

UGANDA PROJECT SUMMARY 2023

“Positively Impacting One Life at a Time”

Our trip to Uganda in December 2023 exceeded our expectations! With the unexpected generous donations of our team and Canadian friends and family, we raised over \$125,000 and will complete 4 years worth of projects in one.

OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS GREW!



Standing in front of a truck filled with food, Left to Right: Eddie Joyce, Trevor and Karolina Lamont, Moses, Maria, Nelson, Justin French, Gideon, and Genille French.

Eddie - The man, the myth, the legend!! Everyone knows Eddie:). Volunteer, Donor, Father figure for the children in the orphanage supported by H.O.P.E. Eddie introduced us to Uganda!

Trevor - Volunteer, Donor, Friend, Logistics & Implementation

Karolina - Registered Nurse in Nakusp BC, Volunteer, Donor, Friend, Children compassion expert extraordinaire:)

Moses - Deputy headteacher of boarding school where children from the orphanage attend school.

Maria - Local coordinator who helps select families most in need for the food drives through her church.

Nelson - Law student employed to help coordinate construction of the Kawaaga Medical Centre during his school breaks. He is using his money to put his sisters through school. Kawaaga was his home village, orphaned at the age of 9.

Justin - Volunteer, Donor, Friend, Co-Founder of the “Apex Impact Foundation” and “It’s Nice to Be Nice! Charity”.

Gideon - Engineer, Project Manager, local support who also grew up in a local orphanage

Genille - Volunteer, Donor, Friend, Co-Founder of the “Apex Impact Foundation” and “It’s Nice to Be Nice! Charity”.

KAWAAGA MEDICAL CENTRE

Stage 1 - Outpatient department - Completed 2023. Open 24/7 with 6 full-time staff.

Stage 2 - Maternity ward / building - Separate pre-natal, birthing rooms and post-natal areas.

Stage 3 - Inpatient ward / building - Includes separate men's, women's and children's wards.

Stage 4 - Electricity - Solar panel system, battery banks and back-up generator.

Stage 5 - Drilled well / water supply - Running water in all three structures but also a supply / access point for clean drinking water for all surrounding villages.

The outpatient department officially opened July 11, 2023 and the waiting room is full!



Our 2023 goal was to raise \$30,000 to allow us to complete stage 2 of the Kawaaga Medical Centre, the Maternity ward. Through the incredible generosity and kindness of our Canadian friends and family, we raised over \$125,000, and will complete stages 2-5 in one year rather than the planned 4.



Polio is still a common and devastating disease in Uganda. The Ugandan government provides polio vaccines free of charge but logistics of distribution are still extremely challenging. As of July 2023 this facility became an access point for polio vaccination, drastically increasing vaccination rates, and essentially eradicating new cases of this horrible disease for all the surrounding villages and the roughly 20,000 people living there.

The Kawaaga Medical Centre is run by the Pillars of Fevers Foundation (a local not-for-profit organization under the guidance of Dr Ikomo Yosia) which pays for the 6 full-time

staff and medical supplies. There are 2 physicians who travel in from the city to staff the facility from Monday to Friday and a local physician takes care of patients on the weekend.

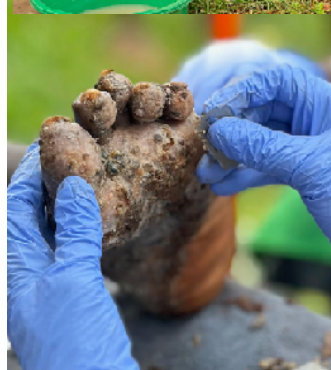
Future funding and planning will go towards an ambulance service / mode of transport for their patients in this very rugged part of the world with very poor infrastructure and roads.

JIGGER CLINICS with SOLE HOPE

We sponsored 3 jiggers clinics with SOLE HOPE. Over 300 children spread over 3 rural areas were treated and provided new shoes. A total count of 2960 jiggers (parasitic worms) were removed! The shoes at Sole Hope are handmade from recycled car tires and jeans. This truly amazing organization also provides an inpatient ward for severe jigger cases where patients also receive treatment for malaria, worms and other health conditions. It also provides daily education for children while admitted.



The SOLE HOPE team will follow treated patients annually and have an 80% jigger-free success rate after 3 years. A young girl with Albinism stole our hearts, especially Eddie's. She was unkempt, without sunglasses or a hat to protect her delicate eyes and skin, and required care for her feet. Her parents were not with her. She was shy at first, but warmed up as we showered her with donated gifts of hats, sunglasses, and clothing.



FOOD DRIVES

With the help of our local friends, families in dire need were selected for our food drive. We donated over 35,000 pounds of food over three locations. The food was sourced at various wholesalers and distributed at a church, and at the Kawaaga Medical Centre where families received 110 pounds of corn flour, 55 pounds of rice, 2L of oil, 4.5 pounds of sugar, and two 18-inch bars of soap. An additional food drive provided 80 families with rice, chickens and oil through the organization “Young Mothers of Uganda”. There were beautiful speeches, songs, dances, and hugs expressing pure gratitude!



EXTRAS

A huge thank-you to those who donated clothing, toys, toothbrushes, jewellery and medical equipment. We enjoyed watching faces light up as they received their gifts. Two sewing machines were also purchased and given to a local group of young mothers to give them a way to make clothing and dolls for themselves and to sell as a source of income.