

# Sanyu Babies' Home

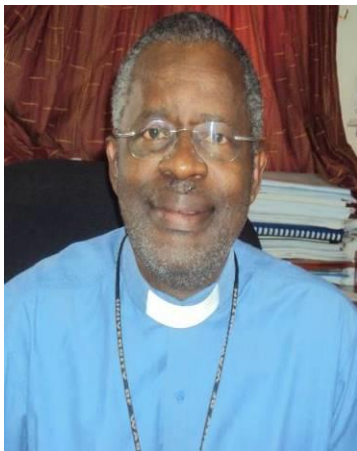
Quarterly Newsletter – Issue 23– April, May, June, 2014



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear our treasured readers and supporters, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot seem to get my eyes off the cover page for this issue of the SBH newsletter. As I look I can only imagine the pressures that compel mothers to abandon their babies, their own flesh and blood. It is easy to blame and condemn but I feel for these mothers. I implore every one of you to ponder the predicaments these mothers find themselves in pray for them and seek a solution, so no more babies will be abandoned. However, for now, they continue to be abandoned. It is because of your unwavering support and love that together we are able to put a smile on the faces of these most vulnerable citizens of the world. As the motto of Sanyu Babies' Home goes so I say to you, "Never tire in doing Good". Thank you.

May God bless you, always!

**Rev. Prof. Sam Luboga- Board Chairman**

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Mobile+256 712 370 950 Email: [sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com](mailto:sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com) Website: [www.sanyubabies.com](http://www.sanyubabies.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



Dear friends, we are happy to present to you the June Newsletter giving you updates about the happenings at Sanyu during the months of April, May and June 2014. By the Grace of God, we have come to the end of the first half of the year. I praise God for all His goodness and mercies, which are new every morning. By His grace, our children are fine despite a few minor health challenges. I thank all of you our dear donors and volunteers both national and international for your great love and support to the Home. Special thanks go to the Sanyu Board members and the staff for your continued selfless dedication and sacrifice to the service of Sanyu Babies' Home. I encourage all the prospective volunteers who are still contemplating if you should come to Sanyu, to quickly make up your mind and come now while there is still room. Contact us at [sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com](mailto:sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com) for your booking. If you don't, who will? **WILL YOU?**

**Barbara Nankya Mutagubya**

## Hello's and Goodbye's

In the past three months, we have received 10 children, 4 children have been re-united with their families, some are in the process of fostering and adoption and none have been transferred to another organization.

**Ernest Kalungi** (2 days old) arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014, abandoned at someone's kitchen at around 9.00pm in Lubyia Rubaga Division, Kampala District.

**Ivan Otim** (2 days old) arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014, abandoned in a grass-thatched house in Mutunda 'A' Trading Centre.

**Irene Nasaazi** (2 months) arrived on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014, abandoned in a thick bush in Bukomero, Kiboga District.

**Benjamin Alinda Busingye** (9 months) arrived on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014. He was a victim of child abduction by a certain woman who had taken him to Kanungu District. Benjamin's mother had earlier on reported the loss of her son. The Police later on found the abductee and detained her for prosecution. We continue to search for his parents who have changed residence and contacts.



**Daniel Kayongo** (8 months) arrived on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Action Aid brought him to Sanyu as his teenage mother was chased out of her home. Sanyu offers temporary custody as her family is being counseled to accept the child and the mother.

**Joy Ainembabazi** (2 months) arrived on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014. She was born to a mentally ill mother on the streets of Rukungiri District.

**Joel Kasasa** (6 months) arrived on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 after abandonment by his mother at her former landlady's home in Kanyanya.

**Evelyn Namaganda** (2.5yrs.) arrived on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014, abandoned at a Micro Finance Institution fence in Mackay Zone, Namirembe Bakuli.

**Hope Kwagala** (9 days) arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014. She was born prematurely to an orphaned 12-year-old mother who conceived out of rape.

**Gerald Muwanguzi** (2 weeks) arrived on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014., abandoned near St. Paul's Cathedral Namirembe Church of Uganda.

#### **RE-UNIONS**

Timothy Gift Bwambale (26<sup>th</sup> May)

Ethan Lubega (29<sup>th</sup> May 2014)

Jonathan Kyentabona (12<sup>th</sup> June 2014)

Christine Namubiru (26<sup>th</sup> June 2014)



#### **FOSTERED**

Kaweesa Dickson (17<sup>th</sup> April 2014)



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## ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT



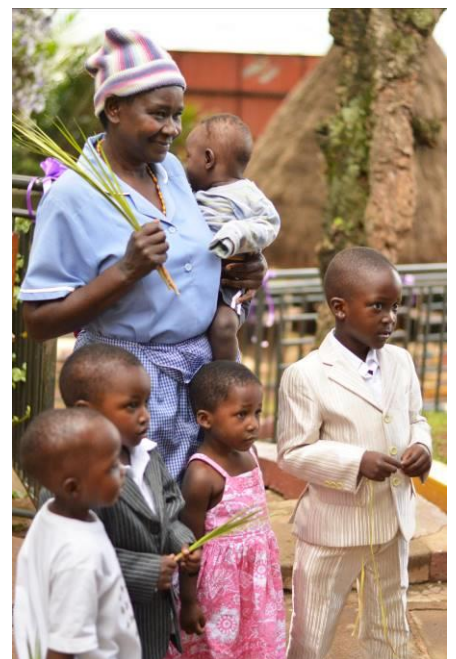
This year's Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014, was a very special day at Sanyu Babies' Home. On Palm Sunday we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. At Sanyu Babies' Home, we were privileged and greatly honored to have our very own, the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda - The Most Rev. Stanley and Mama Beatrice Ntagali visit Sanyu. The Bishop of Namirembe Diocese – The Rt. Rev. Wilberforce and mama Faith Kityo Luwalira as well as other clergy from Namirembe Diocese, accompanied them. The day included a procession of children, staff, volunteers and other guests carrying palms, representing the palm branches the crowd scattered in front



of Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem. The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali baptized four of our children. These included; Eclas Isabirye, Robinah Nalubega, Rebecca Nakiganda and Charles Katende.

It was a joyful day filled with lots of singing and dancing. We thank The Most Rev. Stanley and Mama Beatrice Ntagali for visiting and baptizing the children.

***"Jesus said let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"***



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Mobile+256 712 370 950 Email: [sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com](mailto:sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com) Website: [www.sanyubabies.com](http://www.sanyubabies.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)

## Feature: Hope Kwagala



Hope is one of the many children who come here when they are very small for their ages and could have easily passed away if not for the loving care and attention of the Sanyu staff and volunteers. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 to a 12 year old little Helen (not her real name), Hope only weighed 1.6 Kgs when she arrived at Sanyu Babies' Home on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. Helen lost both her parents and she stays with her very old and weak great grandfather who is 90 years old. Helen is mentally retarded and conceived after being raped by a 40-year-old man (imprisoned). Hope was born

prematurely in Mulago hospital through caesarean section and was under incubator special care for 6 days before being referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for care and protection. Hope has now been here for three weeks and although she is still small, there is hope. She has gained some weight and currently weighs 2.1 Kgs. Investigations are ongoing to trace any other known relative who is able to take on both Hope and her mother Helen. Please keep Hope and Helen in your prayers.

## UPDATE: Eclas Isabirye



Eclas is approximately 3.3 years old. He has lived in Sanyu Babies' Home for 3 months now but we wish to recognise a big change in his dear life. Eclas was a victim of physical and mental torture by his stepmother, who never used to appreciate the good little things he did. His life was full of misery, fresh wounds each day, isolation and abandonment by his father. Therefore, Sanyu Babies' Home never stopped at anything to find his biological mother who was later found. He has gained a little weight, he is jolly, loves to play with other children and healthy. We hope to reunite Eclas with his biological mother some

day!



## A One-day Old Baby Girl was Found Abandoned in a Pit Latrine Yesterday...



You have read and been moved by the headlines, but the baby girl is all too quickly and easily forgotten. She is replaced by the next shocking headline of tomorrow's news. But who will rescue her? Where will she go? Who will care for and be responsible for her? What will happen to her next week, or in five years?

If pure and undefiled religion is in part to “visit orphans in their distress,” then these questions demand answers. Now, you could rightfully argue that the baby girl in the headline should not have been abandoned in the first place, and most people would wholeheartedly agree. However, when the baby is already in the pit crying and struggling to survive, the argument becomes pointless, and immediate action must be taken.

**So who will rescue the baby?** It will likely be the first person that hears and cares about her cry. Next time, it could be you, so be ready to courageously accept the unexpected!

**Where will she go?** She may end up in the temporary care of a babies’ home, such as the first and oldest in Uganda, Sanyu Babies’ Home, or “Sanyu”. This is a good, safe place for her to regain health, receive proper nutrition, and be cared for by diligent staff and loving volunteers.

**Who will care for and be responsible for her?** If she is at Sanyu, we will be legally responsible for her care and well being. However, Sanyu is a babies’ home, not a family with a father and mother. The staff of Sanyu will do an investigation to find the whereabouts of father, mother, and any living relatives in order to attempt a reunification with her birth family. If this is unsuccessful, the following three possibilities will be pursued in order to permanently place the baby girl in a family:

- 1) A foster family will be matched with the intent that she will be adopted
- 2) A resident international family will be matched to adopt her
- 3) An international and likely interracial family will be matched to adopt her

**What will happen to her next week, or in five years?** As stated above, a home like Sanyu is a babies’ home designed and equipped for children under 4 years, and is no substitute for a father and mother, neither birth nor adopted. If the baby girl is not matched with a family by age 4, she is likely to be moved to a Children’s Home outside of Kampala where she will stay as an orphan with no known relative until she becomes an adult. It is here that she may start to feel truly alone, as the other children are able to return to their relatives for holidays and breaks. What will happen to her can only be speculated unless decisive action is taken now in order to change the course of her life.

To state it plainly, the answer to this question could rely solely on what you decide to do about it. In response, one more question must be answered:

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### **What can YOU do about the baby girl found in the pit latrine?**

You can give **TIME**. Sanyu Babies' Home will graciously accept your time and will put your skills to work in order to help care for the baby girl.

You can give **MONEY** or donate in kind. Sanyu could not operate as effectively without the financial support of donors from both Uganda and all over the world. When you become a 'Friend of Sanyu', you can sponsor specific needs that the baby girl and the other children have, such as investigation expenses, medical bills, baby formula, staff salaries, and others. Donations of goods will also be accepted with gratitude, including disposable nappies, bed sheets, soap, and Vaseline to name a few. You can also sponsor her during her stay at Sanyu.

You can **OPEN** up the doors of your home and your heart. Submit your paperwork to Sanyu Babies' Home to possibly be matched with the baby girl or another child as a foster or adopted family. Sanyu has a limited capacity to care for up to 50 children, so every child who is matched with a family creates an opportunity for another to be rescued.

It is time to stop letting the headlines fade away.

It is time to start breathing life into the discussion of **who will "visit orphans in their distress."**

### **WILL YOU?**

*Barbara Mutagubya*

### **Staff Trainings**



The past few months have been very busy for the staff at Sanyu Babies' Home. During the months of April, May and June, we were blessed to have a team of trainers from the Nutri Dietetic Centre who carried out Nutrition and Health training sessions (both theory and practical) for the Staff at Sanyu. The topics included Infant and Young Child Feeding, Malnutrition and Managing Malnutrition through Meal Enrichment. The trainings will continue up to the month of November 2014 with topics including but not limited to; Managing Gastro Intestinal illnesses in infants, Stunting, HIV Aids, Childhood obesity, Allergies, and Occupational health for staff. We wish to thank the trainers; Hon. Brenda

Nabukenya, Mark Lule, Vivian Namboozo and Justine Kirabo for giving the staff an opportunity to learn.

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the Sanyu staff team leaders had a Team Building Training that was held at the Marine Water Front Club in Entebbe. We thank Godwin Otim and his Quest for Excellence team who trained the staff in areas of people management, Time management and Teams and Team building.

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## VOLUNTEER REPORTS – Hannah Darr



In the summer of 2013 I came to Uganda with a Service-Learning Program through Iowa State and Makerere University. I worked on a bi-national team to help improve a school garden program in the Kamuli district that provides daily meals for primary school students in a food insecure area. This was my first out-of-country experience from America and my first time in Africa, but I knew it wouldn't be my last.

Now the summer of 2014, I am a student at Iowa State University studying Global Resource Systems and Biology. A requirement for graduation in my program is an internship abroad. I knew I wanted to return to Uganda in an area where I could observe child health and nutrition. My professor recently adopted two children from Sanyu Babies' Home and she made the suggestion to intern with the organization before returning to Kamuli.

For the past four weeks I have been busy cooking, feeding, cleaning, playing with, and caring for the children at Sanyu. Both exhausting and fulfilling, the work here is.

The Mama's, administration, and all other staff work tirelessly to make Sanyu Babies' Home a loving place for children who have no where else to go. I have so much admiration and respect for their ability to do their jobs while truly loving each child. I have genuinely enjoyed my experience at Sanyu. Some of my favorite moments include chasing the chickens with kids during playtime, attending staff nutritional training, working with children in the physiotherapy room, hanging pounds of laundry with Emmanuel, seeing children reunite with their families or being adopted, and working daily alongside fantastic children and staff. As I am preparing to leave I will miss many things: Beatrice's singing, Balaam's scooting, Kkonde's hugs, Hilda's help, Christopher's personality, Justine's sassiness, Michael's perseverance, Namakula's smile, Robinah's friendliness, Rodney's innocence, the list goes on. It is bittersweet volunteering at Sanyu, as it brings so much joy to the lives of those affected by horrific tragedies. I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn and work with Sanyu, the experience will not be forgotten.



## Volunteer Reports: Kayla, Sarah, Keila, Tina and Paul



### KAYLA DUCHAINE – 20yrs. old

My friends and I have been volunteering at Sanyu for two weeks and have loved every minute we've been here. We are a group of students who heard about the home, were interested, and decided to volunteer. Sanyu is a desperately needed facility in Kampala and through hearing stories and experiencing it ourselves, we know that it has changed the lives of so many needy children. We will always remember the experiences that we've had and the friendships that we've made during our time here at Sanyu. These two weeks have absolutely flown by and I still can't believe that our time at Sanyu is already over. So many of the children here have impacted me in a special, significant way; too many to include in this little write-up. From little Hannah, to quiet and sullen Eva, to the next rising star Beatrice, each child here has been through so much and yet, through the love and care they receive at Sanyu, has overcome all of it. Each smile, each laugh, each successful reunification or placement in a family is testament to the amazing, desperately needed work that Sanyu has been doing and continues to do here in Kampala. To anyone considering volunteering at Sanyu, please don't hesitate! Contact Barbara, stay at the beautiful and professionally hosted guesthouse on site, buy all your Ugandan souvenirs at the Sanyu Craft Shop, and love some babies! Though the mamas here at Sanyu are wonderful and work tirelessly to care for up to fifty babies at a time, there is always a baby to feed, a nappy to change, clothes to wash, and there just never seems to be enough hands to do it all. Not only have I learned to speed-change three babies at a time, but my eyes have also been open to the reality of child abuse and abandonment and to the presence of facilities like Sanyu that work to shelter the little victims. There is no doubt that I will be

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coming back to volunteer at Sanyu in the future; the work they are doing is life-changing not only for the children they serve but also for their volunteers, and that is a unique and special quality.

**SARAH POWELL – 17 yrs.old**

My first day at Sanyu, I was excited to be working with the babies. That excitement swiftly grew into being overwhelmed—between feeding and the diapers, I was exhausted. I fell into bed that night wondering why I had signed up to help care for fifty babies for two weeks! However, as time has gone on, I have come to treasure the moments that overwhelmed me the first day. Each and every one of these children is a blessing, from Hilda, who is always looking to help and nurture the other children to Beatrice, who loves to sing. I am going to leave here rich from the love that they abundantly supply. That, perhaps, is what has most impacted me: the love that they have for others, as well as the love they still need. Some of the children are still working through learned negative behaviors that they use to seek love and attention, but I know that each of them has a heart that is beautiful and good. I am so blessed to have been a part of these children's lives, and I know I will never forget my time at Sanyu.

**TINA GARDNER – 17yrs. Old**

For months I have been getting ready and excited for coming to Sanyu, but I didn't realize just how much I'd love it here. I have fallen in love with these beautiful children and I'll leave a bit of my heart here with them. Though they have come out of many difficult situations, the children are so sweet and full of love. It is amazing to see a little girl come in, scared of this new place full of other children and new people, and then, as she is loved and cared for and makes new friends, she turns into a happy, cheerful little girl who loves to play and laugh. That is what Sanyu provides for so many children. It has really impacted me, just how much love can change these little ones lives. Although these weeks have been exhausting, they have been the best weeks of my life, and I will cherish them forever. I would strongly encourage everyone to visit and volunteer some time for these babies, and to help all the amazing Sanyu mamas who love and care for these children every day. It is an amazing home and I will miss it so much!

**KEILA P. – 16yrs. old**

During my stay I have seen the beautiful transforming effect that love can have on a child. First I have seen Hannah. I've seen how our team has spent extra time caring for and loving Hannah. The result has been a much happier, healthier girl who just recently expressed the interest to walk and has taken some steps with help and is building muscle in her legs. She hardly ever spits up food now and she's not sick any more. This shows the amazing power of love and prayer. She has changed so much in such a short time. A second example is of two of the four new children who have arrived during our stay. Joel and Evelyn both had a hard time adjusting to life as an abandoned child; Evelyn more because she is older. Joel after just one day was already smiling and gurgling, excited about food and playtime and showing his shaky standing and steps at such a young age. He has greatly benefitted from the care given here and the loving attention he receives from the volunteers. I pray the very best for him and know that he is here for a special reason. Evelyn was very sad and sullen her first few days here. She wouldn't talk or play with the other kids and wouldn't even look at me. She would drift off to sleep with tears still on her cheeks placed there out of the deep grief and hurt that no child her age should experience and out of frustration at not knowing the schedule at the home. Her second and third day, after many failed attempts and hours of trying, we have been rewarded with a giggling, grinning, happy little girl. She couldn't keep still as I

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dressed her and kept singing to me in her soft voice. It has been a complete transformation. I know I have, along with other people, been praying for her and I know this is the answer. I praise God that she is doing so well and am thankful that we were here to help her adjust and learn how to laugh again. These children, their stories, and the changes they undergo have impacted my life amazingly. I will never forget what I have learned and experienced here at Sanyu.

**“We came expecting to love and help the children but in doing so, the children loved and helped us just as much, if not more.”**

#### **PAUL GARDNER**

When our daughter Tina first brought up her desire to volunteer at the Sanyu Babies' Home my wife and I thought it was a wonderful idea that is until we found out it would be unchaperoned. At that point we had to say no to the idea and she would have to find another trip with an organized group. This broke her heart as she really wanted to volunteer at Sanyu, so we told her if she could find an adult to act as a chaperone we would allow her to go.

When that didn't work out we were back to square one and my wife suggested one of us go, but with my wife's health not being very good she could not make a trip like that so the lot fell to me. I was very hesitant and afraid to say yes because after all, I didn't "feel called" to the mission field and on top of that there were many sensible reasons not to go. But ultimately a father's love for his daughter helped me overcome any fears and I said yes. I was still a little scared and frankly did not know what I would do for two weeks with 50 or so infants to four year olds, but upon arrival at Sanyu the answer was made very clear...anything and everything! Serve meals, do laundry, wash floors, pick up toys, change diapers (ok, maybe not!), assist teachers, clean dishes and so on. I very quickly went from not knowing what I would do to help to doing everything I could to help. Most importantly though was to play with, care for and love all of those precious little children and I instantly fell in love with each one of them!

Here I thought I would be a help and a blessing to the home, and instead I was the one being blessed. At the outset I was not sure I wanted to go, and now I was sure I did not want to leave. God saw fit to allow this scared and stubborn 50-year-old man play the role of father in every sense of the word to these precious little children and I will be forever grateful and forever changed. So to any fathers/men reading this article, Sanyu has plenty of "mamas" (the women staff members who care for the children) and plenty of women volunteers, but not a lot of male volunteers. The children need that male influence in their lives and you may be the one for the job! Don't find reasons why you can't go, don't make excuses and don't convince yourself that God will send someone else, someone who is actually "called" to the mission field. You be the one to say yes and you be the one to love and care for those children and you'll be the one who is blessed beyond measure. I guarantee it!



## Volunteer Opportunities at Sanyu Babies Home



We offer a number of ongoing opportunities to come and volunteer at Sanyu. On site is our guesthouse, which provides each volunteer with a comfortable and safe place to stay while being steps away from the babies' home. Please check our website for more information. [www.sanyubabies.com](http://www.sanyubabies.com)



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Mobile+256 712 370 950 Email: [sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com](mailto:sanyubabhome1@yahoo.com) Website: [www.sanyubabies.com](http://www.sanyubabies.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)



## Sanyu Babies' Home Gift Shop



Whether you or someone you know comes to Uganda, be sure to come to Sanyu Babies' Gift Shop, located just inside the gate. Our gift shop is well stocked with every kind of souvenir. While there are several souvenir shops in Kampala, you will find at Sanyu Gift Shop the best prices in town. Beautiful hand crafted items, picture frames, sandals, jewelry, purses, aprons, etc. Not only will you leave with some wonderful keepsakes, but also the money you spend will go towards the running of the Babies' Home. Sarah is always there to greet you with a warm smile!



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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 (preferably Cow & Gate 1)
- Feeding bottles
- Pampers / disposable nappies in various sizes from newborn to toddlers' pull ups
- Baby wipes
- 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
- 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)

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## 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** Sort Code: 08-02-47

Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited City Branch, Kampala Road Account Name: **Sanyu Babies' Home** UGX Account Number: **9030005856247** Sort Code: 31008, Swift Code: SBICUGKX

You can also send money using the **MTN Mobile money** collection line – **0788162147**

You can post items to: PO Box 14162, 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](mailto: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. 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! This list is for April, May and June 2014.

**Bomgi Ltd.** Has donated vitamins to all the babies at Sanyu. Their product Booster+ is an immune booster specifically formulated for the nutritional needs of East Africa.. All the children are now taking Booster+. You can find out about the work they are doing in Uganda by visiting their website at [www.bomgi.com](http://www.bomgi.com).

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