



The Noah's Ark Times

A PUBLICATION OF NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda is a Christian organization dedicated to supporting vulnerable children, youth, and adults in Uganda. We offer temporary shelter and long-term care, educational programmes, medical care, youth programmes and more. As a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), we rely on donations for every aspect of our work.

STORIES OF HOPE

From Peter and Pita



Dear Readers,

Many years ago, the two of us started this work after God called us to provide a safe shelter for children who have been cut off from their own family. Today, we are part of a diverse and dedicated team offering hope in many ways, including education and medical care.

In this newspaper, we write about the results of our efforts, both small and large. There is a lot to be thankful for. It is our hope that you get a glimpse of all the work that is done here on a daily basis to offer hope to children, youth and adults. All in Jesus' Name.

[continue reading on page 3 →](#)

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A baby abandoned in the bushes; nameless, cold and alone. A family of four, drowning in poverty, wondering if they'll have a meal tomorrow; paying school fees is only a dream. A single mother with a malnourished child; feeling desperate. A young boy, abused by his stepfather; hiding under the bed.

In each one of these situations, hope seems far off. For almost 25 years, Noah's Ark has offered hope to children,

youth and adults that have been deemed 'nobodies'. For us, they are not 'nobodies'; they are 'somebody' – somebody worth fighting for and somebody worth the effort, no matter how hard it gets at times.

Every day we offer new hope: a name and a welcoming family for the nameless baby in the bush. Education for children from underprivileged families. The right treatment for malnourished children and

attention for their family. Temporary shelter for abused children until a safe return to their own relatives is possible.

With your help, we offer hope of a better future for thousands of children, youth and adults in Uganda. This newspaper is a report of the hope we have been able to bring and the hope we will continue to offer in the future. Will you join the effort?

Care and Shelter



pages 4-7

Education



pages 8-11

Health

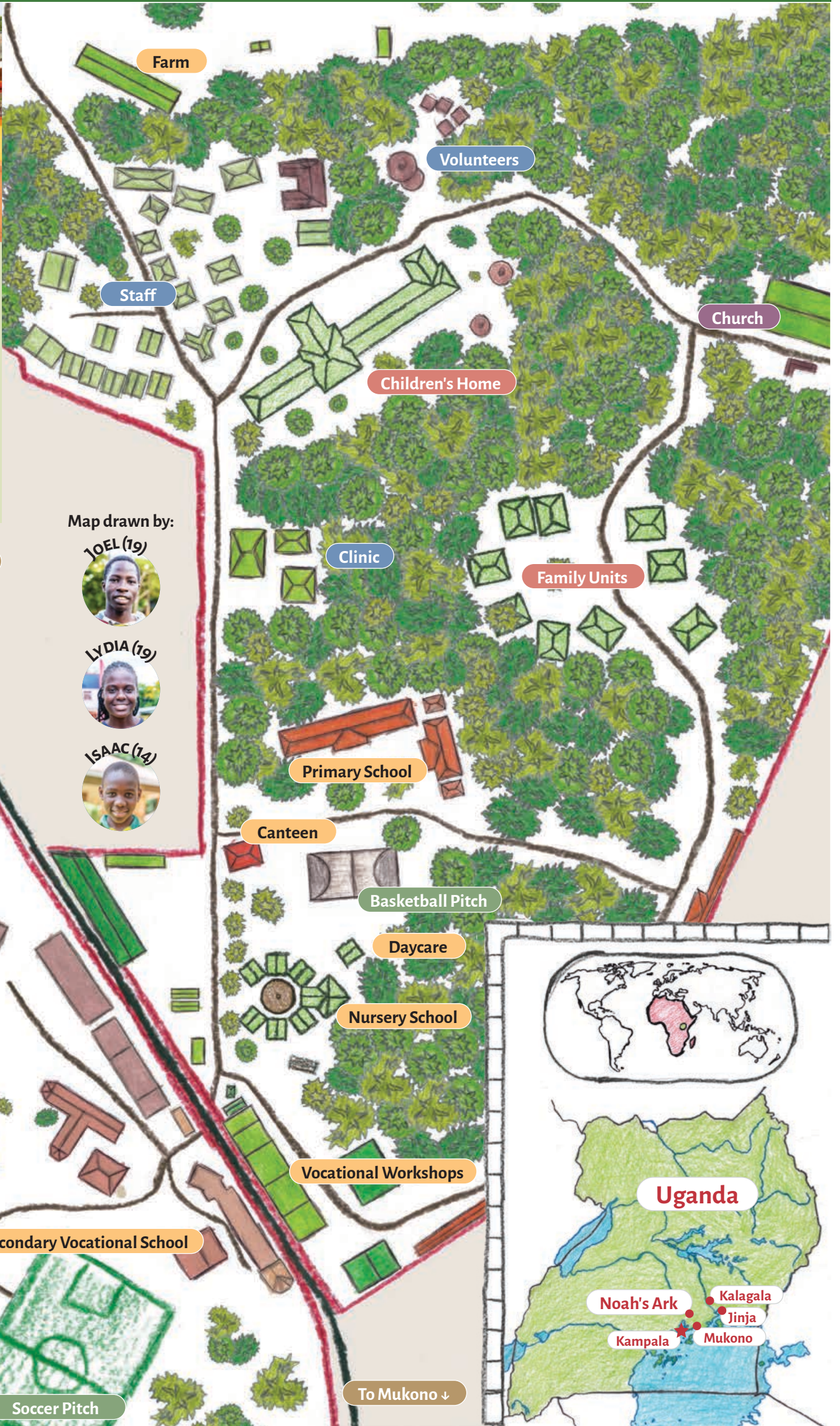


pages 12-13



Here we are!

Our compound measures more than 75 acres and is situated on a hill just outside of Mukono Town, about 18 miles east of the capital city Kampala. This lush green piece of land houses the children's home, family units, school, clinic, staff and volunteers, among others. Since 2019 our founders, Peter and Pita, live about an hour's drive away in Kalagala. There, a clinic and school have been built and there are many activities focused on education, health and agriculture.



Map drawn by:



A word from our founders

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

I (Peter) can be found everywhere: meetings, trainings, advising leaders, and motivating youth. I start new projects and programs and oversee their implementation. I visit every department to talk about our mission and vision – why we do what we do. We motivate our team to take on a parental role as much as possible for these children who unfortunately have been cut off from their relatives.

To us it is very important that all our staff, to whom the children

refer as 'auntie' and 'uncle', are motivated from the Biblical foundation on which Pita and I started all those years ago. "From nobody to somebody" is what we teach our staff and kids.

I am also setting up small businesses for our youth: a coffee shop, hair salon or a clothing store. What a joy to help them get started. Are you in business? Contact me! There are great opportunities for our youth to develop themselves into entrepreneurs.

Pita's work mainly takes place at home: two dozen children and youth still live with us. During weekends about 30 kids gather at our long dinner table. Pita is and will always be the caring and

loving mother. Especially for our girls, she is the go-to person for all kinds of life questions and she teaches them skills like cooking and sewing.

As you can see, the work and our involvement continue. With your support, and above all, God's grace, a huge number of children (and adults) have been given hope. Our thanksgiving goes out to our Lord, but also to you, our reader. We hope that you will enjoy reading this newspaper and that it encourages you. Our God is a God of hope. We wish you God's abundant blessings.

Peter and Pita Buitendijk
Founders,
Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda



Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
ISAIAH 1:17 (NIV)



From the Management Team

As a Management team, we are grateful for the growth and tremendous progress of the Organization. We take responsibility for providing strategy, oversight, supervision and evaluation of the operations of the Organization. We thank God for using us as an extension of Peter and Pita's hands in the big assignment God called them to do in Uganda.

Through our journey of giving Hope to the children and youth of Uganda, we have registered great milestones and many encouraging stories which we wouldn't have

achieved without your support.

We therefore appreciate you, our supporters, both local and international, who made it possible throughout the years. Your support continued even amid global challenges and tightening economies.

We remain committed to Noah's Ark's vision, mission and core values as we serve to improve the lives of children, youth and communities of Uganda.

Management Team,
Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda



▲ From left to right: Sarah, Gladys, Joanita, Sam and Evelyn.

Time flies

- 2000 Noah's Ark is founded by Peter and Pita, based in a rented house in Kampala.
- 2001 The first child to be taken in is Owen. He was 2 at the time, and is now 23 years old.
- 2002 He currently lives and works in Kampala.
- 2003 Over the next few years, the number of children grows quickly. A team of caregivers, supporting staff, and teachers forms to meet all the needs.
- 2004 Due to the increasing number of children and employees, a search begins for a more spacious home.
- 2005 Construction begins at the new compound in Mukono.
- 2006 We make the big move to Mukono.
- 2007 New Horizon Schools start.
- 2008 Construction of Family Units and Nursery School begins.
- 2009 Children move into the first Family Unit Clinic opens its doors to patients.
- 2010 About 100 children are under our care
- 2011 First students graduate from Primary School.
- 2012 Start of New Horizon Secondary Vocational School. Our Church building is ready.
- 2013 Start of the Malnutrition Clinic.
- 2014 First certificates for vocational studies; more Family Units constructed and in use
- 2015 First graduates for the "Ordinary Level" of the Secondary School
- 2016 More than 170 children under our care at the Children's Home and Family Units
- 2017 First "Advanced Level" graduates.
- 2018 First of our oldest children move out to live on their own
- 2019 Peter and Pita hand over the day-to-day leadership and move to Kalagala.
- 2020 Due to COVID-19, Uganda goes into lockdown. For much of the next two years, schools and churches are closed. Many people lose their income. Our work is challenging, but continues.
- 2021
- 2022 All schools are finally allowed to reopen! New Horizon opens a second primary school in Kalagala. Our very own coffee is sold in and outside Uganda, and we open a coffee shop in Jinja.
- 2023



We believe that every child belongs in his or her own family. Unfortunately, this is not always a possibility. When there is no other option, Noah's Ark becomes a new home for those without a home. Every day, we fight for the best interest of the child and will continue to offer them a safe place for as long as needed.

Who am I?

WHO AM I? WHERE DO I COME FROM? WHY AM I HERE?

These are questions that are difficult to answer for many of our children that were abandoned as babies. We often do not know anything more than the place they were left. Their name – if they were ever given one – remains unknown, so we give a new name. We estimate their age and date of birth.

We never let children remain nameless, and we celebrate every birthday. We show they are valued and loved. The little we know we record, so that later in life we can answer their questions in the best way possible. Every child has a right to know their past.

We encourage our children not to feel ashamed of their story. However they came to be here, they are wanted by us.



I am Henk!

HI! MY NAME IS HENK AND I AM SEVEN YEARS OLD.

After I was born, my mother ran away from the hospital. She said she would return with a relative but

she never did, even

after waiting a really long time. She probably used a fake name and no one knew anything about her, so I was brought to the police station. I could not stay there, so they called Noah's Ark. It was only then that I received my name from mama Pita. To this day, there is still no trace of my mother or any other relative and that is why I am here, at Noah's Ark. The children's home is my home and the aunties give me the love and care my own mother could not or did not want to give me.



The Cradle of Hope

MANY NEW CHILDREN PLACED UNDER OUR CARE ARE BELOW THE AGE OF ONE YEAR.

In the baby's wing of our children's home, a team of dedicated caretakers (called 'aunties') is ready to take care of the youngest of children: feeding, bathing, changing a diaper. We keep a record for every child of how much he or she eats and his or her growth and health.

Some of these aunties have been working with us for over ten years



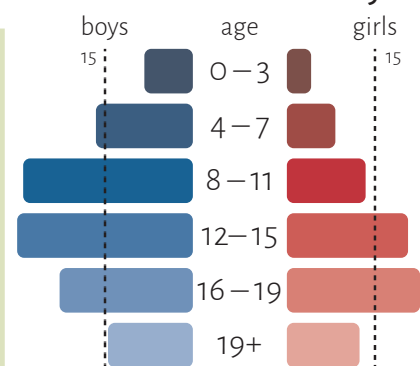
and are part of the lives of many of our children. One of them is auntie Ketty, head of the baby department. She narrates: "I enjoy learning how each baby communicates his or her needs in his or her own way, without using any words of course. The first babies I held in my arms are now teenagers. When I see them today it brings a smile to my face."



▲ Good night!

▲ Auntie Ketty

Children's Home and Family Units



▲ In total there were just below 200 children in the Children's Home, Family Units and living independently under our care as part of our youth programme at the end of 2023.

All Under One Roof

THE CHILDREN'S HOME IS, LIKE OUR CHILDREN, LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY THE CENTRE OF OUR WORK.

The 360-foot-long building offers more than just a place to live. In the surrounding playground we come together to celebrate holidays like Christmas. The main kitchen prepares up to 2,500 meals a day for our children, students at school and patients in the clinic.

We receive many visitors in our main office, which is housed under the same roof. The two wings (one for babies and toddlers, one for children up to 10 years) are connected by a spacious living room and dining hall. One end of the building houses a Family Unit where we welcome new children. Here they can catch their breath and adjust to their new situation before getting their more permanent place in the big home. Until 2019 this Family Unit was led by Peter and Pita themselves, and today auntie Jessica heads the unit after being mentored by Pita for many years.



▲ Swinging at the playground

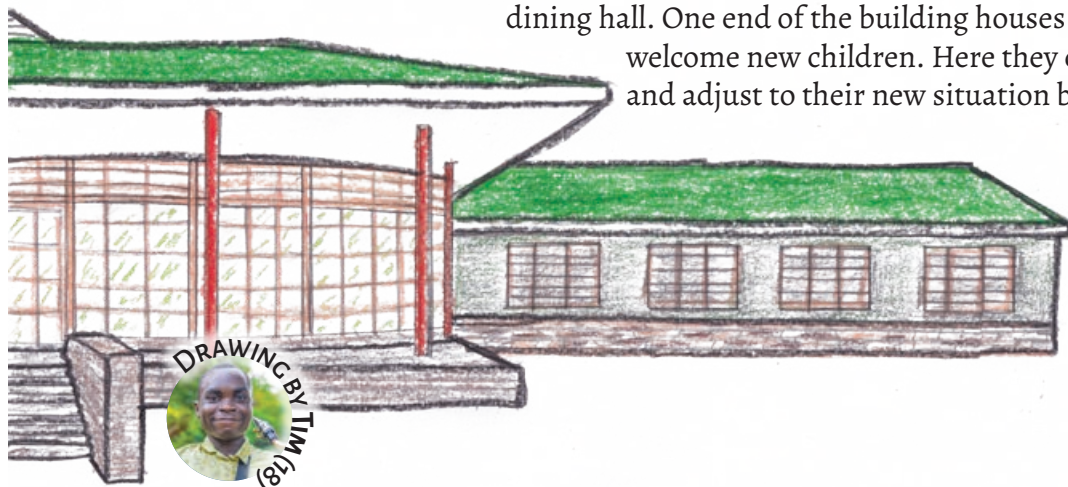


▲ Toddlers

▲ School going children



▲ Living room and dining hall



DRAWING BY
TIM (18)

Smaller is Better

THE FAMILY UNITS ARE QUITE SMALL COMPARED TO THE CHILDREN'S HOME. THIS IS BY DESIGN AND CREATES A HOME SETTING THAT IS AS NORMAL AS POSSIBLE.

There are about a dozen family unit buildings, plus one in the children's home and one in Peter and Pita's home. The family units can never replace a real family, but they are the next best thing: They create a hopeful atmosphere of living with each other and for each other.

Every family unit houses about ten boys or girls ages ten and up and one auntie – the mother of the house. The units offer a larger and

quieter space for the children to grow up in. As part of their upbringing, the children also get more responsibilities like washing dishes, cooking and sweeping. Bedrooms are shared by four children and have desks and closet space. Every evening the residents join for supper, and share from God's Word. With every birthday the house is filled for a party.



▲Bedroom



▲Time for each other and God's Word



Go Green!

During the school break all about 'recycling' our children collected more than 600 pounds of hard plastics to sell to a recycling company. Tobias collected the most, and continued to collect plastics even long after school had started.

The Hope Family Brings

To be part of a family is divine,
Where love is shown
Where hurt is shared
Our love for each other is never impaired.
We talk
We laugh
We cry
We are a family,
You hurt one
You hurt all
As a Family Unit, we stand tall.

For we are a family,
A family full of strength
A family full of love
A family no one can touch
That is why I believe
My family brings hope to me.

POEM BY JOSH (21)



▲Together for dinner



▲Neighbors



▲Sweeping

An Effort to Relax

UGANDAN SCHOOLS CLOSE MORE THAN 100 DAYS EACH YEAR FOR 'HOLIDAYS' (VACATION), GIVING US QUITE A TASK.

Like most parents, we want our children not to get bored and be on their best behaviour during school breaks. With more than 100 children below twelve years under our care, it is quite an effort. Katie (missionary), Harriet and Racheal (teachers) team up with aunties and teachers to set up the 'holiday programme', varying from three to ten weeks each time.

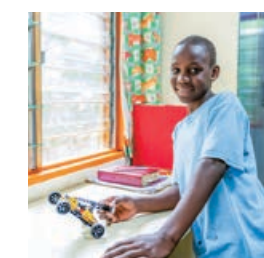
Often all crafts, games and activities fit one theme like the Olympics or superheroes. Outings and a vacation Bible week are also on the schedule. For us, school breaks demand a lot of effort and energy but because of all the fun and good times, they are also very rewarding.

We're having a great time!

▲Tobias (10)



▲Closet space



▲Desk



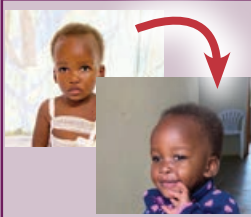
▲Opening of a new Family Unit, 2023

GET INVOLVED,

Become part of the story of new hope for children without a family. You will receive letters and photos of your sponsored child.

BECOME A SPONSOR!

nacmu.org/sponsor



Fiona*
Out of anger, Fiona's step-mother poured boiling hot water on her stepdaughter. She was arrested and police asked us to shelter Fiona. We treated her burns at our clinic and after two weeks Fiona was handed over to the care of her aunt.

Shanita – Shanita's mother left her baby with a friend, who then took her to another friend and never came back. She alerted the police and again Shanita changed hands as she was placed under our care. We are currently looking for Shanita's mother. As of today (December 2023) we have not yet found her and all expenses for Shanita's care fall on us.



GROWING DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER

WE ARE RECEIVING MORE CALLS FROM THE POLICE ABOUT CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF A BAD SITUATION AND NEED A TEMPORARY PLACE TO STAY.

A child who has been abused or neglected, is the victim of a family dispute or that has been a witness to a crime needs to be taken out of that situation. When the authorities are alerted they cannot do much more than take the child to the police station. There, they have no facilities to provide the appropriate care to a child. We are requested to provide a safe place, temporarily – which can mean anywhere from a few days to a few years.

Along with the child come a range of expenses for transport, medical care, our social workers who follow up the case, food and clothing.

As much as we lovingly offer these children a safe place, we cannot do this without your support. This is why we set up the **Kids' Shelter** programme, which offers a safe haven for children in need of temporary shelter.



• **Solomon*, Linda* en Kissa*** lived with their father after their parents separated. He mistreated them greatly, especially Solomon, who required a lot of medical attention. The siblings, along with their mother, stayed at our clinic for several months; she was later assigned full custody.

Waswa and Alex – These brothers lived with their single mother who was addicted to drugs and often left them home alone. The police temporarily removed them from her custody. We joined the authorities in the process of reuniting them with their father. He regularly visited his sons, which excited the boys. However, it took three years to release the boys back into his custody.



Tamale – Since his mother passed away, Tamale lived with his grandmother. Tamale's grandmother was very abusive – she cut his hands with razor blades. The boy was covered in scars all over his body. His older brother, who had moved to the other side of the country to find work, was unaware and tears filled his eyes as he met Tamale at the police station. After both recovering for a few days at our clinic, the brothers now stay together.



A blue light in the darkness

NOAH'S ARK DOES NOT TAKE IN CHILDREN BROUGHT TO OUR DOORSTEP. WE ALWAYS GO TO THE POLICE STATION WHERE THE CHILD IS OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO OUR CARE.

Going for new children is a heavy but gratifying task. The blue flashing lights of our ambulance have been a beacon of hope for hundreds of children in need of a safe place.

For many years, Peter and Pita were the ones to jump into the ambulance and make first contact with the police after a call. Now, it is Tamar Goossens (the Netherlands), doctor and warden of our children's

home and her husband Daniel Waiswa (Uganda) who are the first on the scene.

Together with one of our social workers (and often a nurse, just in case) they gather information about the situation at hand. Together with the authorities, they determine the first actions to be taken in the best interest of the child. Most often that means the child comes back with us.

Tamar and Daniel often encounter dire situations. Tamar: "It is often a surprise what we will encounter. Is it a premature baby

or an abused child? Police often provide us with little information before we set off. Things can get intense, like the instance where I was giving CPR to a baby in the back of the ambulance while my husband was driving us to a hospital as fast



as he could." Daniel: "At times, the stories and situations make me feel hopeless, especially when it is the parents inflicting harm on their own children. But because I also get to see the other side, when children recover, I find the strength to continue."

Even though Peter and Pita are pleased that they could hand over

this part of the work, they also miss it. Peter: "At times I feel a bit jealous of Tamar and Daniel. They now do what my wife and I did for all these years. They feel the burden, but also receive the blessing." Tamar and Daniel married in 2017 and have three children: Blessing (10), Elaine (5), and Mika (3).

▼ **Raymond (4)** was left behind in a suitcase on the side of the road. Nothing was known about him. Raymond has an intellectual disability, possibly a result of malnutrition. He cannot walk independently yet, but he pulls himself up on everything and is determined to take his first steps!



SUPPORT

Help us to take in children in need in our Kids' Shelter program and provide them with shelter, medical care, clothing and more while we work on reunification with their relatives.

KIDS' SHELTER



Slower pace, more attention

SOME OF OUR CHILDREN HAVE DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND RECEIVE EXTRA HELP.

Sometimes these delays are due to trauma, neglect as a baby or young child, or medical conditions. Children who develop slower in areas such as speech, emotion, behaviour, motor skills, and cognitive development receive extra attention from our social workers in a space filled with games, toys, and educational materials. Sometimes they simply play, and other times they engage in targeted exercises.



◀ **Lily (17)** came to us in 2015 after being abandoned. She was malnourished and has microcephaly. Lily, unlike many others, absolutely loves to have her tummy tickled.

Special needs, unlimited love

ALL CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL, BUT SOME REQUIRE EXTRA SPECIAL CARE DUE TO PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

In Uganda, there is a stigma that there is no hope for children with disabilities. They are hidden away or abandoned. This is how several of them came under our care, presenting us with new challenges. Miranda van den Berg (the Netherlands) joined us as a missionary in 2016 and saw opportunities for development for children with special needs. Miranda: "When I first came here, Miriam had just arrived at Noah's Ark. She couldn't do much more than sit and eat. I knew that with the right care and love, a lot was possible." Miranda inspired her colleagues, and now the team of social workers and aunts provides tailored care. In 2021, Miranda adopted Miriam.

We seek advice on exercises and therapy and have our own sensory room, set up by Miranda. Some children have specially fitted wheelchairs, and we visit the physiotherapist several times a month. Currently, we care for a handful of special children who need extra care, and we expect this number to grow. At the moment, they are staying in the baby wing of the large children's home. Here, we cannot give them the optimal care and attention, and so we would like to go a step further by setting up a special house where we can offer them unlimited space and attention.

“At first, I thought these children were cursed. Now I see that they are also God's miracles and I enjoy every smile!

— Auntie Ruth, caregiver



◀ **Patrick (10)** has been with us since he was just one month old and has cerebral palsy. Patrick is fed through a feeding tube. He is very good at showing what he likes and doesn't like.



◀ Auntie Ruth and Patrick

Mephibosheth (9) joined to us on New Year's Day 2019 after being abandoned. He was malnourished, his arms and legs were broken, and he was covered in scars. We estimated his age to be about four years and also gave him his name, as there was (and is) nothing else known about him. Mephibosheth enjoys being outside and loves to feel the wind tickling his face.

HELP US BUILD

To provide even better specialized care for children with special needs, we want to set up a special home for children with disabilities. Will you help lay the first stone?

A SPECIAL HOME



What is snoezelen?

SNOEZELLEN (PRONOUNCED SNOOZE-A-LEN) PROMOTES THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND HELPS THEM RELAX.

This form of therapy (controlled multi-sensory environment or MSE) involves stimulation with light, sound, colour, and touch and is widely used in the Netherlands but is not very common in Uganda. Children with disabilities can greatly benefit from their daily visits. For example, Patrick can spend hours listening to classical music while being tickled on his back. During school holidays, some of our youth help with the therapy. Who knows, they might start the next *snoezeling* space in Uganda.



Share your experience

Are you a physiotherapist, speech therapist, educational psychologist, or an expert in another area of development? Volunteer with us in Uganda for a few months and share your knowledge and experience with our team. Get in touch!

nacmu.org/special



No A B C

INITIALLY OUR STUDENTS DO NOT LEARN THE ALPHABET, BUT STILL LEARN TO READ AND WRITE WELL.

Both our Nursery and Primary School use the *Jolly Phonics* method based on letter sounds. By using songs and actions, children start building a strong foundation for reading and writing by learning to recognise individual sounds in words. The first sounds are s (snake), a (ant) and t (tennis). Later children also learn two letter sounds like oo (book). With Jolly Phonics children learn that words are sounds that are blended together. This helps them to read new words. At the end of Primary 1 all 42 letter sounds, 'tricky words' and the most common exceptions have been handled. At first, this method causes children to misspell words because they spell phonetically: 'boi' instead of 'boy'. However, this shows they are on the right track and all that remains is to learn alternative spelling of some sounds.



Nursery School

ONLY 10% OF CHILDREN IN UGANDA UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS ATTEND SCHOOL; NURSERY SCHOOL (KINDERGARTEN) IS OPTIONAL.

Our aim is to help children form a solid foundation for learning. This aids their general development and prevents delay in learning at a later stage in life. At our Nursery School children learn through play, songs, dance, crafts and running around. Contrary to many Ugandan schools, we believe school should be a fun environment that makes children want to learn instead of putting all the pressure on performance.



School is fun!

Story time

DRAWING BY TESSA (14)



Nursery School



Learning is fun!



On the swings



Sports Day



All Primary School Classes

Bon Appétit

EVERY SCHOOL DAY OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE A WARM AND NUTRITIOUS MEAL.

For many of our students the biscuits and tea served during morning break are the first thing they eat, and lunch the only full meal that day. At lunch time students enjoy warm 'posho and beans', cornmeal with a nutritious bean sauce. All meals are served without extra cost to our students as part of their sponsorship.



Two birds with one stone

WE OPENED A SECOND LOCATION OF OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A CLINIC IN KALAGALA.

Many families in Kalagala are subsistence farmers and completely dependent on their small piece of land for food and income. For them, education and healthcare are out of reach. With support from the 'Run for Rio Foundation' we were able to construct a school building. Furniture was made by students from our Secondary Vocational school.

At the moment more than 150 children are able to attend school through our sponsorship program. Most of them come from families that grow coffee (see page 16).

The school building also houses a clinic that provides the most commonly needed healthcare such as testing for and treatment against malaria.



In Class

ONE IN

ONE IN FIVE CHILDREN IN UGANDA DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL; A MINORITY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

In theory, Primary Education in Uganda is free. In practice however, there are fees to buy uniforms, school materials and exams. At our schools are low and few of their students complete Primary School.

Many parents struggle on a daily basis to support themselves and their children. They depend on the work they can find for that day; solid jobs are scarce. The likelihood of their children ending up in a cycle of poverty is high. Education is the key to a brighter future.



▲ Nursery School uniforms

Baby Class

Middle Class

Top Class

Nursery School (preschool/kindergarten), from 3 years old

NEW HORIZON
Nursery & Primary
School



From nobody to somebody



Going to school

tee. Our sponsorship program offers hope to these grandmothers by taking away one of their worries: providing education.

Staying at Grandma's

MANY CHILDREN IN OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM LIVE WITH THEIR GRANDMOTHER. SHE PROVIDES LOVING CARE, BUT NOT OUT OF HER OWN CHOICE.

It is a common story in Uganda: a couple conceives, the father disappears, and once the



child is born, the mother 'returns' the child to the paternal grandmother. Some of these *jjajjas* ('grandmother' in the local language Luganda) take care of more than five of their grandchildren. However much they

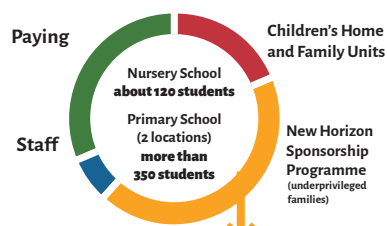
want to care in the best way possible, they often have no sustainable income and face a huge challenge. They are dependent on the generosity of their relatives and neighbours but these

forms of support are not a guarantee. Our sponsorship program offers hope to these grandmothers by taking away one of their

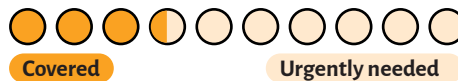
worries: providing education.



Become a sponsor!



SPONSORS NEEDED URGENTLY!



More than 300 children from underprivileged families go to school at New Horizon. However, we do not have enough sponsors to keep them in school and we are urgently searching for sponsors so that we do not have to send a single child home.



Fatiha · 10 years
Primary School, P5
After our house burned down my family and I had to start over from scratch. My deaf mother doesn't have a job and my father does his best to provide by working here and there, but they can't manage to pay school fees.

WITH \$20 PER MONTH YOU CAN HELP OFFER:



Education



Warm Lunch



School Supplies



Healthcare



Simon Peter · 9 years
Primary School, P2
My parents grow vegetables like cassava and maize on their small piece of land. My father also repairs shoes. They do not earn enough to send me to school. I need your help.



Steven · 10 years
Primary School, P3
I never knew my father and my mother told my grandmother to take care of me. Without your help I cannot go to school because my grandmother does not have a job.

+ many more

www.nacmu.org/education

IN FIVE

DOES NOT ATTEND PRIMARY EDUCATION COMPLETES SECONDARY EDUCATION. Uganda is provided free of charge. be paid for necessities like books, s. Standards at government aided nts continue their education beyond

asis to provide enough food for them- d on what they are able to grow or the obs are scarce. Without education, g up in the same situation is signifi- r future. Education gives hope.



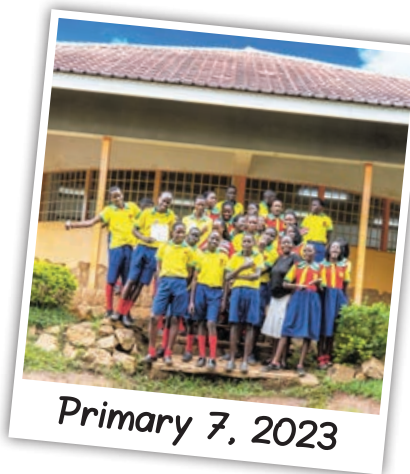
▲ Primary School uniforms

It is not about the grades

AT NEW HORIZON, WE NEVER SEND CHILDREN HOME BECAUSE OF LOW GRADES OR THEIR PERFORMANCE.

In an effort to protect their good name, many other schools in Uganda do not allow the lowest performing students to continue, they have to enrol in a different school. Many of our students have parents who are uneducated and cannot provide educational support, making performing well in school a challenge. At New Horizon we give these students our attention rather than sending them away.

During the Primary Leaving Exams, New Horizon scores just above the national average; a wonderful accomplishment and something to be proud of, especially taking into account the different backgrounds of our students.



More than a piece of paper

OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE NOT JUST A CERTIFICATE, BUT ALSO GAIN A WORLD OF EXPERIENCE.

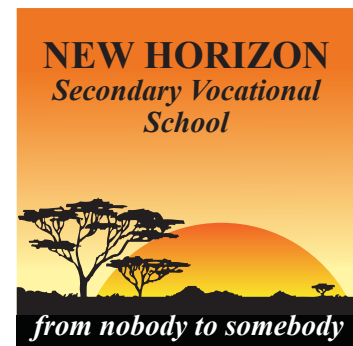
In Uganda, many people look down on those who do practical work with their hands while great value is placed on university graduates. However, experience shows that Uganda's economy is flooded with young people fresh out of university unable to find jobs. Meanwhile, there is plenty of practical work to be done in Uganda: the country is growing and building.

When our students leave our school after four or six years, they have at least two certificates in hand and a wealth of experience. During practical lessons, our stu-

dents are involved in everything: construction of new buildings, furniture making, painting, vehicle maintenance and so on. They don't just watch what their instructors are doing but also roll up their sleeves and get to work. This was clearly visible when our students visited another school: A water pipe burst and everyone just stood around looking at it. Our students immediately started looking for the main valve, showing they know their stuff. They stopped the leak and even provided a temporary fix. We made a big day of the gradua-

tion for practical subjects. We are proud of our students and want their family members to see it this way too. One of the team leaders of New Horizon, Irene, took lessons in vehicle maintenance and took the exam with our students: "I wanted to show that you can benefit from everything you learn. Now I can repair my car myself."

We see growing appreciation for our approach among the parents of our students, and we are receiving more students from all over Uganda who specifically come to our school for the practical experience.



Wanted: handyman/woman
Do you have a grasp on practical skills? Come and share their experience with our students and instructors and trade in your workshop for Uganda for a few weeks!



▲ Graduation day for the practical subjects. Team leader Irene is the first from the left.

Secondary Vocational School

THE NEW HORIZON SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (HIGH SCHOOL) IS A UNIQUE CONCEPT IN UGANDA.

Our school follows the national curriculum for secondary education (UCE and UACE) for theory subjects like mathematics or English. Unlike other schools however, all our students also do final exams (DIT level 1 and 2) for at least one practical subject like metalwork or hairstyling.

In this way our students have a double qualification when they leave school: ready for university or start (or create) a hands-on career.

New Horizon Secondary Vocational School offers both day and boarding options and welcomes students from all levels of academic performance.



Agriculture



Mechanics



Metal work



Construction



ICT

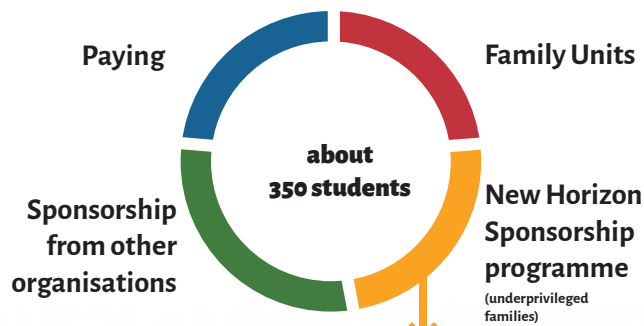


Catering



Hair dressing

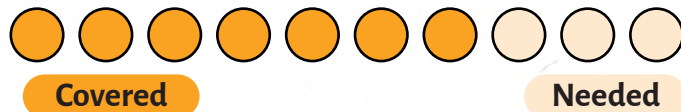
▼ Origin of students at Secondary Vocational

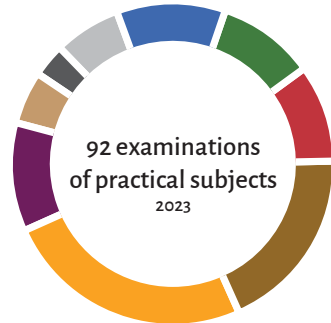


▼ Left: classroom uniforms. Right: vocational outfits.



LOOKING FOR SPONSORS!





- Plumbing
- Electricity
- Brick Laying
- Carpentry
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Metal work
- Catering
- Hair styling
- Tailoring

Government notices New Horizon's practical approach

AT THE MOMENT, UGANDA IS ROLLING OUT A NEW CURRICULUM FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

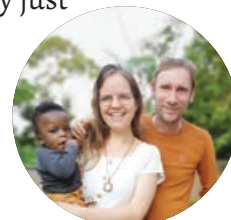
In this new curriculum there is much more emphasis on practical skills and competence-based grading, something New Horizon has been doing from the start. The Ugandan Government has noticed the positive impact of our approach and asked for our input while renewing the education system.



Plumbing

Since 2021, John Burger (The Netherlands) is part of the Secondary Vocational Team. As a trained his-

tory teacher he shares his experience with teaching theory and art projects. His wife Hermina is a nurse at our clinic. Together the couple hosts Bible studies, leads the Sunday School and is part of the Noah's Ark's Public Relations team. John: "It gives me great satisfaction to offer the Gospel in such a diverse way and helping to build a future for those we serve, also in the social sphere." Hermina: "My wish is to show Gods love to the most vulnerable by helping to provide the right care, coaching and simply by just being there for them." John and Hermina are foster parents to Eliam (1) who came to Noah's Ark after being abandoned as a baby without any trace to his relatives.



Shoe making



Tailoring



Electricity



Library



In class



Biology

Age distribution of the Ugandan population



▲ About half of the more than 45 million people in Uganda is below 18 years of age



Not a failure

AFTER CHARLES' FATHER TOOK OFF HIS MOTHER WAS LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF THREE KIDS ALL BY HERSELF.

With the little she earned selling roasted corn at the roadside, she managed to keep her two eldest daughters in school. His mother feared Charles would miss out on education, until in 2010 he was admitted to our sponsorship program. He started at New Horizon Primary School and later joined our Secondary Vocational School.



Charles: "Every year dentists from the Netherlands would visit and I got to help them as an 'assistant'. This sparked my dream of becoming a dentist; failing my chemistry exam shattered that dream. One of the best things about New Horizon is we also do vocational subjects. I had

trained in domestic electricity and received a DIT Level 1 certificate. So while I may not become a dentist, I can now help people by offering my skills as an electrician. New Horizon gave me opportunities I could have never dreamt of."



Planting Potential

NOAH'S ARK IS THE PROUD OWNER OF A LARGE PIECE OF LAND IN BUSAANA.

In this lush green environment near the Nile River we started a new project to help give our students even more hands-on experience. In 2021, we planted hundreds of thousands of eucalyptus seedlings that will have fully grown after five to eight years. The wood can be used to create high quality furniture by students in our furniture workshop

or sold to the power company to use as electricity poles.

Our students are part of every aspect of managing this forest: planning, planting, taking care, harvesting and bookkeeping. The income from this project helps to improve our students' education or even open up more schools to provide more children and youth with an education. This piece of land has a lot to offer.

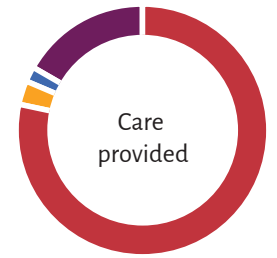
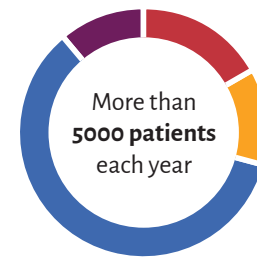


SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL
 Many families in our surroundings cannot afford to pay school fees. With \$20 per month you can help bring a child to school and give him or her a brighter future, from kindergarten all the way up to high school.

nacmu.org/education



Our medical team is ready to serve their patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From the doctor to the receptionist, everyone knows and lives out the clinic's motto: *Serving with a patient's heart*. We help patients feel at ease and look beyond medical issues and treatment alone. We comfort them, laugh with them, cry with them and offer them hope.



- Children's home and family units
- General Practitioner
- Midwife
- New Horizon
- Local community
- HIV/AIDS counseling
- Delivery
- Staff

Immunization Tuesday



EVERY TUESDAY DOZENS OF CHILDREN COME TO BE IMMUNISED.

Our clinic takes part in the vaccination schedule of the Uganda government which provides free shots against diseases such as tetanus and measles. Every child's weight and height are recorded and we use this opportunity to engage with parents about the general health and feeding of their children.

Prescription Smiles

OUR CLINIC HAS A WELL-STOCKED MACY, SAVING PATIENTS TIME AND MONEY ON GETTING THEIR MEDICATION.

The most common drugs issued are anti-malarials, painkillers, and antibiotics. We keep costs lower than commercial pharmacies to make medication more accessible to those in need within our community. Na-



dine, a paediatric nurse from Germany who has been working at our clinic since 2021, is often found behind the counter. Nadine says, "My hope is to make patients smile—a sign of healing and improvement." Sent by the German mission organization MT:28, Nadine resides at Noah's Ark, with her Ugandan husband, Emmanuel.



The biggest enemy is quite small.

HEALTH'S NUMBER ONE ENEMY IN UGANDA IS ABOUT AS BIG AS THE LAST WORD IN THE HEADLINE ABOVE: MOSQUITOES CARRYING THE MALARIA PARASITE.

The symptoms of malaria are varied: fever, nausea, headache, abdominal pain, and weakness. Untreated, the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite can be life-threatening. Malaria also affects our children and staff, especially during the rainy season. Fortunately, quick treatment with tablets is usually effective, though sometimes stronger medication is needed. However, among the local population, ignorance and fear of high cost of treatment often delay a doctor's visit. People first go to a traditional healer or wait until the symptoms become unbearable. Therefore, during our outreaches, we always emphasize the possibility of testing and treatment and keep costs as low as possible: around \$5. For many families in our area, this is still a high amount. The actual costs for us are even higher – lowering the price is only possible with your support.

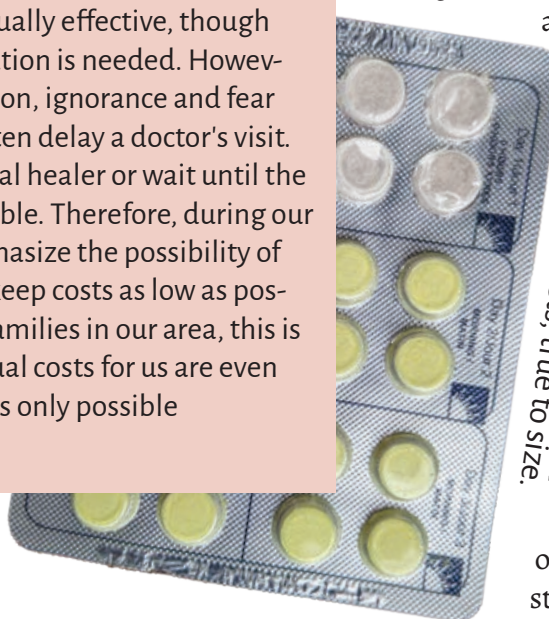
Say "aaah"

TWICE A YEAR DENTIST LAURA FROM THE NETHERLANDS OPENS THE DOORS OF OUR DENTAL PRACTICE FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF.

Laura offers up her vacation days to check thousands of teeth and provide treatment if necessary – free of charge. Laura: "It is great to see that the regular check-ups and lessons about brushing are paying off: children from Noah's Ark and New Horizon have noticeably less issues with their teeth now than years ago. Even the youngest kids are happy to take a seat in my chair. Parents of students are still hesitant to come for a check-up. This is my next challenge!"



Coartem tablets, true to size!



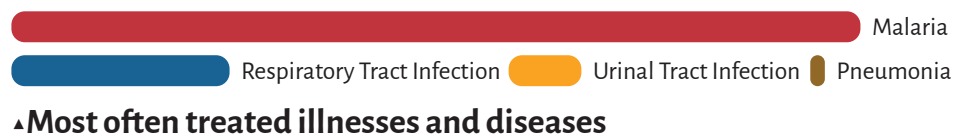
TWO YEARS COVID-19

DURING THE PANDEMIC OUR MEDICAL TEAM SPRUNG INTO ACTION.

Our clinic shifted to a building just outside our compound so patients could still access it without potentially exposing our children and staff. The team sensitized

everyone on hand washing and social distance and we opened up an isolation ward for COVID patients. The supply of vaccines and test kits in Uganda was often low, even though our clinic was designated as a vaccination centre.

Officially, Uganda registered 3,600 casualties in a population of over 45 million people. The death toll during the lockdowns due to people losing their income, access to healthcare or even food is likely much higher. At Noah's Ark the number of infections was quite low and we did not have any deaths. A true blessing!



A growing battle against malnutrition



Intern to Indefinitely

IN 2023, PAUL NIJSSE (THE NETHERLANDS) COMPLETED HIS FINAL INTERNSHIP AT OUR CLINIC.

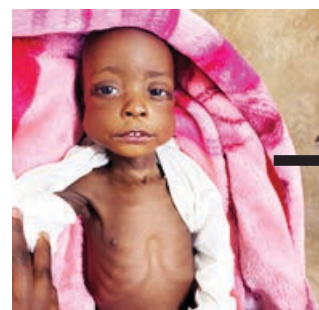
Paul's study 'Clinical Technology' combines healthcare and technology. Paul narrates: "At Noah's Ark I learned a lot about tropical disease and malnutrition and I was able to repair some medical equipment." Paul immersed himself in the way of life at Noah's Ark. "My time at Noah's Ark was so meaningful to me that starting in 2024 I will join the team indefinitely. I feel called by God to provide care to the weakest and to use my talent for the people of Uganda and to learn from them. I am tremendously looking forward!"

Will you join us?
Looking for a place for your medical education's overseas internship?
Get in touch!

More than 120 safe deliveries per year

A HEALTHY PREGNANCY PREVENTS MUCH SUFFERING FOR BOTH MOTHER AND CHILD.

Unfortunately, about 40% of pregnant women in Uganda do not attend prenatal check-ups, often due to fear of costs or lack of knowledge. During our outreaches and patient interactions, we emphasize the importance of prenatal care for both mother and child. In our clinic, women can receive check-ups, ultrasounds, preventive medication, safe delivery, and postnatal care, along with advice on breast-



FOR A CHILD, THE FIRST THOUSAND DAYS ARE CRUCIAL. BUT DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY ARE ALSO HIGHLY VULNERABLE.

Malnutrition is a major danger, primarily caused by poverty, disrupted family situations, and lack of knowledge. Malnutrition isn't just about a lack of food; it's mainly about missing the right essential nutrients, leading to permanent damage, or worse. The earlier we intervene, the higher the chances of successful treatment. Therefore, our first step is raising awareness: recognizing malnutrition, believing that treatment is possible, and knowing where to find help – there is hope!

Twice a week, our team visits villages in our surrounding area. There, the misconception often prevails that malnutrition is a curse that needs to be 'treated' by a traditional healer. Whenever possible, we involve mothers of children who have been successfully treated in our educational efforts. They share their stories and radiate the hope they have received. We screen children from the village, and current patients come in for check-ups. If necessary, we refer caregivers (mainly mothers) to our clinic. One in four children is so severely malnourished that an admission to our malnutrition centre is required. Here, we provide therapeutic feeding, and families learn about cooking diverse, yet affordable meals. Once a child is of healthy weight and has a good appetite, they can continue to recover at home with additional nutrition. Regular check-ups are conducted for these children, and their families receive food packages.

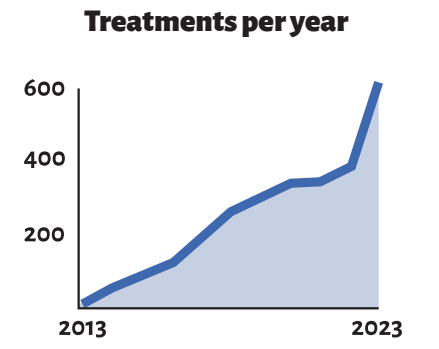
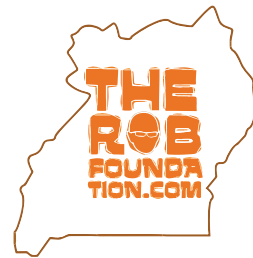


In 2023, we treated twice as many children as the previous year. However, despite this growth, the number of deaths and families dropping out of our programme remains the same in absolute numbers. Our approach is working: clients refer their acquaintances to us.

In collaboration with the Rob Foundation and with the support of GAIN Germany, we offer this care free of charge. Your continued support is essential to keep providing this hope to thousands of families over the coming years.



feeding. We are equipped with an incubator to keep premature babies safe, and our ambulance enables us to refer women for procedures like a Caesarean section if necessary. With this care, we prevent a lot of suffering. The healthier the mother is, the lower the risk that her child will become orphaned or needs to enter our malnutrition programme. With your help, we keep the costs of this care as low as possible.



WILL YOU
To keep healthcare accessible we do not charge our patients the true cost of their treatment. By supporting one of our programs, you can help keep this care affordable to many.
PAY THE BILL?



nacmu.org/health

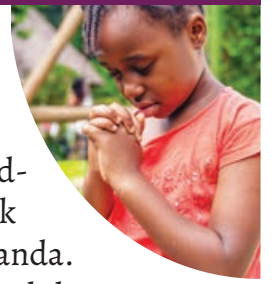


Our desire is to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in everything we do. Our Christian identity does not only surface on Sundays – during the week we gather to praise God and learn from His word. Throughout the year we create opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus' salvation with people of all ages and religions.

Pray Every Day

SUNDAY For the Church as the body of Christ at Noah's Ark.
MONDAY Spiritual growth for children, students and staff.
TUESDAY Students of New Horizon and their families.
WEDNESDAY Comfort and healing of patients in our clinic.

THURSDAY Wisdom for leaders at Noah's Ark and in all of Uganda.
FRIDAY Youth and the next steps in their lives.
SATURDAY Thanksgiving for our donors and supporters.



Youth Got Talent

OUR TEENAGERS AND YOUTH ARE BURSTING WITH TALENT AND MANY USE THESE TALENTS TO SERVE GOD.

Every year around Easter and Christmas we invite hundreds of children and adults for a special show organised by our children and youth. With song, music, dance and acting they bring a message of hope to all gathered in our church. In the absence of a professional trainer, the 2022 edition of the Christmas show was entirely in the hands of our youth. Josh and Deborah, 20 and 21 years old at the time, were the chief organizers. Josh: "It was not always easy because we as youth do not always want to do as we are told. Still, we managed to put

together something wonderful and we were able show people what we have been able to learn and to use our talents for God." Curious to see for yourself? You can find various the Easter and Christmas Productions on our YouTube channel.

Have a talent?

Do you have a talent in singing, music or dance? Volunteer for a few months and train our children!



Sign up for our prayer letter via www.nacmu.org/prayer

Vacation Bible Week

Without our teenagers our vacation Bible weeks would not be the same: they play music, prepare arts and crafts, lead games and some even preach! We are grateful for the growth we are seeing in many of them.



▼ Donate a Bible!



Read Your Bible

THE BIBLE IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK OUR CHILDREN WILL EVER READ. THEY EACH GET A COPY.

When a child turns nine they receive a Bible, notebook and a pen during our church service. Bosco (9): "I will keep my Bible safe in my room and read it a lot."



▲ "Webale" (Thank You) dance

Dance and science at church

CHRISTIAN AND KATIE (SCHINNEL) BERKMAN HAVE BEEN MISSIONARIES AT NOAH'S ARK SINCE 2013.

Christian (the Netherlands) is head of our Public Relations Department and Katie (US) works at the schools and leads the 'holiday programme' (see page 5). Both are involved in Bible teaching. Christian: "I like to make my message understandable using science. There have been a few small explosions at church." Katie organises the vacation



Bible weeks and leads a dance group that includes a time for Bible study. Katie: "I used to think dancing with the kids wasn't ministry; it was just exercise. But God showed me how wrong I was!" Together they host a youth group at their home and provide the Bible lesson during school assemblies which often includes a quiz, a skit, or involves puppets. Christian and Katie met in Uganda and married in 2017. Their two children, Patricia (5) and Elliot (4) go to school at New Horizon.

▼ Christian preaches about joy



Sunday is a school day

FOR PRACTICAL REASONS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL DOES NOT TAKE PLACE DURING THE CHURCH SERVICE, BUT IN THE HOURS BEFORE.

On Sunday mornings our children gather for praise and worship before breaking off into different groups. Each group is led by staff, teenagers and volunteers and are divided according to age. All groups learn about a big idea like "Jesus' power is real!" but every group has its own way of learning. Our Church service starts at 2 PM, as our toddlers are asleep.



Band of Somebodies

MANY A PRESIDENT AND AMBASSADOR IS FAMILIAR WITH THE SOUND OF OUR BAND.

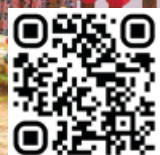
Composed of children from the children's home and family units, our brass band shows that even those who were once abandoned or unwanted are now invited to perform at official gatherings to play for presidents, ambassadors and many others.

◀ The Noah's Ark Band with from left to right ambassadors from Germany, Italy and France.

A gift in a basket

MANY FAMILIES IN UGANDA DO NOT ASK "WHAT'S FOR DINNER TODAY?" BUT "IS THERE ANY DINNER TODAY?"

Since 2014, each year we give hundreds of families a Christmas Basket. Each basket contains vegetables, fruit, sugar, baking flour, soap, some candy and more. Every family also receives a bunch of matooke (plantains) and last but not least, we share the true message of Christmas. The basket itself is a handy basin often used for washing and bathing. Every year we are humbled by the generosity of many individuals, families and churches who make it possible for us to distribute these baskets. The smiles on the faces as people receive their gift say it all – these baskets bring joy. Will you give this Christmas?



nacmu.org/christmas

Hope flows

IN 2023, RESIDENTS OF TWO VILLAGES IN THE BUSAANA AREA RECEIVED ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER.

With the help of donors worldwide and support from GAIN Germany we were able to construct a borehole in each of the villages. Students in the plumbing vocation at New Horizon installed the pump that now supplies safe drinking water close to home for hundreds of people. Together we can help more villages access water. Will you help make the water flow?



nacmu.org/water

Dhanyavad!

THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN UGANDA SUPPORTS NOAH'S ARK WITH A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF GIFTS IN KIND.

Over ten years ago Manish Varsani, a businessman from Kampala, started to buy ice cream for all our children, awarding him the nickname "Uncle Ice Cream". Over the years Manish has personally supported different areas of our work by providing donations of food, construction materials, and clothing, among others. Manish sees us as family and celebrates his birthday at Noah's Ark – our children even get presents from him!

Manish has motivated other companies and fellow community members to follow in his footsteps, and we have since been blessed by their many in-kind donations. To all of them we say a heartfelt "thank you" or *Dhanyavad!*



◀ Uncle Manish (right) receives a gift on his birthday



◀ Hand sanitizer during COVID-19



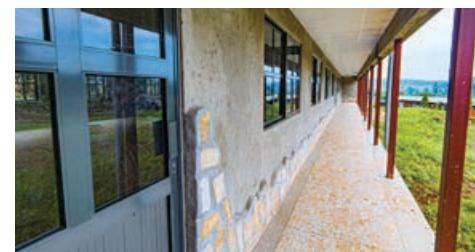
◀ Rice



◀ Cement



◀ Pineapples



◀ Aluminum door and window frames

Brewing Hope

IN 2021 WE LAUNCHED OUR OWN BRAND OF COFFEE: NOAH'S ARK SPECIALTY COFFEE.

In 2018 we founded the Noah's Ark Farmer's Association to help small scale coffee farmers (mostly families) to improve on their yields. Many of them had never tasted a single sip of coffee – so we invited them over for a cup. During workshops and trainings the farmers learn more about the impact of the time of harvesting, way of sorting and drying on the quality, taste and sales of their beans. All our coffee berries are grown organically along the banks of the Nile River. We buy the beans at a fair price. We create employment opportunities for our youth: they are in charge of sorting, roasting, packing and marketing their product. It is fair to say, our coffee gives hope of a better future to many.

Our coffee has a wonderful taste and is on the market in Uganda and has even made it to the Netherlands, Germany, the USA and India.



www.nacmu.org/coffee

nafau.nacmu.org



Matthew



Veronica



Daniel



Naomi en Deborah



Coffee Corner



Irene, Patricia, Hope

Matthew (24) was abandoned by his parents as a two-year-old. Thanks to his education and experience gained at Noah's Ark he is now part of our team; he gets things done especially when it comes to vehicle maintenance and logistics. **Veronica (22)** was very sick and just four months old when she became an orphan. Today, Veronica is a wonderful young lady and is our very own master *barista* and professional coffee roaster. **Daniel (22)** started his life severely malnourished. He has developed into a trustworthy young man who shows leadership. He is learning to manage our eucalyptus plantation (see page 11) and procures coffee beans from farmers. **Naomi and Deborah (22)** were gotten from the police station by Peter and Pita after they had nobody to look after them anymore. Today, Naomi is training to be a social worker and joins the team to pick up new children, like she was once picked up herself. Deborah aspires to be a leader and is in training to be Peter's assistant and is the point of contact for volunteers and visitors. **Hope (24), Patricia** already volunteers his time



Matthew

From abandoned to accomplished

The majority of our children have been abandoned at a young age. They have been abandoned because they were unwanted, seemed not worth someone's effort or time, or because it was thought there was no future for them. We have the privilege to see these children flourish, every single one in their own unique way and sometimes against all odds. We see hope in every baby, every child, and

every youth that comes on our path. In our youth, the result of our work and your support is made visible. They have hope because they were not left struggling on their own, because they were welcomed into a new family, because they were given education and because they were given the opportunity to grow. No longer abandoned, but accomplished.

(19) and Irene (20) have traineeships in our own coffee shop, 'The Coffee Corner' in Jinja. They know the ins and outs of brewing *latte*, *macchiato* and *espresso* and always serve with a smile. **Paul (21) and Priscilla (20)** are doing a traineeship at our own Public Relations Department and have worked on this very newspaper. Paul has an eye for photography and video editing and aspires to open up his own business one day. Priscilla manages our social media channels and dreams to be a journalist. **Joel (19)** is still in school but already knows he wants to become a therapist so he can help children with special needs. He

when he is not in school, see page 7. **Elisabeth (21)** was once found thrown away in a plastic bag, we know nothing else of her. Today she has gained experience in bookkeeping for the different projects in Kalagala and wants to be an accountant. **Timothy (24)** is being trained by Peter to lead a team that cuts timber into lumber to be used in New Horizon's furniture workshop (see page 11).

What we can write in this newspaper falls short of the countless stories we could tell. Hundreds of children and youth are ready to flourish. Curious about their future? Join us and get involved!



Hope

Patricia

Daniel

Paul

Elisabeth

Naomi and Deborah

Priscilla

Irene

Veronica

www.nacmu.org



Get in Touch
Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda
P.O. Box 355, Mukono, Uganda
+256 772 481142 / +256 772 532091
uganda@nacmu.org

The Netherlands
+31 184 415987 – nederland@nacmu.org

Germany – GAI n Germany
www.gain-germany.org

United States – Safe Landing Ministries
www.safelandingministries.org

Canada – Sharelife Foundation
www.shareapack.com