

# Sanyu Babies' Home

Quarterly Newsletter – Issue 18– March 2013



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## Letter from the Chairman



I greet you all in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. I celebrate your unwavering love and support to Sanyu Babies Home. We are delighted to note a significant increase in the number of people, companies and organizations who have visited and donated to the home. Among these is "Shell Uganda" who donated and installed solar panels to alleviate the blackouts suffered by the home when UMEME supply is interrupted. All of you parents will agree with me that if you have one new born baby and the lights go off, you will have a challenge on your hands. You can therefore imagine what difficulties we used to endure before the solar panels were donated and installed. Shell Uganda, thank you. All of you have helped in many different ways, in cash and in

kind – thank you. We have also seen an increase in the number of Ugandan volunteers stepping forward to help by offering your time, energy, skills and love. To all of you, our highly valued benefactors, we say "Thank you" from the bottom of our hearts. May God bless you always! Amen --- **Rev. Prof. Sam Luboga – Board Chairman**

Sanyu Babies' Home, P.O. Box 14162, Mengo, Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256 414 274 032 Mob: +256 712 370 950 Email: sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we shall reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9)*

## Letter from the Administrator



I welcome you all our dear readers to the 18<sup>th</sup> Issue of the Sanyu Babies' Home Newsletter. The previous 3 months, i.e. December to February, have been a period of encouragement. We are forever grateful to all of you our dear partners, friends and donors that have been and have continued to be by our side in this ministry. Thank you so much for all the overwhelming support given to us.

As progress and positive change continually take place at Sanyu, we have always made sure that the main

objective of the home is to see that all children are reintegrated into community. One way this has been achieved is by getting involved in the investigations of each child who comes into Sanyu, trying to see if we can trace for any of the known relatives of the children in our care to see if we can reunite them with their families. We are also doing a lot of advocacy for "families for children", this is done by sensitizing Ugandans about adoption and encouraging them to adopt the Ugandan children at Sanyu. We are making it known that each child deserves a loving family. I therefore encourage you all, mainly the Ugandans, to consider being a forever family to at least one child who is currently institutionalized.

This year, we have planned to build a security measures boundary wall around Sanyu Babies' Home. Our existing boundary wall is very old and weak. On several occasions, thieves have broken into Sanyu through the current fence to steal. Building a new boundary wall will greatly increase the security of Sanyu Babies' Home, creating a safer place to live for our children and staff. We will be forever grateful of any kind of support to realize this plan. Thank you.

**Barbara Nankya Mutagubya – Administrator**

## Hello's and Goodbye's

### New Arrivals

**Felix Kulayigye** (11 months) arrived on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2012. He was abandoned in the Lyantonde District.

**Cephas Kiyingi** (3 years) arrived on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. He was found stranded in Nabulagala (Kampala District).

**Emmanuel Ayo** (1.5 years) arrived on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013. His biological mother died from HIV/AIDS when he was just one week old and his father is currently unable to take care of him.

**Joram Lubega** (3 months) arrived on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013. He was abandoned in Kawaala around KCCA Health Center and brought to Sanyu Babies' Home by a police officer.

**Brasio Kkonde** (1 week) arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2013. He was brought to Sanyu Babies' Home by his grandmother.

**Daniel Akisa** (1 month) arrived on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013. His mother passed away immediately after giving birth and has no known relatives.

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### Reunited with family

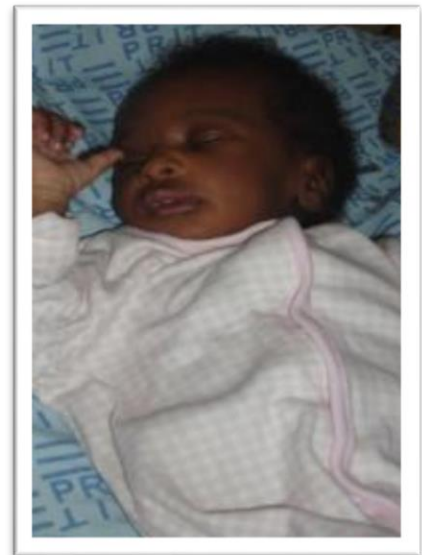
Natasha Birungi (19<sup>th</sup> December 2012)  
Moses Mubiru Manuel (18<sup>th</sup> February 2013)

### Fostered children

Winston Mugoya (18<sup>th</sup> December 2012)  
Jovan Amuriat Kiprotich (19<sup>th</sup> December 2012)  
Annabel Mbabzi (31<sup>th</sup> January 2013)  
Sharon Nankindu (11<sup>th</sup> January 2013)  
Rosette Aciro (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013)  
Lawrence Agaba Mukisa (26<sup>th</sup> February 2013)  
Rebecca Nakigudde (27<sup>th</sup> February 2013)

## **The Story of Kkonde**

Kkonde Brasio was one week old when he arrived at Sanyu on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. Kkonde's teenage mother, was impregnated, by her own father, who is currently in prison due to the case. The grandmother refused to keep the baby as a member of her family since he is a child born out of incest. The family has submitted a written agreement that they will never claim the baby. Kkonde was very much underweight and very weak when he first arrived at Sanyu, but now he is being taken good care of by the mamas of Sanyu.



***"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."***

***Mother Teresa***

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## Update on the Bizimana family

Ndyema (4 years), Prince & Princess (2 years) and Shenina & Mishelina (6 months)

You may still remember the story of the 5 members of the Bizimana family written on the previous newsletter. The above mentioned children were abandoned together in October 2012 by their Congolese refugee mother. Sanyu Social Workers are currently working hard to find the relatives of these 2 boys and 3 girls. The five children are doing very well at Sanyu Babies' Home. Ndyema, Prince & Princess are in Top Class and actively participate in all class activities. The littlest twins just joined the Baby Class and just recently learned to sit. As the eldest, Ndyema cares a lot about his siblings and will occasionally shower them with hugs and kisses.



## Christmas Celebration and Baptisms

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012, was a very special day for the Sanyu family as we celebrated Christmas in a new style. For the first time, Sanyu's Christmas Celebration involved all staff and also inviting volunteers. Everyone was very excited in doing the preparations to honor the birth of Jesus Christ. From shopping, decorating, big-feast cooking, putting up the tents, to slaughtering a goat. Children put on their party suits and dresses. They wanted to look their bests on this special day as they will also be attending some of their friends' baptism.

The celebration began at 10 am with a baptism service led by Reverend Patrick Ssemenda. The 18 children being baptized were: Gerald Ndyema Bizimana, George Prince Bizimana, Gladys Princess Bizimana, Gerda Mishelina Bizimana, Gina Shenina Bizimana, Erone Nansubuga, Christine Namubiru, Jeremiah Asimwe, Sharon Nankindu, Natasha Birungi, Dickson Kawesa, Rebecca Nakigudde, Jovan Amuriat Kiprotich, Caroline Zana Kisunga, Nicholas Ociti, Jotham Kawoya, Felix Kulaigye and Ruth Namakula.



Everyone had a great day full of gratitude to the Lord, happy tummies and wide smiles. Our special guest, Father Christmas, gave presents for all the staff and babies. On top of that, all staffs are rewarded for their selfless hard work throughout the year. Thanks to your generous giving hands that made this day possible for us.

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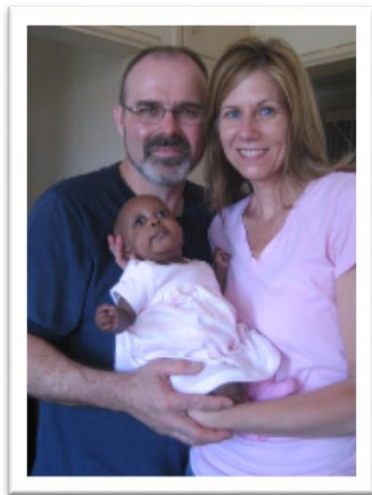
## ***Sanyu Gate Painting***

We had special guests on Christmas day. Nope, not only Santa Claus. Artists and painters all around Kampala came to paint Sanyu's front gate and security guards' posts. What a precious Christmas gift! Starting on December 25, followed by two Sundays in the first week of January, they gave Sanyu a colorful face-lift.

The interactive painting sessions was organized by Ruganzu Bruno (award-winning eco-artist) and Andrea Christina (volunteer at Sanyu), and joined by more than 30 participants. We would like to thank all of them for all the hard work and love that they've given to Sanyu through art.



## ***Adoption Story: Donald & Irene Heare***



We are from Portland, Indiana, USA. Irene has visited and served at Sanyu Babies' Home several times. The first trip led us to apply for a child adoption from Sanyu. The Sunday before leaving for a scheduled mission trip to Uganda, we prayed that God would turn our lives upside down. The next day, we received an email asking if we would consider being Rebecca's forever family. Rebecca has a heart condition that will require surgery abroad. She has had many health issues since birth but she is a true fighter. Rebecca is doing well now and we are praying for strength as we begin the journey to her new home. She will be joining her big brother James and big sister Emily (our daughter-in-law). We know God has big plans for Rebecca and she is truly a blessing to our family. We are truly grateful for what Sanyu does for all the children and for how they have taken care of Rebecca. We pray that God continue to watch over all the children and staff.

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### ***Donation: Trogstad Menighetsbarnehage***

In the countryside of Norway there is a small community, named Trogstad. In the community there is a church, and a kindergarten, belonging to the church. This congregation has taken Sanyu Babies' Home to their heart. On Sundays, Sanyu Babies' Home is mentioned in the church prayer. Every year the church has a Family Service, where offertory on that day goes to Sanyu. A couple of years ago, when I visited Sanyu, I brought 70 pairs of shoes that had been collected in the kindergarten. Another year I brought pajamas. This year, the staff and the parents in the kindergarten had decided to collect money through different activities.

When I came to Sanyu in the beginning of February 2013, I had more than 2 million Ugandan shillings with me, with the mission to spend them on good purposes. First of all we filled the big sandpit with nice, new sand. We then bought lots of toys for the sandpit. The children were thrilled when everything was set. The next day all the big children enjoyed their new toys in the sandpit. We also bought lots of balls, soft balls for the little ones and bigger balls for outdoor play. Then we bought two big bags of building blocks for class activities. We also bought two small swimming pools that could fit 10 children each. The children loves playing in water. We spent the rest of the money on baby formula milk and Pneumonia vaccination, which there is always a big need of.

Thank you so much to Trogstad congregation, and especially the kindergarten, for remembering Sanyu Babies' Home and continue to give contributions. Now I call upon other congregations, kindergartens or nursery schools to do the same. The bigger children currently need donation for an outing to the zoo, which the children keep talking about. I prayed that someone would make a trip to the zoo possible.

**Anne Carling (Norway)**



***‘Children learn best when all areas of development are nurtured in the early years so they may develop into a balanced person with an overall sense of wellbeing.’***

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## Nabawanuka Prossy

Prossy is a hard-working woman who ensures that the children at Sanyu Babies' Home have clean clothes to wear every day. She started her work here in 2004 and she still remembers her first day: "When I arrived on the first day in 2004 I was asked to get all the blankets from the children's beds and was told to wash them, all by hand. Back then the work was hard, but thanks to a great donation of washing machines the work has now been made easier. First of all, I would like to thank God for allowing me to work here at Sanyu Babies' Home. I love children and it is a blessing that I have the time to see all the different children and how they develop. I love my job and I am thankful that this job helped me look after my own three children. This job has paid school fees for them all and now two of them have finished school and one is abroad. I want to thank the administrators, the staff at Sanyu and all the donors!"



## Intern Students from Denmark



We are two female students from Aarhus, Denmark, who are studying to become pedagogues/social educators. We will need 3.5 years to complete it and within that period, we have three training periods. We decided to go to Africa for our second period. We are very happy that we came in contact with Sanyu Babies' Home and that they agreed to have us here for 5 months to do our internship.

We are specializing in the youngest children (0-1 year). The focus that we have is to see every child as an individual human being. We are trying to see the world from the child's perspective and how the child is developing. We look at the child's physical and mental development, as well as how the child interacts with the other children and adults. We have been here for 4 weeks now and are beginning to know the children very well. Each one of them is so funny. They are so sweet and we love them all.

We are staying in the Sanyu Guest House and we are being taken good care of. Every night there is very nice dinner for us and we have fun with the volunteers and families who are here to adopt from Sanyu.

Sanyu is a lovely home and we enjoy our stay here ☺ There are always people around and something to do.

**Marie and Ditte**

## Letter from Chelsea - volunteer

Dear Barbara and all at Sanyu Babies' Home,

The two weeks that I spent at Sanyu were some of the best, most rewarding of my life. It came at a time when the rest of my life was feeling monotonous, stagnant and ineffective. I'd like to share with you some of the little miracles that I saw in the short time that I was there:

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Ndyema - shared a cookie with his friend on the other side of the playground. He carried it all the way to him and it didn't even cross his mind to keep it for himself or to even take a nibble. So kind.

Samson - When we arrived, Samson would sit at the bottom or top of the stairs and cry out until someone came to help him. By the last day, he was beginning attempt to do this on his own. He spends every day smiling, laughing and was ALWAYS dancing and singing a tune.

Patrick - Every morning, I got a "Hello, Chelsea!" and he would say "please" and "thank you" when he was given treats. He had a small piece of Maize on the last night and really enjoyed sharing with others. His English is very good. Before we left, he asked me "where are you going? To your house? Where is your house? You are going on an airplane?". He is a very intelligent boy,

Titus - What a big name for such a small person! It suits him perfectly. He is very reserved, a stoic child. When we first met, Titus was trying to go down the slide but was so small that the other children were just stepping over him. As this was happening, he didn't even cry out! If you were to find Titus during the day, he would be sitting quietly, likely on a bench, table, or in the swing on the veranda. After just a few hugs and kisses and a little bit of guided play (taking him to high five or shake hands with the other children), he began to open up. By the last day, he was babbling happily, would come for a cuddle then go play near the other children and smiling. He even clearly said the words "cookie" and "Go go go go!" on the swings!

I am so blessed to have been able to spend time at Sanyu Babies' Home.

Thank you,

**Chelsea Robinson**

## **With Love from the Middle East**

My name is Akusa and I currently live and work in the Middle East. In November 2011, I received a Newsletter from a friend featuring Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala, Uganda. I had heard of this orphanage while we were in Uganda and I knew they were a legitimate organization that was doing what they could to help with the situation of abandoned children in the city (0 months to 3 years). I was moved by their letter and the request to provide them with ANY assistance. They were in dire need of clothes, shoes, toys, lactose free baby formula, diapers and food for the children. This home depends almost entirely on the generosity of donors.



All those who have children (or nieces and nephews) know what it is like to bring up two or three of them and how expensive that can be - but 40 to 50 in the age range of 1 day to 3 years at the same time - now that is a serious task. So I contacted the other young mothers from my work place and my children's school. I circulated the newsletter I had received to them and we started collecting our children's slightly used clothes, shoes, toys, books, feeding bottles and everything else we had at home but weren't really using. We then contacted friends and

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they contacted friends and before we knew it we had over 100kgs of clothing, shoes, toys, books, feeding bottles and baby formula.

My family was traveling home that December (2011) and after a lot of packing and repacking we were able to squeeze in all the donations we had received. Upon arrival in Kampala, I made an appointment with the home Administrator, Mrs. Barbara N. Mutagubya and I went to Sanyu Babies Home on the 23rd of December 2011 to deliver our donations. We had also received some monetary donations and were able to buy more baby formula, diapers, wipes and food stuff on the way to the home.

As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. These are some of the pictures we took while delivering the donations. As you can see they were received with such joy and thankfulness. The donations were very timely as it was Christmas two days after the visit.

After a successful collection of much needed clothes and baby formula for Sanyu Babies Home, in 2011, I was very encouraged by the positive response I received from not only my work place colleagues but all the generous people out here who showed such uninhibited willingness to help the children in Uganda. So I planned to carry out an even bigger collection of donations for Sanyu Babies Home.

I approached the ladies at my work place again and the wives of my colleagues and as with the previous year, the response was instant and over whelming really. Several of the moms I contacted emailed, phoned, text and zipped across the city to collect gifts and donations for Sanyu Babies. I also approached the parents association at my children's school and they too accepted to help and assisted in collections for the home. The Sanyu Babies 'Home 2012 drive was an overwhelming success!!! I received loads of clothes, shoes, toys, books, feeding bottles, baby formula and beddings. I collected so much stuff it literally filled half a room at my house!

When I spoke to the children's home, they sent me a wish list which included clothes, baby formula, cleaning items, diapers and a computer. Armed with this list I approached my workmates who did not let me down. The senior partner at my work place generously donated a brand new computer, printer and printer ink to the home! I also collected over USD 700 from various members of the firm which I used to buy diapers, baby formula and the cleaning items that were needed. Essentially we had managed to fulfill a substantial part of the Homes wish list just like that!

I was now faced with the challenge of transporting these donations to Sanyu Babies' Home. I approached Emirates Airlines local office and they generously donated 100kgs of weight allowance to this cause. With the help of some friends and my family members, we packed, repacked, sorted, rearranged and finally squeezed as much of the donations as we could into our luggage and the additional weight allowance we had received in order to take as much as we could with us when traveling to Uganda in December 2012. That still left quite a bit at my house but we are planning another consignment to take the rest to the Home later this year (2013).

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We made it safely to Uganda with all the donations and with my husband at the wheel of a minivan stuffed full of teddy bears, toys, diapers, lactose free formula milk, baby bottles, miniature sized clothes, the computer and ear to ear smiles - we made the journey on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2012 across the city and inched up Namirembe hill through the bumper to bumper, Kampala Christmastime traffic. It had rained a bit earlier in the day but the sun shone bright and the temperatures were a mild.

As we walked into the play area of what looked like an over crowded kindergarten, ten or so toddlers run, walked, waddled or crawled towards us. I picked up two and the rest held onto my legs clamoring to be lifted too. This was one occasion I really wished I had more than one pair of arms. These were the cutest, sweetest babies I had seen for a long time. It was heartrending to imagine that the majority of these children were abandoned by their parents. It took a concerted effort not to take two of these cuties and bring them home.

A tour of the home reveals the dedication required to run an orphanage. Minding just two children of my own feels like a full time job. The thought of minding 40 to 50 babies makes me dizzy. The home has permanent staff but also depends on volunteers to help out with feeding, changing, bathing, playing and cuddling the babies. We were at the home two days before Christmas and most volunteers had left the city to go to their rural homes for Christmas. The staff were therefore exceptionally grateful for an extra pair of arms to tend the babies and the supplies which would make the task of minding the babies, while they were understaffed, that much easier.



The residents were thrilled with the toys and could not stop smiling and giggling with glee. The large teddy bears donated by one particular family were received with such excitement it was

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heartwarming. And while the children simply ignored the computer, milk, diapers, cleaning items and clothes, the Home's Administrator and the vice Chairman of the Board who received the gifts were moved to tears at the sight of all that had been donated to the home. They expressed how they were always short of diapers, baby formula milk and medication. Forty to fifty children go through a lot of diapers, milk and clothes in one day and when struck by ailments like coughs and the flu - life can get difficult. The staff and management of Sanyu Babies' Home thanked us profusely for the donations. To them this really was Christmas.



I would like to encourage you all to take the time to assist Sanyu Babies' Home in whichever way you can. You will be amazed at just how willing people are to donate or assist such a great cause. I found there was no harm at all in asking and that it did not matter how small the contribution was, added together we had so much for Sanyu Babies' Home. So please do not shy away or be too scared to ask. The worst they can say is no - then you move on. What you would be doing to assist these children is way more than words can express really. So do get in touch with Sanyu Babies' Home, find out what they need, say a prayer and get started. God will open those doors in ways you can never imagine he would.

God Bless you as you consider helping this very worthy cause.

**Akusa**

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## Donations needed

Sanyu Babies' Home relies almost entirely on the generosity and support of friends like you. Over the years, we have received many donations which have been enormously valuable to the home and especially the children. We thank you for all your love and support.

However, we are always in need of contributions to keep the home running. Our wish list is endless and includes some of the following:

- Lactose free baby formula milk
- Baby formula milk
- Feeding bottles
- Pampers / disposable nappies in various sizes from newborn to toddlers pull ups
- Baby wipes
- Children's DVDs - TV shows, singing DVDs, etc ...
- Baby rocking chairs/ soother chairs for the classroom
- Disposable gloves
- Food – rice, milk, sugar, eggs, fresh fruits, vegetables, matooke, potatoes (sweet and irish), fish, meat, peanut
- butter, blue band, ground nuts, etc ...
- Sterilizing tablets – brand own are cheaper than Milton
- Cleaning products – ie. Detergent, bleach, washing up liquid/soap, washing detergent
- Stationery for administration work and classroom
- Kids toothbrushes and kids toothpaste
- Kids shoes – Croc style (rubber type flip flops)

“God loves a cheerful giver”

## How to donate

- You can do international transfer via the following bank details or by cash and or cheque written out to:

### Beneficiary Bank Details:

#### **Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited**

5 Speke Road, Kampala, PO Box 7111

Account Name: Sanyu Babies' Home

UGX Account No: 0102010619500

USD Account No: 8702010619500

#### **Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited**

City Branch, Kampala Road

Account Name: Sanyu Babies' Home

Sanyu Babies' Home, P.O. Box 14162, Mengo, Kampala, Uganda

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UGX Account Number: 0140009757701

- You can also send money using the **MTN Mobile money collection line – 0788162147**
- You can post items to **P.O Box 1462, Mengo, Kampala, Uganda**

Please ensure you let the administrator know if you send any donations so they can be looking out for them. Send us an email: sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com or call: +256 414 274 032 or +256 712 370 950

- You can also donate your time by volunteering at Sanyu. Please contact the Administrator for more information.

## Donations

Every gift that is given to Sanyu is so appreciated and we want to thank everyone who has given to the children of Sanyu. We especially thank every donor who had made Sanyu's holiday season even merrier, our thoughts will always be with you.

The donors listed have given in cash and also in kind (formula, food, clothes, toys etc.) and we know that it is the heart of the giver, not the size of the donation. Thank you so much for your kind hearts!

### DONORS THIS QUARTER INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

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*“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” Matthew 10:42*

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