



## WHERE HAVE THE YEARS GONE?

**W**e are excited to bring you news of our progress at Child of Hope this year, from the smallest in our nursery school to former nursery children who are now taking their O-levels and even graduating from their vocational courses and now working for us — where have the years gone?!

It is truly satisfying to see our children making the most of the opportunities we have given them. We also bring you news of how we are adding value to our programmes:

- Increasing the knowledge and skills of our social workers to help families find and use their strengths
- Improving the nutrition we give to all our children on a daily basis.

We hope you enjoy our stories, and for those who support us — we couldn't do it without you... thank you for joining with us in lifting the very poorest out of all forms of poverty here in Mbale.

*Bex Okotel (right) with long-term volunteer Lucy Swift... and some very smiley nursery children!*

**Child of Hope** has built a school in the heart of the Namatala slum in Uganda where it provides free education, healthcare, food and clothing to nearly 500 children from the most vulnerable families in the slum.

The charity has also developed a highly-effective family support team that enables life-changing help through social workers to families of our pupils and helps mums start a small business, which helps lift them from the worst extremes of poverty.

*Registered UK Charity: 1136068*



## OUR FIRST O-LEVEL CANDIDATES

**This year we are very excited to announce that our first children, who started with us in 2008, will be taking their O-levels!**

They have come a very long way from when they were just 'small scraps' begging for food outside our rented little school we ran back then! Eleven years later we have 13 children nervously waiting to take their exams – 7 boys and 6 girls. Priscilla (16 years

old, in the middle of our photo) has really enjoyed her education journey, so much so that she now wants to become a teacher herself. The exams will take place in October/November so all of these kids are knuckling down to ensure they have learnt and revised everything in preparation.

Please think of them as they 'sweat' their way through to the end of this year!

Child of Hope receives no Ugandan government funding and relies totally on donations – please could you help us? If so, you will make a huge difference in the lives of slum children. Please see the enclosed donation form, or visit our website [childofhopeuganda.org](http://childofhopeuganda.org)

## DOREEN FULFILLING HER POTENTIAL

**Doreen used to be one of our teaching assistants but back in 2016 we realised she had much more potential. She was keen to start a career as a teacher and we were very happy to sponsor her throughout her primary teacher training.**

At the end of last year she graduated top of her class and we were thrilled to welcome her back to Child of Hope as one of our qualified teachers! Doreen thoroughly enjoyed her training and has been keen to keep progressing

and moving our teaching methods forwards. She recently attended a phonics training session at the District offices with our Education Advisor, Lucy (British volunteer) and immediately passed on her new training to her fellow teachers in both our nursery and primary departments. She said "I thank God for Child of Hope who covered all of my costs whilst I was at college, and also for giving me an opportunity to work with them. I can now take care of myself and I wish Child of Hope more blessings in helping the poorest children in Mbale."





## HAPPY AND HEALTHY

**A**t Child of Hope we really care about the health and the nutritional condition of the children. At the start of every year, our health team perform a Body Mass Index survey on the children to understand if they are eating enough.

This year was no different except we also partnered with our friends at the nearby health centre and JOY Hospice to ensure our girls were vaccinated against HPV. It is a good opportunity for the nurse to identify any other health challenges the children may have. This year we

have added a more diverse diet to the children's lunches including fish, nuts, extra vegetables, soya and millet and we are now using fortified maize flour and improved beans. We hope that all the children (and staff who also eat their meals here!) will gain enjoyment and benefit from this.

## JANET MUNYESI



**J**anet was one of the first children we started with in 2008, and this year we are very proud to announce that she has graduated with a certificate in hairdressing.

She started college in 2018 after deciding to take a vocational training route rather than O-levels. One year down the road and we are really excited to see her clad in a graduation gown! Janet says: "This achievement will help me change



Janet at Primary level

the economic situation of my family as soon as I begin earning money. I have a vision of starting up one of the best and biggest beauty salons in Namatala."

A huge thank you to Paul & Carol for sponsoring Janet — their support really did make a difference, giving her a real future and lifting her out of poverty!

*Please see enclosed flyer if you would like to sponsor a child from the slum.*



## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

**D**id you know that the vast majority of Ugandans are involved in the agriculture industry?

Whether directly employed by large commercial enterprises or growing their own crops at their village homes, many depend on the soil for their livelihoods. So, our Income Generating Activities (IGA) team felt it wise to empower groups of our mothers in practising agriculture on a large scale. This would give them the means to help

their families with food provision and generation of extra income.

Ten acres of land (recently acquired by Child of Hope) were apportioned to 60 of our mothers in Kimuntu village, Mbale, and they have worked hard together to clear and plough the land. This is just in time as the rainy season is upon us and they are hoping to grow beans, maize and rice. We are praying for a bumper harvest so that the families can enjoy a higher standard of living this year.





*Reuben with his grandmother*

## HOPE FOR REUBEN

**T**his is Reuben, one of our newest learners at 3 years old! He was recruited into our nursery school in January after we found him in a desperate situation.

Sadly both of Reuben's parents were killed in a road traffic accident in December last year and his grandmother, who is very poor, has been looking after him since then. Our eagle-eyed welfare team spotted him in the community and, once they understood his situation, quickly enrolled him.

Clearly Reuben suffered severe trauma and was often seen crying. He has a long road ahead of him to come to terms with the death of his parents, but we trust that with our love and care the journey will be a little easier. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.





# WELFARE

**W**e love it when experts sacrifice their time to come and train us and so we were delighted to host **Duncan Kerr (volunteer from the Welsh Government) in January and February this year.**

He worked alongside our welfare team, advising them on 'Signs of Safety'. This is a method whereby social workers can help parents/children to find and build on their strengths and

reduce risks in their daily lives. Our staff learned enthusiastically, and immediately started to use it in their counselling sessions. In fact, they were so impressed with the results that they also passed on this new knowledge to our education departments. There are many difficulties that families face in Namatala and this new style of counselling has a much more positive and upbeat attitude whilst empowering the parents to find solutions for themselves.



*If you would like to volunteer with COH in Uganda please visit our website.*

## KEEP IN TOUCH

We'd love to keep you posted with our news, and we will only do that if you tell us if you are happy for us to contact you; either by printed newsletters like this one (once or twice a year) or by a monthly emailed newsletter.

To do this, please complete a simple form on our website at [www.childofhopeuganda.org/subscribe](http://www.childofhopeuganda.org/subscribe) or complete the form enclosed with this newsletter.

You can easily unsubscribe on our website, by writing to us, or by emailing us. Your details will only be used by Child of Hope – we will never give your information to other organisations to use for their own purposes. You are free to change your mind at any time. Our privacy policy is found on our website. When we receive your consent to send you our news, your consent will last for three years (unless you opt out before then). After that we will contact you for your consent again.



Hayter, Sam Engichu and Joseph Ekur who oversee more than 80 staff, 6 including a number of volunteers.

Child of Hope in Uganda is run by husband and wife Moses & Bex Okotel who are supported by an executive team of Martin

In the UK we have eight trustees, ten volunteers and two part-time employees, who make possible the life-changing social impact we provide for the children of the Namatala slum.

If you would like to help the UK team, please see the 'Get involved' page on our website.

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