



## Abba Father's House

Charity Registration No. 1209857

### New Year Updates



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We welcome you to join us in contributing to influencing many children's destinies through support and provision of education, health living, project work, faith awareness and learning as a way to a good future.

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## Editorial

It's that time of the year when we think about new beginnings and much to look forward to.

Firstly, we welcome you to our first newsletter for 2025 and we continue to give thanks to God for your individual lives and the support you have given us over the years. We pray and wish you a good and peaceful year ahead.

2024 was a good year, and we ended it well with some exemplary achievements, including the construction of the biogas digester. Most of the children performed well, and all were promoted to the next classes. Lety, who skipped a class, managed to do really well at the primary, leaving exams despite skipping primary six.

Please help us to celebrate Tabitha as well, who got excellent high school grades.

We're also saying farewell to Evelyn as her time to get married has come.

I hope you will find the newsletter informative.

From the editor

## Leader's message

Creating a good environment at the AFH campus is at the heart of what we stand for, and it contributes to the local community's well-being. We want the children raised at AFH to have a good experience and to participate in the improvements of the place they call home. This includes facing tough choices and decisions in our daily lives, be they worries of family juggling the everchanging home budget, more so at AFH, especially as there is no local support from the Government, and we rely on child sponsorship.

This year, the budget is even more challenging as school fees and pretty much everything keeps going up, yet the lives of our young people must continue. We have many ideas for improving the Home in Jinja, which can only be implemented with the availability of resources and skilled labour.

We trust that with God's and your support, we will be able to do what we can prudently and carefully allocate donations to the most needful areas of the Home's operations to ensure that children are cared for as much as possible.

Sending you our warm wishes and blessings for this new year.

## Our New Trustee

A message from Chris Hall, our new trustee:

I've known Juliet for many years as a friend and as the founder of Abba Father's House. Juliet's passion, drive, and commitment to Abba Father's House is unparalleled. In that time, I have always helped out with Abba Father's House in terms of financial support and practical assistance, such as providing and managing the website.

Abba Father's House in the UK has charitable status and is overseen by trustees. Last year, I was delighted to accept an invitation from Juliet and the other trustees to become a trustee myself.

I have to say it has been an eye opener so far! There is so much to do regarding the orphanage in Uganda, and it is absolutely miraculous what Juliet has managed to do with the funding and support that our generous supporters provide.

As a trustee I want to see Abba Father's House getting much more exposure, much more support, and just as importantly to relate better to our supporters, to keep everyone much more informed about what's happening. I also want to expand the capabilities of the website by adding an online shop selling Widow's Crafts. Many years ago, Juliet and I talked about creating "Shop Beautiful" for this purpose. Finally, we are almost there so watch this space!

Chris

### Highlights on Juliet's December 2024 Trip to Uganda

Praise the Lord for His mercy and provision, and thank you all for your prayers and support for the above trip, which generally went well, but the challenge this time was the loss of one of my suitcases.

I left the UK on the 7<sup>th</sup> and arrived at Jinja at midnight on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, receiving a warm welcome from staff members and some of the older children who were still awake as it was holiday time. I found the Home in good order, thanks to Evelyn, our volunteer staff. This made a difference for me not to run into emergencies as it tends to be most times. The children and projects were all okay. I rested for a day and then started engaging with home matters.



### Staffing:

Staffing was one of the main reasons for my visit, as the previous officer had left abruptly. Thank God for His goodness that Evelyn had joined, and she stepped in the gap and had to learn without any handover notes apart from my remote training.

Thankfully, a friend in the UK introduced her sister Josephine to me, whom we have appointed as the Home's Warden. Josephine arrived a couple of days after my arrival, and I had the opportunity to do the induction and interact with her whilst I was on the ground. Days later, a few ladies were introduced to me for the position of House Mothers, so I arranged interviews, which took place during my last week in Uganda. I took on the three new ladies on a trial basis and will observe how they all get on.

Evelyn will be leaving us to get married at the end of February. Eva will leave a big gap at AFH, but I asked her to train the new ladies. Hopefully, they will learn to take on their responsibilities by the end of February. Prayer is needed for this to happen, as the Home needs staff stability.

### **New Committee members:**

Before my travel, I had made contact with two people (Peninnah and Ivan) who had shown interest in coming aboard our Jinja local committee. I had the opportunity to meet with them before Christmas, and they both had much to offer, except they are as busy as the other committee members we currently have. Peninnah is a Pastor and Teacher, whilst Ivan is an Evangelist and a District Social Worker, which requires him to travel to different parts of Jinja District.

Peninnah and Ivan promised to give extra support to AFH, especially with staff training. They both promised to visit the Home to spend time with the children. As it was Christmas time, I left before they started engaging with the children; however, they helped source genuine orphans through Ivan's contacts, who are mainly pastors. Given the time of the year, I didn't hold any official meetings with the local committee, but I met them one-on-one.

### **Children Welfare**



The children were as good as expected, which was a joy. The children were on holiday, so the Home was bustling, and life was much easier for me with the children around me. This helped us to carry out as many activities as possible, using material given by Julie RCF Church Administrator, gardening Christmas preparation, etc. I bought many plants we planted to uplift the Home's looks, but the sun had started scorching them when I left. Hopefully, some will thrive as they were being watered.

Children enjoy their stay at AFH, and everyone has their part to play at Home and develop their project skills.

It also gives them confidence to make friends as they feel free to share ideas, play games, and tell stories. Doreen, who was raised at AFH and re-settled after completing her studies, visited us during Christmas and engaged with the children in cooking and making cakes and biscuits prepared for Christmas. She helped to set an example of success and inspired the children to pursue and follow their dreams.

Our older children are well-behaved and supportive and contribute to the home activities, especially project work. They also play a part in helping new employees to settle in, showing them ways things are done at AFH and by so doing, they set an example for the younger ones to follow.

Our primary leavers did well and are excited and ready to join Secondary School education. We informed you of our Lety, who skipped primary six and went straight to primary seven. I'm proud to say that she performed very well, and she has already been offered a position in senior one to start her Secondary School education. As we shared via our WhatsApp chat, Tabitha, who also sat for O' Levels (GCSE) last year, has done exceptionally well and passed with a 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We're glad to be part of her story; she

made us proud. Tabitha will be joining A 'Levels this year. In short, all our children have been promoted to the following levels.

At present, we currently have twenty-two children placed at AFH and two supported from their guardian's homes. We have children in all classes, from nursery to A 'Level.

### **Re-settlement of children**

Hosiah, one of the older children, was re-settled in December, and his placement has already been offered to another young boy from a very challenging background. Hosiah went to spend time with his relatives in the village and then will be going to work in Kampala city. 2 more children were re-settled as it felt right and safe for them to return home. We will keep in touch with their relatives to check on their progress.

### **Placement of new children**



Creativity of foot ball and dolls from banana fibres

Whilst at the Home, I also worked with staff and committee members to replace the vacant positions, so we have quite a few new children, including 4-year-old Alpha.

### **Networking and ministry**

I have made a few contacts with new people re: the ministry and hence came up with two new committee members. One of the new committee members is very good at vetting children's vulnerability, and he has helped us locate genuine orphans so far. I also connected to some Pastors who will continue to come and pray with the children and teach them to pray for themselves.

### **Christmas celebrations**



Desert time

Christmas celebrations went very well, and I would like to thank all who spared some of their hard-earned funds to share with us at AFH. By Christmas day, three new children had been placed, and they were discovering the new environment.

Doreen, one of our past children, came and made cakes with Tabitha, who is still at AFH, and they made delicious cakes. We had plenty for the children to eat, drink and have fun, as you may have seen from the pictures we shared. It rained first thing in the morning, and lunch was a bit late, but the dining table was very colourful.



Relaxation on new year's eve

The widows didn't join us this time, but they were given financial support to help them celebrate Christmas as well. Mary, one of the former children, joined us for Christmas. We took some pictures, and then I received a WhatsApp group call from the former children in the evening, which was a good surprise as I had an opportunity to see them and catch up with what they are doing. For my Christmas present, the former children of AFH presented me with a large handmade portrait of me using my WhatsApp profile picture, which was a good surprise.

The day soon ended, and the children went to bed looking forward to the next day, which was even more fun as they were expecting to get their Christmas presents. The children sang worship songs and thanked God for the opportunity to be at AFH, where they could be valued, loved and given presents they would never have ever dreamed of.



## Project work



Project work

Project work is going well, but the primary focus is currently on the cows' project, as much attention must be paid to their daily care. We sold Abbie's calf and added resources from the milk sale to buy another mature cow, Anna. At the time, it felt like Abbie had failed to conceive again as she had been artificially inseminated a few times and not successful. What we didn't realize was that she was already pregnant, and we were looking to sell her off to save funds on her feeds. However, Abbie gained more weight and looked very healthy until a vet came to treat another cow, and he asked us to allow him to treat Abbie so that she can conceive instead of selling her off, not knowing that she was already pregnant.

After a short while, Pastor Ambrose, who has cow expertise, visited and noticed that Abbie was about 7 months pregnant. Abbie gave birth to another calf just within a month, and we were so happy that we didn't sell her off as she would have been slaughtered for meat, and we would have lost the calf. The cow project is self-funded as we use funds from milk sales to purchase feeds, and we're able to raise funds locally as intended. The funds are mainly from milk sales but also from the piggery, dog sales and garden produce such as bananas.

The turkeys, chickens and rabbits are also doing well, but other projects, such as mushrooms are on hold at the moment because they require more staffing.

## Challenges

The main challenges are funding and staffing. Currently, the Home is fully staffed; however, our staff members are not very skilled. Training is much needed and will be prioritized when funds become available.

We currently have 28 people residing at the home, including six staff members. This comes with the challenge of feeding, clothing, utility charges, not forgetting the school fees and living requirements. On the other hand, termly school fees and requirements have gone up to £2000, including the extras the school keeps asking for. The positive thing is that we can pay the school fees in installments. Prayers are needed to overcome staff turnover, although this seems to be a common problem in the country.

We're still running the fundraiser for school fees and requirements—a big thank you to those who donated to this cause.

### Closing notes

It's always a joy to spend time with the children; however, it's very costly. I pray that God will inspire some people to visit and participate in the activities on the ground as that would save a trip and money. Maggie and Lety, who used to visit the Home, now have family caring duties. Maggie hasn't been very well lately, and we're praying for her. Please let us know if you want to participate in what God is doing at AFH.

Prayers are needed for God's favour to be placed upon our fundraisers so that we can raise funds to cover the home needs, as the cost of living is somewhat challenging.

We still need to raise funds for the purchase of solar panels for the boys' house, a new desktop PC, a TV for the boy's house, harvesting rainwater or drilling a borehole to get free water from underground, funds to plaster the exterior of the girls' house to give it more life and purchase of a Tukutuku mode of transport to help staff to carry grass and maize brand and other feeds for the animals, turkeys and chickens we are rearing.



Getting ready to return to school

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in making AFH a success thus far. Our work is vital; lives are being touched and changed for good, and it is worth our labour of love. Keep up the gracious spirit, and together, God will reward us both in this world and the world to come.

God bless, comfort and protect you all.

## Abba Father's House



**committed to making a real difference**

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