



May 2024

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40.

Dear friends of Orphans Light,

In this Newsletter, we would love to share more about our recent trip to Uganda! It was an opportunity for us and the friends who made it this year; to witness firsthand all that God continues to do in a place far from home. We remain very thankful for all of you who travelled with us, whether physically, or with prayers, or the many gifts you sent with us. Thankful for a safe, productive, trip.

Our trip in February was the best trip yet! The school grounds are more beautiful than ever, and the children are so happy, polite, helpful, and working hard in their studies. The teachers use their skills to make learning fun yet challenging the students to work hard. This hard work was proven when our school was given the highest rating by the government that a school can get. No other school has ever achieved this high honor.

We were also surprised to see a computer lab being built as a very generous donor wanted to provide laptops and all that would be needed to construct this lab, which will improve their education to even a higher level. The children work hard to keep the campus and the buildings clean as they also wash their own clothes and bedding and do it with singing and laughter. It is a joy to be with them and have hundreds of hugs and words of appreciation for even the little things.

The medical clinic, lab, pregnancy care center was a highlight as the staff is so totally dedicated and caring. The government clinic was very sad to see, as they do not have medical equipment or medicine and didn't even know what a band aid was when we donated some things to them.

Johnson, Richard, their wives, Aggie & Annette, and the support staff work very hard to fulfill the vision of a self-sustaining community. Our widows work hard to make crafts that you will buy and love so that they can care for their children and make a better life for themselves. You would be amazed at how much they do with so little.

Words cannot describe the experience and the heart wrenching condition of those who do not have a sponsor. Please pray with us for more sponsors, and sponsors who can carry the baton forward when another sponsor cannot continue to support. Some sponsors cannot afford the \$3,000 a year tuition for their child to go to university. It is very important for them to complete their education that they work so hard to achieve. We would like to start a fund to help supplement the university fees.

Bless you all for your amazing support!!

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A photo moment with the team in Uganda! They love you!

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world ~ James 1:27



This year, we were privileged to be joined by close friends, now family, who I believe may be known to several of you! They represented all of you and witnessed on your behalf. They have generously shared some thoughts!

Meet MaryBeth Vasicko

My trip to Uganda was a 75+yr dream come true. It was awesome and heart wrenching at times. What a joy to meet Johnson, Aggie and kids, and Richard, Annette and their kids. I loved the medical center and so excited about the school and all the students and staff BUT my most amazing experience was kneeling down and looking into the huge brown eyes of my son Shadrach, then seeing his big smile. Our first meeting, I will never forget the utter joy I felt at that moment. Can't wait to do it again. I was so excited to see how well the beautiful school was doing and how happy and healthy the kids looked. When I told my husband about it. He was so happy to hear and said that we needed to sponsor 2 more children! So now we have 5-year-old Noeline and 11-year-old Sarah. So blessed to be in these children's lives and to see how 100% of my support goes to these children. I hope everyone reading this sponsors a child! Or more.

MaryBeth



MaryBeth meeting Shadrach at his home

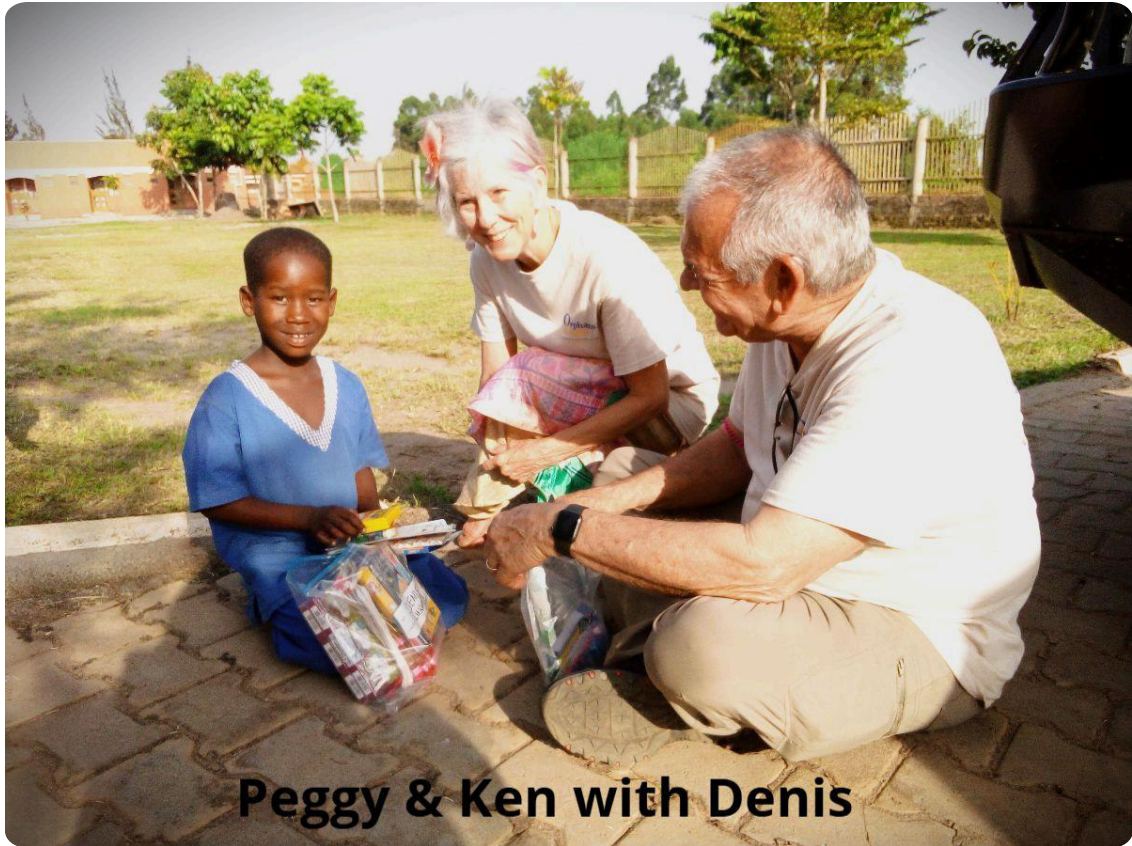
Meet Peggy & Ken McGowen

"...the whole trip was a highlight." ~ Ken. "...I could write a book!" ~ Peggy

When we met for 1st time Denis ... he looked sooo small to us & was very very quiet (naturally) but when we went to his house to meet his family & see his family piglet, we were so happy to watch him with his family.

Sweet little guy and we are honored to support & pray 🙏 for him. We were so impressed with all we saw. It was so much more than pictures and stories from Kathi & Rick. It was so very emotional, beautiful, amazing and yet words cannot express what we did and saw. Ken& I decided we needed to help another child and we met Edson. His sponsor had to stop supporting and he was about to have to leave school as a result. We knew immediately that God wanted us to take him. He is an excellent student with goals and is so involved at school. We were thrilled to spend time with him and get to know him and hear his vision for his future. He is already answering all our letters when we write him. This was and is an amazing experience and pray more people can be blessed by sponsoring a child.

Peggy & Ken McGowen



Peggy & Ken with Denis

Sponsorship Program

Praise God for our new sponsors! Thank you for joining us on this journey. Please use any opportunity to share with others and give a child and their family a chance for quality education embedded with values, provided at Act Junior and High schools.



Some of the children in the community who came to meet us!
They are not in school because their parents cannot afford.

More 2024 Trip Pictures

Please enjoy more February Trip pictures below. Please let us know if you have any questions on kathi@orphanslight.net.



Special Moment - Denis (child) & Ken (Sponsor)



This is how the team travels to the community



Medical Center Team



Distributing bread to the widows as they made baskets



**Visiting a government community health center.
We gave the children clothes**



**Meeting Children sponsored through Orphans
Light. So many questions about USA!**



Special moment! Mom & Daughter



**This is one of the girls we met on the
way. She is not able to attend school. We
gave her dresses.**



A visit to one of the sponsored children's homes



Peggy & Ken and their new sponsored Child Edison



Karen with her sponsored children. It was all joy!!



Some of the children with gifts from their sponsor



Group picture for children sponsored by one of our dear friends. Imagine the future impact!



Pre-school children in class at Act Junior School



Family house for one of our sponsored children. Many are working hard in school to change such conditions.



Please continue to pray for

- God's continued provision to enable us to do more furnishings to create space for mere children.
- God's healing for the red eyes epidemic at our schools. This is a problem in the entire country at the moment.
- God's continued provision and good health for all our dear sponsors and donors. Many children and programs still need their support.
- More child Sponsors and donors. Derrick K is in 8th grade needs to continue as he was abandoned but doing well at school. There are many

children needing a sponsor to have an opportunity for quality education and hope for a future, freedom from hunger and disease.



Donations are gratefully accepted through the web page, Zelle, PayPal, Venmo or by mail to: PO Box 1967, Auburndale, FL 33823.

Special Prayer Requests

1. Urgent Housing Need

We are raising funds for a family in great need on a house. We need \$6,000 and have so far raised \$2,135. Please share with one you think can help with this situation. Richard (2nd from Left) is our sponsored child, and their family house is not safe for living.

By faith, the guardian has already

2. Need for a College Sponsor

David and two other orphans live with their grandmother. They lost both parents to HIV/AIDS. Through our sponsorship program, David has completed High School and excelled in the recent national High School tests to merit college entry. He wants to be a Community Service Manager or a Teacher.

started clearing the bushes from the area where the house will be constructed. We are believing God for provision, so we can construct this house before the next rainy season. Please remember this family when you pray!



We are looking for a sponsor to support his 4 college years to make his dream reality. We had to send him home after graduating with high grades, but his sponsor could not pay his college.



Help Keep Vicky & Derrick in School



Victoria and her two siblings live with their aunt, Maria. They lost both parents to HIV/AIDS while she was 3 years. Maria volunteered to stay with them but is unable to support them in school. Victoria wants to be a teacher and her favorite color is pink. She has been part of our sponsorship program, unfortunately, her sponsors are unable to continue. Your sponsorship will keep Vicky in school and maintain her hope.



Derrick and his three siblings live with their mother, Carol. Their father abandoned the family and his whereabouts are unknown. Derrick has been enrolled in our sponsorship program, but unfortunately, his sponsors are unable to continue. He wants to be a lawyer and his favorite color is red. Derrick is one of the school student leaders always ready to serve everyone. Your sponsorship will keep him in school.



With our sponsored Children, Emmanuel & Benah

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If you have question and/or suggestions.
Please contact Rick or Kathi Palmer on 863-660-2262.
Emails: kathi@orphanslight.net