



GUIDING LIGHT ORPHANS, INC.

A charitable organization supporting
HIV/AIDS Orphans and vulnerable children in rural Uganda

FALL 2015

HOW LONG WILL YOU STAY?

Village elders asked that question of Jolly Lux, founder of Guiding Light Orphans (GLO) shortly after she began her work in the remote villages of Masindi, Uganda. They feared that she would leave, as others had after completing a project or short-term initiative, but Jolly had come to understand the community's challenges and their desperate need for basic healthcare. GLO's commitment to the region is real and supported by actions. Successful **medical camps** and the training of **Community Healthcare Workers**, made possible from generous donations over the last year, has brought hope and fostered the trust of the community. GLO's commitment is now being expressed through plans to open a **new health clinic**. Read about our successful partnerships and accomplishments in our fall 2015 newsletter.

MEDICAL CLINIC - CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Please help us to equip the clinic and open our doors

Giant Steps by John Coltrane would be a fitting theme song for our medical clinic. We have generously been donated a piece of land in Nyantonzi and a three-room structure which will become our new clinic. Major renovations are complete and **GLO is launching a capital campaign this fall 2015, with the goal of raising \$16,000** to purchase equipment such as a secured storage pod for medications (\$3,600), solar panel (\$3,150), and examination table (\$235). One giant step was the generous donation of \$3,000 from the Rotary Club of Avon-Canton to purchase and install a water tank. The tank will not only provide clean water to the clinic, but to hundreds of families in the surrounding community.

Our partners at Masindi Hospital serve as advisors and assisted in the planning for the clinic. Once open, we will work with local health officials and community leaders

to closely monitor the clinic and make adjustments in staffing and operations based on the review of patient volume and service consumption data at regular intervals. We believe that the clinic will have an important, lasting impact on educating and mobilizing the community, and enhancing its health infrastructure for the prevention/reduction of the spread of communicable diseases as well as complications from untreated illness and injury. Please help us meet our goal and watch for updates on our progress.



Patients seek care at our medical clinic

IN THIS ISSUE



Out of the Shadows - Meet Remi



Medical Clinic



Update on Christine



Jolly Lux, Executive Director

When you serve in a rural community where people have never had healthcare for decades or centuries, they need to be treated right away. We need to prevent disease outbreaks but also treat those who have been sick for a long time. GLO is empowering these communities by training community health workers (CHWs), engaging, sensitizing and mobilizing them. The cost of training and equipping one CHW for one year is only \$420.

Please support our ongoing programs and help us reach our health clinic's capital campaign goal of \$16,000. Donations are accepted on-line at: <http://guidinglightorphans.org> or checks may be made payable to Guiding Light Orphans, Inc. and mailed to: Guiding Light Orphans, Inc., 25 Bailey Road, Suite 4, Avon, CT 06001.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS MEET REMI- EPILEPSY AMBASSADOR

Remi brings a message of hope to other villagers who, like him, suffer from epilepsy. Remi is a farmer and father of eight, who developed epilepsy as a result of head injuries from a fall off his motorcycle. Due to his frequent seizures, he was unable to work and his children dropped out of school. He had lost hope of being seizure free after traditional herbalist treatment failed to improve his condition.

Jolly first meet Remi in December 2014 at GLOs medical camp during the epilepsy education and awareness training program. It was the first time GLO hosted this educational training and it was attended by 156 patients. The reason is undetermined, but the rate of epilepsy is very high in the villages we are serving. The suffering of the patients is great and the burden to the community is high, which led Dr. John Turyagaruka from Masindi Hospital to ask that we run a trial program to treat and then track the progress of 40 villagers who suffer from epilepsy. In the rural areas, this disease is rarely treated and it carries a heartbreaking social stigma which can lead to alienation, unemployment, and psychological issues.



Remi and two of his children

In April, Remi became one of our 10 epilepsy ambassadors and they joined our 10 Community Health Workers (CHWs) for training that focused on education, treatment, management, and the challenges of living with the disease. Forty patients were selected to participate in the trial program, but the numbers of patients treated quickly grew to 208 by September as patients' health improved and ambassadors like Remi reached out to other people living with epilepsy. Like other ambassadors, Remi is doing remarkably well and travels with the Community Health workers, counseling and recruiting patients, and sharing the positive changes in his life. He is now seizure free, is back to farming and his children are back at school. He rears goats, pigs, and ploughed 7 acres of land and planted tobacco which he hopes to harvest this fall.



Epilepsy Training

Of the 40 patients we are tracking, most have no seizures and for the remainder, the seizures have been greatly reduced. Some children who struggled with the disease are now attending school and older children are gaining some measure of independence. A group of our epilepsy patients have also started a community garden on land donated to GLO! The stigma and misinformation related to Epilepsy continues to be a challenge, however our hope is that the enthusiasm and outreach of our CHWs and ambassadors will continue to have a positive impact to the community. ■

MEDICAL CAMP



Mothers bring their babies for immunization

On December 13th and 14th, GLO hosted 2 medical camps at 2 locations, serving **over four thousand villagers**. Medical professionals, Rotarians, CHWs and villagers volunteered their time to make the camps a success. The medical camps provide education, disease prevention and treatment, and maternal, newborn, and child health and wellness services. The day of the camp, classrooms within local elementary schools serve as clinics offering services such as maternal, newborn, and child health care, HIV/AIDS testing, malaria testing,

immunizations, dental and eye care. GLO also provides health and wellness education on hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention. The medical camps give many people the rare opportunity to see medical professionals and to receive health education.



GLO ensures enough drugs during their bi-annual medical camps

In March 2015 we partnered with Feeding Children Everywhere to distribute 6,000 healthy meals. We also provided hygiene supplies to girls so that they can remain in school during their menstrual cycle. **Our next yearly clinic is planned for November 2015 and your help is needed to make this event a success.** Updates will be posted to Facebook. ■

UPDATE ON CHRISTINE

Many of our donors are familiar with the story of Christine Paska, the young girl who suffered from spina bifida and frequently cried out in pain from devastating wounds on her backside. She could not walk or communicate and was being raised by her grandmother. Individual donors stepped forward and asked "How can I help?" Their compassion and support provided the funding for her surgery and four months of intensive rehabilitation at CORSU hospital in the capital city, Kampala. Christine returned home from her first trip to CORSU with a wheelchair and for the first time she had the ability to maneuver her village. **The village saw a smile on the face of the young girl** who had spent most of her life in pain.

Christine is now learning to walk with a walker and communicating through sign language. She still visits the hospital every few months and will

continue to do so for quite some time.



Young Christine is now learning to walk

Her grandmother, Elizabeth, has also taken the initiative to raise money herself to assist in paying for Christine's care. Elizabeth asked GLO to help her buy some chickens so that she could keep them and sell the eggs and the chickens in and around their village. She wanted to be able to pay for some of the things Christine would need like diapers, soap, and creams. Thank you to all who have helped in her recovery through your prayers and your donations. ■



3 Ways To Help

1. Volunteer

2. Fundraise

3. Donate

25 Bailey Road

Suite 4

Avon, CT 06001

860.478.1536

info@guidinglightorphans.org

www.GuidingLightOrphans.org

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. ~ 1 Peter 4:10 (CEV)

Get Involved!!!



Like us on Facebook



Connect with us on LinkedIn



Follow us on Twitter



Check out our Blog



Watch us on YouTube

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Guiding Light Orphans, Inc. is a charitable organization dedicated to providing support to HIV/AIDS orphans and critically vulnerable children and their caretakers in rural Uganda. With free, quality basic healthcare, training, and the skills for self-sustainability to break the vicious cycle of chronic hunger and poverty.

Guiding Light Orphans, Inc.
25 Bailey Road, Suite 4
Avon, CT 06001

