

2019 AMAZING LOVE SCHOOL PROJECT

www.amazinglovedevelopment.org

TIME FLIES:

We have less than two months before we return to Canada. Our time in Uganda has been extremely busy and rewarding. We have connected with the students and teachers. We have met community leaders. We have interacted with government officials and we are thankful for the progress made so far.

We cannot thank you enough for your support to the Amazing Love School project. Thank you so much for helping the families and the community.

VERY HEAVY RAINFALL!

We had a very dry season from October 2018 with minimal rainfall every now and then. Three weeks ago it started pouring and flooding in several places. We planted sweet potatoes, cassava and vegetables in the school garden. We are hoping it will help reduce the food costs. The impact of the long drought on the community was profound.

CONSTRUCTION

TEACHERS' ACCOMMODATION:

We now have six units for the teachers who come from very far. We have also completed the six unit bathroom and pit latrines. These have provided a good environment for teachers. Thanks to everyone who contributed towards the teachers' quarters.

DAY CARE:

Most of our lady teachers have little children. It has been a challenge when teachers go with children in class because they cannot afford baby sitters. A simple structure is under construction and will be completed in a week's time. Teachers will be pooling their resources to pay for the baby sitter. This will ensure that teachers commit wholeheartedly to the work.

DINING HALL:

The construction of the dining hall is almost complete. This has been a costly adventure, but it is a school requirement. The dining hall will have a new kitchen and storage for the food.

STUDENTS:

There is much progress in the learning of our students. The students are hardworking, enthusiastic and joyful. They enjoy learning. The library has helped a great deal as now children borrow books to read. Comprehension is improving especially as Sarah Lamb made it her focus in teaching. Sarah spent three months with us teaching English to grade four to six.

LIBRARY PROJECT:

The library is fully operational. Each class has its own shelf with eight sections. We received a donation of \$2,000 from the Rotary Club of Ajax to buy the student curriculum workbooks. We also have some of the books donated from Canada that children enjoy reading.



“Education is a powerful “vaccine” against the pandemics of poverty, disease and ignorance”.

SCHOOL UPDATES

Practical Skills:

- **Dorothy:** came twice to teach children and community members how to make bread, cakes and scones. Members were allowed to practice their skills and later the baked goods were shared with the 40 people who participated.
- **Sarah:** taught children board games, making bracelets and other handwork.
- **Phoebe:** taught the girls to make local banana bread called *kabalagala*, to make *chapati* and *cassava (tapioca)* chips.



One of the Baking Classes

School garden: We planted some sweet potatoes, cassava and vegetables for the teachers and students.

Workshop for teachers: On June 7, we held a workshop with the teachers. We discussed how to effectively use the library. We encouraged them to do research in preparation for teaching and we planned for the student workshop afterwards.

New Teachers:

We recruited three new qualified teachers to replace the two teachers that joined government schools and the third one to fill the position Sarah Lamb was teaching.



Sarah with the girls

- **Mr. Stephen Kyabagwere** is teaching mathematics in grade six and seven and science in grade five. He is a qualified teacher, married and has been teaching for seven years.
- **Ms. Samali Namulondo** is teaching English and literacy to grades one to three and science in grade four. She is married and has a young child. She is qualified and has been teaching for over three years.
- **Ms. Eleanor Baluka** is teaching Mathematics and literacy to grades one to three and English in grade four. She is qualified and has been teaching for two years.



Sweet Potato gardens

Upcoming visits:

Karen and Steve Jealouse: Karen and Steve from Oshawa, Ontario will be visiting the school for about three weeks. Steve will be helping with carpentry work while Karen, an elementary school teacher will help the kindergarten and primary school teachers.

Visitor from the Ministry of Education office: On July 6, we are expecting the Private Secretary to the Minister of Education. The purpose of the visit is to help the school community understand the importance of education and also to be educated on the government plans.



Stephen, Eleanor and Samali

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

Henry Adams

SCHOOL NEEDS

Completing the Storeyed Building:

This building is very essential as we do not have a lot of land to expand. The building currently houses three classrooms and the two classroom size library. The second level will house the administration office, staffroom, computer room and storage space. The third floor will be for student dormitories.

Students mostly girls, are still falling through the cracks. They drop out to look after their siblings, help with gardening and cooking and sometimes early marriages. We hope this will help the girls to complete their education.

Repairing the Playground Swings:

A few of them are in great need of repair. Some were removed because they had become dangerous to the students. The challenge we have is that we need a welding generator which requires very strong power. We have a 5000 watts generator, but it cannot power even a hand-held welding machine. We shall have to rent a generator at a cost of \$40 per day.

Completing the Installation of the Security System:

With every development come new challenges. We were advised to install a security system that has cameras to protect the school property especially the laptops, keyboard, printer etc. We have secured 9 out of the 16 recommended cameras, a DVR for 16 channels and a hard disk for \$1,272. We need to buy a dedicated solar system for it to ensure it is on 24/7. This will cost us \$1,300.

Installing Solar Power in Teachers' Quarters:

It will be great if we could install solar power in the teachers' quarters for lighting to make it easy for teachers to prepare for the lessons. We are waiting for a cost estimate.

Chain Link for Fencing:

We built 240 poles on the premises to reduce costs. These have been installed around the school. We need to get the chain link of 740 meters quoted at \$4 per meter for a total of \$2,960

Completing the Dining Hall and Daycare:

Dining Hall: This is a school requirement. We are remaining with the floor, installing the windows and doors and furnishing. It has an environmentally friendly kitchen to reduce the amount of wood used in cooking.

Daycare: We are remaining with the floor, verandah and furnishing. Majority of our teachers are females with little children. Teachers will contribute to the running of the daycare.



Status of the storeyed building



Most swings bought in 2013 need repair



Dining Hall



Day Care

Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.
Edward Everett

MONTHLY TEACHER SPONSORSHIP

One of the largest challenges faced by Amazing Love School is recurring salaries of the teachers that are paid at the end of each month. Families contribute a small fee for the children, but because most of them practice peasant farming, weather changes often make it difficult for families to pay the fees in full. We are often left struggling to meet the teachers' monthly salaries.

Supporting a teacher ensures that all children get educated and motivated teachers can make a huge difference. The current total cost of maintaining the 13 teachers, three cooks and a security guard amounts to approximately \$2,500 per month.

The living wage is about \$200 per teacher. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE

A 3RD Taste of Africa Dinner Fundraiser is scheduled for

NOVEMBER 16, 2019

More details to come



Students in the library



Visit by Lydia and Ron



Class activity



Children role playing



Kindergarten class



Computer training



Library time



Recess



Storage for laptops

SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Upcoming Events:

- **Community projects for grade three and six:** Scheduled for July 11, students identify projects, plan and go out to the community to carry out their projects.
- **Trip to Jinja town for the National Agricultural Show** – Scheduled for July 17, it is a great opportunity to expose the children to modern farming. Schools come from all over the country. There is a mini educational zoo, machinery, plants and animals.
- **Science and art exhibition:** Scheduled for July 18, we invite parents to come and see what their children have been learning. It is usually well attended.
- **Interclass Competitions** will take place on July 25.
- **End of term two** will be on August 23.

ALDO is a non-profit organization operating under the umbrella of the **Uganda Relief and Development Organization**. A tax receipt will be issued for any amounts of **\$10** and above.

Amazing Love School

A School where children attend regularly, learn effectively and complete successfully.

Vision:

Excellence through Education, Training and Leadership

Mission:

Inspire students to excel in their academics, social and spiritual development

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Phoebe Gonahasa: Senior Tax Program Specialist, Ontario

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Education, Leadership, Training

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