

# BRICK BY BRICK

The Newsletter of  
**Building Hope in Kids – Uganda**



PO Box 612  
Washington, IL 61571

Volume II Issue 1 [www.buildinghopeinkids.org](http://www.buildinghopeinkids.org)

February 2018

## Founder's Corner



Dear supporters of BHIK-U,

Sincere greetings from warm Uganda, from me and my family. I left the U.S. on Dec. 28 and arrived in homeland Uganda on Dec. 29 (after a journey of a total 22 hours). Since my arrival, I have commuted between home to be with family and with friends and visited a few priest colleagues after almost 9 years stay in the U.S. – lots of catching up! My bishop was kind enough to allow me the entire month of January 2018 to rest and get settled back before my next official assignment for ministry and service in my home diocese of Kabale.

During this time of holiday, it has been a tremendous blessing for me to be able to monitor progress of construction at the school site for our future St. Patrick Boarding Primary School. Serious construction work commenced in the second week of January as we had planned. For almost 4 weeks now a total of 10 masons, one Engineer and one site manager and 25 porters have worked every single day, and the first major structure to house all classrooms for the entire school is coming out of the foundation. We had to dig deep - about six feet in the ground - to ensure a firm foundation and it has really taken so many "bricks". Thanks to the "Donate a Brick" fundraiser we did to prepare for this phase! My patience was tested as the structure was not getting built up out of the foundation, but I was reminded that the foundation is the heart of the building so I should not panic.

While I've been at the school site, I have interacted with neighbors and have already done some good publicity about the school. The environment is extremely friendly and people have promised to send students. Many of these neighbors are already soliciting for jobs and willing to work with us (both religious and lay people). Once we have the structures up and ready, the next phase (recruitment of students and faculty) will be easier.

The major task this year is to continue the momentum we started on last year to raise funds to continue construction and eventually operate the school. The projection is to open in the first week of February 2019. Thank you to Mr. Dan Thomas and Comcast for completing the first video that will be used in our future fund-raising efforts.

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

## Calendar Notes



### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

**7:00 am** Monthly meeting of BHIK-U Board of Directors- Rectory basement meeting room

### FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018

**12:00 pm** BHIK-U ribbon-cutting and plaque presentation at Washington Chamber of Commerce.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

**7:00 am** Monthly meeting of BHIK-U Board of Directors- Rectory basement meeting room

### MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018

**5:30 pm** BHIK-U Advisory Council mtg. at Knights of Columbus Hall in Washington

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

**7:00 am** Monthly meeting of BHIK-U Board of Directors- Rectory basement meeting room

### SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

**All Day** Bus trip to Cubs vs Cardinals game at Busch Stadium – fundraiser for BHIK-U

### SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

**6:30 pm** Peoria Chiefs game; "Faith & Family Night"- fireworks and Christian concert after game– fundraiser for BHIK-U

In this issue..	Pg
Uganda school construction update	2
Fundraising events	3
Board President's comments	3
How to help us keep costs down	4
Fr.'s letter (cont.); Board of Directors	4



# Exciting Progress!



By the second week of December, thousands of large bricks/ blocks were curing in the sun. They were all made onsite. Next, workers began mixing concrete using a small machine that required them to constantly add the proper mix of "ingredients."



While awaiting his new assignment from his bishop, Father Julius has been spending quite a bit of time at the school site.



*Below right:* Foundation blocks that have been laid by 10 masons and 25 porters. The classroom bldg. will be 100 meters long, 2 stories high, 30 rooms.

The activity at the school site has generated much interest and excitement in the area - - not only for what the completed boarding school will offer students and teachers, but even more, for the opportunity for employment it is offering to willing workers in the area.

*Below left:* Foundation work: rocks above the dirt, sand above rocks, then concrete for floor above that.





# FUNDRAISING CONTINUES!



**Saturday, May 5**

**Bus trip to Cubs vs Cardinals game  
at Busch Stadium**

**Bus leaves from St. Monica's at 8:00 a.m.**

**Cost: \$125/person**

**(incl. roundtrip bus, game ticket, drinks on bus)**

**Checks to: Adolph Arnold**

**111 Regent Ct., East Peoria, IL 61611  
Call or text him, 264-7221 for more information**

**All proceeds to  
Building Hope in Kids - Uganda**

*Thank you for your support!*

*Coming Soon...*



BHIK-U  
logo on  
chest;  
sponsors  
on back

**Sweatshirts in sizes  
Youth to Adult XXXL**

will be sold at St. Patrick's  
& St. Monica's churches  
and K of C fish fries during  
Lent. More info will be  
announced in church  
bulletins and on our  
website as it becomes  
available.

Have an interesting idea for a great fundraiser? Are you a fanatic fan of Facebook? Do you really dig digital designing? If so, we'd love to add your expertise and enthusiasm to either our Fundraising or Communications team! Contact Heather or Chris to find out more - - see pg. 4 of this newsletter for our contact info.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**BHIK-U 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Peoria Chiefs Fundraiser:  
Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**



More information  
will be available  
in the April  
newsletter.

Follow the news  
on our website:

[www.buildinghopeinkids.org](http://www.buildinghopeinkids.org)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT , JOHN GRILLOT

The year 2018 has arrived with a mixture of sadness, joy, excitement, challenge, and confidence.

**Sadness** ... comes from Fr. Julius' return to Uganda.

We will miss him dearly in so many ways, but we know we will stay in touch and will see him in the future. **Joy** ... comes from the successes achieved thus far in our fundraising efforts with our hundreds of supporters. **Excitement** ... comes with the start of the actual construction of the school in Uganda (as shown elsewhere in this newsletter).

**Challenge** ... comes with a full recognition of the magnitude of the task in front of us.

**Confidence** ... comes with having faith that God will continue to be with us as we go forward over the upcoming months and years.

Although Fr. Julius is now in Uganda, the Board of Directors will continue to meet on a monthly basis to lead and guide our organization. We moved our meeting time to early morning in the USA so that Fr. Julius can attend via a free Wi-Fi teleconference. Our focus going into 2018 will be to build on the



fundraising and communications successes of last year, fulfill our legal & regulatory requirements as a 501c3 organization, and work to ensure that our funds are being properly and effectively utilized in Uganda.

Another part of our transition will involve using videos for fundraising appeals during 2018. The first video features Father Julius, Father Steve, and Mrs. Shipman ... all of whom are strong supporters of our project. A second, somewhat longer, video is now in development.

Thanks to the expertise and efforts of Dan Thomas, and the generosity of Comcast, these professional videos are being provided pro bono and at no cost to BHIK-U.

2018 is upon us, and we embrace our challenges with joy, excitement, and confidence!

*John Grillof*

John Grillof, Board President

## REMEMBER:

Secure online donations can be made on our website:

[www.buildinghopeinkids.org](http://www.buildinghopeinkids.org)

You can designate your donation as "In Memory of " or

"In Honor of " loved ones you name.

**All donations to BHIK-U are tax-deductible.**

The next printed edition of the BHIK-U newsletter "Brick by Brick" will be published at the beginning of April. In order to defray the cost of printing and mailing it, we need sponsors who will underwrite the approximate \$500 cost. If you'd like to be a sponsor (and have your name mentioned here) contact Chris Venzon, 309-444-9571, 309-696-5939 (text), or [chris\\_venzon@comcast.net](mailto:chris_venzon@comcast.net)

## HELP US CUT COSTS:

To reduce the printing and postage cost, we'd like to share future news with you by way of an emailed link to our bi-monthly newsletters.

You can stay up on the news from Father Julius in Uganda, and have one less piece of mail to sort! Go to [www.BuildingHopeInKids.org](http://www.BuildingHopeInKids.org) and click on the **NEWS** tab. The link to sign up for the newsletter is at the top: **NEWSLETTER**.



## Building Hope in Kids – Uganda

PO Box 612  
Washington, IL 61571

May the  
God of  
**hope**  
fill you  
with  
all joy  
and  
peace...

Rom 15:13

### Founder's Corner - continued

As I settled back in homeland Uganda and home diocese of Kabale, I had a 1.5 hour visit with my bishop on Feb. 5. He updated me on diocesan programs. I shared in detail with him our school project; he is in total support and sends blessings to all of you for your support. He has asked me to be the Pastor in a parish located in a city near the school - so I can easily continue to monitor the progress of the work at the school. That is such good news! He will make a public announcement of my assignment in Mid-February and I will immediately start work.

**Keep me and our school project in your prayers, and be assured of my prayers for you.**

Love and choice blessings,

*Fr. Julius*

### To contact a member of the Board of Directors of BHIK-U:

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