

2020 AMAZING LOVE SCHOOL PROJECT

www.amazinglovedevelopment.org

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

We are operating under incredibly challenging circumstances. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect the world over. The economies are reeling under the effects of the pandemic, with a far-reaching, long-term negative impact on children.

As we adapt to meet the continuing challenges of the pandemic, our main priority remains supporting the children of Amazing Love School.

The challenges we are facing will inform the planning for the areas of critical strategic focus for 2020-21. By delivering against these, we believe we shall be able to help the Amazing Love School community to weather the present storm.

Based on Borden Ladner Gervais LLP's governance advice on COVID -19:

- We are re-assessing what is critical to the success and sustainability of the Amazing Love Development Organization (ALDO) and its fulfillment of the mission
- We are taking steps to ensure the mental and physical well-being of the children and employees
- We are shifting priorities to prepare for the reopening of the school to accommodate social distancing and proper sanitation.

ALDO is working hard to ensure that Amazing Love School will be ready when schools open. The tentative date is June 4, 2020.

ABOUT AMAZING LOVE SCHOOL!

Thank you so much for your continued support to the Amazing Love School. Your support is crucial to the success of the school. Many of you have been asking about the welfare of the children and teachers at the school.

On March 20, 2020, the Ugandan schools were closed until further notice. The government has introduced TV and Radio classes. Children without TVs or Radios are getting handouts distributed by local authorities.

There have been major challenges in distributing the resources to rural community children. This has affected our children immensely. All the teachers returned to their homes. We have a security officer watching over the school property.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

In 2019, we finally got the Amazing Love School fully certified after a lengthy and expensive list of requirements by the Ministry of Education.

This year, we are working on having our own Examination Center, allowing children to take national exams right at the school. Our children have been walking for three miles – one way - to other schools to sit for their national exams.

If it were not for COVID-19, we would have known by now, whether our application for the Examination Center was approved. One of the requirements was for us to have a large hall with a lockable cabinet to store the exam papers and to have at least 50 single desks. We have ordered for 70 single desks which have already been made and a lockable cabinet.



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



Kindergarten Teachers



Bags of Corn for Cornmeal



Some of the Teachers



Inside the Dining Hall

SCHOOL UPDATES

RE-OPENING OF THE SCHOOLS:

- The Ugandan President announced on May 18, 2020 that the candidate classes (i.e. our grade 7 students) will be returning to school on June 4, 2020. Details will be communicated during the week.
- We got in touch with the teachers to start preparing for the students. We shall have only the five subject teachers on the ground in addition to the security officer.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS:

- We hired one male teacher to bring stability to the kindergarten section. Most of our female teachers have little children and sometimes this interferes with the teaching. Additionally, we were short staffed when we had two teachers on maternity leave at the same time.

SCHOOL GARDEN:

- The teachers planted corn just before they left school due to COVID-19. Prior to this, they had also planted some vegetables. There is some upkeep needed around the school so we are working with the security office to get people to help with weeding.

CORN MEAL:

- At the beginning of each term, we buy five to 10 bags of cornmeal flour and one bag of beans to help with feeding the students and teachers.
- Parents contribute some cornmeal flour, but usually they bring it in installments and sometimes, they are unable to contribute due to poor harvest. When the harvest is good, parents bring the maize to feed the day scholars as well.

SOME OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS:

- We have 15 teachers, three cooks and a security officer. This is likely to change with the onset of COVID-19. Schools with a boarding section will be required to have a school nurse. We also need dedicated cleaners to help with sanitation.
- We may need additional part time teachers if we must split classes into two or three parts.

THE DINING HALL:

- This dining hall, with a capacity of 400, will help us with the additional space needed for social distancing. After the lockdown, we shall install the windows and door glass panes and obtain some furniture for the pupils.

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

Henry Adams

COVID-19 RESPONSE

COMPLETING THE STOREYED BUILDING:

This building is very essential as we do not have a lot of land to expand. The second and third levels will house the administration office, girls' dormitory, and additional classrooms. With COVID-19 issues, we shall need extra classrooms to be able to practice safe distancing. Boys will be moved to the current dormitory used by girls.

IMMEDIATE COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

Protective measures must be in place before the schools can re-open. These will have major financial implications as the school has many children. Some of the measures include:

- a) **Recruitment:**
 - **School Nurse** This is part of the School Health Policy
 - **Additional Teachers** will be required if we must divide classes into two or three groups to allow for physical distancing.
 - **School Cleaners** will be required to ensure the classes are thoroughly and regularly cleaned and all the common surfaces sanitized.
 - **School Bursar** As the school has expanded, there is need for a dedicated person to handle finances. Up until now, we have relied on the service of one of the teachers, but we require her services back in the classroom.
 - **School Matron and Patron** to help the boarding school children. This is especially important with the COVID-19 challenges.
- b) **Construction of a sick bay:** to provide an isolation unit for sick children (especially those in the boarding section)
- c) **Reliable water source:** We installed two 10,000-liter water tanks as emergency measures, but those depend on rain. We need to dig a borehole or well for regular water supply.
- d) **Regular cleaning supplies like soap, brushes, disinfectants etc.**
- e) **Fire extinguishers** for the boarding section
- f) **Additional handwashing water tanks** placed in different locations for all people entering the school grounds.
- g) **Construction of additional classrooms:** social distancing will require additional space to ensure that children keep a safe distance. Additionally, some classes will take place outside, which is very normal for our area.
- h) **Student desks:** Currently, four children use one desk. We may need to have two children per desk. Many more desks will be needed to allow for social distancing.
- i) **Personal hygiene of teachers and pupils**
- j) **Risk management plan**



Status of the storeyed building- 2019



Junior Kindergarten – March 2020



School Prefects elected for 2020

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. The parents or guardians are asked to pay a small fee for the children's attendance, but most of the families cannot afford to pay the fees.

To keep the school operational, we need sustained funding for teachers' 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 15 teachers, three cooks and a security guard amounts to approximately \$2,500 per month. The living wage of a teacher is about \$200 per month. To provide a living wage for all staff members, we need \$3,300 per month.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

TENTATIVE DATE

Taste of Africa Dinner Fundraiser

OCTOBER 24, 2020

Oshawa Italian Recreation Club,
245 Simcoe Street South,
Oshawa, ON L1H 4H3

More details to come



SK Graduation 2019



SK Graduation 2019



Academic Awards for 2019



Grade 7 prior to exams-2019



Children watering plants



70 Desks (2020)



Grass cutting (still going on)



Cleared area



Drama club pupils

HAPPENINGS

- In 2019, 14 Gr. 7 candidates sat their national exams. All passed and many of them enrolled in local high schools to continue their studies.
- In 2019, 34 senior kindergarten students graduated.
- In 2019, the parents elected new school board members when the 3-year term expired.
- Prior to COVID-19, our enrolment for 2020 was 380 children, including 30 in the boarding section.
- New enrolments included children from the capital city Kampala (100 miles away), some from Soroti town (90 miles away) and some from Iganga (30 miles away). Many more parents were planning to bring their children to the boarding section.
- Due to the school being vacated, the bushes had overgrown. We now have people helping to cut the grass.
- The Ministry of Education reading materials have just arrived in the village. The authorities have started distributing the papers to the children.

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 donation 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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ALDO Volunteer Board of Directors

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