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The Newsletter of
Building Hope in Kids – Uganda

PO Box 612 Washington, IL 61571
www.buildinghopeinkids.org



Volume IV Issue 1 February 2020

Founder's Corner

Dear friends, donors, sponsors and benefactors!

Greetings and love from Uganda, from St. Patrick Nursery and Primary School and from me.

Allow me to first wish you a very happy New Year 2020. We had a great first year of our school. We closed with a total enrollment of 356.

We started the new academic year on February 1st (for the boarding students) and the rest (day scholars) reported on February 3rd.

Due to the growing popularity of the school, we now have a total enrollment of 513 students, 26 teaching staff members and 25 support staff. 144 boys and 140 girls of these students are boarders, and 249 are day scholars.

Because of the increased enrollment of students, we have recruited 10 new teaching staff members (and two more matrons) because most of the classes have been streamed into two.

We are thankful to our donors and benefactors that enabled us to complete the two dormitories where the boarding students now live. Half of the upper level of the classroom block that housed the students last year has now been converted back into classrooms.

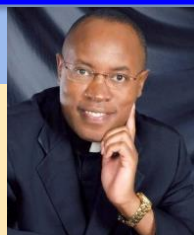
I continue to serve as a Pastor at Christ the King Parish which has 22 mission churches, assisted by two Parochial Vicars. This gives me an opportunity to come to supervise the school once every two weeks and stay a couple of days.

Now that the school has grown and we have a big staff, we continue to appeal to you our esteemed friends and donors to continue supporting us especially that now we would like to build more staff quarters for our teachers.

Thank you again and please be assured of our love and continued prayers.

Wishing you choice blessings,

Fr. Julius
Fr. Julius



Calendar Notes

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

7:30 am Monthly meeting of BHIK-U Board of Directors

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

7:30 am Monthly meeting of BHIK-U Board of Directors

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

7:30 am Monthly meeting of BHIK-U Board of Directors

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020

End of the first of 3 terms in the 2020 school year in Uganda

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The 2019 school year at St. Patrick Nursery & Primary School concluded with an all-school Mass celebrated by Father Julius. Sikora Hall was filled with students eager to begin vacation.



One look at the student body during Mass leaves no doubt that a larger chapel is going to be needed very soon!

While the students were on their long break, workers were getting the school ready for the 2020 school year. The dormitories were finished in time for move-in on Feb 1!



Front view of Harmon Hall, the girls' dorm, which faces the east. Each level will house 80-100 students, and provide a small apartment for one teacher.

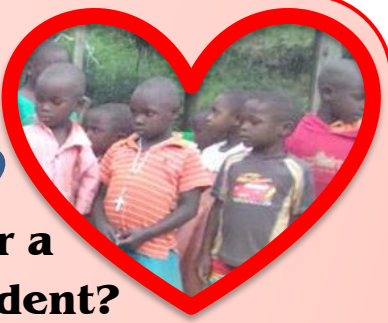


Staff meeting on Friday, 1/31, the day before the boarding students arrived



One of the dormitory rooms (Definitely looks like it could pass any inspection!)

**Can you
find room
in your 
to sponsor a
young student?**



As Father Julius explained in his Pg.1 column, the 2020 enrollment at St. Patrick Nursery & Primary School in Uganda has far exceeded all of our expectations! As a result, there are more students who need sponsors.

Thus, we are now in need of additional sponsors for students. The cost of a student sponsorship for 2020 is \$50/month for 12 months, or \$600/year.

If you're willing to sponsor a student, please go to our website, www.buildinghopeinkids.org.

- Click on the "SUPPORT" tab.
- Scroll down; click on the "SPONSORSHIP" link.
- Fill in the form, and click "SUBMIT".
(Skip the part about creating a form!)
- Back Arrow TWICE to reach the "Support" page & click on "PLEASE DONATE" to set up online sponsorship payments.
- If you prefer to pay by check, mail a check payable to "BHIKU" to:
BHIKU
PO Box 612
Washington, IL 61571

***Thank you for your
generosity!***

Good News for Caterpillar Employees/Retirees!

Effective January 1, 2020, Caterpillar has expanded their eligibility guidelines for Matching Gifts. For the first time ever, Building Hope In Kids – Uganda is now eligible for their Matching Gifts!

All Caterpillar employees and retirees are eligible to request that Caterpillar match their donation to BHIKU. The Cat participant (employee/ retiree) submits a request for a match for their donation to "Building Hope in Kids – Uganda" by going to www.caterpillar.com/matching-gifts. They will need to enter their Caterpillar PeopleSoft I.D. number. If that is unknown, they can call the HR Service Ctr. at 800-447-6434. The Matching Gift receipt can be emailed to grilljwBHIK@buildinghopeinkids.org or printed & mailed to BHIKU, PO Box 612, Washington, IL 61571. BHIKU will then confirm the donation and Caterpillar will subsequently send the matching funds directly to BHIKU. More details are available on the website referenced above; see the "[Guidelines](#)". (click on the link in Paragraph#2.) Questions?? Contact John Grillot, 309-696-4846 (text or call), or email him: grilljw@gmail.com.

If you are a Caterpillar employee or retiree, please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to make your donation doubly powerful!

**A Blast from
the Past:**
(Dec. 2017)
A bulldozer
in position
and ready
to begin
clearing the
5-acre site
for the school.



Stay tuned for these events

COMING SOON



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Happy Birthday, Fr. Julius!
May 7th

*Email your birthday wish to
Father Julius:
jturya@gmail.com*

**WEAR YOUR
SHIRT TO THE
BALLGAMES!**



**T-SHIRT SPONSORS
WELCOME!**

Email us:
info@buildinghopeinkids.org

**Custom
BHIK-U
T-shirt
orders
will begin
in May --
be proud to show
you're building
hope
in
kids!**



PEORIA CHIEFS
Baseball game
July 25th 6:35pm



IN AN ENCORE APPEARANCE:

**Fr. Julius will once again
throw out the 1st pitch!**

Watch for ticket announcements!

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS BASEBALL!

BUS TRIP TO SEE THE ROCKIES @ CARDINALS

Thursday, June 18th 12:15 pm

Bus leaves St. Monica's in E.P. at 8:00am

\$85 incl. bus, game ticket, drinks on bus

Send checks payable to: Adolph Arnold

111 Regent Ct., East Peoria, IL 61611

All money earned goes to Building Hope in Kids-Uganda

**TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW**

DON'T DELAY!



Father Julius plans to be in Illinois in July & August!

More info to come. once his travel arrangements are set.



**A Bus Trip to a
CHICAGO CUBS**

game at

Wrigley Field

**is being planned for
2020 as well.**

*More info coming as soon
as it's available!*

...and still more photos of the 1st day of school (Sorry – no info available on which grades are pictured here.)



Heartfelt Words from our guest columnist:

Mr. Maxmas Birungi, Headmaster



Greetings from St. Patrick Nursery & Primary School, Rwakiruri, Isingiro-Uganda.

I wish to thank parents & guardians for giving us an opportunity to look after their children at St. Patrick.

In our first year of existence, i.e. 2019, we made numerous achievements among which the following deserve to be mentioned:

- Obtained license for the school with the Ministry of Education & Sports
- Registration of the school with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau
- Opened bank accounts to help in management of funds
- Employed qualified staff
- Mobilised strategically in order to get pupils
- Completed the construction of classrooms, Administration Hall, Multipurpose Hall, kitchen & dormitories. On this note, am humbled to thank our donors & benefactors very much for the great support towards the development of St. Patrick.

May God bless you & we shall always pray for you.

ENROLLMENT

Our school started with the enrollment of 317 pupils in term one 2019 & has now grown to 513 pupils as of today. We thank God for this tremendous increase. Our school has continued to gain popularity because parents have realized that we are providing holistic education and we are determined to achieve our vision, "Education for Holistic Excellence".

Yours sincerely,
Maxmas Birungi
Headmaster

From the President's Desk...



Thanks to many generous donors, we wrapped up a successful 2019 by completing funding for the Phase 2 construction. The major focus of Phase 2 was two new dormitories, for boys (Meehan Hall) and girls (Harmon Hall). When the 2020 academic year starts on February 3, our boarding students will be housed in real dormitories rather than in temporary housing on the upper level of the classroom block. In addition to providing better housing for the students, this frees up the classroom block to be devoted to classrooms and related educational purposes.

We are now embarking on Phase 3 construction for the school comprised of two major buildings (teacher housing and chapel) and a couple of smaller items. Our initial focus is to provide additional housing for teachers. We currently have on-site housing for ten teachers in parts of the multipurpose hall and dormitories; the new Phase 3 building will house eight additional teachers as well as two school administrators. Providing housing for teachers is a part of their total compensation package, and is a key factor in attracting and retaining the top-notch teachers needed for our premier school. We have currently raised about \$50,000 towards the \$230,000 needed for the teacher housing, and are targeting to complete the funding and construction during calendar year 2020.

While 2019 was a highly successfully year overall, it ended on a sad note with the death of Dan Meehan at the age of 89. Linked by common friends, Dan contacted us and challenged us 15 months ago to raise \$200,00 from Nov 2018 - April 2019 in order to qualify for a matching \$200,000 grant from his family

foundation. When we achieved our goal, he did indeed donate \$200,000. His generosity was decisive in our ability to have the dormitories ready for the start of the 2020 school year in Uganda. I am grateful that my wife Kay and I were able to meet Dan and his lovely wife Eileen this past July at their home in Milwaukee. The lives of many children in Uganda will forever be improved as a result of Dan's life and actions

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome Father Julius for a two-month visit during July-August 2020. Official documents are now being prepared and exact dates are being established. During his visit Fr. Julius is looking forward to renewing and strengthening past relationships throughout central Illinois, and also starting new relationships. He looks forward to personally sharing with you the excitement, enthusiasm, and commitment of the students, their families, and the staff. We will be setting up events throughout his visit and will be communicating these in the upcoming months.

We continue to ask for your prayers, your encouragement and your financial support. While much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done. You are truly making a difference in the world!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Grillot". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Grillot
Board President
grilljw@gmail.com 309-696-4846