



BISHOP MASEREKA CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

Plot 1-5 Stanley Street / P.O.Box 411, Kasese, Uganda, Mobile phone: 265 483444780
Email: bmmcentre@bmcf.org, Website: www.bmcf.org

EDUCATION REPORT JUNE 2016

The year 2016 started with new arrangements of community involvement. BMCF had to move with arranging the communities identified and make them functional and see how these would be engaged in raising school fees for the BMCF beneficiaries with decreased funding from the traditional sponsors.

BMCF had at the end of year 2015 developed a budget worth 295,723,000UGX / \$92,413 that would be financed by the US board, subscriptions by students, guardians contribution and Alumni subscription.

At beginning of the year 2016, BMCF started with 436 beneficiaries and these are shown as below:

<i>OVC in formal education</i>		<i>OVC in Vocational/apprenticeship</i>	
Formal Primary	74	Female	14
Female	37	Male	16
Male	37	Total	30
Formal Secondary		<i>Completed University by June 2016</i>	
Female	123	Female	10
Male	89	Male	6
Formal Tertiary	46	Total	16
Female	28	<i>Completed Tertiary Education(other) by June 2016</i>	
Male	18	Female	12
Formal University	70	Male	20
Female	34	Total	32
Male	36	Total completed	
Drop outs	04	Female	48
Female	03	Male	
Male	01	Total Students Currently Supported	
			436

Alumni and Guardian's meeting



With support from the US Board, BMCF was able to meet the Alumni on 13/2/2016 and the following next actions were agreed upon.

- All alumni agreed to form an association
- Association to be registered
- Elected a governing team
- Agreed to be among the sponsors and some pledged to be contributing an amount of funds to the organization that once served them.
- Others pledged to be part of the team that participates in particular activities.



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Apparently, the Alumni Association is fully functional. It has a steering committee that is charged with the Association's activities and with a functional bank account. The funds collected will go through their account and give a cheque to BMCF for orphan support. BMCF is awaiting the first cheque that is supposed to clear second term school fees for the primary going beneficiaries.



The guardians have held two meetings all of which are focused on how to raise funds to cost share sponsorship their beneficiaries. The first meeting which sat on 25/2/2016, agreed on the following action points:

- Share the little that is available
- Give guardians loans at minimal interest
- Suggested a guardian SACCO where every guardian would be a member, saves and get credit services.
- Get involved in projects ie farming, school, joint production, maize mill, Bodaboda, social centre. This would ensure that income supplements what

BMCF receives from US.

- Call parents in S.4 and S.6 and advise them on alternative education options.
- Engage children in income generating activities.
- Those who complete should automatically become sponsors for a given period – to children and organization.
- Parents / guardians should become sponsors to organization
- Other member too should be part of sponsors – Board, bmcf staff.
- Fundraising / Donor's conference
- Equip guardian's with cognitive skills and go and work and return to BMCF
- Students who have been trained as apprentices to be contacted to train others so that funds that would be allocated for such vocations could be reallocated.
- People have different talents. There are prayer warriors that would pray for organization for God to make a way.
- Regular subscription by guardians / parents.
- Termly collections in meetings.

On 27/5/2016 the guardians had another meeting organizing a fundraising that is scheduled for December. The purpose of this fundraising is to raise funds beyond the boarders of guardians. The parents / guardian's association leadership has started the preparations for that day.

Funds Mobilisation



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BMCF has so far received US \$ 40391 that has translated into 135,401,060 UGX
We have also received Ugx. 3,355,000= as guardian's contributions for the two terms. The Alumni have so far contributed about Ugx. 1,500,000=.

Fees payment

School fees payment for the last two terms have been the hardest. It is still difficult for BMCF to exit, graduate some of the orphans and vulnerable children on the scholarship program. The funds received have not been sufficient to cover all the students, so we have been distributing fees on a first come and first served basis especially for students who do not have bank accounts. However, for students whose fees is paid in the bank for both secondary and university, their fees was paid 100%.

School Visits



Most of the students were visited in their schools. However, it was found out that by beginning of the year, most of the schools had increased school fees. BMCF noted that many students (16) had transferred to different schools

without the knowledge of office trying to run away from the high fees experienced in their previous schools.

We also noted that four students have dropped out of school. Three of whom are girls and one boy. Two of the students that dropped became pregnant and two other dropped out of school because they could not afford topping up school fees in their respective schools and had accumulated debts beyond the fees BMCF pays into their school accounts.



Medical Care

In these previous months, BMCF has identified more 5 students who are living with HIV AIDS through the new home to home HIV counseling and testing. These children have been enrolled to ART. They were also referred for CDIV count testing.

This has in turn reduced deaths in PLWA pediatrics and their turn up in schools and academic excellence has been observed. It has also been observed that self esteem has been restored to children live with HIV because they learn to cope to live positive and productive lives.

Networks and Linkages

Apart from education support, BMCF is being supported by other organizations in meeting the OVC needs. With help from Inter religious council Uganda (IRCU) and Baylor Uganda, the BMCF positive children are receiving ART from identified health facilities in Kasese District and those within Kasese town receive medical care at BMMC.



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With reduced funding, BMCF is networking with other agencies to find funding for BMCF children. Currently 2 BMCF supported children are benefiting from 30% - 40% tuition support from Kasese District local government. 3 other students are benefiting from the government students loan scheme. These are students that would not be anywhere in school but are now schooling.

This has contributed to a reduction in a number of supported students, though with reduced funds, the impact of this reduction is not felt.

The staff of BMCF linked 3 other vulnerable students to two other individual sponsors. These sponsors make a top up contribution to fees from BMCF to allow students have a full payment. These students were identified by the needs presented and their eminent failure to continue with education. Infact one of the students had dropped out of school and had joined a gang in his locality and the local authorities kept calling our office for attention.

Social economic support

By keeping students in school until completion aims at economic independence of individual students and trickle down to their respective families. At least every year, over 8 students are out of school. By end of June 2016, atleast 48 students had completed school and are still awaiting results of their exams to confirm school completion. This leaves us with 417 students currently in school. When these fresh graduates get jobs, they will be the immediate beneficiaries of the salary received and possibly their immediate family. Currently BMCF is looking at this person for a contribution in support of the younger generation.

Psychosocial Support

There was home visitation during which most of the presently identified positive children were identified. During this home visit, there was a home to home counselling and HIV testing carried out.

BMCF always ensures to have a one on one contact with her beneficiaries. This helps them identify children who are going through difficulties both in their homes and communities. This can be achieved through home as well as school visitations.

Achievements

For the last 14 years BMCF has seen a number children complete their studies. By end of June, 265 students have completed school.

LEVEL	UNIVERSITY		MEDICAL		TERTIARY (OTHER)		VACATIONAL / APPRENTICESHIP	
SEX	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
	51	55	20	11	31	35	14	20
TOTAL	106		31		66		34	



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BMCF has continued to train service providers' i.e hostels matrons, security officers and teachers in psychosocial counseling and child protection. This has enabled schools identify more children of need and thus easily attending to the needs identified.

BMCF has strengthened her relationship with the communities of guardians and Alumni, by year end, the fruits will easily be identified.

6 more students living with HIV / AIDS were enrolled for ART, this is deemed to improve the health of these students.

Five of the BMCF students graduated from various universities this year. Also 3 more students who were in tertiary institutions graduated. Of the three, 2 studied medical courses and are already employed in health facilities.

Success story



I am MoreenNyakato who graduated in January 2016 from Makerere University after studying a Bachelor of Ethics and Human rights.

I thank God for having made me achieve this degree. I am the first graduate in our family and I am glad for what I am now. I thank my sponsors Mother Marcia and Peggy Curlin for supporting my education. I also thank Ann Nyangoma for having opened her house to me when we were thrown out of our father's home after his death.

I lost my parent in 2005 to HIV / AIDS, this is a time when I was in primary seven and the future

looked dark. After our parents' death, we got scattered since our father was a polygamous man who had 16 children from various women, some of his women had died and others were still living but we did not have what we called home. The only persons who had been responsible for us were gone.

We expected the extended family to take care of our needs but we were shocked that there was no mechanism to keep us in school or even want to know that we existed. Our journey to being neglected started. We were left with our elderly grandmother who stayed with us on our father's land for a year. While with her, it is us who ensured we had what to eat, we dug and planted crops and depended on the little that we got out of our efforts.

But when we joined secondary school, the situation worsened. We did not have anyone to pay our fees. We registered ourselves in a school that was 10km away from home that allowed us to be in school for some time without paying. We did not know that behind scenes, our extended family did not want us on our father's land. One day as we returned home, we found that our grandmother had been taken away from us. We were left just the two of us. At this time we were 12 years under our own care. We could not imagine staying on our own. We were desperate. We started moving around looking for what to eat, not that we could not still dig, but we were scared. Like our life depended on our grandmother. We realized that the family just wanted a way of pushing us out of our fathers land. Our father had coffee on that land but we were never allowed



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to pick it. We learnt to fend for ourselves until we were asked to find where to live because they had sold our land.

We lived our way. We decided to live on our own. How we fed and still got to school God knew. At times we had to bench neighbours at the trading centre to get us food. I cannot narrate all that we went through, but I thank God he intervened at a time when we were turning into housemaids. It is through our suffering that we came to know the BMCF. We secured school fees but we did not disclose how we lived. It was through home visits with our first sponsor Mother Marcia that our bad living conditions were discovered. We hardly got to what to eat. We would live without food for days. We had only our school uniforms for clothing. If we chanced to get a little money, even if it were less than a \$, we would go on a market day and buy onions for resale. The profit we would keep until it is enough to pay our rent. I thank Mama Ann Nyangoma who accepted to stay with us from the year 2007. In her home we found love, comfort and we started living again. She did what our parents would not do for us even if they had not died. She guided us to make right decisions; she has been my mentor and my role model. God bless our sponsors and all those who have helped us.

I thank God that apparently I am volunteering with an organization that gives me some allowance. It is my prayer that I get placed in it and I be able to help other BMCF children to achieve what seems impossible.

Compiled by:

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