

CHILDREN OF HOPE AND FAITHSM



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE
EDUCATION FOR ORPHANS. HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES.



The Maternity Ward at St. Francis Rwambaizi Health Center.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which will open on December 8, 2015. In "The Face of Mercy," Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and come to the aid of our brothers and sisters. To celebrate the Year of Mercy, we have expanded our mission to include small projects for health care. People who are poor in Tanzania suffer pain and disease because of inadequate medical care, and we highlight opportunities to assist St. Francis Rwambaizi Health Center in this issue.



Yet providing an excellent Catholic education for young people in Tanzania remains our main mission. We currently sponsor over 100 students in pre-school through university. We also sponsor two nursing students and a medical student, as we help train workers to meet

the country's health care needs. And COHF has expanded to include sponsorship at public schools for children who cannot attend Catholic school for health reasons or due to learning disabilities and also for post high school education.

We continue to be most grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, donors and volunteers who make our work possible. You make a huge difference in the lives of the young people and communities we serve in the Kagera Region of Tanzania.

St. Josephine Bakhita, pray for us! ■

Sincerely in Christ,
Jane Walsh

VITAL SUPPORT

Thank you!

Many thanks to the volunteers, donors and crafters who supported the annual Garage Sale and Arts & Crafts Bazaar! Due to your generosity of giving time and talent, we raised over \$10,000 for scholarships and projects. We are very grateful to The High School of St. Thomas More and Holy Cross Parish for hosting our annual fundraising events.

We are most appreciative of St. Matthew Church Stewardship donations of over \$12,000, which also fund scholarships and projects. Thank you to all who donated clothing, blankets and supplies for the children at Angel Home Orphanage. We sent a packed suitcase with Fr. John for his trip to Tanzania. ■

HEALTH CARE IN TANZANIA: AN INITIATIVE FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

"Let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy as an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith:

'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy'(Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year...

Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with Hope."

~ Pope Francis, The Face of Mercy, pp. 10,12

St. Francis Health Center is located in the rural area of Karagwe and is operated by the Diocese of Kayanga under the supervision of Sacred Heart Parish and the Franciscan Sisters of St. Bernadette. The center has a capacity for 56 beds. It provides health care for over 85,000 people within its area and has outreach to six neighboring villages. Health services are delivered mainly to pregnant women and children. However, transportation of health personnel to the villages and transport of patients to the health center is a big problem because of a lack of reliable ambulance service.

St. Francis Health Center serves a very poor population. The main diseases treated at the health facility are malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, typhoid, worms, urinary track infection, HIV/Aids, STDs, anemia and peptic ulcers. Children from poor families suffer from malnutrition, diarrhea, and low immune systems. Many children die of malnutrition and preventable diseases including malaria and pneumonia.

The patients cannot afford to pay for health care and therefore the center has difficulty in staffing medical personnel and providing basic health care. The facility was originally built in 1960 by the Missionary Sisters and is in need of major renovations.

St. Francis Health Center is in need of the very basics – ambulance service, electricity, repair of water tanks, latrines, medicine and medical equipment. The Health Center is vital for this area, providing hope for cures from different diseases and alleviating pain and suffering. Please consider donating to this health care initiative as we begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy. ■

CAN YOU HELP?



The ambulance at St. Francis Rwambaizi Health Center is in dire need of repair. The Health Center is under the supervision of Sacred Heart Rwambaizi Parish.

Ambulance repair: **\$2,100**

Finish electricity installation: **\$1,250**

Support construction of 3 latrines: **\$3,000**

SUPPORT FOR OUR PROGRAMS



Students at St. Joseph High School with Fr. John.



Construction of the kindergarten classroom at St. George Cathedral is well under way!

St. George Cathedral Kindergarten

The St. George Cathedral classroom project is progressing well! Construction of the building is nearly finished. The interior, plumbing and sanitary installations and classroom materials remain to be completed. Many people, including supporters of COHF, have contributed toward this project. Bishop Almachius, the Theresian Sisters who teach and over 100 children and their parents are most grateful for our assistance! Please consider donating to the completion of this project so that the children can start in their new classrooms at the beginning of the 2016 school year. ■

Congrats to our 2015 Grads!

A number of our sponsored students have graduated this year. Many thanks to their sponsors for giving them this wonderful opportunity! We are very proud of their accomplishments.

Primary school:
5 students

Secondary School:
9 students

Teachers' College
2 students. ■

Give a Gift with Year-Long Impact

The Christmas Gift Card this year will help to provide the remaining funding for the St. George Cathedral Kindergarten project. Many people enjoy receiving a gift that benefits others long after the Christmas season. A donation of \$25 is requested for each card. To purchase Christmas Gift Cards, mail the form included in this newsletter or e-mail your request to: childrenofhopeandfaith@gmail.com. ■

End of Year Giving

Please consider Children of Hope and Faith for your end of the year giving! ■

Employer Matching Gift Fund

A special thank you to Exelon for being a company that matches their employees' charitable contributions. Thank you to our sponsors who have obtained matching funds for COHF through Exelon. Please inquire whether your employer has a matching gift program for charities. ■

Matching Gift Challenge: The Power of Your Generosity

A HUGE thank you to the very generous donor who initiated the Matching Gift Challenge! We were able to fund a Solar Energy project at St. Augustine Kaisho Secondary School. Materials have been purchased and construction is underway. The students, administration and staff are very excited about the possibility of a stable and reliable source of electricity, which uses energy from the sun and not diesel fuel. This energy source enables students to study after dark and will support use of computers and office equipment. They are most appreciative for all the services we take for granted.

We wish to thank all those who donated to the matching gift challenge! Due to your support and generosity, we were also able to fund the construction of a much needed water tank for St. Joseph Vocational Secondary School. This project has also been started and will be highlighted in the Spring Newsletter. ■

I WILL GIVE HOPE...

_____ Catholic elementary school, \$60 per month

_____ I am interested in sharing a half-sponsorship of a child

_____ Catholic secondary school, \$60 per month

_____ Yes! I want to purchase a Christmas Gift Card for \$25!

_____ I would like to support health care related projects
(please specify amount) \$ _____

_____ I will **GIVE HOPE** with a gift for scholarships and
specific projects (please specify amount) \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Please make checks payable and return this form to:

CHILDREN OF HOPE AND FAITH, INC.

903 Bluegrass Lane

Champaign, IL 61822

COHF is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit corporation; annual donation statements provided