



# Hands of Love UK

## Newsletter January 2012

### Mission Statement

Providing relief, hope and a future for some of the most vulnerable children on Earth

### Dear Friends

As we step into 2012 we look back with gratitude to a year of real improvement in the living and educational conditions for the Staff and children of Namadhi. 114 out of the 645 children are sponsored...we hope 2012 will be the year in which ALL the children will gain sponsorship and feel a personal touch of love and care. Thank you for working with us to make a difference in so many young lives.

### Christmas Gifts

Presents were bought for children whose sponsors sent gifts in November (See photos on [www.handsoflove.org.uk](http://www.handsoflove.org.uk)) but gifts that arrived in December were not sent until January (every transfer costs £25 so we only transfer once a month). Staff will buy the presents and Sally will deliver them in February. If you want to send a gift now (allowing a week for cheque clearance) it can be taken in cash. In Uganda all transactions are made in cash - no credit cards or cheques there!

### February and March Visits to Uganda

Sally Walker will visit the offices of HOL in Kampala and the orphanage and schools during the first two weeks of Feb. She will try to bring back news of all sponsored children. If you would like to send a note to your child with her please send to UK office address no later than 27<sup>th</sup> January. She will also train the Ugandan staff in accountancy so they're able to develop greater competency and efficiency in the use of funds. Barrie and Eileen will be in Uganda from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April taking part in marriage ministry to rural pastor couples and will also be visiting the orphanage and schools. They can take a letter or little package with them.

### Teachers' Accommodation work has started...

"Alex and Gideon (one of our new workers) purchased some building materials for the planned teachers/staff accommodation:

- **Burnt bricks, sand and stones.**  
When the teachers saw the building materials, they were filled with great excitement. You know all of them sleep in very uncomfortable conditions with many children." Older boys from the orphanage are used as

volunteer labour on the orphanage building projects, i.e. timber and cement is unloaded by boys. Stop Press update from Pastor Elijah is that 'the construction work on the teachers' accommodation is marvelous!'

### Security Gates

Gate construction at Hands of Love Orphanage & International School was halted because they did not conform to agreed specifications. Because we want the best always, they were demolished and are now being reconstructed. This is very frustrating but we can report that thorn bushes have been planted around the security fence to provide extra deterrent to intruders as they grow.

### Educational Success

Because more children are completing their Primary education and will be ready to take the entrance exam to Secondary School, approximately £1500 will be needed to finance the Primary 7 exam candidates this year. The children have to be transported to Kampala

for additional tuition before they take the exams later on in the year...



### Fundraising

A very enjoyable fundraising event was held at the Chez Choi Chinese Restaurant in

Southsea in October. 35 people attended and we all so much enjoyed the occasion that we hope to repeat the dose by holding another, larger event this year. Very grateful thanks to our toastmaster, Sandra, and to those who donated such lovely prizes for the raffle.

The Chinese meal raised a net total of £529 and we gained two new sponsorships.

### More Fundraising

Un-sponsored children and staff are hugely grateful to those who give general donations. The Red House School, Stockton-on-Tees gave £2,842 from fundraising events, including a massive Jogathon. Dunrobin Primary School gave £165 from a Cake & Candy Stall; £209 was received from a raffle

"Thank you for the latest newsletter and report...far more information than any World Vision information I was sent in 18 years of membership."

Hands of Love

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[Pick the date]

held at Waterlooville Golf Club and £200 from a Christmas Concert at Church of the Good Shepherd which was organized and run entirely by their Youth Group, plus a donation from a pensioner's winter fuel allowance.

Funding from Red House School and gift aid money due up to December will make a start on the new teachers' accommodation.

## Child Sponsorship Still Needed!

Even though we have been blessed with some new sponsors the majority of the children are unsponsored. For £15 a month a child receives daily food, a change of clothes, basic health needs, and school books.

For more information please visit [www.handsoflove.org.uk](http://www.handsoflove.org.uk) or phone 023 9225 3213 or 02392 382061 or email [info@handsoflove.org.uk](mailto:info@handsoflove.org.uk)

**General donations** help us progress building projects, pay the staff and support the unsponsored. No amount is too small.



## What makes HOL different to other charities?

Pastor Elijah's answers to this question were...

**We're educating children** not so they will be able to get a job, because there are no jobs in Uganda (the level of unemployment among the youth was reported in October 2011 as 83%). We are

*educating children so they can go back to their villages and be JOB MAKERS!"*

**We look at ourselves** as servant ministers. Both children and Staff participate in the ministry of Hands of Love."

## Gift Aid

Gift aid is a great idea because, provided you are a UK taxpayer paying at least basic rate tax, the Government increases the value of every gift you make by 25%. However, not many people are aware that if you're over 65 and have a total income between £24,000 and £28,930 you can reduce your own tax bill by a further 10% of the gross amount. For example, if you give £60, the charity gets an extra £15 and you can save £7.50 on your own tax bill. What a gift! Higher rate taxpayers gain even more - a 40% taxpayer reduces his or her tax by 20% of the grossed up gift. If you need a gift aid form email [info@handsoflove.org.uk](mailto:info@handsoflove.org.uk) or phone Sally on 023 9225 3213.

"When I first sponsored a child I wasn't sure how I would find £15 a month but I look at his picture every day and I must save £25 a month on things I don't really need."

## Total Funds sent to Uganda in 2011

£63,679 was raised and sent to Uganda in 2011 of which £27,054 was sponsorship, £10,478 was gift aid and the remaining £26,147 was general and specific donations including building work, perimeter fencing, Primary 7 expenses, Marriage Conference, cooking pots and a few goats and chickens.

## 'Posterous' is our host Website

Some supporters have been confused to receive emails that come from 'Posterous'. We want to assure you that any 'posts' or emails you receive from Posterous are from Hands of Love and enable us to send out the newsletters and keep in touch with those supporters who have email.

## Fundraising Ideas for 2012

Let us know if you have any fresh ideas...

Southsea Castle Rotary Club are holding a Concert on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St Jude's Church and are also planning a summer ball to raise funds for a much needed bore hole at Namdhi. A team from Southern Electric are looking at fundraising ideas for providing solar lighting at the orphanage. Sally is holding a supper party to raise funds for a general meal for all the children when she visits in February. Steve Newman is in training for the Great South Run (next October) and hopes to raise enough each year to sponsor a child. The re-homing of baby tortoises raised £730 in 2011 and a new batch has just hatched. A Stockton-on-Tees friend is planning a fundraising gig too, so we hope these proposed events will inspire and spark others into action in this coming year.

## The General Fund

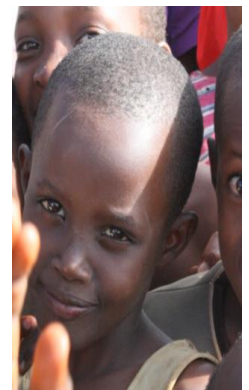
Donations to the General Fund are of the greatest help in progressing the improvement of conditions for the Staff and children at the orphanage, so any sum, large or small will be well used.

Together we can give these children a future and a hope...

Other than orphaned children, in Uganda we have hundreds of homeless, wandering children, desperately looking for food, water, education and any place they can call home. We rescue them...for we are the hands of love.

Some come to us with letters written in their faces - 'refuse me, | die.'

Pastor Elijah





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### Please Help us to Save Costs

If you get your newsletter by post and would like to  
receive it by email; please send an email to  
[sally.walker@handsoflove.org.uk](mailto:sally.walker@handsoflove.org.uk) with 'HOL Newsletter' as the title.  
We hope to send out four newsletters a year.