



Village of Hope Uganda

Thanksgiving note from Cindy

November 2009



Recently I was going through the thousands of photos I have taken over the last 3 years of our children in Uganda. Three years ago I didn't know their names (Rose did). I didn't know their stories (Rose did). They were just children that God had broken my heart for.

One by one, I started seeing them as "our children." "That was Denis, that was Norbert, that was Stella..." I knew their

names... and my heart wept at the conditions they used to live in. It broke my heart to see the torn shirts, the blank stares, and the hopelessness.

Then I looked at recent photos. The same children, but totally different smiles, faces, and hope! I was amazed at the change!

Their childhood and innocence had been stolen, but God was restoring even that.

As you read Roses letter on the next page, you will get a glimpse of our thankfulness to God for YOU! If you hadn't written that check, if you hadn't cared, if you hadn't gone, this change would not have happened.

This Thanksgiving, I thank God for YOU! Our friends, our family, our partners, for the sake of the children!



A special gift from our children to you



We want to share a special gift with you. If you are on our mailing list we have included a bracelet which has been hand rolled out of recycled paper by our orphans. They learned to make the Beads of Hope Jewelry as a way of helping them provide food, shelter and clothing for themselves and their siblings. As you wear it, please remember to pray for them and also share their story with others.

To learn more about how they are made, or to buy some for your family and friends, please visit our website.

www.villageofhopeuganda.com

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One year ago they were ALL living in the IDP (refugee camps); they were all fending for themselves; wearing rags for clothes; sleeping on the floor of a mud hut; not attending school, and facing the terrors of life alone. If you look closely at the "before" photos (on the left side) you will see their hollow eyes and hopeless stares.

Not only have their circumstances changed but their countenance and hearts have been transformed.



Fida (above) & Irene (below) are sisters.

Norbert, Fida, Norman & Irene are living at the Safe House and will be the first of the VOH children to move to the new "Village".



Norbert & Norman (above) are twin brothers.



Photos on the left were taken February 2008. Photos on the right of the same child were taken June 2009.

"This is Rose from Village of Hope Uganda, having seen how far we have come since we began operating in the war torn areas of Northern Uganda, I felt that I should shout out a word of **great THANKS** to each and everyone who has supported us in one way or the other in this journey.

Many times my sister Cindy, who is the Founder of Village of Hope, and I remind ourselves of how tough this battle we began is. **But we promise to fight till the end** and thank God we are not alone, with you involved we will even be stronger.

I remember the time when sister Cindy came and we started Village Of Hope, it was indeed the perfect time, because during that time, I was working with several hundred children who **lacked almost every basic need**. These orphans went hungry for several days because they could not afford to get food. As a result, many little girls had to **exchange their bodies for food**, which resulted in several **unwanted pregnancies**, many of them were infected with Sexually Transmitted Diseases, with the worst of all being **HIV/AIDS** that has taken several of their dear lives.

As for the child headed boys when faced with the responsibility of taking care of their orphaned siblings, they would turn to doing all sorts of things, including **pick pocketing** in order to get some food for themselves and the siblings.

Concerning their school, it was just a dream to them, because they could not afford everything ranging from the school uniforms, school fees, books etc.

As for the case of their shelters, most of the **roofs were so worn out** so much that they would have to sit up throughout the night whenever it rained because they could not afford to repair their leaking roofs, and worse still, due to the weak doors on these huts, many **girls would get raped** by drunkards who broke into their houses at night.

These children never knew what good or clean clothes looked like; many used to cover themselves with some sort of rags for clothes, with all their chests naked even on the coldest days, **slept on the floors without blankets**.

Most of our children suffered from all kinds of diseases.

The above are just a few examples of the conditions that our children went through due to the long war, leaving everybody so poor, traumatized, and tortured.

With your kind support, we have been able to **provide safe housing** for some of these kids at the Safe House where they can now get all the food they need, clean and safe water, lighting, medicine, education, parental care and love.

Through your support, we have been able to pay some of **children in school**, buy them books, uniforms, through this, we can now see **restored hope** in the eyes of our children, unlike before when many of them had great dreams and ambitions but no way of turning it into a reality because they had totally lost hope of the future, but through your support, God has turned it all upside down, many of them are sure to achieve their dreams, praise the Lord.

Not only that, but we have also been able to **provide beddings and food** for some of our children, that was donated by loving friends like you.

Talking about the "Village", it keeps amazing us every other day. **Seeing the water well, the school building, the homes, the gardens with crops growing in it, this just brings tears of joy to my heart.**

We can't thank everyone enough for supporting us in the struggle we couldn't have done it on our own; you have helped us to a smoother road.

Thank you again for reaching, touching and changing the lives of these children, having known where these children came from, **I count you all as great heroes, you saved lives** that were just an inch from the grave, through your sacrifices to support our children.

For those who took their time to come and visit us here, you sacrificed to leave your families, spent your money, your health, all the luxury back home to mention but a few, just to come and build our homes, teach our children, give them those gifts, preach and pray with them, above all share the love that Jesus showed us on the cross, thank you very much brethren, may God always bless you.

When I think of the day when all the other orphans will move into their new homes at the "Village", it brings great joy in my life.

Let us keep praying together, that our faithful God continues to provides us with the funding to complete the homes and school so that we can **help our children achieve their dreams** and **gain back the lost hope** and be children again even when they had their childhood robbed from them.

Thank you once again for your great support to VOH, God Bless you all."

We love you all,

Rose, Village of Hope National Director



Give a gift this Christmas that keeps on giving...

This Christmas bring help, healing, and hope to the Village of Hope orphans when you are making out your shopping list. We'd like to offer you two ways you can directly help the Village of Hope kids this Christmas.

Christmas Catalog



The Christmas Catalog is made up of specific gifts to meet the needs of the Village of Hope orphans. Look through the catalog and pick out a gift that will impact the life of a child.

Beads of Hope Jewelry



Beads of Hope Jewelry is another way you can help an orphan this Christmas. Give the hand rolled beaded jewelry to your family and friends. It is not only a beautiful and unique gift, but it is one that gives back to the very children who made the jewelry.

To purchase these items visit our website:
www.villageofhopeuganda.com



Bringing Hope to the Helpless

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Some ways you can be involved:

- Pray!!!
- Build a Home: 1 home for 18 orphans: \$25,000 (estimated cost)
- Sponsor an orphan: \$30 per month

Other ways you can help our children:

- Become a Bead Distributor
- Host a Bead Party in your home
- Invite Cindy to share with your church, groups, friends, etc.
- Host a VOH event: benefit concert, dessert, etc.
- Volunteer your talents: graphic designer, grant writer, office work, etc.

