

2017 SUMMER
VOLUNTEER
SPECIAL

THE HFF DISPATCH



THE HOFFMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO. 9 | SUMMER 2017



SUMMER

2017

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

NEW LOOK. SAME DRIVEN PURPOSE.

Hello, and welcome to The Hoffman Family Foundation's newsletter: The HFF Dispatch. This is a quarterly newsletter to help keep you updated with all that the Hoffman Family Foundation is accomplishing. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for different communities, empowering women, families, and schools giving children quality education.

The Hoffman Family Foundation's vision is to leave a legacy of love, transforming lives and communities around the world.

With this newsletter, we hope to share with you the improvements we are making in other people's lives across the globe. Perhaps you'll be inspired to help in your own way or to donate for one of our causes. With your help, we can truly make a difference.





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LIVE SIMPLY, SO THAT OTHERS CAN SIMPLY LIVE.



FALLING IN LOVE WITH UGANDA

The best surprises are the ones that knock you off your feet. The best kind of love is the one that you never saw coming, and in this way, we have no preconceived notion of what it should be or look like. We are embraced by joy and it never felt better because we never knew that kind of love existed. We are stunned and delightfully so. There's a verse in the Bible that talks about how perfect love casts out all fear, because we are liberated from the anxiety of punishment and condemnation. Love sets us free. Christ sets us free.

That's how I feel about Uganda and its people. I'll admit, when I first arrived in Uganda I didn't have lofty expectations. I knew that I was in for an entirely new experience but I had no idea just how much of my heart Uganda would steal from me in the coming days. I was a little fearful, and yes, maybe even slightly skeptical. But I believe that's exactly how God works. God works in the touch of a child and in the warm embrace of a stranger. He works in the quiet moments, when His spirit

silently changes us, heals us and imprints on our hearts with permanent ink. He works in the triumphant shout.

This truth and love pierced my soul like an arrow at the Daughters of Charity home for the disabled children. I don't say this often because it doesn't happen very often but my life was changed that day. I fell in love with a people and a country. I fell in love with their resilience and hunger for God. I fell in love with their pure joy. I fell in love with their heart. It didn't happen because I necessarily wanted it to happen. It happened because I never saw it coming. And that's exactly how God works. He uses the weak things of the world to confound the thing that are mighty and He uses the seemingly foolish things of the world to confound the things that are "wise" in the worlds eyes.

Isn't this delightful? Isn't this unexpected?

Isn't this the way it should be?

By Lauren Sadler

A GIFT OF HOPE

By Lori Larson

Mom, do you have any extra books or school supplies you could bring to the kids here?" That was the first thing my son, Zane (volunteer coordinator for HFF), asked when I told him I wanted to come meet the people in Kirugu that he talks so much about. Right away, we started planning!

Paper, pencils, crayons, folders, notebooks, rulers, scissors, books, teaching tools, and more paper. These were the school supplies that children at Steven's Elementary school in Jefferson County, Colorado collected to give to the children at Rays of Grace Academy. Even though Stevens is a Title 1 school with high needs themselves, the students here felt pride and joy in being able to give what little they had to the students at Rays of Grace. As it turned out, everybody gave a little, and it became a lot!

With the help of every volunteer in our group heading to Uganda, we were able to transport most of the school supplies in a second suitcase per person that stayed within the airline weight limit. We also distributed some supplies among other volunteers in their one allowed suitcase that were going before or after our trip.

Upon our arrival at the Rays of Grace Academy, we were greeted with open arms, singing children, and beautiful sunshine. It was more than enough to melt everyone's heart! On our third day to the school we handed out the paper and folders to the children and teachers as well as giving the teachers all the rest of the supplies for their classrooms. They were all so thankful and appreciative. We heard "Webale-webale" (thank you, thank you) over and over again. Seeing the big smiles and pure joy on the faces of the students was wonderful! Visiting their classrooms was fun too. The children were so proud and eager to show us where they study. The students take great pride in their new school as we saw them sweeping and cleaning the floors and steps.

Rays of Grace Academy serves 370 students, 151 girls and 219 boys. Of those, 115 are boarding students. There are 26 staff members which include teachers, secretaries, cooks and a nurse. They provide education to 5 years old up to about 15 year olds. Their native language is Lugandan but they all learn English starting in the early ages. The school is solar powered, has two working wells, and is licensed with the Department of Education. They also raise their own chickens and grow their own vegetables. The teachers at Rays of Grace, under the support of head teacher Reagan and head master Charles, hold high expectations for their students. We often heard the children saying they wanted to be a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher or an engineer!

I am so thankful and feel very blessed to have had this opportunity to visit Kirugu and Rays of Grace Academy. As a teacher myself, visiting with the teachers there was inspiring! As they said, "Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create, and hearts to love. Teachers inspire the hope of today and dreams of tomorrow."





GIVING GIVES US LIFE!
IT CONNECTS US
TO OTHER PEOPLE,
BRINGS US JOY,
AND INCREASES OUR
WELL-BEING.





COMMISSIONING "SHERRI'S PLACE"

By Tami Hoffman

Our New Sickbay/Nursing Clinic was birth on June 16, 2017. This is a place where our babies can go to receive treatment for illnesses and accidents that may occur at school. Do you remember growing up and going to the school nurse? Robert surprised me the day of the commissioning and let me know that we now have a full-time nurse on staff at our school. That surprise made me cry. Please meet Fiona. She is a beautiful young nurse that just recently graduated nursing school. She told me she is so happy to be serving with us and she promises to take good care of our children.

Earlier that week we were able to test all 370 children to see if they were carrying malaria in their bloodstream. That is one of the main things our children deal with on an ongoing basis. Out of the 370 children we had 145 children that had signs that the malaria virus was affecting their bodies. That day we were able to give them tablets (and suckers to help with the fear of the blood-test) and help them start fighting this awful virus that affects so many of

our children. That same day I happened to check the boys dormitory and found three boys laying on their beds each having 106° temperature because they had malaria. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I went to get some cold water and some towels and I started cooling them off and praying over each of their sick little bodies. All along knowing that by Friday our sickbay clinic would be open for patients. It couldn't open fast enough especially now since the dormitory has 115 children that stay with us full-time.

We were so blessed with our second volunteer group this summer. They fundraised and brought over medical supplies and lots of medicine that would fill the cabinets of our sickbay clinic. Many parents send their children to school sick because they have no means to provide medical assistance for their own children. Can you even begin to imagine or perceive this? But now we can make sure these precious little souls will have everything they will need when they are ill. Fiona also has direct access to several doctors in Jinja

if she feels that she cannot diagnose the situation properly or if it is larger than she can handle. Please remember to keep Fiona lifted in prayer as she takes care of these precious babies each day.

I would like to thank the "Brake" Family for helping us raise \$3800 which allowed us to furnish the sickbay clinic with our initial start up. In February they lost their dear wife, mother and friend to cancer, but now her beautiful legacy lives on in "Rays of Grace" in the hearts of all our students in Kirugu, Uganda.

Our children are stronger than they know.. braver than they think... And loved more than they can imagine. And I know out of their suffering they have emerged as some of the strongest souls I have ever seen.

LOVE bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7

2017 SUMMER VOLUNTEER GROUPS



GROUP 1: COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



GROUP 2: COLORADO UNIVERSITY IN BOULDER



GROUP 3: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT GROUP



GROUP 4: POTTER'S HOUSE OF DENVER

GO TEAM GO

T ...TOGETHER
E ...EVERYONE
A ...ACHIEVES
M...MORE

We are excited for you to meet our new "Rays of Grace" soccer team.

Our 1st volunteer group project was to do a sports camp. This group raised money to start our soccer team. We were able to purchase practice jerseys, game jerseys and soccer shoes. The boys were thrilled to get to practice at a field not too far from our school. God has blessed us and we have an official soccer coach that has offered to come in and train our boys in the game of soccer. We want "Rays of Grace" to be a well rounded school that provides spiritual training, educational training, athletic training, music and dance training just to name a few. It's exciting for us to get the athletic

training up and running for our boys who love to play soccer and also our girls who love to play net-ball. Athletics teach our kids what it means to be on a team. Don't aspire to be the best on the team, aspire to be the best FOR THE TEAM.

Good players inspires themselves, great players inspire others. Athletics is such a great teacher.

Our kids are now starting to play in tournaments with other schools and they are so excited. Thank you for all of those who helped our kids dreams become a reality.

We will forever be grateful for your love and support.

By Tami Hoffman

PRACTICE
LIKE YOU'VE NEVER WON.

PERFORM
LIKE YOU'VE NEVER LOST.







AN HONORED

FAMILY MAN

HIS WIFE By Joyce Brooks

I am so grateful to the Hoffman Family Foundation for honoring the memory of my husband, Perry Brooks by naming its dormitory after him. It is quite apropos since Perry loved doing whatever he could to make life easier for ALL children. He practiced this with our children, his nieces and nephews, cousins, neighborhood children and throughout our community.

After our children became adults, Perry continued to donate money and time to many causes. For example, he helped children by volunteering to be a coach for basketball and football for elementary and middle school children. He also volunteered to read to kids and serve as an adult mentor, and to be a driver for field trips. There was no end to what he would do to help children succeed. My husband inspired to be a better person and to give

of himself to kids and their parents.

This honor with Perry's Place suggests that children can feel safe with his presence. Perry's last assignment in his profession was as a warden of a youth prison in California. Perry ensured the safety of the young people by creating a climate that trained his staff about their responsibility and commitment to the safety of the youth. He modeled love, honor and respect to his staff so that they would show that same behavior toward the youngsters.

Perry's presence at Perry's Place will encourage staff and students. Most of all, Perry was influenced by the Spirit of God. That influence permeates the dormitory and the entire grounds of Rays of Grace School.



ETERNAL TREASURES

CAN NEVER BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.

HIS SON

By Perry Jr. Brooks

It was a great honor, to have My father honored in Africa. But greater than that, was the honor of serving those children, and the women's empowerment group. I look forward to working with HFF in the future.

HIS DAUGHTER

By Tracey Coleman Brooks

My dad was a gentle and loving man. He was contemplative about his words and actions. He wanted to make sure he thought through everything he wanted to say in order to maintain the relationship and not hurt the other person.

My favorite memory of him was a time he wanted to take me on a date and drove two hours to the beach to take me to dinner. We had a great time talking and it was our first time sharing this kind of intimate time being an adult. There were many other one on one times we shared after the initial dinner date.

The trip to Uganda was very special in many ways. The love of the children, the people, and others that left an impact on the trip will forever be in my thoughts

and memories. Although my dad never visited Uganda I know that he would have been humbled by the naming of the dormitory in his honor. I was very humbled, blessed, and honored to see the love of my dad displayed along with the covering of the children in those dorms by the love and prayers of those who loved my dad. The children will be prayed for where the grace of God will surround them.

The legacy of my father was to always do your best no matter how that may look to others, as long as you know you did your absolute best. That has been a governing aspect of my life for 50 years. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been born as his daughter. The legacy of Perry Brooks Sr. lives on in

his children, grandchildren, and great grandchild. The Ray of Grace School and Perry's place will always be a place of honor for our family and a place we will call part of the Brooks family legacy.

The word of the Lord was the focal point of my dad's life and to God be the glory for his example and dedication as a man of God. His favorite scripture has been inscribed in the dorm by my brother that has a special connotation to how we should live in this life on earth. Matthew 16:26. That was very important to my dad and I will always remember the example he set through the word of God first and foremost. His relationship with the Lord had first priority, then family was everything to my dad and he exemplified that to each of us.





I BECAME EMPOWERED

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20

I never imagined! Uganda is where a part of my heart has been since I first got to visit in 2004. I met a dear friend on the last day of my visit, I was at church and afterward I was visiting with some children and Jane came up and welcomed me. We visited only briefly and she presented me with a book, "Woman of Purpose." She said, "we will meet again." As she walked away I turned the book over to see she was the author. She is a strong woman after becoming a widow she began a ministry helping widows, many who are raising their grandchildren. Jane and I began emailing regularly. I returned to Uganda in 2006 to visit Jane Opolot and visit Woman of Purpose headquarters in Pallisa and meet with the women there.

Our small town of Gunnison raised money to buy Jane a car, purchase uniforms for children so they could attend school and buy goats for several widows. Jane came to see me in 2009 and we went to Gunnison where she spoke to our church and they asked what would be most helpful to her and she said for these women to own property then they can be

independent and feel like they are somebody, so we began to buy more goats and cows to help these women to become independent. Woman of Purpose now has 301 cows and over 200 goats and chickens as well.

When my sister Lori asked if I wanted to go with her to Uganda to see where Zane, her son has spent the past three summers I said YES! I never imagined it could really happen! Uganda is such a beautiful country and the people are true treasures! I was blessed to go with the Hoffman Family Foundation who have huge hearts for the people of Uganda, particularly an incredible school full of children and leaders called, "Rays of Grace" in Kirugu.

They also have a Women's Empowerment program, which I was so interested in. They have given micro loans to groups of women to begin businesses. We were able to meet with the women and see some of the ways they have risen their living by opening their own business. We met Margaret who owns her own Hair salon. Mama Marion who has her own store which is a meeting place for friends in the community as well as providing a place to purchase necessities.

My friend Jane Opolot came to Kirugu to speak to the women and to encourage them. It was such an honor

to watch her speak so lovingly and powerfully to these women who had gathered in the community center. We then visited incredible gardens; corn is bigger than I have ever seen! Sharon has a huge field full of tomatoes! Esther owns and cares for cows, pigs, chickens and a very pregnant goat! Before we left Uganda we heard the goat had 4 kids!

I came home empowered as I have seen how very hard the women in Kirugu and surrounding areas work to provide for their families. Many have paid back their micro loans and now are able to encourage others by loaning money to more women for their businesses. We got to visit a group of women who make bricks and they showed us the process of making them from the red clay dirt. We sat under beautiful tents and on chairs that another group rents out for profit. We visited Helen and her store in Jinga at the source of the Nile and many purchased beautiful items from her. Tami Hoffman in her generous way purchased beautiful mats from a woman who came prepared to our women's meeting, to encourage her and bless us as she gifted each of us with a mat. At home my mat is a treasured reminder of possibility! God's Hand, our willing hearts and hard work!

I am blessed beyond measure, and this trip was a huge gift to my heart!!



**“NO ONE IS USELESS
IN THIS WORLD
WHO LIGHTENS
THE BURDENS OF
ANOTHER.”**



First Day of School



Transforming



Meeting My Sponsor

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SMILES

My husband Lahai and I sponsor Lubowa who attends Rays of Grace School. The first picture taken with Tami on 6/21/2016 you see this little man had no smile. Tami subsequently returned to Uganda with a care package from Lahai and I made just for Lubowa, and you can see in the second picture (11/16/2016) that Lubowa knows he is being loved by a family in Colorado! This past June, I had the honor of traveling to Uganda with the women's group.

On this trip I was blessed to meet Lubowa in person! God arranged it so I was there during his birthday and I was able to present some birthday gifts to him. As you can see in the last picture that was taken on 6/16/2017 Lubowa now has a forever smile! There are many children at the school who need to be sponsored. It's so easy to be a part of a smile.

Won't you please join us?

By Dona Sogbandi

MEET OUR AMAZING KIDS WHO NEED A SPONSOR



SPONSORSHIP changes lives. Having seen this firsthand, it's amazing how HFF comes beside a family to support them without creating dependency. It's encouraging to see how your gift of \$30 per month for our non-boarders and \$60 per month for our full-time boarders gives a boy/girl a chance at education. For many of these kids they may be the first one of their families that are being educated. Many of our children's parents have never been educated nor their grandparents. How blessed

we are to be able to help break this cycle of illiteracy.

Your support helps to give a child an environment that is safe for them to learn, nutritious food that helps them grow physically, wonderful teachers to teach them academically and a place that they can call home and know that they are LOVED.

TODAY ...would you consider sponsoring one of our beautiful children? Changing lives ... One starfish at a time ..

ONLY ACTION HAS THE POWER TO TURN INTO LOVE.

SPONSOR OUR KIDS

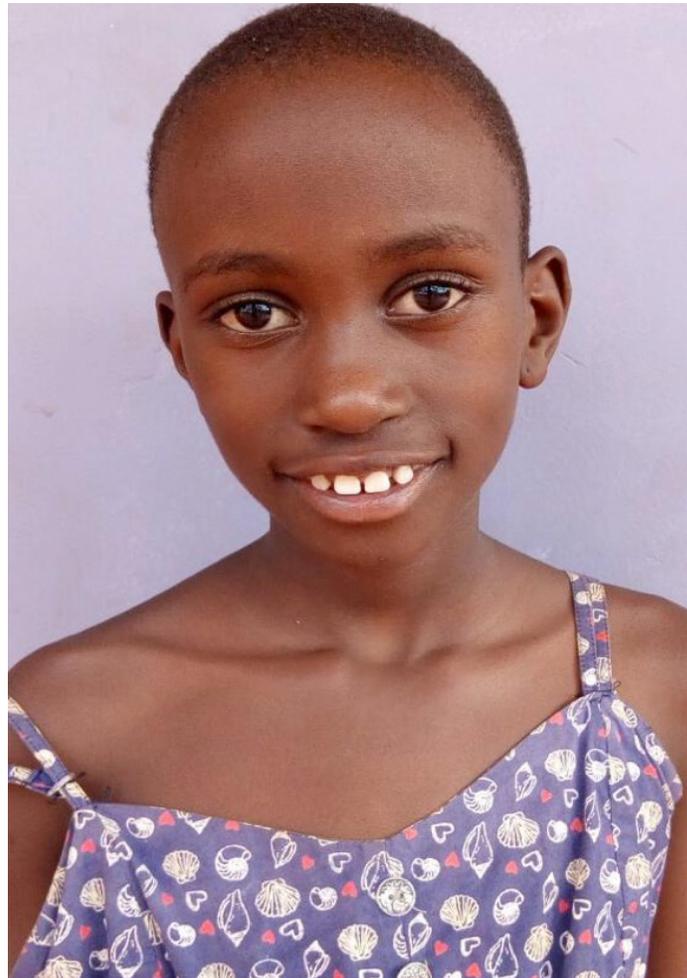


MEET MORRIS SEMBAJO

AGE: 12 YEARS OLD
BIRTHDAY: July 24th, 2005

"When I grow up I want to be a doctor"

Morris is an orphan who lost his father to HIV/AIDS in 2010 at the age of 5 years; he was left with his mother and four (4) siblings. His mother works hand to mouth by engaging in brick making for survival with her family. Morris was identified by Hoffman Family Foundation and taken to school after realizing that he frequently missed school because his mother couldn't afford school fees for his education. Inspired by his late father's doctor, Morris dreams of becoming a doctor one day.



MEET MOVIA NAKIYEMBA

AGE: 8 YEARS OLD
BIRTHDAY: March 1st, 2009

"When I grow up I want to be a nurse"

Movia is an orphan who lost her father to HIV/AIDS in 2010, Being of 1 year Movia was then left with her mother and four (4) siblings, Her mother works hand to mouth by engaging in brick making for survival with the whole family, Talking to Movia she said that sometimes they eat once a day because her mother fails to raise money for buying food at home. Movia was identified by Hoffman Family Foundation after realizing that she could be missing school, because her mother couldn't afford her school fees.

Are you wanting to make an impact on one of our amazing kids?

Contact HFF to sponsor a child at 303-949-0831



MEET NESTROY SSENTONGO

AGE: 10 YEARS OLD
BIRTHDAY: July 15th, 2007

“When I grow up I want to be a doctor”

Nestroy is the eldest of three children. His parents depend entirely on subsistence farming for survival. On harvesting, most of the produce is consumed and a little is sold to pay for the children’s education. Unfortunately, income from the sale of farm produce cannot sustain the needs including; education, health, clothing and utilities. Nestroy studies at Rays of Grace but his future at the school is uncertain given the fact that his parents do not have any hope of raising fees for next term.



MEET LAWRENCE OKELLO

AGE: 3 YEARS OLD
BIRTHDAY: June 10th, 2014

“I love Angry Birds”

Lawrence is the third in a family of four children. He joined Rays of Grace this year in Baby Class. His father, David Sendegeya, was a very hard working and committed parent of Rays of Grace before he got involved in a terrible accident early this year that led to memory loss; he might not be able to work again. Lawrence’s mother (Prossy Nakato) has a small retail shop in Namiyagi village. Income from the shop is not enough to cater for home needs, children’s school fees and the intense medical care for David.



OUR NEXT PROJECT

Would you consider partnering with HFF to buy a school bus?

Our newest project is to purchase a used bus that will transport our kids that still walk several hours to get to school. We would like to be able to help transport these kids to and from school. This helps to protect our kids from the many adverse conditions that force them to abandon their pursuit of education. This bus will be used also for the many new sports activities that we have recently joined with other schools.

This year we contracted with a bus company that transported all of our HFF volunteers from May 18th to July 1st. This bus will also be used for this function when our next volunteer groups arrive. Which will save US dollars that can be used elsewhere.

We should be able to buy a used bus for approximately \$25,000.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED??

- ✓ Donate now on our website: www.hoffmanfamilyfoundation.co
- ✓ Sign up for our quarterly newsletter and see what is happening at HFF
- ✓ Like our Facebook Page and share our cause with your friends and family
- ✓ HFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND AND ROUND....



The Hoffman Family Foundation's Vision is to leave a legacy of love, transforming lives and communities around the world.

Hoffman Family Foundation Mail-In Donation Form

Leave a Legacy of Love - Donate Today and Start Transforming Lives and Communities. The Hoffman Family Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in the USA and all donations are 100% Tax Deductible. EIN 38-3945350. Please make checks payable to: Hoffman Family Foundation. 100% of your donation goes directly towards the current project we're working on.

Contact Information (* required field)

* First Name:

* Last Name:

* Organization:

* Address:

* City:

* State: * ZIP Code / Country:

* Email Address:

Phone:

Credit Card Information

* Credit Card Type: MasterCard | Visa | AMEX | Discover

* Credit Card Number:

* Expiration Date: Month: Year: * Security Code:

* Donation Amount:

Authorization (Please check appropriate box, sign and date)

- Please find enclosed check as my donation to Hoffman Family Foundation
- I authorize Hoffman Family Foundation to charge my credit / debit card for a one-time donation.

Signed: Date:

Mail to:

Hoffman Family Foundation
 4860 Ward Road
 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

www.hoffmanfamilyfoundation.co



WHERE I AM **TODAY** IS
PREPARING ME FOR WHERE
GOD WILL TAKE ME
TOMORROW.

I KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN
FORMED WITH A **PURPOSE.**

TODAY, I WILL
ENJOY MY JOURNEY.



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Our vision is to leave a **legacy of love**,
transforming lives and communities **around the world**.



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