

# Bridging the Gap

## Dear Friends of BOHCM

Welcome to the latest edition of Bridging the Gap. It is such a privilege to look back over the past 18 years and recall how God has blessed and guided the work of BOHCM. With your generous support for people living in poverty we continue to see many lives transformed in Jesus name.



### Children's Village (CV)

A very warm welcome awaited us when we arrived at the CV. It was wonderful to see the sisters Sacred & Joan looking so happy and well loved. These two precious children came to us over a year ago having been abandoned and found tied up in a sack on a rubbish dump.

We met the youngest addition to the family, a two-year-old boy called Brighton whose mother had given birth to him in prison. Children, over the age of two years, cannot remain in prison and sadly no relatives could be traced to care for him. It was so heart-warming to see Brighton dancing, playing, full of energy and eating well, as a few months ago his life was severely restricted.



All the children were eager to tell us about their Christmas celebrations. They had really enjoyed going shopping for a clothing item of their own choice, a Christmas gift from BOHCM. They enjoyed celebrations at church, decorating their homes, a special family meal and of course cake!!



We arranged a special lunch together followed at their request by the traditional games of egg and spoon races, sack races, bubbles and balloons. So much laughter and fun was had by everyone including the House Mothers and Aunts.



The Secondary School children were very excited to go shopping for their requirements before their return to Boarding School. Toiletries, scholastic materials, uniforms, shoes and a mattress & blanket are all essential plus the metal case to store them in.

During the dry seasons it is very difficult to provide enough water for the CV and the BOH School. Despite having rain water harvesters we still experience times of drought. A visit to the office of the National Water & Sewage Corporation (NWSC) proved to be very fruitful and miraculously an engineer was sent to the CV within the hour to assess our needs. By the end of the day we had agreed a financial plan to lay two kilometres of water pipes to reach the CV and School. Work commenced on the trenches within the week and currently pipes and meters are being installed to provide the additional water we need.

### **Twin House – Moving On Programme**

We were delighted to see that the two boys that moved into the Twin House have settled well and are enjoying life in the community. They said that they are learning new independent living skills but feel reassured that they are only five minutes from the CV if they have any problems. The next stage is to plan for two girls to transfer from the CV to community living and our manager will look for a suitable carer to support them during this transition. We are very aware that girls are more vulnerable and a robust plan is required.

### **Sponsored Children**

Preparations were quickly confirmed for the 140 children to receive their annual letter. The senior children write their own letters to their sponsor whilst the younger ones receive help from a translator. Sixteen of the older children will complete their Vocational Training this month and will graduate from the BOHCM programme. We are planning to provide each Graduate with a “Small Business Start-Up Package” to enable them to be fully independent and equipped to work.



During our three weeks in Uganda we undertook many home visit assessments to register children for sponsorship. These visits are always very challenging as we witness first-hand the struggles people go through to care for their children. Many carers are elderly or sick and some homes are headed by children alone. One family had found a new born baby in a field. He is now seven months old and the bond of love between them was so clear, they just need some help to continue to offer him a permanent home. We thank God that we can immediately provide support such as food, clothes, school fees, medical support, all the things we so easily take for granted.

**Bridge of Hope Nursery & Primary School**

Due to the Presidential Elections in January, schools were delayed in opening for the New Academic Year. Our visit to the school in February was very special as we congratulated our headteacher Respa on the excellent exam results achieved by Primary 7 students. We are so proud of all the teachers and students who all worked so hard to gain these impressive results.

**T-Shirt Appeal**

We need new or good quality T-shirts for boys and girls of all ages. If you are able to provide T-shirts for children please pass them on to us. Note: charity shops have good items and will also benefit from any purchases.

**News**

**Youth Sports Programme** – Hillary, our sports leader and all the children were delighted to receive sports kits kindly donated by Enfield Rangers.



The children wearing sports kits kindly donated by Enfield Rangers

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**Spring Coffee Morning** with Stalls 18<sup>th</sup> April, at Enfield Baptist Church (EBC) 10.30am-12.30pm  
**Spring/Summer Craft Fayre** 6<sup>th</sup> June at St. Lukes Church, Enfield, 11-3pm. More information will follow nearer the date.  
**North London Singers – Summer Concert** on 25<sup>th</sup> July, an evening event at EBC. More information will follow nearer the date.

**Shoes** – thank you to St. Michaels School who collected shoes to be distributed to the children without any.



**Pit Latrines** – two more families received a latrine and we are planning to build another three.

**The Protected Spring Programme** – another community celebrated when a generous donation enabled BOHCM to build a much needed Protected Spring, turning a dirty pond into lifesaving water. Forty-nine rural communities have now been blessed with this facility.



**Thank you so much for making a difference, your faithful support and compassion continue to release children & families from poverty.**

**Prayer points**

- Give thanks for our safe and fruitful visit
- Give thanks for the staff team in Uganda
- Pray for the Vocational Graduates to find work
- Pray for BOHCM to be guided by our Almighty God

Proverbs 3:13-14  
*Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold*

