



The Noah's Ark Times

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

Price: your gift
2020 Edition

Dear Readers,
when we look back on 18 years of Noah's Ark we think of children, many children. Children for whom we have made a difference in life, whom we have been able to convince they are valuable. Children whom we were able to provide with an education. We think of the vast number of children who we could reunite with their families or were taken into foster families. To be able to do this and be a part of their lives was an enormous blessing for us. While we are writing this we are filled with a deep thanksgiving to God. Who could have imagined all this when we started 18 years ago by welcoming one child in our home and our heart?

Our oldest children are now ready to stand on their own two feet, to plot their own path and to be independent. That does not mean of course that our work is finished. There are still many more children in need, children who need a loving home. And so we continue. We encounter an increasing number of abused children who have lost all faith in other people. The blessing we experience after helping these children to feel that love and safety still exists and to have them put their head on your shoulder is indescribable. We are looking forward to what God will bring on our path and are ready to put in our time, energy and effort.



Peter and Pita Buitendijk
Noah's Ark founders

CELEBRATING 19 YEARS OF GROWTH

NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA (NACMU) IS NOW 19 YEARS OLD AND IT HAS COME A LONG WAY.

Appalled by the poverty and the large number of children in need, Peter (Piet) and Pita Buitendijk started Noah's Ark in 2000 to devote their lives to caring for abandoned and abused children in their rental home just outside Uganda's capital city Kampala. Children were brought to them by the police who, unable to trace their families or care for them themselves, were grateful for Noah's Ark's help. Their first child was an abandoned baby boy. Soon he was followed by many others who needed a safe home. In 2006 Peter and Pita, 47 children and staff moved to the current, much larger compound near the town of Mukono, about an hour east of Kampala. There they were able to house even more children and

they had the space to build schools, a medical clinic (Health Centre III) and much more.

Since its establishment in 2000 Noah's Ark has been able to save the lives of hundreds of Ugandan children who were abandoned or abused. While many were reunited with their relatives, still more than 200 children are being cared for in the Children's Home and the Family Units. Over 500 students are educated in our schools and our medical clinic provides subsidized care to thousands of patients a year (our children, students, staff and members from the surrounding communities).

The first children that came in our care

all these years ago are now young adults who have completed their secondary school education and more will soon follow. Some may continue their studies, others might be working on with our own staff or find a job elsewhere. This graduation to adulthood is a milestone in our history and a tribute to all our sponsors, donors and volunteers from around the world who have made this possible.

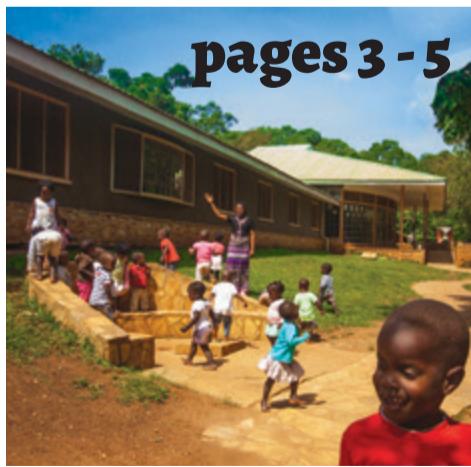


▲ Noah's Ark in 2005



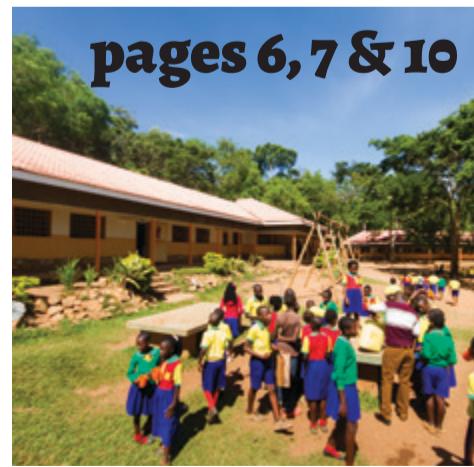
Noah's Ark at the end of 2018 ▲

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Children's Home

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New Horizon Schools

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Medical Clinic

page 13



Outreach



WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE TO GO

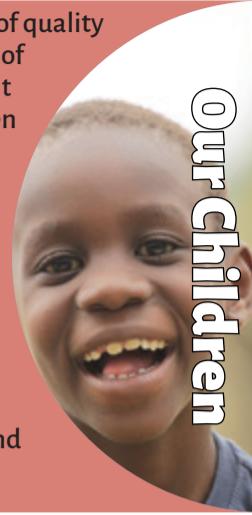
MOST CHILDREN THAT COME TO US ARE FOUND ABANDONED IN FORESTS, AT BUS STATIONS, SHOPS, CHURCHES, HOSPITALS AND EVEN IN GARBAGE CONTAINERS, STORM DRAINS AND PIT LATRINES.

Others are orphaned, often after their single mothers die while giving birth. A smaller group of children are removed from their families due to abuse, exploitation or legal disputes. Legally, the children have to be admitted via the police or the courts. When the police receives a child they contact the local probation office who refers them on to Noah's Ark. Our team then goes out to pick up the child. If we conclude that the child has no other place to go and we are able to provide for his or her needs a handover letter is then signed giving us formal custody. Upon arrival at Noah's Ark, the child is given a thorough medical check and treated if necessary. Depending on the age and situation of the child the child is brought to the Children's Home, clinic or cared for directly by Peter and Pita. Meanwhile our social workers try to trace their relatives by visiting the location where the child was found, talking to witnesses and hanging up posters with the child's photo and our contact details in hope of finding out any more information. Sometimes this takes only a few days, but it can also take months or even years, depending on circumstances.



▲ A police station is not a suitable home for a baby

Factors like poverty, a lack of quality healthcare and a cultural tradition of having a large number of children result in many abandoned and orphaned children in Uganda. The community often does not notice things are going wrong until it is too late. Working together with police and child welfare departments, our primary goal is to provide immediate care for these vulnerable children who have no place to go and no one else to care for them and to reunite them with their relatives. But if that is not possible, we become their new family and we will care for them until they can stand on their own feet.



Meet Frank



FRANK WAS ABOUT ONE YEAR OLD WHEN HE CAME TO NOAH'S ARK IN AUGUST 2018.

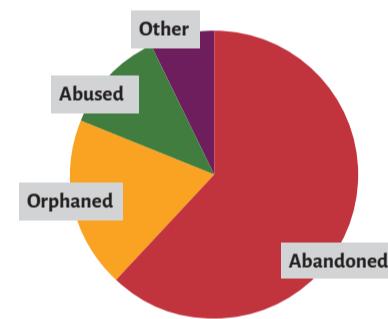
He was discovered by a passerby, wrapped only in a blanket and abandoned in a swamp. He was taken to the police who referred him on to Noah's Ark. Frank now lives in the baby wing of the Children's Home. He is a kind, happy and gentle little boy.

i The birthday of an abandoned child is unknown so Pita and the doctor make their best estimation.

According to the 2014 census, 48% of the Ugandan population is below the age of 14. The average Ugandan woman gives birth to 6 children.

According to UNICEF there are more than 2.5 million orphaned children in Uganda.

Reasons for admission



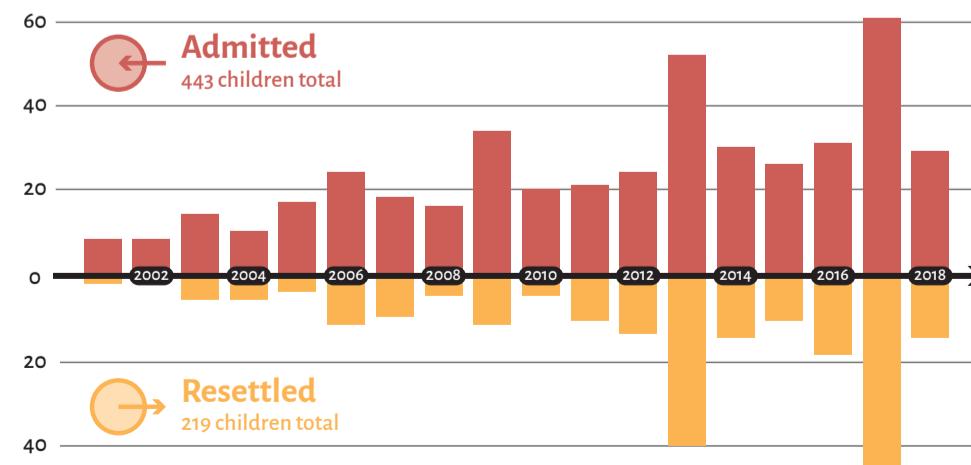
Children who are admitted into our care often arrive in a poor physical or mental state. Being with us, they grow not only because they get older but also undergo a major transformation because of the love, care and medical attention they receive. On the right you see some of our children the day they were admitted. Can you match them with the children on page 9?



It is all in our numbers

OUR DESIRE IS FOR CHILDREN TO GROW UP IN THEIR OWN FAMILIES, NOT TO HAVE A FULL CHILDREN'S HOME.

Over the years, hundreds of children have been admitted into our Children's Home. We are proud of the number of children we have resettled with their own relatives or Ugandan foster families over the years by working with the authorities. While reunification is our primary goal, many children have nobody to return to. We will continue to give our full attention, devotion, and care to those children who remain under our care, for however long it is needed.



▲ At the end of 2018, more than 200 children still remain under our care.

LETTING GO

IF AND WHEN THE POLICE AND OUR SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ABLE TO TRACE A PARENT OR ANOTHER RELATIVE WHO IS ABLE TO CARE FOR A CHILD STAYING AT NOAH'S ARK, THE CHILD IS RESETTLED WITH HIS OR HER RELATIVES.

Some children are resettled after only a few days or weeks, others after a couple of years. Older children are gradually resettled (first staying with their family during the school breaks), younger ones leave in a shorter time span. We bring the child to the police where the child is officially handed over to the relatives.

Some of our children are happy to be reunited with their families, others are sad to leave Noah's Ark or don't understand. These departures are very hard for the children and staff. But we believe the children are better off with their own relatives and we are legally obliged to let them go.



▲ Emily was reunited with her parents after being kidnapped by her nanny

GOODBYE, AMBER!

ON THE 21ST OF MAY 2017 A MAL-NOURISHED BABY WAS ABANDONED AT A HOSPITAL CLOSE BY.

The police called for our help and of course we came for her. We found a girl of about six weeks old weighing just over four pounds (1850 grams). We gave her the name Amber. She started as a pitiful human being but we have been able to see her change into a healthy and happy baby. That gives us the encouragement we need to continue our work.

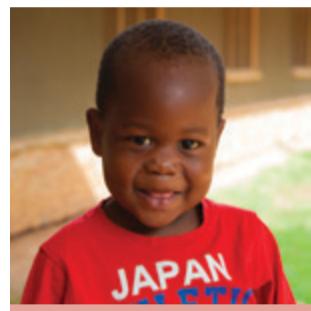
The chances of finding Amber's relatives were close to zero but a Ugandan woman, working as a nurse, who had previously adopted one of our children (Vivienne) wanted to give another child a home as well. Our social workers and the Child Welfare Department therefore arranged for her to adopt Amber as well. We are filled with joy that Amber now has a family to call her own as she grows up in a place where she is loved and cared for.



▲ Amber's official hand over

Children's Home Family Units

The Children's Home and the Family Units are where the children live and the center of our activity. The Children's Home houses about 100 boys and girls between the ages of 0 to 11 years. There they sleep, bathe, eat and play until eventually there is a place for them in one of the Family Units (separate buildings that houses a group of up to ten boys or girls). In the Family Units we are able to give the children a much more family-like atmosphere than in the Children's Home. Children wait excitedly for their chance to move to a Family Unit. Peter and Pita also lead a Family Unit with both boys and girls of different ages.



Nehemiah Byakatonda is an energetic and sweet toddler. He came to us after his mother abandoned him at the clinic where she had given birth to him under a false name. Up to this day we were not able to trace her so Nehemiah remains under our care.

THE TIRELESS TODDLERS

OUR BABIES MOVE TO THE TODDLERS WING WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO WALK AND EAT SOLID FOODS.

The toddler's world expands to the entire Children's Home as well as the outside playground where they spend most of their day playing on the climbing frame and in the sandpit. In the mornings the toddlers go to the 'play class' where play, sing, dance, shade and listen to story books. In this way they get used to doing activities in a class setting and at a set time, this prepares them for going to school when they are four years of age. It can be hard to imagine these toddlers to ever run out of energy and be tired but after they all take a nap.

At any time up to 30 toddlers are looked after by a dedicated team of caregivers in green and yellow aprons. They love to play just as much as the toddlers and don't mind their endless energy and runny noses.

CRIBS AND CUDDLES

MOST CHILDREN ADMITTED INTO NOAH'S ARK ARE BABIES SO THEIR LIVES WITH US BEGIN IN THE BABY WING OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME.

A dedicated team of caregivers wearing blue and white aprons work in shifts 24 hours a day caring for about 20 babies from a couple of days old to one-and-a-half years old. The babies sleep in baby cribs with no more than eight in one room. The youngest sleep a lot and are given a bottle every couple of hours. The older babies spend their days sleeping, eating (milk and solid foods) and playing in the baby wing or outside on the grass when the weather is nice. The baby wing is a very popular place for visitors and the older children who like to help the caregivers feed, cuddle and play with the babies.



Scott is one of the babies in our baby wing. When he was about three months old, a man noticed a woman leaving her baby boy outside in the rain and wind. After this happened on several occasions he took action and brought the boy to the police. Once the mother arrived at the police station she was found to be mentally ill. She took off and never came back. Despite this difficult start, Scott is a happy baby and is growing well in our care.



Juliet Nantamba came to us in 2011 at 13 months old. She was abandoned by her parents. She's a beautiful nine year old girl and very energetic, talkative and playful. She shares a room in the Children's Home with 7 other girls of her age and is in P4 class at the Primary School.

STUDYING STUDENTS

WHEN OUR CHILDREN REACH THE AGE OF THREE THEY START NURSERY SCHOOL (SEE PAGE 7) AND MOVE TO THE NEXT WING OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME.

During the week they spend their days at school but they get to relax and play at home when they return at 4pm and during the weekends. The 25-40 school going children are cared for by dedicated caretakers who wear dark green and red aprons. The caretakers make sure the children keep themselves clean, stay healthy, settle disputes and help them with their homework.



EVERYTHING UNDER ONE BIG ROOF



▲ The Children's Home is the beating heart of daily life at Noah's Ark.

THE CHILDREN'S HOME HOUSES MANY THINGS UNDER ITS ROOF – EVERYTHING THAT IS NEEDED FOR OUR CHILDREN TO CALL THIS BUILDING THEIR HOME.

With babies living on one side and teenagers living with Piet and Pita in their Family Unit on the other side, walking through the length of this building (which stretches about 300ft) it becomes clear why it is called *the Children's Home*. With over 20 bedrooms, multiple bathrooms, a spacious living room and a grand kitchen the building is well equipped to accommodate its residents. The many windows allow the sun to enter and the building to breathe.

On one side the building borders a large playground with slides, climbing frames, swings, a sandpit, toy bikes and cars. It is hard for our children to get bored. On the other side you will find long lines of clean laundry drying in the sun, waiting to be worn again the next day.



Tirza (8) to an adult:
"Your legs are small.
How many years
are your legs?"



▼ The playground

▼ The Baby wing ("Nurses")

▼ Children's Bedroom

SPECIAL NEEDS, SPECIAL CARE

BENON (3) CANNOT WALK BECAUSE HE HAS CEREBRAL PALSY (A FORM OF BRAIN DAMAGE).

Every 2 weeks Benon and some of our other children with special needs visit the Afaayo Clinic in Mukono for physiotherapy and thanks to the exercises that he practices every day with his caregivers, his strong character and his determination to walk, he is now able to walk when you hold his hand and he can stand up on his own for a couple of seconds. This is a good sign that he may be able to walk in the near future.



▲ Benon is making progress



give children more than just **A PLACE**

We give children that have no other place to go more than just a place to stay. They are loved, cared for and receive everything they need. Join us in changing life stories.

sponsor a child today
nacmu.org/homesponsorship



FAMILIES WITHIN A FAMILY

All our children refer to each other as brothers and sisters though most of them are not related by blood. We do have some sets of siblings and we are happy they can grow up together.



Our Missionaries – Miranda van den Berg (The Netherlands)
Miranda works with us since 2016. She works with our special needs children, taking them to physical therapy and exercising with them. She set up a stimulation room to stimulate the senses with sounds, touch and colors. Together with other aunties she also leads the play class for the toddlers and she is also called on to translate news and stories for our Dutch sponsors.



▲ The residents of Girls Family Unit 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Caring for almost 200 children, it is no surprise we have a lot of birthdays to celebrate. Sometimes we have as many as six birthdays in one week while the last week of November has none. Children living in a Family Unit celebrate their birthday in their own home and get to invite friends. All birthdays are celebrated with cake, songs and of course presents. A barbecue and presentations from the children are reserved for Papa's and Mama's birthdays to give them some extra appreciation.



Our Missionaries – Adriënne van Drunen (The Netherlands)
Adriënne has joined Noah's Ark in 2018. She can be found in the office where she answers e-mails, collects the children's stories from the social workers and helps with our administration. She also leads play class, and often called upon to pick up new children from the police.



Rashid (5):
"I am so full that I am almost pregnant!"



▼ Living room and dining hall

I hope soon more children from the Children's Home can move into a Family Unit. We learn how to cook, wash clothes and care for yourself. That is important when you are older. We sleep with less people in one room so it is more quiet to play, study or sleep. I can keep my own things safe in my room now, in the Children's Home sometimes they got stolen. I don't know how many aunties have cared for me in the past but now we have only one. Auntie Helen knows us very well because she is always there and she teaches us many new things. **By Jimmy Muliika (11)**



Leah (14) about sports:
I dislike playing rugby at school
because people push each other
like they are enemies, but I like
watching it.

MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

THE FAMILY UNITS ARE BUILT TO INCLUDE EVERYTHING A HOUSE SHOULD HAVE TO BE A HOME – A living room for gathering and relaxing, a kitchen for cooking and sharing meals together, a pantry to not steal the biscuits from, bedrooms to rest and a bathroom to keep bodies and clothes clean and proper. Though the buildings are built exactly the same (some units are mirrored), every Family Unit has a different feel and the children are proud of their own home. Living in the Family Units comes with privileges like more personal attention from their dedicated caretaker, more space, privacy and less noise but it also comes with responsibilities like chores and taking care of your own room. The Family Units

are a success and we will continue giving children a loving home.



▲ living room and kitchen ▲



◀ bedrooms ▶

▲ A floor plan of the family units inset with photographs

Our Students

The New Horizon Schools (Nursery School, Primary School and Secondary Vocational School) educate the children from our Children's Home and children from the poorest families in the neighboring villages. In this way our own children are also exposed to other communities. The school's motto is 'From Nobody to Somebody' because orphans and the poor are often looked down on in Uganda. The school enrolls about 500 boys and girls. About 35% of the students come from our own Children's Home and 50% enrolled through our sponsorship program. The others are staff children or privately enrolled students.

If only we could select them all

EVERY YEAR OUR SOCIAL WORKERS SELECT NEW CHILDREN TO JOIN NEW HORIZON VIA OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.

The number of new children depends on the number of children joining from the Children's Home (they always get a place) and the number of sponsors available to cover the costs. The social workers ask local councils

in the villages to suggest families who really cannot afford the school fees. They then visit them and interview the parents and children. Because so many families cannot afford school fees, the social workers can usually only select one child from each family. It is a hard decision to make, but one that needs to be made.



▲ Who needs help the most? A hard decision.

Only 60% of students on sponsorship actually have a sponsor, but we never send them home because of that. We do need to cover the costs from general funds which leads to fewer new students admitted into the program and less extra activities or materials.

Sponsor wanted for Ian

IAN'S MOTHER IS A WIDOW WHO STRUGGLES EVERY DAY TO PROVIDE FOR HER 3 CHILDREN WITH NO SUPPORT FROM ANY OF HER FAMILY.

She operates a small saloon in her house to earn some income. His father was a fisherman who drowned in 2012. She was able to send her oldest 2 children to local schools but they were not allowed to complete their exams because she was unable to afford the final school fees. Ian, her youngest was therefore selected to join the New Horizon sponsorship programme. He is now in S3 at the Secondary & Vocational School but he still needs a sponsor.

**WE HAVE OUR STUDENTS COVERED!**

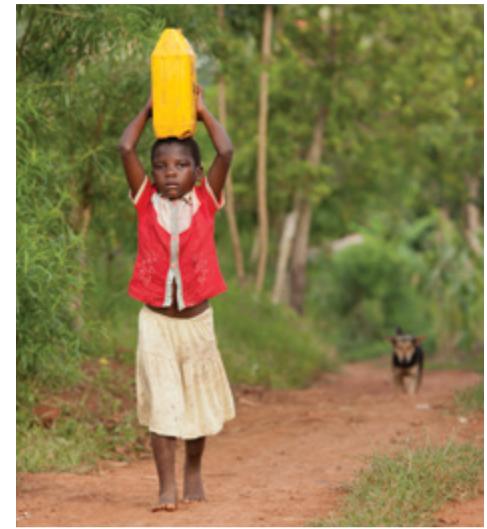
THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS THE CHILDREN SELECTED FOR SPONSORSHIP WILL RECEIVE EDUCATION FROM NURSERY UP TO SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AND THE CHANCE OF A BETTER FUTURE.

Once the children are selected, they immediately start school. We then look for sponsors to cover the costs of their education (\$40 per month) which includes school fees, books, meals and medical costs incurred at our clinic. These last two items are important because many of them only eat one meal a day and cannot afford medical treatment. Twice a year the sponsors receive a photo, drawing or letter from their sponsor child. They can also send letters to their sponsor child in Uganda. If you are interested in sponsoring a school child, please visit our website at www.nacmu.org to find out how.

**No WAY TO SCHOOL**

MANY FAMILIES IN THE VILLAGES AROUND NOAH'S ARK ARE SO POOR, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL.

They are often single parents, teenagers raising younger siblings or grandparents looking after their grandchildren. The majority live in one roomed houses made of bricks or mud with no solid floor, electricity or running water. Water and firewood are collected from nearby streams and forests and most can only afford to eat one meal a day. Any money earned is spent on food, basic necessities like soap and medications when someone falls sick. The children help with the housework or grow vegetables to earn some income. But because they don't go to school, their future will most likely repeat itself.



▲ An every day sight

\$40 per month keeps them in school

We already have the students but need your support to keep them in school. Sponsor a student today and make tomorrow possible.

sign up now at nacmu.org/schoolsponsorship

RYAN NEEDS A SPONSOR!

Ryan has hydrocephalus and a slow learning ability. His mother sells paraffin and mushrooms, his father is not interested in him because of his disabilities and expelled them from his home. Ryan's mother now cares for her three children by herself but she has no permanent or well paying job and cannot provide for all their needs, especially Ryan's expensive medications or education. Ryan was therefore selected to join New Horizon's sponsorship programme. He is now 8 years old and in P1 Class at the Primary school. But we still need a sponsor for Ryan.

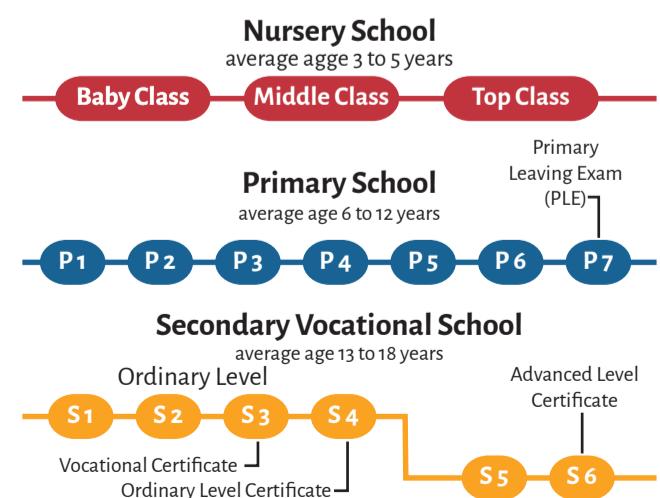


▲ Will you sponsor this happy boy?

MIX AND MATCH

ABOUT HALF OF THE STUDENTS IN OUR SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ARE PAYING STUDENTS.

Because of the unique mix of Secondary and Vocational education in our school students join us from all over the country as a boarding student. We admit them to give the school more income and at the same time to widen the social network of our own children. We also hope to remove the stigma against orphans and the poor by them becoming classmates. The boarding students live in dorms under the supervision of a patron or a matron. We educate them about hygiene, sexuality, drugs and alcohol and encourage them to seek advice and talk about their problems rather than hiding them.



A GOOD START AT NURSERY SCHOOL

THE NURSERY SCHOOL HAS ABOUT 120 STUDENTS, EIGHT TEACHERS AND A TEAM LEADER.

In Uganda there are three classes in nursery school: baby class, middle class and top class. At our school we have two streams of about 20 students per class.

The children start in baby class when they are three years old. They

are taught the basics about shapes, objects, colors, numbers and letters through games and play. We believe this is the most effective way to teach youngsters, as opposed to the blackboard approach of many Ugandan schools. After graduating from top class at six years the children join the New Horizon Primary School in Primary 1.

We wish more children could join New Horizon. Why? Because it gives them an opportunity to learn instead of just being at home. We learn to read, write and speak good English. New Horizon promotes both education and talents. We experience a new environment, acquire skills and make new friends. New Horizon has well trained and caring teachers, it also has a computer lab and a well equipped library with both novels and textbooks. We also have sports days where all of us get to show our talents. We hope you will sponsor a student and help them to come to our school.

by Nakato Sharon and Babirye Hellen, P7.



▲ Learning through playing

At New Horizon Nursery and Primary School we follow the Uganda National Curriculum and add some extra things of our own like field trips and sports days. Although having attended nursery school is not a requirement for joining primary school, we do encourage this practice as we believe it prepares the children well for their education and boosts their development. Many other schools do not start teaching classes in English until the fourth year of primary school but at New Horizon English is used for teaching right from the start as we believe younger children will have less problems picking up this new language.

Nursery and Primary School



▲ Teacher Rebeca asks her students a question

i Only 6% of adults 24 years and above in Uganda have finished Secondary School. Only 2% was able to attend post-secondary education.

According to the World Bank the literacy rate (being able to read and write) in Uganda is below 75%, compared to 99% in the United States and many other western countries. **i**

i According to the Education Policy Data Center, only half of the children in Uganda who start Primary School finish it with success.

Our Missionaries – Katie Berkman-Schinnell (USA)

Katie has worked with us since 2013. At school she teaches Bible lessons, manages the libraries and tutors children in reading. Four months a year she runs an activity program to occupy the more than 100 children aged 4-13 during the long school breaks. Together with her husband Christian (page 15) she leads a teen discipleship group. Many children pass by their house to play with their daughter who was born in 2019.

NEW HORIZON CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATES WITH FLYING COLORS

IN NOVEMBER 2018, 35 BOYS AND GIRLS FROM NEW HORIZON TOOK THEIR PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMS (PLE) AND ALL OF THEM GRADUATED, BEATING THE NATIONAL SUCCESS RATE OF 90%.

The children from our children's home on average performed better than the children from the community. Taking into account their background (many parents are illiterate and never went to school themselves) we are very proud of their results and seven years of development.

We are grateful for the sponsors that enabled them to pass this milestone and for their continued support as the majority of graduates have joined the New Horizon Secondary Vocational School. We are eager to receive the 2019 results as they will be available in January 2020.



▲ The class of 2018 welcomed their results with joy

THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS ABOUT 230 STUDENTS AND CONSISTS OF SEVEN CLASSES (P1 THROUGH P7).

Each classroom is filled with about 30 students and the twelve teachers teach subjects like Maths, English, Science (Biology, Physics and Chemistry), Religious Education, Physical Education, Reading, Social Studies and Music and Dance. On Wednesday afternoons the school organizes extra activities like quizzes, debates or sports competitions. On Friday mornings the whole school assembles to sing songs and learn a Bible lesson through skits or games.

In general, children start in P1 when they are six years old and graduate from P7 when they are thirteen, but it is not uncommon for students to be older because they started Primary School later. Each trimester exams are taken and reports are made about their academic progress. While many schools only take in high performing students, most of our students come from difficult backgrounds and receive little academic support at home. Even though their academic results may be low, we focus on their development and growth rather solely on academics.



ONE IN THREE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN UGANDA HAVE NO FOOD TO EAT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

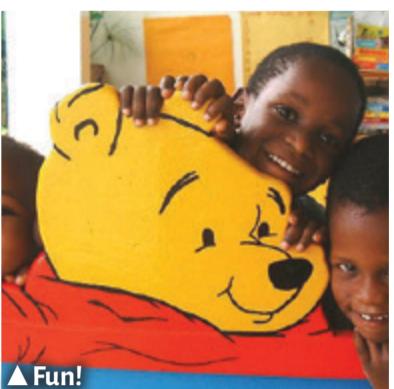
Most parents or guardians that struggle to collect enough money for school fees and supplies can't afford to send their children to school with lunch money.

This statistic does not hold up for students at New Horizon as we make sure all students get a nutritious and energy filled meal at lunch time and a tea break with biscuits in the morning – all part of the sponsorship program. For many this is the only nutritious meal of the day because their parents or caretakers cannot afford much more.

2000 - 2003



▲ A truck load



▲ Fun!



▲ Bathing



▲ First band members



▲ Eating together

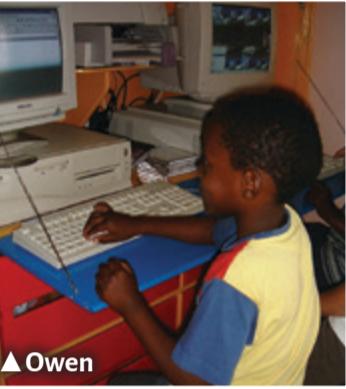


▲ The old house in Kampala

2004 - 2006



▲ More and more children



▲ Owen



▲ Fun activities



▲ Guards at the gate



▲ The Children's Home

2007 - 2009



▲ Timothy helps to build the first Family Unit



▲ Traditional dancing



▲ Christmas



▲ A well used clothes line



▲ Peter, Pita

2010 - 2012



▲ Nursery School opens it's doors



▲ Trampolines are fun!



▲ Fish ponds



▲ Lunch time, the living room is well occupied

2013 - 2015



▲ The church grows



▲ Malnutrition



▲ A growing school



▲ Oliebollen (Dutch new years' treats)

2016 - current



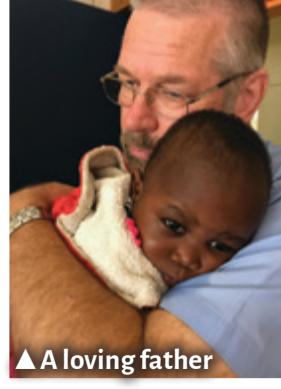
▲ Salon



▲ School trip



▲ A loving mother

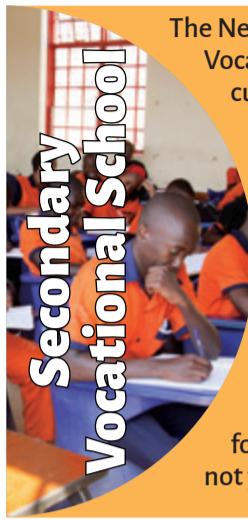


▲ A loving father



▲ Soccer players and coaches





The New Horizon Secondary Vocational School combines theoretical curriculum with vocational training and is unique in Uganda. In a developing country where jobs are few, we believe graduates will be better equipped if they also have a vocational skill and entrepreneurial knowledge. Students study subjects like English, math, science and history and vocational subjects like farming, carpentry, mechanics, masonry, plumbing, tailoring and entrepreneurship. We hope this combination of skills and knowledge will better prepare our students for the future and produce job creators, not job seekers.



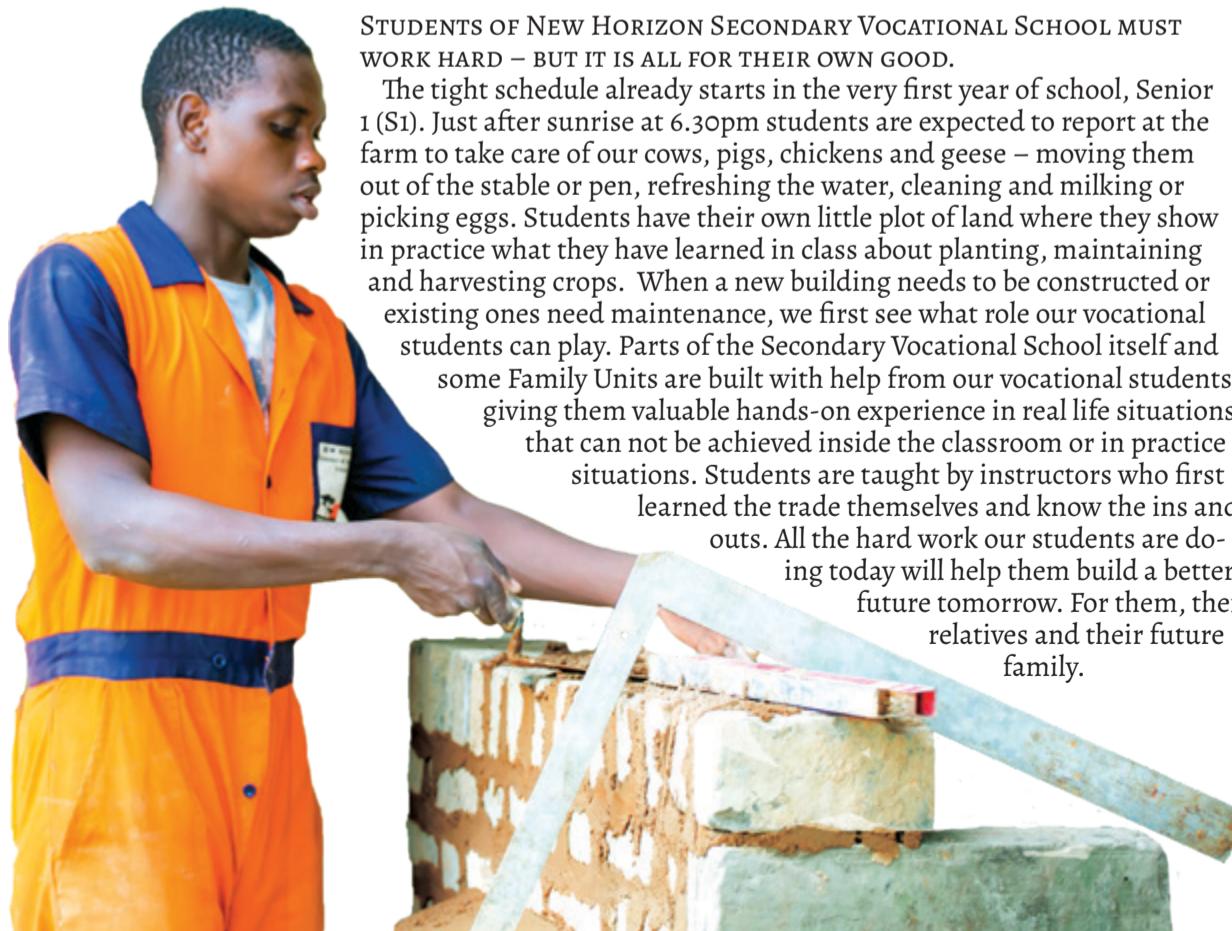
READY FOR THE FUTURE

EVERY YEAR, SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW HORIZON SECONDARY & VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN 2012, A NEW CLASS WAS BUILT TO HOUSE AND TEACH THE NEW YEAR OF STUDENTS (FROM S1 TO S6).

This expansion ended in 2017 when our oldest students reached and graduated from S6. The 16 students did their secondary school A level exams in 4 subjects (and had already graduated in a vocational subject of their choice). In 2018 the next group of 19 students sat for their exams and all but one passed. Although the A level results were not as good as the other secondary schools in the region, only one student failed. The reasons for the lower than average results is probably due to the time they also spend learning vocational subjects and because many of the students from the villages have to do house or garden work when they go back home after school.

But we still believe, because of the nature of the Ugandan economy, that learning a practical vocation is more important than getting good grades or going to a university. All our students have been taught vocational skills which will enable them to immediately start working (but at the same time they can also continue studying at a university or college if they have the funds to do so). They are ready for the future.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF



STUDENTS OF NEW HORIZON SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL MUST WORK HARD – BUT IT IS ALL FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.

The tight schedule already starts in the very first year of school, Senior 1 (S1). Just after sunrise at 6.30pm students are expected to report at the farm to take care of our cows, pigs, chickens and geese – moving them out of the stable or pen, refreshing the water, cleaning and milking or picking eggs. Students have their own little plot of land where they show in practice what they have learned in class about planting, maintaining and harvesting crops. When a new building needs to be constructed or existing ones need maintenance, we first see what role our vocational students can play. Parts of the Secondary Vocational School itself and some Family Units are built with help from our vocational students, giving them valuable hands-on experience in real life situations that can not be achieved inside the classroom or in practice situations. Students are taught by instructors who first learned the trade themselves and know the ins and outs. All the hard work our students are doing today will help them build a better future tomorrow. For them, their relatives and their future family.



▲ Woodworking



▲ Tailoring



▲ Catering



▲ Metalworking



▲ Motor vehicle mechanics



▲ Hair dressing

A Blessing to Return

It has been a real blessing for us to return for a visit after nearly four years. When we left at the end of 2014, there were five family units (plus Mama + papa's), now it has grown to eight. There has been expansion in other areas too like new classrooms and a library at the Secondary Vocational School, dormitories for the boarding boys, additional staff accommodation, the hairdressing salon and recent basketball court to name a few.

The greatest growth however has been in the children and aunties themselves. The boys and girls we left from the first family units are now confident young men and women, who are beginning to make decisions about their futures. To see many of them realizing and using their talents is heart-warming. One aspect especially dear to us, is the love of music that still emanates from this place; from the school assemblies to the band, to the church worship. To see people of all ages leading worship is great.

It has been wonderful to see the nursery and primary schools still using the Jolly Phonics program for learning to read. The standard of reading has been maintained and to see the

use of the library and the delight of the children in reading new books is a credit to the teachers and missionaries. Another delight for us is to see the Sunday School flourishing, with the inclusion of some of the older children involved in helping to lead this.

As we leave after our short stay, our hope and prayer is that Noah's Ark will continue to be a haven for the lost and abandoned children in Uganda. May God bless all who work here with a heart for children and for God. We will continue to pray for the work of Noah's Ark especially for Papa and Mama as they continue with the vision for the future.

Warwick and Marilyn Dingle
Missionaries at Noah's Ark from 2009 to 2014.



THE OLDEST BOYS

OUR OLDEST BOYS ARE NOW GROWN UP. THEY NO LONGER PLAY WITH TOY CARS, BUT DRIVE REAL VEHICLES AND WORK.

Daniel, Matthew and Timothy are the oldest boys at Noah's Ark: they were some of the first children to be taken in by Peter and Pita; the first to move to the new Children's Home in Mukono; and the first to live in the Family Units. They graduated from the New Horizon Secondary Vocational school and obtained their "Ordinary Level" certificate. Daniel, Matthew and Timothy also studied vehicle maintenance and received vocational certificates.

Mathew is currently working for the transport and maintenance department at Noah's Ark. He moves sup-

plies and materials with the pick-up truck or tractor and takes other vehicles to Kampala to procure other items. Daniel and Timothy are working at a company that buys coffee beans from farmers, selects them, sorts them and sends them off for grinding. They are learning on the job and still get to drive a lot – which they like.

We are very happy and excited that our oldest boys have finished school, and we believe they are ready for a brighter future thanks to the love, attention

and education that we and their sponsors have been able to give them. We wonder what we are going to be able to write about them in the next edition of the Noah's Ark Times...



▲ Daniel (L) and Timothy at the coffee plantation

The Rybakovs Family (Russia)

Dima, Yulia, Kirill (14) and Emiliya (7) set sail for Uganda at the end of 2018. Together they started a new life serving at Noah's Ark. Once a week, Dima and Yulia bring a Bible lesson to Primary School through songs, skits and games. They also host several fellowship groups for teenagers and students at their home. Kirill is a talented photographer and studies from home while Emiliya joins her class mates on New Horizon Primary School in the mornings.



Missionaries



FRONT PAGE NEWS

JETHRO WAS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN THE FIRST 2011 EDITION OF THE NACMU TIMES: 'BABY DUMPED IN PIT LATRINE'.

His teenage mother was raped and became pregnant. In her desperation, she dumped Jethro into a pit latrine (a toilet consisting of a covered hole in the ground) shortly after giving birth to him. Luckily, bystanders heard his cries and they were able to dig a hole into the underground sewage tank and fish him out. The local police called us in and we took Jethro and his mother back to Noah's Ark. Jethro was thoroughly washed (maggots were even lodged in his ears) and medicated. We tried to encourage his mother to bond with her baby but unfortunately she ran away a couple of months later and never returned. So Jethro still lives in the children's home. He is now 7 years old. Jethro is a very calm and well mannered young boy who likes playing outside with his friends. He is also doing well at school and is currently in Primary 2.

Do you recognize these children from page 3?
Solution: To put these photos in the same order as on page 3, spell 'growth'.
How many did you guess right?



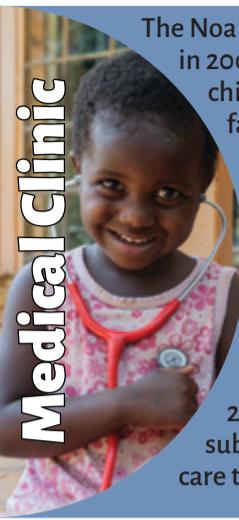
I DID NOT GIVE UP!

SAMUEL NAMWANJA JOINED NEW HORIZON PRIMARY SCHOOL AS A SPONSORED STUDENT VIA THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM WHEN HE WAS 8 YEARS.

He could not read or write and many schools would have refused to enroll him because it would bring their results down. However, we did not give up on Samuel, even after countless hours of tutoring Samuel was still not able to read.

Samuel does not excel in theoretical subjects, but his hands show great talent: in 2018 he completed his practical exam for Carpentry and Joinery and was able to get a national DIT Level 1 certificate, which proves his skill in woodworking. As preparation for his exam, Samuel made a sofa set. Samuel said: "People did not believe I could do it. But I did it. I made a complete sofa set by myself." A teacher bought the sofa set and Samuel already has a job lined up. "I will be working making furniture and tools in Kampala. In the weekends I will come back to stay with my mother, who has always supported me. When I have earned some money, I want to open my own furniture workshop."





Medical Clinic

The Noah's Ark Family Clinic opened in 2009 and provides medical care to the children and staff living at Noah's Ark and families from the surrounding villages. The clinic is a registered Health Center III and specializes in providing care to women and children. Our facilities include a general practice, pharmacy, laboratory, ward, maternal health unit, delivery room, malnutrition unit, dentistry practice and an ambulance service. Our medical staff includes doctors, nurses, midwives and lab technicians. We are open 24 hours a day and our services are free or subsidized to provide low cost high quality care to as many people as possible.



▲ Happy mama and baby

STOPPING DEATH CHASING NEW LIFE

IN UGANDA, EVERY MONTH MORE THAN 400 MOTHERS DIE GIVING BIRTH.

The main reasons are poor health, malnourishment and a lack of proper and affordable health care facilities. About 50% of births in the country are not attended by a health worker. For every 1,000 of the population there are less than two midwives.

To help mothers from the surrounding villages our Maternal Health Unit offers a comprehensive package of prenatal screening, delivery and ante-natal care for the subsidized price of 10 USD. The Mother and child programming is run by our midwives and includes consultations, ultrasound scans, laboratory tests, delivery in our delivery room attended by health workers, after delivery check ups, immunization and vitamin supplements. If complications arise during the delivery our doctor and ambulance are on standby to bring the mother and child to a nearby hospital with more facilities.

In Uganda, every day 4600 babies are born and 81 babies die each day before reaching their first month. Source: Unicef 2015 report on Uganda

HIV/AIDS IS NOT THE END



▲ One of them is HIV-Positive. It is invisible.

WITH AN ESTIMATED 6% OF THE POPULATION HIV-POSITIVE, AIDS IS A SIGNIFICANT CAUSE FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF ORPHANS IN UGANDA.

To prevent further spread and combat stigma our clinic provides free education, testing and Anti-retroviral Therapy, co-funded by the Makerere University Walter Reed Project. The 60 recipients are HIV-positive mothers who gave birth in our clinic and a few others who joined after being tested positive during our outreaches. Babies born to HIV-positive mothers are automatically treated with ART's during pregnancy and after their birth and in most cases the HIV virus is eliminated. Our goal is to create more awareness about this deadly virus and the possibilities for treatment and containment.

THE FIRST 6 YEARS OF A CHILD'S LIFE ARE VITAL FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

In Uganda one in every fifty children are malnourished or underweight due to poverty, neglect, poor health or ignorance (too much of the same food). Working with Mulago Hospital in Kampala we started a malnutrition unit in 2013. We conduct outreaches in the villages to assess children for signs of malnutrition, educate parents on the importance of a healthy diet and treat malnourished children free of charge. Severely malnourished children are admitted into our clinic until they reach a healthy weight, mildly malnourished children are given food supplements to take home. Thanks to the support we received so far we were able to help hundreds of children recover.

According to the US AID, in Uganda 2.2 million children under five years old are stunted (low height for age) due to malnutrition. Anemia (low iron and red blood cell count) affects more than half of the children under 5 years and 1 in 3 women due to micronutrient deficiencies.

UNDENIABLE GROWTH

SALIMA LIVES WITH HER FATHER. HER MOTHER ABANDONED THEM WHEN SHE WAS 3 YEARS OLD.

Her father doesn't have a job or family who can help him. He grows vegetables in his garden: but not enough to make a meal every day. When Salima was admitted into our Malnutrition unit in June 2018, she was 5 years old and weighed only 5 kg. She was so severely malnourished that she had never walked before. We gave her special food and taught her father about proper nutrition.

After one month Salima weighed 8 kg (which was enough to sustain further growth) so she was discharged and sent back home with nutritional supplements. Salima is now doing fine and her father works on our land to grow crops and has a more stable income.



NEXT PATIENT PLEASE

Our general practice is specialized in treating minor injuries and common sicknesses. Our two doctors, Barbara (Uganda) and Tamar (the Netherlands), treat about 300 patients a month, the majority are women and children from Noah's Ark and the local community. The most common medical issues are bacterial infections, urinal tract infections, flu, chicken pox, measles and diarrhea.

With 32% of all cases, malaria is by far the most common disease and very serious because the strain

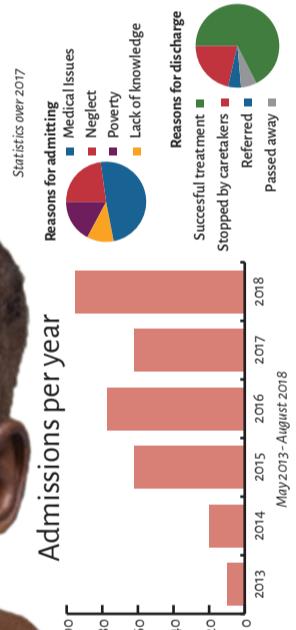
About 50% of births in Uganda are not attended by a health care worker



▲ The medical staff and their life saving ambulance

Six years of fighting malnutrition

Malnutrition Unit statistics



in Uganda (Falciparum) is deadly if not treated. Our children and most people sleep under mosquito nets and we spray insecticide around the Children's Home, but despite that many children, staff and community members still fall ill, especially in the rainy seasons when the number of mosquitoes rises.

Thanks to the knowledge and facilities of our clinic effective diagnosis and affordable treatment are always near at hand.

Many grandparents care for their grandchildren because the parents won't care for their children or migrate to find work. The average life expectancy in Uganda is 60 years old, so there aren't as many elderly people in Uganda as in the West.

Generations exchanging skills

DIFFERENT GENERATIONS HAVE DIFFERENT SKILLS.

During the school break, about 100 children from the children's home between the ages of 4 and 12 remain on the compound and need something to do. So we decide to organize visits to *jjajjas* (meaning grandparents in Luganda, the local tribal language) who live alone in the villages. During these visits, the two generations exchange their skills and help each other. The *jjajjas* teach our children how to weave mats out of dyed grass and our chil-

dren show their *jjajjas* how to make a bracelet out of colourful rubber bands (loom). The children and *jjajjas* then cook a nice meal together after which the *jjajjas* tell the children stories about their childhood (over half a century ago) – often with the help of a member of staff who translates because most of our children cannot speak fluent Luganda. These visits have been a real success and will surely be repeated during future school holidays.



▲ Children learn how to make mats (top), *jjajjas* learn how to use the rubber bands

Missionaries – Tamar Waiswa-Goossens (The Netherlands)



Tamar has been coming to Noah's Ark since 2007 and settled with us in 2013 after getting her degree in medicine. She now serves as one of the doctors at our clinic and is responsible for the extensive medical outreach program, co-funded by the Rob Foundation (www.therobfoundation.org). In 2017 she married one of our Ugandan staff members Daniel, who is our volunteer coordinator. Tamar and Daniel are the proud parents of Blessing (adopted 2017) and Elaine (born 2019).

NOAH'S ARK DECLARES WAR local community put on highest alert

NOAH'S ARK HAS DECLARED WAR ON MALNUTRITION, INVADING NEARBY VILLAGES TO SPREAD AWARENESS.

In July 2017 Noah's Ark gathered every available man, woman and child on its compound and prepared them for battle. Children, aunties, uncles, teachers, missionaries and volunteers equipped with banners, posters and photos stormed the local community where cases of malnutrition are no exception. The army of about 100 then marched into a nearby village where the residents were caught off guard by the musical noise provided by the Noah's Ark band.

Hundreds of residents came out of their houses and

joined the march which ended at a local church where Noah's Ark medical staff explained the signs and dangers of malnutrition to the gathered villagers. Some of the children who had been successfully treated by our clinic's malnutrition unit were presented to the crowd to show them what a difference we can make.

Noah's Ark will continue the war against malnutrition until there are no more malnourished children in Uganda, staying alert and ready to fight at any moment necessary.



Every day lots of people enter our gates: local students going to school, sick and injured villagers visiting our clinic, staff and workers coming to work and locals who attend our church. Many people benefit from our services but there are many more families in the villages around Noah's Ark who need help. So we also organize medical, educational, evangelical and developmental outreach services in the surrounding region to help even more people and to give our children opportunities to give back and experience life outside the compound.



Outreach

GOING HOME WITH JOY

EVERY CHRISTMAS WE GIVE OUT 'CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS' TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR SPONSORED STUDENTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Although Christmas is not about eating a big meal at all, many families of our sponsored students struggle

everyday to get food on the table. Christmas is an excellent time to show that we care for each other and to be generous.



▲ They will have an extra special Christmas everyday to get food on the table. Christmas is an excellent time to show that we care for each other and to be generous.

Because of the overwhelming number of sponsors from all over the world who made a donation towards a Christmas Food Basket, we decided in 2017 to combine the giving of these Christmas baskets with a fund raiser for the malnutrition clinic. This resulted in over 150 baskets (filled with food, some basic necessities and candy and juice) handed out to families and *jjajjas* who brought their gifts home with a smile and over \$20,000 raised for the malnutrition clinic.



Fridays are for going out

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON OUR CLINIC CONDUCTS MEDICAL OUTREACHES IN THE VILLAGES AROUND NOAH'S ARK AND MUKONO

This is so that we can improve the health of even more people in our region. A team of staff travel to village community centers and schools to give health education talks about malaria, typhoid, proper hygiene, family planning. They also conduct screening campaigns for malnutrition, HIV, hypertension or give out donated medications or medical supplies like mosquito nets, condoms, vaccinations, deworming pills and Vitamin A supplements.

This page is not dedicated to a building. It's about the people who follow Jesus Christ and want to be like Him. Our community is made up of the children, students, staff, volunteers and missionaries who come from different regions of Uganda and the world. This brings both challenges (like language problems and cultural differences) but also opportunities to learn and grow together in the Word, music, love and deeds. We are encouraged by the growth of our church and we look forward to further development and fruition in the near future.

*Support our work from wherever you are.
Sign up for our weekly prayer letter.
www.nacmu.org/pray*



▲ Teacher Joel teaches in his Sunday School class

FROM STUDENTS TO TEACHERS

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CATTERS TO CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE. AFTER THAT, CHILDREN JOIN YOUTH PROGRAMS THAT MORE FIT THEIR AGE.

Some of our own teenagers returned and are now teaching Sunday School classes alongside their own former teachers because they had a desire to help their younger brothers and sisters learn more about God. They brought their own talents and skills to the classroom and joined trainings together with their adult colleagues to keep refreshing their abilities.

Over the school break, these teenagers also take part in "Bible Club", a five-day club with a specific Biblical theme. Not only do they conduct clubs within Noah's Ark but even outside in our community. Sometimes they are faced with a language barrier (our teenagers are not fluent in the local language) but they are really enthusiastic about spreading God's Word and His love to their neighbors.

We, as parents, teachers and caretakers are proud of these young boys and girls who are willing to set aside their time to help the Kingdom of God grow bigger, even if it takes them out of their comfort zone.



▲ Brenda teaches in the community



THE ROLE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

THE MAJORITY OF OUR CONGREGATION IS MADE UP OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS AND WE ARE HAPPY THAT THEY DON'T JUST LISTEN FROM THE CHURCH BENCHES BUT ALSO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN OUR CHURCH.

Every Sunday, the stage is filled with children and teenagers who lead the worship service, help with the collection or sing and play beautiful music on drums, guitars and keyboards to praise God while

our pastor or visiting speakers preach to the congregation.

Furthermore, on Wednesday evenings, a youth service is held for and by the students (from the Home and boarding school section) who attend the New Horizon Secondary & Vocational School. The music is then a little louder, there is more dancing, and our pastor speaks about teenage issues and encourages the youth to share the word of God.

Christmas Musical

EVERY YEAR AT CHRISTMAS WE INVITE OUR NEIGHBOURS TO JOIN US FOR A PERFORMANCE OF MUSIC, DANCE AND GOOD NEWS.

This Christmas musical '*Hark, the Herald Angel*' transported the audience to the heavens where a choir of angels was busy preparing themselves for the arrival of Jesus. However, some of the angels didn't understand why God wanted to go down to earth in the form of a man. Hark (a particularly stubborn angel) had so many questions for the arch angel Gabriel, that he



▲ The angel choir is doing their best to hit all the right notes



▲ Not only the stage was used

THE GOOD SAMARITANS

THE GOOD SAMARITANS IS A GROUP OF BOARDING STUDENTS WITH A HEART FOR SERVING OTHERS.

The group, started in 2016 by two of our missionaries, meets once a week for Bible study and to find ways to serve those around them. The main beneficiaries of their work are two brothers who live just down the road from Noah's Ark. Both brothers are lame and rely on help from others for daily activities like preparing food and going to church. The students have visited them on a regular basis to get to know them, do some house cleaning and bring some basic supplies.

When The Good Samaritans noticed the dirt floor in the house they came up with the idea to put in a concrete floor, making it easier to keep the house clean and more pleasant to live in. They worked hard making beads from paper, which they strung into necklaces and sold abroad. The proceeds were not only sufficient to put in the floor, but also to plaster the inside and outside walls of the house. New Horizon students carried out the work as part of their practical building experience. The brothers and the neighbors who care for them were very pleased with the help offered by the students.



▲ The new plaster brings a smile

was often late for choir practice. Thankfully everything worked out in the end because the choir master had more than enough angelic volunteers to go down to earth.

More than 1000 students, parents and neighbours came to Noah's Ark to enjoy the musical and listen to the true message of Christmas:

"For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16 (NIV)

WORLD WIDE SUPPORT

EVEN THOUGH NOAH'S ARK HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE NETHERLANDS WE RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

The Netherlands – the board in the Netherlands volunteers their time to carry out practical work such as mailing newsletters and updates, attracting new sponsors, keeping the financial administration and collection of goods for transport to Uganda. A true blessing to have these hands at work.

Germany – Global Aid Network Germany (GAiN) has supported Noah's Ark for many years already. Through them we have re-

ceived shipping containers full of baby formula, laundry detergent, shoes and so much more. This office has also attracted hundreds of sponsors for our children and students.

United States – Safe Landing Ministries is our faithful partner in promoting Noah's Ark in the U.S. and taking care of correspondence with sponsors and donors. Safe Landing's board volunteers their time and does not get any income from their activities.

Canada – The Sharelife Foundation started supporting Noah's Ark in 2016. They mainly attract businesses to support

projects such as the building of new buildings on the compound but also look for individual sponsors.

New Zealand – After Warwick and Marilyn Dingle retired from being missionaries at Noah's Ark they continued their support by raising funds in New Zealand and looking for new sponsors. They cover this remote corner of the globe on behalf of their Ugandan friends and colleagues.

▼ A visit from Safe Landing Ministries in 2018



CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER



IN 2018 ONE OF OUR FAITHFUL FRIENDS ASKED US:
"WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?"

Our answer was our need of another borehole to provide drinking water to the growing population on the compound and the increasingly longer dry spells. Thanks to a generous donation just a few months later we were able to welcome the first drops of crystal clear water from our freshly drilled borehole. Students from our Secondary Vocational School were involved in every step of this process giving them a unique opportunity to learn about finding the right spot for a water source and everything needed to get it to the surface.



volunteers wanted – volunteers wanted

Would you like to put in your time and energy for your fellow human beings in Uganda? Are you at least 24 years old, do you have a positive Christian attitude, are you adventurous and independent? Contact uganda@nacmu.org for more information.

Energetic Groups (25 members maximum)

During the year we can receive groups (churches or other cooperatives) to experience our work for a few weeks and lend a hand.

Musical Gifted man or woman

Do you have a gift for playing music and would you like to share with others? Our children can't wait to learn to play the guitar, keyboard, piano, flute or any other instrument. Come for three months and be amazed what you can teach our children in that time.

School Break entertainers

We are looking for volunteers that can assist us during the long school break (December - January). Do you have the energy and creativity to entertain 100+ children of all ages for two months? Then we are looking for you!

Handyman or handywoman

Do you know the use of every tool in your tool cabinet and are you not? We are looking for volunteers that can take on all kinds of repairs ranging from furniture to playground equipment. Bringing your own hammer appreciated, not required.

Supporters and Donors

Noah's Ark depends on the support of generous individuals, churches, businesses and other groups and organizations in order to carry out our work. We are a non-governmental organization (NGO) and therefore do not receive financial support from the Ugandan government. Without the support we receive from our sponsors, donors and volunteers from around the globe Noah's Ark would simply cease to exist and we would not be able to carry out our life changing work. We are immensely grateful for every bit of help we have received all those years and the years to come.

Missionaries – Christian Berkman (The Netherlands) –
Christian has worked with us since 2013 and is the head of the Public Relations department. His team keeps the world up to date on what is going on at Noah's Ark, including this very newspaper. Christian is also a Sunday School teacher and supports other departments with his technical skills. In 2017 he married Katie (page 7) and together they act out Bible stories during the weekly devotions at the Nursery School. In 2019 Christian and Katie became the proud parents of Patricia Mirembe Berkman.



TWICE A YEAR THE DENTIST VISITS US

MOST PEOPLE VISIT THE DENTIST ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR, BUT AT NOAH'S ARK WE DO IT THE OPPOSITE WAY: THE DENTIST VISITS US!

For many families dental care is not a priority due to the high costs and low quality. For many years we have worked together with the Dutch HUG Foundation to provide quality dental care. Those who benefit include children, students and staff at Noah's Ark, residents of the slums of Kampala and other communities all around Uganda. Noah's Ark serves as the base camp for the dentists and dental hygienists who come to volunteer their time for a few weeks a year, organizing their transport and procuring of thousands of toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste to hand out during their outreaches. Their visit literally brings a bright smile!



"UNCLE ICE CREAM"

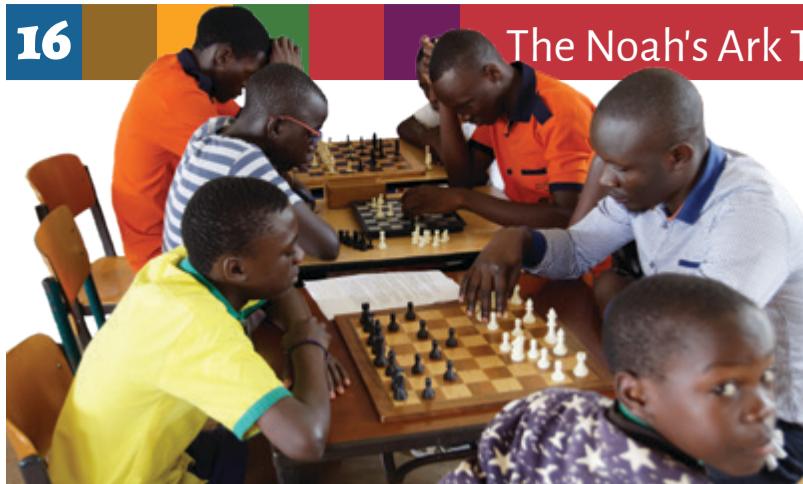
AFTER ARRANGING FOR OUR CHILDREN TO GET ICE CREAM EVERY SUNDAY, KAMPALA BUSINESSMAN MANISH VARSANI WAS AWARDED THE NICKNAME "UNCLE ICE CREAM".

Since that first cold – but heartwarming – gift Manish has supported Noah's Ark with many gifts in kind (like food, drinks, bikes, cups) and presents for the children, organizing outings for our children as well. He regularly brings his friends, family and business partners to visit the children he loves and supports, often resulting in gifts and donations from them as well.

For a few years now Noah's Ark is the venue for Manish's

own birthday party resulting in the children having a blast on the bouncing castles, eating cotton candy, popcorn and treats from the Indian cuisine. Other highlights include a trip to the zoo, the band going to Kenya (see page 16) and recently the children were very excited to see Manish land a helicopter at our Secondary Vocational School.

In turn our children often perform traditional dances and the band has mastered the Indian national anthem. We as Noah's Ark are grateful for the love and kindness of Manish, his friends and his family, who see our children as part of their own family.



CHECKMATE ON BOREDOM

TEENS ARE PRONE TO FEELING BORED, EVEN IF THERE IS PLENTY FOR THEM TO DO.

In 2018 a Dutch volunteer brought some chess boards and started to teach the game to those interested. At first his lessons were attended by

many of the youths, but as the level became more challenging, fewer remained (not unlike the number of chess pieces as a game progresses). Now, a group of students and teachers gather once in a while to exercise their brains on how to defeat their opponent using their wooden soldiers on the checkered battlefield and they have one reason less to get bored!



Band goes International

THE NOAH'S ARK BAND STARTED IN 2012 WITH 25 CHILDREN WHO HAD NEVER BEFORE HELD AN INSTRUMENT IN THEIR HANDS.

Formed with the intent to develop new skills and promote co-operation between children of different ages, the band has grown into a professional group that have mastered their instruments and have performed for ambassadors, kings and presidents. The band leader, Uncle Daniel, is proud of the way they have grown:

"To me it is a pleasure to see the cooperation and the talents they have developed. Once in a while they are even able to correct my mistakes."

In 2019 the band was invited to come to Kenya. Their host, Mombasa Cement Ltd, organized an all expense paid trip and the band performed on several occasions as they visited factories, industrial plants, vocational schools and historical sites. There was also lots of time for relaxing and fun. The highlight for most was the trip to the beach and a boat ride on the Indian Ocean, although some vowed they would never enter a boat again.

For most band members visiting Kenya was the first time being out of Uganda and even though the two countries are quite similar, the trip brought a different culture, new foods and ways of doing life. It is an experience which they will never forget.



From singing to basket ball, from dancing to knitting: our children have many talents. We have been blessed by donors who have generously donated instruments, costumes, games and arts & crafts materials that give us the chance to develop the children's talents and occupy them after school and during school breaks. We are proud of the shy girl that ends up performing a song, even if she does not hit all the right notes. We smile when we see a boy make a toy out of some pieces of wood, even though it is about to fall apart. We keep challenging our children to grow their talents and skills and to show them with pride.

Sports
and
Talents

NEW GAME, NEW CHANCES

ADIDAS GENEROUSLY DONATED FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT A BASKETBALL COURT ON OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS.

In most Ugandan schools 'netball' is the team sport of choice, resembling basketball but since it is played on grass or dirt there is no dribbling involved. The new court enabled us to start playing this new sport – and they love it! A basketball coach from a nearby school taught how to dribble, hop and step to get the ball in the right place. It is now one of the most popular sports at Noah's Ark.

Arms up, toes pointed

Hi everyone! I am Tamar, one of the children at Noah's Ark. I would like to tell you about ballet. I think it is one of the most beautiful dance styles, but it is hard to find it in Uganda. I joined a ballet dance for the first time when I was in Primary 4 class and now I am in Senior 2 so I have been doing this for a long time already.

Auntie Katie is the one choreographing our dances. She teaches me and the other girls the moves and positions, like *arabesqué*, *plié*, *tourjetté*, *passé*, *pique turn*, *developé en chassé*. At home we have to stretch and practice. We perform our dances to music with a Christian message. We have performed several times during a church service, an event at school and during the Christmas celebration.

I hope my friends and I will continue to be better at ballet and many more people may be able to enjoy our talents.

*Greetings,
Tamar
Mbabazizamukama
(15 years)*

