

SALEM BROTHERHOOD UGANDA LTD

REPORT FOR SPONSORS AND DONORS APRIL 2010

Helping Uganda's children

Introduction

Why is helping children 6,000 kms away in the heart of Africa so important? Of the many answers to this question, surely is the recognition that all human beings are part of God's creation. You dear reader, have come to know that children in Uganda are in need of such basic necessities as shelter food and education and have given help to them. This report gives an update on SALEM Uganda's work with children. It is saving and enriching lives that previously were without hope. We acknowledge grateful thanks for the difference you are making to the lives of these children.

Children and Babies Home

ON 6 April, SALEM International Director, Samuel Müller, posted a video of the beginnings of SALEM Uganda on You Tube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=N40/WnDfH7w . Here you see a barren place where, in 1983, the first Children's Home was built for the orphans who were rescued at that time.

SALEM's help to the most needy and vulnerable in Ugandan society has continued without ceasing to the present day with 21 children and young people in residence at the time of writing this report. In 2004, the children moved to a new 'village' within SALEM Uganda's compound. This model of family living replaced the old institutional model with family style houses arranged around a small compound. Each 'family' has a budget to buy food and prepares its own meals following an agreed menu plan. Home grown vegetables and fruit are enjoyed and, in accordance with SALEM principles, the children enjoy a vegetarian diet that is locally and mainly organically grown. They do not consume the sweets and processed foods that are the daily fare of so many children in Europe, they do not demand them either. The children assist in daily domestic chores including sweeping the compound, washing dishes and preparing meals which helps prepare them to fit in with their relatives when they are resettled.

Today, SALEM Children's Home is a green oasis where vulnerable children feel secure and loved. Our visitors find it a place of abundant joy and many are visibly moved when they experience the energy of the spirited singing of the children.



Funding of these activities, however, remains a very great challenge. Our founder, the late Gottfried Müller never doubted that God would help His children and we continue with this confidence.

To be specific, the high increase in the price of food (*see below*) experienced during the past eighteen months has resulted in a funding gap and an extra 171 Euros per month *urgently* needs to be found to maintain the running of the Children's Home. These funds are needed now!

SALEM Uganda Children's Home

- Cost of food 2008 5,623 Euros
- Cost of food 2009 7,679 Euros

We have 31 regular supporters of the orphans in SALEM Children's Home. This is wonderful and we are thankful to God for the good hearts of such friends.

More friends needed!

Finding the joy of sharing a little of what you have is a very great experience. In giving to SALEM's orphans, you are giving to those innocent children who have no material possessions yet who are happy and full of laughter.

Are you able to share the good work of SALEM with your friends?

Plans to secure funding for the longer term

97% of funding for SALEM Uganda's Children's Home comes from sponsors and donors. This generosity has maintained our work with children for 30 years, but a more diverse strategy is needed. We are therefore developing a number of projects that will generate income this as part of a long term plan. These projects will require some initial capital investment, but in subsequent years, the income generated will put SALEM Uganda on a more firm financial footing.

In 2009, we began in a small way with the development of an apiary and, thanks to a donation from www.Betterplace.org, there will be 20 hives by the end of 2010.

This year we plan to develop a computer training centre and internet café within SALEM Uganda's compound. This facility is needed by the newly founded SALEM School of Nursing, whose students will pay for training, and by member of local colleges and the community who also want to learn computing and enjoy use of the internet. The establishment of forests for timber and a sweet banana plantation on a commercial basis will follow. Donations and sponsorships of our services will always have a place, but by broadening our income base, we will be making a more secure future for SALEM Uganda's Children's Home.

More specific detail will be made available in the next report 'Helping Uganda's Children' due in September this year.

Education and vocational training support – individual children and young people

Our programme of educational support continues with 24 receiving support, this reduced level being due to the rise in costs of fees and the fact that some completed vocational training in 2009.

This activity remains important, however, as young people need to be educated and undergo vocational training so as to be able to maintain themselves and their families.

SALEM Day Care Centre

SALEM Day Care continues to give training in tailoring to young people in disadvantaged circumstances. This year, 25 young people have started the nine month course.

Scovia is one typical example, her father died when she was very young, leaving her mother to cope alone with 8 children. SALEM Uganda provided education support to enable Scovia, to attend primary school. Nowadays, the mother is very sick and struggles to grow food and to find money to buy basics such as soap, salt, paraffin for light and matches.

When Scovia completed primary school last December she came to SALEM seeking further help. Since she is now age 17 years, our Social Worker recommended that she join the Day Care Centre and train in tailoring.. Scovia accepted and by the end of this year, she will have completed basic training and be equipped with a sewing machine. This will enable her to return to her village and support her mother in looking after her family. Meanwhile, since she has no money to pay any room rental or to feed herself, Scovia is helping our housemothers in the Children's Home.



Scovia, March 2010

Community Support for the needy

SALEM Uganda continues to provide on the spot help for families in dire need. This may include bedding, food, and basic essentials. We do this only as a last resort. Our social worker then sets about the task of assessing the needs of the children and families concerned and plans for small projects that can help them to provide for themselves. This is not always an easy task on account of sickness and lack of education and the serious poverty that results.

SALEM Uganda offers community support within available funds. The cost of launching a project for a family is between 150 to 250 Euros and may include investment in agriculture or small trading.

Tusome Project, Kolonyi and Biraha Primary Schools – reducing school drop out rates and improving performance

Support for children in the two government primary schools in the neighbourhood of SALEM Uganda continues this year with funds being given again for ploughing and for the purchase of maize and bean seeds. Education materials including teaching materials, exercise books and pencils have also been provided. All this has been made possible through the funding support given through the good friends of Tukolere Wamu.



Kolonyi Primary School students

SALEM Nursery School

SALEM Uganda Nursery School continues to be popular with 80 children registered this year. It has been established as a community project has a challenge to become self sustainable. At present, the salaries of the three teachers are subsidised by SALEM Uganda as the fees are kept at a level that the parents have agreed they can afford (9.40 Euros per term). There are eleven children attending from SALEM Children's Home and, as orphans, have no money to pay fees!

To help generate income for the school, funds are soon to be invested in a chair rental scheme. In Uganda, plastic chair hire is a profitable business as there are often big gatherings in people's homes at times of weddings, burials many and graduations. All these require seating arrangements that are beyond the capacity of most households. This project has been made possible thanks to Harry Harter, a long standing sponsor of SALEM Uganda.

We are still looking for 335 Euros for 2010 to enable 12 places to be provided for orphans and needy children.

Environment Clubs in schools

The three environment clubs on local schools continue to meet and are busy tending the new trees in their school compounds. They are also learning more about how to care for their environment.

Summary and way forward

The challenge of maintaining services for orphaned and needy children continues. We are developing plans that will help sustain this work in future and we give thanks to God for all that has been achieved so far.

We welcome your comments and any questions in relation to SALEM Uganda's work with children. Please contact us via: SALEM-Uganda@SALEM-Mail.net

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