



APRIL/MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024



Eyesight testing in the Health Centre



Nursery classes receiving new jumpers

Dear Sponsors and supporters

Another great team visit to Uganda took place in February and more children were blessed with gifts of Clothes and of course the usual trip to the Lake which the Sponsors from Yorkshire arrange every year, they have a wonderful time swimming in the Lake or having a Boat Trip, then they sit down to the best meal of the year for them. The sad thing is that still many children have not even visited anywhere in Uganda and never been out of their village. Thanks to a wonderful supporter, last June we were able to take 3 Buses of children to the lake, so with your kind help again this year we would like to give more children the opportunity, it is like in the old days when we use to go on a once a year Sunday School outing, so many of us know how we use to look forward to that trip each year. This June, Auntie Liz is planning an educational trip with the candidate classes who are due to take exams this year as you will read in her report.

Again Dr Ian was with the team and worked with our Dr Ezra in the Jajja George Health Centre. This year we were blessed to have Salim, who had just completed his 3 years course in Ophthalmics. He is the son of one of our original Nurses who worked with us 17 years ago. He attended our school and then went on to do his training. Already several people have been referred to the Eye Hospital in Masaka to hopefully have cataracts removed. Plus he has commenced working with us on the first Tuesday in every month checking on all our children's and staffs eyes, so that we can avoid hopefully the sad situation of Mathias the little boy who went blind, more about him in Auntie Liz's Report.

The School continues to grow well so this means more children will need to attend the Health Centre, every one is checked when they return to school or are new pupils joining us. Plus of course one of the main areas is the Maternity Section this year already over 50 mothers are attending before having their babies, it is good that more lives can be saved with them received the correct attention.

We are again pleased to inform you that Jajja George (Founder/Director) had another Bladder Cancer Operation back in February and they found that it was not as they had expected because they had unfortunately left it 6 months without Treatment. He is doing well and they do not want to see him again until July. In March he commenced his 90th year and his one desire is to be able to visit Uganda again.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who supports and sponsors our children, we really are in urgent need of more sponsors, so if you have friends or family who would like to help us please contact the office. Plus join the next team visit in 2025. Every Blessing to you all.

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

REPORT FROM AUNTIE LIZ

On Wednesday 7th February, 6 of us set off to Uganda. At the airport, we were met by Uncle Grace and our bus driver Wilson, who drove us for the next 2 weeks. After an overnight stay in Entebbe, we all travelled to Masaka, stopping at the Equator for some photos and shopping then further along we stopped for a nice meal before arriving at the Hotel.

We arrived at the village on Friday morning and were entertained by the children with singing and dancing. Many parents/Guardians were there to greet us. It was a lovely welcome and was very much enjoyed by us all. The children whose sponsors had come, were so happy to see them again. It means so much when you know a child's smile is because you have taken time to visit them. Sadly there are also many who look sad because their sponsor did not visit them so I would encourage more of you to visit your child.

It was a busy 2 weeks for everyone, We had a Medical day when the local community came to see Dr Ezra and Nurses Joan and Tiberius and were happy to see Dr Ian there also. When they had been treated, the patients came to our table we had set up under the shade of a tree where we gave out clothes, hats, scarves, and teddies. All were very happy with the gifts they had received. We held a second medical day when Salim came to do the eye tests on everyone, including staff and children. This was very well attended and many were treated, given glasses or advised on eye health.

We took one day out to go and visit another school about 2 hours away. Some of the team had not been there before so it was good for them to experience a different area. We were warmly greeted by the staff and children who treated us to songs and poems. We were shown around the school and grounds and then we gave out cakes and sweets to all the children. It was a lovely day sharing with them and they were happy to receive visitors, some who had never seen a white face before.

There was a day when clothes were given to staff, The men were given smart Jackets, shirts, ties, trousers and shoes. The ladies had dresses, tops, skirts, underwear and some beautiful jewellery that had been brought by some of the team. They were all so happy with the gifts they had been given and it is good to appreciate the staff for all their hard work and dedication to the school.

You may recall the story of Mathias, the blind boy. I am happy to report that he has been given a wonderful opportunity from his sponsor. With Uncle Grace, Jamil, the Headteacher of Primary and Mathias mum, we took him to a wonderful school for blind where we were shown around and Mathias was warmly welcomed by the staff and pupils. He settled in well and felt happy when we left. We will visit him each term to check on his progress. We do thank his sponsor so much for giving him this gift of a good education where he is most suited.

The team took another group of children to the lake. There were 2 busses full of smiling faces, including staff. The children enjoyed swimming, a boat ride and a wonderful meal. They all had a great day out and we do thank the sponsors for providing this opportunity for the children.

When I go back to school on 6th June, I am planning to take the candidate classes which are Primary 7, Senior 4 and Senior 6, on an educational visit to Igongo, which is a cultural centre where they can learn more about their history. This year, the classes are very big so there would be about 120 children, plus the class teachers so we would need to hire 3 busses, fuel and food for everyone. This is a big part of their education and I would greatly appreciate any help towards enabling the visit. Each bus will cost **£160.00** including fuel and the driver. Then we need to provide food for everyone so your contributions would be most appreciated.. Please help the children have a wonderful day out.

We all had a wonderful visit and so much was achieved with many kind donations of beds. Mattresses, building work and many more things. Please join us next year and experience it all for yourself. You will see on the next page a report from 2 of our team, a report from Dr Ezra and from Salim the Opthamologist.

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REPORTS FROM SPONSORS

My first visit was in February 2012 and it continues to be an experience difficult to describe.

On arrival at the school we received a wonderful welcome with singing, dancing and lots of smiles. It's rare to see a child cry but one boy did and he said he was sad that his sponsor wasn't there.

We often get asked if we know their sponsor(s) as they assume that living in the UK we know them all!

As a result of much local support we were pleased to be able to purchase and provide bunk beds, mattresses, dining tables and benches, hand washing stations, rubbish receptacles and a new latrine.

It's worth considering a visit if you're able to- you wouldn't regret it.

Carol, sponsor

As I had such a wonderful experience there in February of 2023, I was thrilled to visit Africa with Love school again in February 2024. Coming from Canada via the UK to Uganda was quite a trip but very well worth it. The children are a joy, so many smiling faces, many of them familiar faces were happy to see our group return again. They were so thankful for all the donated items which we were busy distributing throughout the visit.

Once again, some of the children were able to spend a day at the lake, this is a wonderful experience for them and it is heart warming to see them enjoying the water and tucking in to the buffet meal. Many fell asleep on the bus ride home back to school. All in all, another good experience. The group of sponsors were great travel companions and we thoroughly enjoyed our time with the children.

Looking forward to my next visit – Sandra - Supporter

REPORT FROM DR EZRA

Greetings to you all, We thank God for keeping you well, we pray that he grants you good health.

We thank Jajja Rosemary, Jajja George, Auntie Liz, and all our sponsors for the support towards the Organisation and Jajja George Health Centre in particular.

We are happy to mention that our out patients department added on Ophthalmology as one of the out patient services being offered to our students and surrounding community.

We are pleased to let you know that, this term we have not had any serious, life threatening illness within the school population. This is due to early and timely screening that we do at the Health Centre.

Every student undergoes a check up as they report for a new term and those with health issues are managed accordingly.

However we can not do some tests and investigations due to lack of test kits and reagents because they are quit expensive. We kindly call upon all of you to donate towards the health centre activities. **Each kit costs £13.00**

In march Ministry of Health confirmed an outbreak of Conjunctivitis (Red eyes) disease in some schools and education institutions. We are lucky that we did not record any cases in our schools. We thank our sponsors, auntie Carol and the Barnsley group for providing hand washing facilities to the whole school. Our students can wash hands frequently with soap and water which is one of the prevention measures.

In this month of April the Ministry of Health launched a Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign with a Theme; One Injection, Life Time Protection Against Yellow Fever. On 5th April 2024, a team from ministry of health will be vaccinating our students and the entire school staff at Jajja George Health Centre.

Thank you all for donating towards our students health.

May the Lord Bless You All.

Dr Ezra Kalima – In charge – Jajja George Health Centre

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REPORT FROM SALIM - OPHTHAMOLOGIST

Eye Health workers remain scarce in Uganda with people from remote areas having to travel long distances to find one. The exorbitant sums needed for eye check ups, lack of awareness have left many with complications due to self medication with Traditional Eye Medicine and many blinding conditions such as Glaucoma undiagnosed.

We are deeply grateful to AFRICA WITH LOVE FOUNDATION and Jajja George Health Centre that these services were brought closer to the remote communities as often as monthly.

On my first visit to the facility, I was met with a great number of patients from the community who had eye challenges and had never met an eye specialist.

With the assistance of the team at the facility headed by Dr Ezra, we worked hand in hand with Dr Ian from UK in the screening and treatment of the patients. Many with conditions that required surgical intervention such as Cataracts and Glaucoma were referred to Masaka Regional Referral Hospital.

Those with near vision difficulties (Presbyopia) were refracted for near vision spectacles and were so happy to go with a free pair after regaining their long lost near sight. Many others were refracted for distance spectacles and at least went with knowledge of their prescription.

Many staff members at the school also took up the opportunity to at least get their first check up.

I also noted that the increasing need for UV light and blue light protective spectacles with Allergic Conjunctivitis and its associated photosensitivity being a major problem in these tropical areas.

Conjunctivitis (red eye) has become an epidemic in many schools in Uganda with the government requesting schools to bring in Eye Health workers to act on the situation.

The disease is very contagious spreading through shaking hands, sharing clothing, getting into contact with an infected person among others.

When I visited the School, I expected to find a large number of students affected but the Health Team had done a great job and the situation was still under control with a few students affected, the threat remains especially with many students having gone home for Easter Holidays where they would interact with peers from different schools hence carrying back the infection.

While at the school, I screened and treated the affected students and members of the community, counselled them about the disease and educated them of its spread. I encouraged them to maintain proper facial and hand hygiene, not to share clothing such as towels and also to report anyone cited with signs such as itching, tearing or redness to the Health Team for immediate action.

I advised the community members not to self medicate or use herbal medicine to treat the disease as this could lead to complications and blindness. Some community members also got glasses for reading and near work and were so happy and deeply grateful.

I made a write out of the topical drugs especially antibiotics that need to be stocked and requested the In Charge Dr Ezra to put them in place so that any case arising is dealt with urgently.

I intend to get drafted banners and written out charts that will inform the students more about the disease, its spread and symptoms and also charts with a treatment procedure for the disease to be pinned in the Clinic for the nurses to follow.

The teachers and matrons being the immediate student supervisors and overseers also need to be educated about the disease, this can be made possible through organising a special visit to meet with them before cases increase.

Kazibwe Salim -Clinical Ophthalmologist. (Eye Specialist Jajja George Health Centre @ Africa with Love)

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Team visit for Febraury 2024



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OUR TEAM OF 2024



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THANKS FROM FOUNDERS/DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

We want to thank all our Sponsors and Supporters for your help. As you will have read the good reports in this Newsletter, we are so blessed that the work in our Village continues to grow and for the continued support of Sponsors and Supporters who visit each year in February with the help of our daughter Elizabeth. It is sad that many Sponsors have never visited their children and we would like to encourage you if at all possible to do so, we know it is quite expensive but like one Sponsor said it is worth considering a visit and you would not regret it. You will see that Elizabeth will be visiting again on 6th June, we aim to visit once every term to make sure everything is being done correctly at the school. All thanks goes to our Director Uncle Grace and all the staff.

However of course there are always on going needs and we do ask you to assist us. As you will see, Dr Ezra is in urgent need of some kits for tests and investigations, plus our Ophthalmologist has request us for funds to do some Cataract Operations on the old Jajjas, this is a total impossible situation for them to pay when they have to do all they can to provide food, plus if they loose their sight it will not help. You will have also read about Mathias who thankfully due to his Sponsor is now attending a school for the Blind, but if we would have had an Ophthalmologist on staff before this possibly could have been avoided. **Each kit cost £13.00 and a Cataract operation cost £107.00**

Plus please help us to take the Children on an Educational Visit and if enough funds received, to take more Children to the Lake for an Outing. Can you imagine our children just having to have one trip a year, like we did in the old days, but we know you will want to do all you to assist us with these requests.

Thank you again and for any further Information for the 2025 visit in February please contact Elizabeth in the Office.

WEBSITE - Our website will be out of action for a short time while we are producing a new one, which will bring you more up to date Information and more Photos can be added.

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Registered charity 1079952

I would like to make a donation to the following; My Sponsor Number is

SHOP ORDER FOR CHILDREN £.....

DONATION FOR EDUCATIONAL VISIT- £.....

MEDICINES FOR JAJJA GEORGE HEALTH CENTRE – £.....

HOSPITAL BEDS - £300.00

BUNK BEDS - £85.00.....

MATTRESS - £20.00.....

WHAT IS MOST NEEDED - £.....

Please send all donations to the UK Office at 2 Drury Close, Bowthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk, NR5 9DD
(Cheque payable to A.F.R.I.C.A) Telephone - 01603 951940

Or make an online payment using the details below and send an accompanying email to
africacharity@hotmail.co.uk

Association For Reaching And Instructing Children In Africa

Account number 70378151 – Sort Code 20-49-76

WEBSITE - africawithlove.co.uk

FACEBOOK PAGE – AFRICA WITH LOVE

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