

**esuubi (hope)**

## **A b b a F a t h e r ' s H o u s e**

### **January 2024 Newsletter**

UK charity Registration No. 1118832



**Abba Father's House home**

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*We desire that AFH grow and thrive, and influence many children's destinies over many decades, which is why we have a number of requests for projects in this newsletter.. You will find many different projects we have in this newsletter we will launch as funding permits.*

## Introduction

### Dear Partners and friends.

Happy New Year, and welcome to Abba Father's House January 2024 newsletter. As always, we are grateful to God for His mercies, which carries us through all situations year to year, and we trust His grace to take us through this new year. As the saying goes that, "A friend in need is a friend indeed" Your prayers, financial and practical support are helping us to touch lives and make an impact on vulnerable children in Uganda.

Sadly, some of our partners didn't make it through last year, and we take a moment to think of those who lost loved ones and send them our condolences. We remember Richard Bowman, one of our Partners who went to be with the Lord last year. We're very grateful for his contribution to AFH. My His soul rest in eternal peace.

A million thank yous' from the Management, staff and beneficiaries of AFH for your support through another year. May God indeed remember your generous financial donations and prayers towards vulnerable children, and may He reward you accordingly in the name of Jesus.

### From the Editor



Abba Father's House choir

Greetings from the editor, wishing you a prosperous New Year.

Throughout the year 2023, we were still getting back on our feet again as covid 19 left us with financial holes and minimal opportunity to fundraise due to most places being closed, but somehow, we managed to get through the year, thanks to those of you who blessed us with unexpected lump sum donations which helped us to make ends meet. God is good all the time, indeed!

The good news is that the children we support are a blessing, and they make us proud, especially the older children who take up the responsibility to support the home's functionality by participating in the work and even going an extra mile to cover home activities without waiting to be asked. They are proving to be good future leaders, and they are worth our effort to support.

Education-wise, we had only one A'Level candidate last year who is still waiting for results, but this year, we have two primary school candidates and one O'Level. The rest of the children are between primary one to senior two. With this comes the challenge of school fees, requirements and school trips. Please stand with us.

Projects-wise, we restoring projects on a small scale as marketing is also an issue due to the slow economy, especially in Uganda. Abbie, the cow from our GoFundMe, gave birth in November last year, so the home is benefiting from milk production for home use and some for sale. Our piggery project is also up and running but we tend to sell piglets off as it is more profitable to not spend on feeds. Our rabbits are not doing so well because the dogs still eat them despite our efforts to train the dogs to live in harmony with the rabbits, chickens and turkeys, the dogs see untamable. We're making progress on mushroom production and the children have gained expertise in growing and sales. The widows do attend sessions but not producing much yet because the trainers did not return from when they fled due to COVID-19; hence, production is a bit low.

Besides the financial matters, we spent a quiet year with all logistics in place as we fully meet the Government requirements. We had some hiccups with staffing, but the older children stepped in and covered some of the staffing responsibilities, which was a blessing.

### **Other news,**

Our bankers are still pressing on for our bank account to be closed and for a new account to be opened in order to comply with the current banking regulation. We will send the new account as soon as this happens.

Children will be treated to a 3-day re-treat camp in January 24.

The OBs and Ogs of Abba Father's House have started contributing towards supporting the home so that they partake in help others as they were helped.

Abbie, the cow, gave birth to a calf, and the one cow has become two. Thank you for giving us a hand to increase our project work.



Jessie, the dog, gave birth to 6 puppies (German Shepards), and one of the pigs produced eight piglets at the same time as well as the cat so we called November 2023 a reproduction month.

Apologies, as it wasn't possible for Juliet to travel to Uganda in September, as had been communicated in our June updates, but she made it towards the end of the year, and she spent Christmas at Abba Father's House, as you will find out her report on page 7.

Uganda is still a good country; the people are laid back and friendly despite the challenging financial knocks and global changes in life. We're praying for the New Year to be blessed for our partners and Abba Father's House so that we can continue to experience God's Goodness together.

In this edition, we will give you updates from the home, children's matters, focus for the new year, our situation with the bankers and ways you can support us.

We hope that you find the newsletter interesting.

## Children's Corner





We send you appreciated from the Abba Father's House children, who are very grateful for your support at such a time as this. The children were happy to end the year with Juliet on the ground, which made a lot of difference to them as they got extra attention, love and care from Juliet. From the end of November to the end of December 2023, life was a little different from the norm as attention was given to every detail in terms of caring for the children because of Juliet's presence at the home the way it should be when Mum is at home. The home was busy with a to-do list, which included some fun games, quizzes, prize draws, baking, musing and learning new songs, prayers, bible study, meetings, to mention just a few. As already shared, the work we're doing is producing much fruit in equipping children in life aspects. We're proud of the work we're doing, and we believe that God is pleased too.

Christmas isn't always a happy time for families especially if you are struggling to buy presents for children, put food on the table and be able to meet all the other home necessities. Our children have realistically no one to turn to if it were not for donations from Abba Father's House partners and friends. Last year, we were not able to send out our Christmas appeal due to busyness, but we are thankful for the collection from Runnymede Christian Fellowship Church and a few members who remembered us at Christmas, which enabled us to afford presents for children to open and have fun. We're also thankful to Julia and Julie for helping to sell widows craft, thereby making it possible for widow to have presents as well.



Children eagerly waiting to open presents



Evening prayers at AFH

Life is tough for so many families right now, but you partners and staff have been there for the vulnerable children in our care to ensure help every single day to alleviate the difficulties resulting from poverty. With your help, we will continue to be there and to ensure that every penny we receive will be put to good use to help us to continue offering the help so needed by children in our care.

### **Juliet's report from Uganda**



**AFH Family picture**

Hell from rainy Uganda. Hopefully, you have recovered from the busy Christmas vibes and now settling into the new year. I had the pleasure, if not pressure, of dealing with Christmas expectations from not only one child but 23 plus five staff members. Thanks to Julie of RCF Church, who sent me off with some presents for staff members, which rather nice.

I set off from Heathrow on night of 26<sup>th</sup> November and arrived in Jinja on 27<sup>th</sup>. The journey was peaceful; thanks be to God. However just before I arrived, I received a message from the home informing me that part of the perimeter wall had fallen due to very heavy rains because it has been raining in Uganda for a long time. In fact, on the way to Jinja, the roads were flooded, and it was a nail-biting experience to drive through parts of the flooded streets with potholes, but we made it to Jinja anyway.

I went unannounced in order to have a feel for what really goes on at the home. I was warmly welcome and we exchanged hugs and greetings as the children had not seen me for a while. It was interesting to see the children, some of the younger children, for the first time. We arrived late in the evening, so we soon had supper, prayers and went to bed, but the issue of the broken perimeter had already disrupted my plans and budget as it needed urgent attention to avoid accidents because behind the wall is a very deep ditch, which was a hazard. I arranged for a temporary but secure chain link fence to be constructed the following day.



**The broken part of the perimeter wall and the temporary chain-link fence**

As days passed, I notice that two of the staff members were not up for the job, so the need to get willing and capable workers became an extra challenge as the team leader and social worker left shortly after my arrival. It had been a while since we last visited the home, and many things needed attention and repairs. It's always good to look at the positives, so I am thankful that I was on the ground and the children were on holidays when staff left and the perimeter fell, so I and the rest of the staff, plus children, ran home until we were able to recruit into the vacant posts, only that I was homebound for a couple of weeks as the home could not be left without a responsible person.

We enjoyed doing the home chaos, the children were happy to milk the cows and harvest mushrooms daily, as well as helping with the sales, planted vegetables etc. We enjoyed fellowship, learning new games, songs quizzes, meals, storytelling and sharing treats occasionally, and it was much fun for the children.

I held meetings with the Local Committee whereby staff turnover was on the agenda, as well as children's affairs, the current financial climate and standard of living in Uganda.

The whole five weeks I spent at the home were hands-on, meeting with individual children, staff, carrying out repairs, touching base with local authorities to check for good practice, making new connections, checking the home operative system, among many things. Christmas was also at hand, and I wanted the children to have the best Christmas celebrations ever and you all know how Christmas mean the world to children, especially vulnerable ones.





This made me realise the importance of regular visits to the home in order to reduce the accumulation of needs. I would therefore value your prayers for resources to fund regular trips and for more volunteers to cover the responsibilities. I am grateful for the sponsorship given towards my travel and upkeep and send my appreciation for your contributions, which enabled me to put a smile on the children's faces as well as the widows.

Children, especially younger ones, enjoyed regular hugs, treats, care and being noticed, which I always offered. I showed staff members how such treats can save expenses on medical bills if they can pay extra attention and care to children when simple ailments like flue and cough can be treated at the earliest stage.

By the end of my trip, I had covered most things that needed doing and also managed to find a new Manager for the home and a Social Worker. I met with the local committee and made the necessary updates to our working ways.



**Celebrating Claire and Anna's Birthday**

Unfortunately for the children, my leave came to an end and it was time to return. I left the children well-motivated spiritually, morally and hopeful, and some were ready to come back with me. To avoid many tears, I prepared a small party with lots of sweets and biscuits, and as the children were taken up with food, I got into the car to the airport and only about six children chose to leave the food to come and bid me farewell.

That's all from me for now, Thanks for your prayers and I wish you all a peaceful new year.

### **Ways you can support us**

Our focus is caring for vulnerable children and widows; therefore it is necessary for us to raise funds and run projects to keep children occupied with learning skills and gaining education. We're a bit behind in projects work. Our current most urgent need is that of raising school fees for the first week of February when the children start their 2024 school year. Please stand with us and help us to raise the school fees. Thank you

In our June Newsletter, we shared some of the projects that would help us to cut costs at the home if we could produce our own biogas as we now have dung from cows and pigs, construct an underground water tank, instal

solar panels, and start a carpentry project for children to learn wood work and sewing machines to be used by both children and widows. Would you stand with us and also spread the word to your family and friends to help us set up these very useful projects or even tells us of ways we could fundraise for these needs differently? If so, we would like to hear from you.

### **Monthly giving**

We thought that it might be easier for some people to set up monthly donations. Setting up a monthly donation couldn't be simpler- visit our page on [JustGiving](#) page via our website, [www.abbafatherhouse.org](http://www.abbafatherhouse.org) and enter your details. Please email [juliet@abbafathershouse.org](mailto:juliet@abbafathershouse.org) for other ways you can give. By setting up a regular donation, you'll help us to be there for more families who need us.

**Payroll giving.** You can also donate directly from your gross pay through your employer.

Please visit us at [www.abbafathershouse.org](http://www.abbafathershouse.org) or email [juliet@abbafathershouse.org](mailto:juliet@abbafathershouse.org) if you have any suggestions or questions.

Blessings to you all



**Night time at abba Father's House**

## Abba Father's House



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