

Beatrice's HOPE



Creating a
childhood
for orphans in
rural Uganda

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

VOL.12, SUMMER 2011

Sustainability...we have built it and they have come!

July, 2011...the beautiful new building is up and has opened its doors to young girls who need a childhood. Beatrice Garubanda must certainly be smiling...her dream of helping orphans in Kazo, Uganda, is now reality. As you will see in this issue, the Blue House staff is hard at work, the girls gather for fun and work and tend to their studies. The new Blue House is alive!

While we all can and should take great pride in this accomplishment, we must take the time to address the bigger issue of sustainability. What strategies can we employ to assure that the Blue House continues to help the girls of Kazo? How can we all continue the blessings that have come to us through this effort?

Stay involved...volunteer your time to help with a fundraiser, serve on the Board, make items for the Boutique, meet and talk to groups interested in children or Africa, offer your special expertise in any area. (see HMI Classifieds) One time, or now and then, or ongoing... it all contributes to continuing accomplishment.

Make a financial commitment...we have a new tool (see A New Way to Donate) that really makes it (almost) painless to support the Blue House regularly. Decide an amount with which you feel comfortable and sign up for a monthly, quarterly or annual gift that will be sent from your bank to us automatically. If 300 people gave \$100 a year, (\$25 a quarter or \$8.50 a month) we would have our base of operations in Kazo assured. Add a couple of events, and, voila!

Come to our events...they take a great effort and many hours by many. With events, we have two goals—to raise money, but also to bring us all together to celebrate and enjoy the success of Blue House...with some fun. This year's Boutique is December 3 and 4, and the African Dinner will be held next spring...don't miss them, or we'll miss you!


Think out of the box...look for new resources to support HMI's mission. Talk to friends and family...tell them what we're up to and why you think the Blue House is important. Bring them to an event. Look for business and civic groups



Recently admitted girls enjoy a snack of Jackfruit in front of their new home.

(clubs, foundations, employee associations, Rotary, classes or scouting groups, churches...) who could help or may be interested in sponsoring an area of development such as the playground or installing solar. Hold a personal fundraiser...a golf outing, bowling or bingo tournament, garage sale, birthday or retirement party, a wine tasting, take and fill custom orders for your specialty (dish cloths, salsa, painting a room, distinctive plants, killer brownies or apple pie, baby quilts, table runners or tea cozies, note cards)...break out new ideas from your unique stash of possibilities!

Become a sponsor...get a group together to buy a cow (for milk) or playground equipment. Sponsor vocational training for an older girl in sewing, secretarial studies, or cooking. Sponsor a bright girl at the university level.

If you have an idea and want to discuss it, please call or send an email...don't let a great idea escape consideration! 

Blue House Update

This summer of 2011 finds the Blue House doing very well, thank you!!! We are delighted to share the highlights of the first half of this year, and they include:

- In January, Board and staff in Uganda recruited and interviewed over 70 orphans and their caregivers for admission to the Blue House.
- From the short list of 55 qualified applicants, three girls are selected and move in each month. As of July, there are 31 girls making their home with us! The youngest is five years old and in Primary 1, and the oldest three have completed four years of the Secondary level. The efforts of both staff and residents have made the process of accepting new girls and their adjustment to the Blue House nothing but excellent.
- Our new director, Mr. Aine Abel, has set a high standard for the Blue House with good management, thoughtfulness and hard work. The residents are happy, healthy and doing very well at school and at home. The staff is cohesive and cooperative, providing excellent care and example to their charges. Penlope, the Housemother, has organized the girls' rooms with one older girl and three new, younger girls in each. She works with the girls, showing them how to cultivate the garden (now featuring corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts and cassava), prepare food, care for their clothes and clean and maintain the House, latrine, showers and laundry buildings on a schedule. As a university graduate, she models the importance of doing homework and getting a good education.

"[Penlope] works with the girls, showing them how to cultivate the garden (now featuring corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts and cassava), prepare food, care for their clothes and clean and maintain the House, latrine, showers and laundry buildings on a schedule. As a university graduate, she models the importance of doing homework and getting a good education."




Orphans, their guardians, Board members and staff participate in the intake process at the Blue House.

- Rosemary, one of our original residents, has been selected as "head girl" at the Primary school. We are immensely proud of Rosemary for this achievement and honor!!! It should be noted, however, that she had a good example — Sarah, an older girl and another original resident, was also

selected "head girl" when she was in Primary 7! Considering that there are 850 students in the school, this is amazing!

- The director has hired a carpenter to build and install shelves to hold shared books for the girls and create a reading area at the Blue House.

- The Board of Directors in Uganda meets regularly in Kazo

and provides oversight for operations at the Blue House. They are looking to add one or two more members, preferably women. 



Board Meetings in Kazo are often held in the open air.



Rosemary, we are proud of you!

From Aine's Desk...

I bring you greetings from your daughters, friends and partners in Kazo, Uganda!

I will begin by saying thank you to the HMI Board in the US for approving my appointment as director Blue House thus enabling me to more actively participate in this noble cause. Thank you very much!

Let me use this opportunity to give special thanks to all our friends and partners in the U.S., especially our funders whose support is greatly impacting the lives of orphaned girls living at Blue House. The girls are very excited about living in the new Blue House and for the new girls; it's just a life's revolution. Just to mention one Nahabwe Elizabeth who was overheard by the matron sharing with an older roommate (Allen) her first experience sleeping on a mattress which experience she did not have until her admission to Blue House in April this year. We have also shared the pride of having the smartest girls in their respective schools that's why our very own Nambi Rosemary has been appointed head girl of Kyabahura Primary school.

When I came in as Director in January this year, the number of orphans residing at blue House was eleven (11), but with your constant support we have been able to admit fifteen

more orphans in to Blue House bringing the number of residents to twenty six (26) at the end May 2011. The June intake is under way and in two weeks we shall have three more orphans admitted to bring the total to twenty nine (29) by the end of June.

I would like to mention that there are lots of costs associated with receiving the new residents such as buying for them beddings, casual wear and all the other necessities not forgetting feeding the increasing population amidst high inflation rates especially for food stuffs. It's therefore against the above background that I would like to commend you for the faithful partnership giving hope and a childhood to the orphans in Kazo and Uganda at large. Because of you we have been able to house, feed, clothe and educate twenty six (26) orphans and vulnerable girls from Kazo and with the trend of three residents per month, we shall arrive at the target population of 44 girls by November this year.

Blue House is blessed with a team of four staff members, that's to say, a cook, a security guard, matron and director. By the grace of God I have the privilege to lead the team of understanding, committed and hardworking personnel. However, most of the glory goes to our funders who have given us the necessary remuneration and motivation to keep us serving in our respective duties.

The visible challenge at Blue House is the poor academic performance of some of the girls. The grades of some girls



The director at his desk – working for Uganda and the USA.

“I would like to commend you for the faithful partnership giving hope and a childhood to the orphans in Kazo and Uganda.... Because of you we have been able to house, feed, clothe and educate 26 orphans and vulnerable girls from Kazo, and with the trend of three residents per month, we shall arrive at the target population of 44 girls by November.”

are still low. I attribute this performance to the poor academic background and educational foundation obtained while at their previous homes especially the new girls. I am designing measures to curb this challenge and some include organizing after school lessons at Blue House where the girls will be coached in the areas of weakness. Sister Margret, a teacher at the school they go to, has pledged to render this service over

the weekend, acquiring some text books (home library) to supplement their class work and enhance their revision, I have also asked the respective class teachers to give special attention to our girls whose academic background genuinely calls for such attention.

Because of Blue House, 26 orphans are currently being housed, fed, clothed educated and have all their basic needs met. Four well paid staff members have been employed and in addition, casual laborers have obtained some income through casual work such as clearing the bush, minor constructions, some technical works and Blue House has provided demand for commodities in the Kazo market. More importantly, being the first of its kind in the whole of western Uganda, Blue House has envisioned other groups of people to start organizations with similar objectives an example is one emerging in a nearby sub county of Buremba (Joy Child Centre).

In conclusion, I would like to mention that I am proud to be part of the impact being made by Blue House in creating a childhood for orphans in Kazo and Uganda as a whole. The wide vision of HMI also keeps me going. However, my greatest motivation comes from you the HMI partners in the US whose constant commitment, love and support has kept me humbled and I look forward to sharing a lot with you face to face when I come over as we build towards BEATRICE'S DREAM. Thank you very much! To God be all the glory.

— AINE ABEL, DIRECTOR

Cloquet to Kazo

Tim Krohn, a friend and supporter of the Blue House who lives in Cloquet, Minnesota, intends to run a marathon on every continent. After finishing a late June marathon in South Africa, Tim has three continents completed. Tim called when he was planning his trip to ask if he could stop by the Blue House again—he and his daughter, Dr. Kristina Krohn, had visited in the summer of 2009. Tim got to see the new Blue House and the outbuildings, meet with the Board and spend time with Aine and Penlope as well as the girls. He also went with Aine to the homes of two girls who were moving to the Blue House in July. Tim has written a wonderful account of his experiences and impressions, and here are just a few we've chosen to share in the newsletter. (Additional journal entries can be found on our website, www.hopemultipurpose.org).

"We then toured the shower, toilet, kitchen, and generator buildings.

Some of the old unused bricks are being used to make a "paved" pathway from the dorm to the showers. The showers consist of 8 3- by 5-foot stalls with a 6-foot wide central area. To take a shower one must heat water on the fire in the kitchen and carry it in an 18-inch diameter wash basin to the showers. There isn't any water piped to the showers.

The shower consists of you splashing water on yourself. Showering in is done out of the wash basins either in the central area or in the stalls, which have a drain in the corner.

The toilet building has 8 3- by 5-foot stalls with a 9- by 8-inch hole near the center of the stall. Toilet paper is located on a piece of plastic outside of every other stall. A wash basin with jug of water for hand washing was provided just outside of the building."



A shower makes a girl feel so nice!

"The store room is working out fine. There are gunny sacks full of peanuts, millet, and beans that Aine bought during the harvest season when the prices are typically at their lowest."

"Meals here are filling, but are of limited variety.

At the Blue House the girls get cooked plantains, millet, rice, and beans on a very consistent basis. Lunch is a plate full of rice and beans. Supper is rice, beans, plantains, and sweet potatoes. Meat and fruit such as watermelon, bananas, and mangos are served on weekends. They did not have liquids with the two meals I saw. I was told they get liquids (water) elsewhere."

"We visited the primary school the younger girls go to. The school has 850 students. There are usually 4 students per desk and sometimes 5 if they are small. A desk unit is a 4- to 5-foot long bench seat with an 18-inch wide and same length desk top attached to the bench. The lowest grades had dirt floors and many of the children were barefoot. The first three grades are taught in the local language with English as subject. The upper grades are taught in English with a very heavy Ugandan accent.

"We met with the headmaster, the head of academics, the Blue House girl's teachers, and the girls. The adults all gave a short talk about how good the girls were, how good the Blue House is taking care of them, and how they need to apply themselves. All very moving." H



"Travelin' Tim," extraordinary volunteer!



Dinner is served — lots of matoke and rice!

A Special Thank You ...

...to **Mickie Hageman**, good friend and long-time supporter of the girls of Kazo. In April, Mickie's children hosted a grand birthday bash to celebrate her first 70 years. Mickie asked that gifts be directed to the Blue House or Heifer International. The gifts of these generous friends and relatives will fund the education of Grace, a promising student, at the Kibubura Secondary School in Ibanda for an entire year!

...to **Tim Krohn**, two-time visitor to Kazo and generous Blue House benefactor. On his trip to Africa in June, Tim volunteered to hand-carry things we might want to send to the girls. He was proud to report that he

fit everything, including two sets of outdoor solar lights, into his luggage! Can you imagine what fun it was when Tim arrived with his big suitcase and the girls got to see their gifts from America?

He wrote:

"In the evening after dinner at the Blue House we opened up the suitcase

and showed the clothes from the people in Minnesota.

The girls were thrilled to receive this shipment of clothes. They giggled most for the clothes that really appealed to them."

...to the ladies of **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church** and the Roeller

sisters-in-law. These remarkable women donated 13 blouses, 8 dresses, 5 skirts, 59 tee shirts and several other items of clothing in response to the Blue House director's request for "casual clothing."

...to **Josh Garubanda**, Beatrice's son. Josh supplied two boxes of stand-alone solar lights to illuminate the path to the latrine after dark.



In one suitcase?

Challenges Here, Challenges There

In Uganda, as here, inflating food and gas (petrol) prices are raising havoc with everyone's best efforts to stay within budget. At the Blue House, the garden has evolved from a handy method of providing fresh vegetables into a real necessity to keep sufficient food on the table.

- When we began using the generator to run the computer and provide power for illumination, petrol was about \$5 per gallon. It now costs \$8 or more per gallon. Although it is earlier than expected, we must consider the installation of a solar system in the near future. We have started to gather information and cost estimates on this.

- Three girls have finished their formal education and the Boards are looking for ways to help them develop job skills and prepare for independent living. Vocational programs in Kampala and Mbarara would include tuition and books, room and board and

transportation expenses for one or two years, and this is not affordable at this time. Soon, additional girls will need similar help, and some are expected to meet the academic standards for

attending a university. There, as here, training and education help in finding employment, but there are no guarantees and it takes time. **H**



Hard at work in the Blue House shamba (garden) growing peanuts, sweet potatoes, cassava and corn.

From One Who Knows

I am Kabarungi Penlope, a housemother, Blue House, Kazo, Uganda. Both of my parents died when I was still young, we were six children from the same father and the same mother. It was hard for us to continue studying and we were still all in primary level of education. After that our brother who was the first born continued his studies. The second born (Sister) was taken by my Aunt such that she can continue her studies also. The third one who was Penlope (me) was to remain at home to look after the young ones. It happened during this situation that I managed to study many things because I was working as a housemother in the family.

First of all, "Being an orphan is like being in a place of rock, a hard place and fire." I had to plan for every activity to maximize my efforts, resources and time such that we can get what we need to survive on as far as food was concerned. I remained focused and disciplined, followed the advices of our close relatives and elders and also skills that I got when I was still with my late Mum and Dad, helped me after their departure.

This is where I believe that "Leaders are not born, leaders are made" because if you start taking on responsibilities and leadership roles when you are still young, you will be preparing yourself for future responsibilities. For example being a good mother in a home is a great leadership because it requires a person who is responsible for every activity like looking after young ones, teaching them good behaviors, time management, general cleanliness, academic concerns and others.

After a long period of time, our first born (brother) got a certificate in electrical installation where he got where to work and managed to start paying me school fees. That is where I managed to resume my studies. I was eager and determined to read books, I remained focused and disciplined again, followed school rules and regulations and be loyal to all principles and always

"...if you start taking on responsibilities and leadership roles when you are still young, you will be preparing yourself for future responsibilities."



Penlope, the housemother, welcomes incoming resident Immaculate accompanied here by her guardian.

consulted teachers where necessary especially on academic issues. I had to take extra miles in revising my books because I knew where I was coming from and in my mind I wanted to be excelling in everything but unfortunately some times I had to miss some classes because of school fees not paid in time. My

determination made me what I am today and managed to get a University degree in Development Studies from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in January 2010.

So, being an orphan, I gained a lot of experience and knowledge which is helping me as a housemother especially in controlling the young ones, leading the family or community at Blue House Kazo, good management of resources and I understand how an orphan feels due to absence of his/her parents.

This article was written and prepared by Kabarungi Penlope, Housemother, Blue House, Kazo Uganda.



Coming Attractions

- The Seventh Annual Blue House Boutique...December 3 and 4, 2011
- A visit by the Blue House director, Aine Abel... arrangements are in process
- The African Dinner...to coincide with Aine's visit

Attending last year's African Dinner were Cyd Bulger, Gary Johnson and Joan Hershbell, Greg and Pat Mack, Tim Dunnwald, and Tom Bulger.

HMI CLASSIFIEDS

Rewarding volunteer opportunities are available now...

1. HMI Treasurer to oversee HMI financial affairs

- Advise President on budgets and expenses
- Inspect banking transactions
- Monitor work of volunteer accountant
- Assure financial safeguards and best practices
- Review preparation of federal and state reporting requirements

2. HMI Outreach Coordinator to tell the Blue House story

- Organize, train and motivate outreach volunteers
- Schedule presentations and appearances
- Coordinate and monitor volunteers and materials
- Acknowledge hosting organization
- Follow up on contacts

Call Carol Roeller
(651-429-3798) to discuss
how you can help.

3. Development Assistant to grow HMI's donor base and capacity

- Work closely with Fund Raising and Marketing Chairs to create strategies to increase donations
- Research fund raising opportunities and foundations
- Make personal contacts with potential large donors

4. Directors to provide governance of HMI operations

- Learn about Kazo, Uganda, and the needs of orphans in Africa
- Attend monthly meetings of the HMI Board of Directors
- Participate in policy and operational discussions
- Manage occasional special projects
- Assist fellow Board members with the work of the organization
- Create awareness and enthusiasm for the mission of HMI



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
Vice President John Wathum-Ocama
Secretary Lisa Van Valkenburgh
Treasurer Birdie Hix Carter
Joshua Garubanda
Esther Garubanda

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2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

A New Way to Donate

A number of Blue House supporters like to send gifts throughout the year, and others send an annual contribution. Here is a great tool to facilitate regular giving—automatic for you and excellent, affordable tracking for HMI. And it really promotes our new buzzword—SUSTAINABILITY!

*You can become a sustaining supporter of HMI. Just like public radio and television, and maybe your church, you can now set up automatic, regular giving directly from your bank account. Known as electronic funds transfer (EFT), you simply download an authorization form from the Donate page of our website at <http://www.hopemultipurpose.org/donate.html>. Send it in with a voided check and we do the rest.**

Instructions are on the website. You can have donations made from your checking or savings account. You determine the amount and frequency (monthly, quarterly, or annually). To change anything (amount, bank info, or to discontinue) simply send in a new form.

The donation page also has other giving options, such as giving online by credit card (one-time or sustaining), or a form to mail with a check. However you decide to give, your support is vital to the girls of the Blue House, and we thank you!

—Karen Lilley

**For your convenience, we've included an authorization form with this newsletter.*

Blue House Boutique!

Saturday, December 3 – 9 to 3
Sunday, December 4 – 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



All year long, the Hope Crafters are busy designing and making beautiful and unique items for customers to give away...or to keep close to home. The annual Blue House Boutique features hot fudge and homemade jellies, candies, salsa and other treats packaged for giving. There are also wonderful knits, home furnishings and kitchen items, toys, fresh greens, art, jewelry and wearables...something for everyone on your list! New ideas join old favorites every year—come early for the best selection and stay for lunch, too!



Karen Pfeifle taking care of hungry shoppers at last year's Blue House Boutique.

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

www.hopemultipurpose.org