

March 2022



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**CHRISTAID SECONDARY SCHOOL IS OPEN
AND BLOWING AWAY THE CA COMMUNITY!
(...WELL, NOT THAT KIND OF BLOWING AWAY)➡**



With a mixture of relief and jubilation, Director Grace, Headmaster William Mugenyi and the ChristAid Board of Directors announce the opening of the ChristAid Secondary School, which occurred on January 10, 2022!! There are currently 310 students attending (well beyond our initial estimates) including 58 "day students" and 252 full time boarding students. The number of boarding students sent the school staff scrambling to convert "2-high bunk beds" into "3-high bunk beds" and various other innovations to accommodate the robust group of students walking through the doors. What a great problem to solve!



Director Grace with students arriving to receive their uniforms and boarding room assignments.



Triple-high bunk beds quickly obtained for placement in the girl's dormitories.



Headmaster William distributing uniforms.



New dining room area for the students meals and fellowship time.



Lab equipped with 30 computers funded by Augustana Lutheran Church, to open the doors to the world for our students! **THANK YOU, AUGUSTANA!**



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FACILITIES FOR OUR BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS



Notice the laundry facilities for the boarding students. They each bring a jerry can for the necessary water and a wash bucket to launder their own clothing.

ChristAid provides the mattresses for the kids, and they bring their own colorful sheets, pillows and blankets. The lockers contain their other belongings.

This is a big adventure for the kids who have previously only lived in their jungle homes. Let the learning begin!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - TO MOVE THE WORK OF CHRISTAID FORWARD... 

Please mark your calendars for the **ChristAid Fundraiser Banquet for 2022**. The Banquet will be held **Friday evening, September 30th** at Waterstone Community Church in Littleton, where we met last year. Our theme for his year is "God is Good" - and we already have some amazing stories to tell you about just HOW good!! **Please save the date on your calendar today!!**

The banquet is our most important fundraising effort for the year, and we are always looking for ways to do it more effectively! We are looking for volunteers to help us make it better! More specifically, we are looking for someone to coordinate the silent auction and another person/team to secure corporate sponsors for the event. In addition, if you have an interest and ability to help secure large ticket auction items, please let us know.

Outside of the auction, we are always on the lookout for a volunteer with grant writing experience who would be willing to take on that task for us. Please call Kent at ChristAid at 1-866-933-7552 if you are interested.



ChristAid Board members - 2022

From left: Darcy Oman, Kathy Hassell, Terry Oman, Marcee Martin, Nancy Hollis, Rick Hollis

Striving to fulfill the Mission Statement of ChristAid:

Putting God's love in action by providing relief, Christian care and education to children and families in Uganda, for the Glory of God.



ChristAid Staff - 2022

From left: Kent Stannard, Michelle Chaffin, Maggie Van Dusseldorp, Pastor Bruce Van Dusseldorp

We are beginning 2022 with... 145 sponsored Grandmas, 153 sponsored Ahadi kids, 32 Grandma houses finished, a nearly completed Grandma Village, a full Preschool and Primary School, and NEW Secondary school operating at high capacity, major funding in place for the (self-sustaining) Office Building construction, and an amazing Director and Staff in Uganda... **GOD IS GOOD!** **CAN WE HEAR AN AMEN????**



Look into the smiling face of Grandma **Rosette Byabagabi**. At 62, Grandma is responsible for herself and one of her grandchildren with no income except for occasionally selling bananas for cash and the produce from her garden to sustain them. Rosette has kidney problems, swollen legs and severe headaches, making even simple gardening difficult. Please consider sponsoring Rosette, who is praying for a guardian angel to provide funds for better food, health care and a measure of dignity and security in her life. Let the ChristAid office know if you are moved to offer her aid!

Sharon Kebirungi is a 14-year-old Primary 6 student...(about a year away from being able to attend our new Secondary School). Sharon lost her previous sponsorship and desperately needs assistance to continue her dream of becoming a Christian lawyer. Her mother has mental health issues and Sharon has lived with first her grandmother and then an aunt. Neither are able to afford her tuition. Sharon says, "I love studying so much because that is the source in which my future lays". Please let us know if you can help!



A "**Grandma for Jesus**" may be sponsored for \$35 a month which provides them with cash in hand, as well as general medical care at the MK International Hospital if needed. It also pays for CA staff to assist the Grandmas, especially the most weak and elderly in the group who may not be able to attend the monthly meetings to receive their support in person. The Grandma's staff makes home visits to our most feeble Grandmas to assist with housekeeping or such assistance as bringing a delivery of their groceries. They also arrange for pastoral visits from our staff pastor, Reverend Jennifer. Our Grandma's Coordinator, Beatrice, is admired and loved by the Grandmas for her constant and thoughtful care for the members of this group.

Ahadi Kids (school students) may be sponsored for \$40 per month for Preschool and Primary School students, and \$70 for Secondary School students. This covers the cost of tuition, our staff's assistance, a lunch at school and school uniforms (which are often the best clothing that the children own). Besides all the other academic advantages, sponsoring a student makes it possible for the student to learn English which is a major advantage when going into any kind of self-supporting business opportunity beyond the villages they are growing up in. Please go to the ChristAid website (ChristAidIntl.org) or email (ChristAid@ChristAidIntl.org) or call the office (1-866-933-7552) if you would like to bless someone with your support. Whole families are given hope when a child gets to go to school!



Thoughts from the desk of Executive Director, Pastor Bruce...

Thank you to ChristAid donor and sponsor, Harry Yosten, for reminding us of the following information regarding tax free gifts to charitable organizations like ChristAid:

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Did you know that if you are over the age of 70½ you can make a distribution to ChristAid directly from your IRA and it will then "count" towards your annual Required Minimum Distribution? And the distribution/donation is not included in your taxable income for the year of your donation? Even if you have not started your RMDs you can still contribute, and it will not be taxed to you as long as you are over age 70½.

Congress has provided this simple, easy and tax efficient way for charitably inclined taxpayers to make contributions to qualified charities, and ChristAid is certainly such a charity. There is a maximum contribution limit of \$100,000 per year, but ChristAid welcomes all gifts of whatever size. The only requirement is that the donor must direct the IRA administrator (your brokerage firm most likely) to make the gift directly to a qualified charity (ChristAid International)!

So, consult with your tax advisor and IRA administrator if you would like to help ChristAid in this way.

Post Death

Did you know that whoever is the beneficiary of your IRA will likely need to pay taxes on whatever is left in your IRA at your death? You may not realize that you can add a qualified charity as a beneficiary to your IRA and leave a specified percentage which will be distributed tax free to that charity.

With IRAs becoming more and more a major part of family assets, donors are finding that adding ChristAid as a beneficiary is a very good way to continue support or sponsorships that are important to them, even after they are deceased. At your death, your IRA administrator simply follows your beneficiary designation to distribute whatever percentage you choose directly to each beneficiary. As long as the percentages add up to 100%, the process is quick and simple. As you plan your estate, please consider making ChristAid or sponsored family members beneficiaries of your IRA.

So, look at your current IRA beneficiary designation and see if there might be "room" to add ChristAid support. Your gift will continue giving even after you have met the Lord. Peace, Pastor Bruce

SPECIAL NOTE.... The Board is arranging a "ZOOM OPPORTUNITY FOR MAY or JUNE" so that sponsors may communicate with their Grandmas and/or Ahadi Kids. It has been a while since we could do this!!

Covid has made it difficult for our Ugandan family members to travel to a central location to video call with us, but we feel that we are now able to make those arrangements. As soon as the date and times are agreed upon in Uganda, we will be giving you notice, so that you may call us and request a time slot to come to our meeting room to visit with your sponsored family members. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis, so watch for the next newsletter, or an email from ChristAid or the ChristAid Facebook page or our website (ChristAidIntl.org) for more details and for the date to be announced.

It is a special moment to have your Grandma "praise-dance" in appreciation of you or see the smiling face of your newly sponsored student from 8,500 miles away! **God is so good!!**