

# BRICK BY BRICK

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



PO Box 612  
Washington, IL 61571

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www.buildinghopeinkids.org

February - March 2019



## Founder's Corner

Dear donors, sponsors, benefactors, friends and well-wishers of Building Hope In Kids - Uganda,

Greetings from me and from St. Patrick Nursery & Primary School in Rwakiruri-Isingiro-Uganda. (*town-district-country*)

As the BHIKU Board President (Mr. John Grillot) put it: a "53-WEEK MIRACLE!" I am glad to report to you that the last 53 weeks have indeed been weeks of grace and blessings.

Thank you all for being part of this dream turned into a reality. I'm glad to report that our long-awaited opening of the school started on February 2 with receiving the boarding students and the day scholars reporting on February 4, when we officially began classes. We thank those sponsoring the 100 students, all in the boarding section. May the Lord bless you all abundantly for your generosity!

Prior to the opening I was at the school site for three weeks (I took my annual vacation to get the school ready). I had a lot of support from the headmaster (Principal), Mr. Maxmas Birungi, who was recruited in December 2018. With his help we recruited other faculty and have a total of 5 administrative staff, 14 teachers and 20 support staff. We also have a chaplain to celebrate Mass for the students on Wednesdays and Sundays, and a nun for catechism classes for the students. All the staff are excited to work "in this beautiful school" as they call it. The students love their school and when you ask them what they love most some of the answers include: "We have very beautiful buildings," "We have very good teachers," and "We eat very well." For the whole month prior to opening we were receiving parents coming to check on the premises and to our amazement even those who had promised to send one child ended up bringing more, and even directing friends to send children to our school.

After opening I stayed in the school four days; on Thursday evening Feb. 7, I returned to my job of Pastor in my Parish (though I am constantly in touch with the Headmaster and everything is running smoothly). We have registered great success in recruiting students, as we had anticipated about 200 students, and actually have 302 students.

Once again, thank you for being part of this success story. Words can never be enough to thank you. We promise to keep you in our prayers. Wishing you choice blessings - - Sincerely,

*Fr. Julius*

Fr. Julius Turyatoranwa (PhD) - Founder



## Calendar Notes

### WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 9-10, 2019

Parish Mission Appeal at St. Patrick's, Washington at all weekend Masses

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

7:30 am Monthly meeting of BHIKU Board of Directors- St. Pat's office meeting room

### SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

EAF on the Red Carpet: ISU Gala event to recognize outstanding students, faculty & alumni; Fr. Dr. Julius one of the honorees

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

7:30 am Monthly meeting of BHIKU Board of Directors- St. Pat's office meeting room

### SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

BHIKU Info display at St. Mary's, Bloomington at coffee & donuts after Sunday Masses

# 2019 Mission Trip to Uganda

There are still a few available places on the mission trip to Uganda in 2019.

- **Timing: July 22 - August 3, 2019**
  - Mon, Jul 22 afternoon ... depart USA (probably from Chicago)
  - Tue, Jul 23 (approx. 10:00pm) ... arrive Uganda
  - Wed, Jul 24 - Fri, Aug 2 .... in Uganda
  - Fri, Aug 2 - approx. 11:00pm ... depart Uganda
  - Sat, Aug 3 ... arrive USA early afternoon
- **Duration: 13 days total** (10 days "in country")
- **Participants: 8-10 people**
- **Events/Activities:**
  - Saturday, July 27 ... Celebrate Fr. Julius's 21st Anniversary of his Ordination AND the "official" opening celebration for the school
  - On-site at School: Do some Painting and Landscaping of the dormitories
  - Cultural: Queen Elizabeth National Park, Lake Bunyonyi, Namungongo (Ugandan Martyrs Shrine), and more.
- **Cost Estimate: \$3,000 - \$3,500 per person**  
(not yet finalized, but "in the ballpark")
  - \$1200-\$1400 flights
  - \$500-\$700 vaccinations/medicines
  - \$1000-\$1200 in country (\$100/day for lodging, meals, local transportation)
  - \$300 "contingency"





# NOW SHOWING:



## St. Patrick Nursery & Primary School – Day & Boarding





Feb. 4-  
First  
day of  
school  
for  
Pre-K  
(nursery)  
thru  
6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade





## President's Report – from John Grillot, BHIK-U Board President

A major school milestone was reached when classes started on Monday, February 4th with a total of 302 students. To support the school project, Building Hope In Kids - Uganda has led the fundraising efforts to complete the Phase 1 construction, sponsor 100 students, and start Phase 2 funding. We are grateful for our many donors throughout central Illinois, around the state, and in 21 other states around the USA, for their prayers and financial support.


We are also most thankful for the "\$200,000 or Bust" Challenge Grant received from Dan Meehan's family foundation in Milwaukee. This grant will contribute \$200,000 to the school project when (and only if) we raise \$200,000 on our own by April 30, 2019. We have considered this grant a Godsend and an answer to our prayers. At the same time, Dan Meehan is most appreciative of our efforts and has stated: *"Your team is an answer to my prayers."* I am pleased to report that as of February 11th we have received over \$165,000 since the Challenge Grant started on November 1, 2018. We are blessed with generous donors and fully expect to meet the \$200,000 goal prior to the deadline.

As Fr. Julius noted, the enrollment of 302 students has exceeded expectations; we are about a year ahead of planned enrollment. This is great news ... and also a huge challenge. As planned from the beginning, to start school operations the upper level of the St. Monica Classroom Block would be used as "temporary housing" and the lower level for classrooms. We had planned to transition from the "temp housing" arrangement over the next two years. Due to capacity needs, we have pulled forward the full dormitory construction into 2019.

This will free up needed classroom space in the St. Monica Classroom Block and provide for increased capacity for student housing for the 2020 academic year. The financial impact is that we need to not only meet the Challenge Grant, but also raise another \$154,000 for construction during calendar year 2019.

When considering making a donation, some have asked me a very real question: "How do I know that my donations will go to the school and are not somehow siphoned off elsewhere (especially considering that we are sending it to Uganda)?" My response to this generally takes on three parts. First, BHIKU is a totally volunteer organization with extremely low expenses; 98% of our funds go directly to the school. Second, we have a clean financial process with no "middle men". Donations go into a local bank in the USA and are periodically wired to Fr. Julius' bank in Uganda where he withdraws money as required to pay the bills. The funds do not go through a government or other agency where fees may be required. Third, as evidenced by what's already been accomplished for less than \$600,000, Fr. Julius is a tough negotiator, is highly frugal, and is a good steward of funds.

We ask for your continued prayers and support. We have accomplished much, but much is yet ahead. In closing, I offer the words of a song by Steve Angrisano: **"Go make a difference, we can make a difference ... Go make a difference in the world!"**



John Grillot  
Board President