



# HOPE CENTER UGANDA

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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# MISSION TRIP TO UGANDA

*November 2024*

**Travel:** After 18+ hours in the air, our team from Fellowship of Faith in McHenry, Illinois arrived at Entebbe International Airport and made our way to Mityana, Uganda, the home of the Hope Center. We were able to spend 10 days getting to know the children, the staff and seeing with our own eyes the wonderful work that HCU is doing. Our days were packed with events, projects and fun! Some of the highlights are as follows.



**Meeting the children:** Although a bit shy at first, the children soon warmed up and began playing games with us in the yard. Many of us were handed babies to hug and carry around and just “love on”. We were given a tour consisting of the sleeping rooms, kitchens, garden, sick bay, new latrine and offices. There is a large yard and playground nestled in beautiful rolling hills dotted with homes. They keep to a routine that allows for breakfast, play, lunch naps, dinner and bedtime. The children are happy, loved and well cared for by all the “mommies” (staff). We delivered 20 large bins of supplies to the orphanage which we brought from our church family. Supplies of diapers, wipes, formula, toys, dry good foods and much more.







**Celebrating the employees & baptisms:** As we approached the closed security gates to the orphanage, we could hear music. Some of the children along with a few staff members were outside of the gates holding signs, welcoming us to the party! When they opened the gates, everyone was cheering and singing. Some of the women were dancing in native Ugandan costumes. They had a huge cake to celebrate birthdays and a photographer was hired to capture all the fun. Pastor Jerome, who leads a church in Kampala and is one of the directors of the Hope Center, was there and baptized six of the children. This was a special day for recognizing the incredible work the employees do for these children.

**Home visits and surrendering / of rescuing a baby:** We had a rare opportunity to accompany the Hope Center social worker, Moreen & nurse, Sharon, to take 2 of the children out to visit their family of origin. The aim of the Hope Center is to reunite children with their families when they can care for them. The family was overjoyed to have a visit from their little boy. We then learned of a family just down the road, who had a new baby who was not thriving. His mother struggled with alcoholism, and her baby was malnourished. The family did not have the resources to maintain the infant's health. It was incredible to see in action what the Hope Center is there for. Moreen & Sharon were able to persuade the mother to surrender her baby so they could give it the medical help & nutrition he needs. We are so thankful for the work these two dedicated women are doing.

**Dinner on the Nile:** Shortly before flying home, we drove 4 hours east to a town called Jinja where we experienced a wonderful dinner cruise on the Nile! Great food, cold drinks and a memorable time with our Ugandan team, Pastor Jerome, Andrew and Kenny who had now become precious friends. The evening was spectacular with billowing clouds and a pinkish purple sunset. We watched local fishermen cast their fishing nets, while many species of birds flew overhead, and river otters occasionally popped out of the water to look around. A perfect finish to a memorable trip!





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!

## *Meet our Hope Center Chef and Cooks*

Do you ever wonder what it's like to feed 45 people 3 times a day? That's 135 meals a day! Meet two of our heroes, chef Raphael and cooks Joan and Emma at HCU! Together they make sure our children and staff are well nourished daily.

The kitchen consists of two rooms. One being an open fire room, with an elevated roof to let the smoke out from the top. They can have 3 fires going at a time with huge cooking pots, while the other room is fitted with counters, cupboards and a large table for chopping vegetables and assembling meals. Some examples of what they feed the children are chicken, rice, beans, potatoes, spaghetti, matooke, bananas, eggs, warm cereal and fresh fruit in season. We appreciate all the dedicated work they do every day keeping the children and staff well fed.

They also maintain a large kitchen garden where some of the produce is harvested. Their work is an integral part of our mission in providing for our children. A huge thanks to Raphael, Emma & Joan! We are so blessed to have you!





# MEET OUR NEW BABIES!

Little Joseph came to our center when concerned community members brought him to the police after being abandoned by his mother. We are so grateful for the community that rescued him and are looking forward to watching him settle in and grow here at HCU! Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he adjusts to his new home.



Baby Isaac was born to a mentally ill mother who discarded him in an outdoor toilet immediately after giving birth. We are so thankful that community members stepped in to rescue him and take him to the hospital where he has been recovering. We are grateful he was saved and ask you to keep him in your prayers as he continues to recover.

Baby John has had a hard road so far for such a young life. He came to us last November when he was removed from his mother's care due to neglect. He received a referral from Mityana General Hospital and was then transferred to the children's care unit at Mulago Hospital where he received further treatment. He has since been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and will be treated in another ward where he will get the care he needs. Please pray for his recovery as he is also trying to catch up after the effects of malnutrition.



***Want to partner with us to help these babies?***

**Visit: [hopecenteruganda.org/donatenow](http://hopecenteruganda.org/donatenow)**



Our little Shakim Kigozi came to us last November malnourished and suffering from neglect. We have enjoyed seeing him gain weight and become healthier these last few months at the Hope Center. We are so thankful to have the ability to rescue him and other babies in similar situations.



Another November baby is Robinah. Unfortunately, both of her parents are in jail and unable to care for her. We are so blessed at the Hope Center to step in and offer her a place to grow and thrive in this chapter of her life. Please pray for her as she continues to thrive at the Hope Center.

This adorable little boy is 2-year-old Ethan. He was rescued from his grandfather who abused and neglected him. He was found by the village leader, sleeping alone on the dirt floor of a separate building, while his grandfather slept in the house. He has received medical attention and treatment for his wounds and malnutrition. We are blessed to give him the help and love he deserves. Please keep him in your prayers as he heals both physically and emotionally.

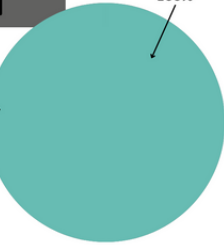


Last April, 2-year-old Calvin was rescued from neglect. His father struggles with drug addiction and his mother, who is unemployed, has no means to feed him. Due to malnutrition, he is unable to walk. HCU is overjoyed to have him and can't wait to watch him as he continues to he continues his path to health.



# JANUARY MATCHING CHALLENGE

**JANUARY  
MATCHING  
CHALLENGE  
UPDATE**



DONATED TO-DATE  
**\$2500**  
100%

REMAINING GOAL  
**\$0**  
0%

AS OF 1/31/24

Our circle is FILLED! What does that mean? That you, our Hope Center donors, helped meet our goal of turning \$2500 into \$10,000 in the month of January! A huge thank you to our matching donor and for your generosity and faithfulness to HCU.

## FUTURE FUNDRAISERS

### GOLF, GOLF, GOLF!

**Sat., July 27 - Holmes Lake Golf Course**, Lincoln, NE  
9am Shotgun Start



**Mon., Aug 19 - Bull Valley Golf Club**, Woodstock, IL  
9am Shotgun Start



**Registration opens soon** on the Hope Center Uganda website - [hopecenteruganda.org](http://hopecenteruganda.org)

## HOPE CENTER PROJECTS



Look at our beautiful new painting job! In December we pulled out the ladders and paintbrushes for a much-needed update. The cheery butter yellow exterior looks lovely and inviting nestled in the green rolling hills of our neighborhood. Notice also, the new sharp black and white lines of the yard border and the highlighted black around the stones of the foundation wall. This is a loved and well cared for home for our children.

**Upcoming projects:** Painting interior walls of each room. They are crumbling and in need to resurfacing, sealing & painting.