 107 Episcopal Churches in Minnesota and ask that they consider contributing their MDG pledges to HMI/BH.

The Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota voted at their convention last October to set aside 0.7% of their 2007 budget for the MDGs. These funds (\$20,000) are being used for competitive grants, available to congregations that made their MDG pledge prior to May 1. This money also is to be contributed to a nonprofit organization that is addressing one or more of the MDGs. HMI/BH appears to more than meet this requirement—addressing Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, and part of Goal 8 (develop decent and productive work for youth). Since St. Matthew's has made their commitment, they are now eligible to apply for grants from the diocesan fund on behalf of HMI/BH. \$4,000 has been

set aside for small grants of up to \$1,500; the remaining \$16,000 will soon be available for charities that address specific MDGs – St. Mat-

thew's/HMI/BH will apply as an organization addressing Goals 2 (achieve universal primary education) and 3 (promote gender equality).

We are very hopeful that we can get some more of these MDG funds that can be put toward our building fund for the new orphanage on the 8.7 acres of land that Beatrice and James Garubanda bought for that purpose in 2001/2002.

We'll keep you posted on further news about MDGs. In the mean-

time, please look into the possibility that your faith community might also want to support this effort to reduce world poverty .

For more information, contact Marilyn Grantham (651 644-5422 or grant005@umn.edu).

The Millennium Development Goals:

1. Cut income poverty and hunger in half
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental stability
8. Develop a global partnership for development with targets for aid, trade and debt relief.

We Want To Stay In Touch!

Our newsletter has a new look for 2007! We made the changes for two reasons – to contain costs and to bring you more information in each issue. We hope you enjoy the new format.

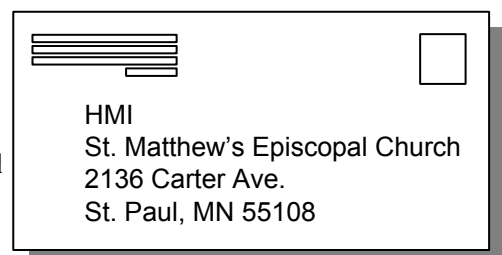
There's no donor envelope in this issue, but, please be assured that your gifts are still most welcome!

We would also like to begin commu-

nicating via our website and, eventually, via e-mail. Again, we wish to contain costs and bring you more information, but also to increase timeliness.

To help us, we ask you to send us your e-mail address. Go to our website, www.hopemultipurpose.org, and click "Contact HMI." We will not share your information with others.

Donations may be sent to:



HMI
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2136 Carter Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Keeping Current, Learning HMI

HMI is fortunate to have a new and very skilled volunteer, Karen Lilley, to manage the HMI/Blue House website (www.hopemultipurpose.org). Karen, who knew Beatrice and worked with board member Marilyn Grantham at the University of Minnesota, was in South Africa recently and wants to be involved in a project in Africa. Karen also volunteers for St. Anthony Park Neighbors for Peace and manages their website

(www.parkpeace.org). Karen feels that there are connections between the goals of SAP Neighbors for Peace and the work done by HMI, particularly in addressing poverty and justice as a way of preventing war, genocide and terrorism.

We hope the HMI website will help you keep abreast of HMI happenings...development of the new project, news of the girls and of both boards, volunteer opportunities and certainly,

events and fund raisers. We'll continue the newsletter at least twice a year, but the website will be more timely.

Karen expects to have the website fully operating in early May. Please check in often and keep up to date with HMI/BH...after all, you wouldn't want to miss a fund raiser, would you?

Keeping Funded, Having Fun

We have been blessed with a second wonderful volunteer, Maclore Christiansen, who will coordinate all and manage some of a growing number of HMI/BH events. Like Karen, Maclore has visited Africa and has contacts in Uganda who operate AIDS orphans programs there.

While Maclore expects to continue traditional HMI events like the annual African dinner and African crafts sale in September and a holiday boutique in November, she also is brimming with enthusiasm and great ideas for new events to support the Blue House. She brings organization

and management skills to her task, and is very focused



Maclore expects to continue traditional HMI events like the annual African dinner and African crafts sale

on producing events of quality.

We are looking for volunteers to help with these events, (think work a little, fun a lot,

meet some great people) so if you have some time and interest to spare, please contact Carol Roeller at 651-429-3798 or carolroeller@hopemultipurpose.org.

And do watch our website for details on the events!

HMI
Hope Multipurpose, Inc.

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

HMI's Board of Directors
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Secretary Esther Garubanda
Treasurer James Garubanda
Nankya Senungi
Joshua Garubanda
Therese Senungi
John Wathum-Ocama

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Web: www.hopemultipurpose.org

Mail: Hope Multipurpose, Inc.
c/o St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2136 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Thank You!

A benefit concert by the Messiah Men's Choir was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on Sunday evening, March 25. The event was produced by Tenneh Johnson, a friend of board member James Garubanda. All proceeds were designated for the Blue House. We are grateful to Mrs. Johnson (those who

know her call her Lady Tee) for her efforts to support HMI – the concert raised over \$ 1,400 in ticket sales and donations! Put another way, the money raised by the concert will support Blue House operations for two months...halleluia!

Hope Multipurpose, Inc.
2136 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

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Beatrice's Hope

HMI Shares Its Hope

Creating a childhood for vulnerable and orphaned children in the countryside of Uganda may seem a small goal when other problems in today's world are considered. I know that I can't stop a war or find a cure for cancer, but I know that I can make a big

change in the lives a few girls. With a nurturing home, education, and adequate nutrition, they can hope for a very different life... a life that does not include early pregnancy, poverty, and AIDS.

...that you will want to support the work of HMI

Our Hope

Interested? — Visit our web site
www.hopemultipurpose.org
(or call 651 429-3798)

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