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REAL PEOPLE. REAL VOICES. REAL HOPE.

We recognize that **Hope Speaks is a champion for more than just speech therapy.** So often when we think about speech therapy, we think of children practicing their “s” sounds and putting words together to form a sentence.

On our mission, we’ve learned that there’s so much more than that. It’s about relationships; about supporting families and single mothers; about freeing children from being locked away; about keeping families together; about saving lives; about kingdom impact. And most importantly, it’s about creating hope.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Hope Speaks was fortunate to welcome **86 volunteers** to Uganda this year, a majority of whom were professional speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and students studying to become SLPs from universities across the United States. We have become a model for others on how to provide faith-based, sustainable rehabilitative services and are one of the only organizations providing speech therapy around the globe.

Our volunteer program serves two important functions: Educating our volunteers by giving them hands-on, international opportunities and building capacity of our Ugandan staff. Through Hope Speaks, volunteers have a clear avenue to combine their skilled backgrounds and passion for global missions.

Our goal is to inspire these students and professionals to dream bigger; to unlock ways they can serve God and further the kingdom, where He calls them.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SPEECH PATHOLOGY & GLOBAL MISSIONS?

Hope Speaks provides opportunities for volunteers like you for **BOTH!** Visit us online at joinhopespeaks.org to learn more about our volunteer programs.

TESTIMONIALS FROM VOLUNTEERS



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Last month, I returned home to the USA with a full heart and unforgettable memories from my time in Uganda volunteering with Hope Speaks. Being able to learn and help provide speech therapy services to children with disabilities in a third world country was a truly incredible experience. My eyes were opened to a beautiful culture and to the immense need for therapy services in Africa.

Before I left for Uganda, I was unsure of what speech therapy would look like in a location of the world with so much poverty and medical need. Three years ago, when I declared a major in speech-language pathology, I had a narrow perspective of what my career may look like, picturing simply helping children say certain sounds.

During my time in college, I learned that speech-language pathologists have a very broad scope of practice – including helping with feeding and swallowing, neurodegenerative disease, stroke rehabilitation, and much more! Little did I know that my studies could have an impact in places like Kampala, Uganda. By loving and caring for children with special needs, Hope Speaks helps give so many kids and their mothers a voice. One of the most powerful aspects of Hope Speaks is their advocacy and education regarding people with disabilities.

Answering a mother's questions about what speech therapists do and about specific disabilities provides them with empowering and useful knowledge. Although I came into my trip wondering how speech-language pathology could have a global impact, I left with the resolve that in places like Kampala, speech therapy is saving lives. Though the need is overwhelming, the focus of the people who work for Hope Speaks resides on giving respect, love, kindness, and hope to one life at a time.

– Lauren D.

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Thank you Hope Speaks for being obedient to God and taking a chance on students like myself to volunteer for the organization you have worked so hard to build.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to use what I have learned from this experience (not only as a clinician) but as a leader in the world.

– Daj'za M.

JOIN OUR MONTHLY GIVING COMMUNITY



You can inspire hope – today! Invest in a world where children of all abilities are celebrated. Help by making a donation today to Hope Speaks. **Use the donation card enclosed or** visit us at joinhopespeaks.org/donate.

SPOTLIGHT STORIES

LUCAS

Mama Lu and her son, Lucas, have been part of Hope Speaks since 2017. Through Hope Speaks, Mama Lu has participated in counseling and empowerment trainings to further her business and support her family.

Lucas receives weekly speech, language, and feeding therapy and is now thriving!

A letter from Mama Lu:

"My name is Anna, although most know me as "Mama Lu." I am a single mother to three children. We live in the Kasokoso slum in Uganda. I make craft handbags as my source of income. With the money I earn from these bags, I pay my rent, my children's school fees, and for my son Benjamin's medical needs.

Lucas is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, so he requires special care. My dream in life is to acquire land in order to build a home for my children, and to earn more money to increase my business. I ask God to help me reach these dreams so that my children will always have a home and enough to eat. Thank you all and may God bless you."



THOMAS

Thomas is a 7-year-old boy who lives with his single mother in the slum of Kasokoso. At 5 months old, he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a rare condition that causes buildup of fluid deep in the brain. Desperate for a treatment, Thomas' mom listened to the advice of a friend and brought her son to a traditional healer. During the visit, the healer falsely claimed that an insect had made its way into Thomas' head, and if it inched any closer to his brain, he'd die. The healer began treatment of Thomas' condition by burning his head with a hot wire to kill the insect, thinking his ailment was cured.

Years later, Thomas' mother discovered Hope Speaks at an empowerment training session in her community. Social workers from our organization later visited Thomas' home and found the family living in dire conditions. While Thomas' mother worked, he spent his days locked in their home, a 10'x10' garage with no windows and little ventilation.

Because of his family's financial and living situation, Thomas was malnourished and in desperate need of support. Hope Speaks' team of therapists and social workers stepped in and have now worked with Thomas' family for two years. He has received speech, language, and feeding therapy, as well as care through our medical initiative. Today, Thomas' mom is on staff with Hope Speaks, where she is able to care for her son without hiding him away. **Their story is one of empowerment, support, education, and freedom.**



Names have been changed to protect individual's privacy.

Read more stories of hope online at joinhopespeaks.org

HEAR MORE STORIES

ABIGAIL

"Musawo, I feel like I am going to die," Abigail mother of five, told her doctor. She described in vivid detail the "hell" she was living in, with no food, rent, social support, and a severely sick child. "Everything is so scary," she added. Desperate for help, she walked on foot, dying child in her arms, over 5 miles to a Hope Speaks outreach clinic. Because of her efforts — and the support of Hope Speaks ministries — her child is now receiving treatment.

DANIEL

A baby's first cries are often a mother's most cherished sounds. When Sanyu heard her 9-year-old son make a sound for the very first time, she knew every journey to Katanga was worth her devoted efforts. Daniel was born with hydrocephalus, leaving him without the ability to sit, walk, or support himself. Onlookers would stare as Sanyu tied him to her back, carrying Daniel on long walks through rain or shine for monthly therapy sessions. "The first time I saw Daniel, he did not make any sound apart from crying," said a Hope Speaks social worker.

But after several therapy sessions, he began making sounds, bringing excitement and hope to his mother. "This has helped me interact more with my son and I am happy," she said. "I come closer and we chat — that makes my day." Between her jobs washing clothes for other families and supporting her two children, Sanyu lives for the moments she can communicate with Daniel. "I can tell that he is excited about something or happy from the sound he makes," she said. "I can also tell when he is not happy." As part of Hope Speaks' medical assistance program, Daniel's recent visits to the hospital have been fully funded.

JOANNA

Joanna's daughter had never received speech therapy services, simply because she had never heard of such services. When she discovered a Hope Speaks awareness march, she met someone who encouraged her to visit Hope Speaks outreach clinic in Katanga, where she could bring her daughter for treatment. She is now part of a community of Hope Speaks families, where she receives counseling, prayer, and support. Through Hope Speaks, she has rekindled a new hope for her daughter's future.

Names have been changed to protect individual's privacy.



BLOG: joinhopespeaks.org/blog

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INSTAGRAM: [joinhopespeaks](https://www.instagram.com/joinhopespeaks)

EMAIL: info@joinhopespeaks.org



Read more stories online at joinhopespeaks.org

OUR MISSION:

Inspiring hope and raising voices of people with disabilities through therapy, advocacy, and social services.

OUR VISION:

Transformed communities where people with disabilities are celebrated and living to their fullest potential.

Hope Speaks is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and our U.S. Employer Identification Number is 81-4235696. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowable by law.