



FRIENDS OF REACH OUT'S HIV/AIDS AFRICA INITIATIVE

1701 Forest Lane
McLean VA 22101

friendsofreachout@gmail.com

www.friendsofreachout.org

Dear Friends,

As the leaves are falling and the air is getting chilly in many parts of the United States, it is time to send you warm greetings and thank you from Uganda for all your support to Friends of Reach Out (FORO) during the past year.

The original recipients of FORO funds--**Reach Out Mbuya, Kawempe Home Care, and St. Francis Health Care Services**--have all matured into independent and self-reliant important players in the fight against HIV/AIDS and cancer in Uganda. In 2017 FORO has continued its support to **Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja (RHHJ)**. With the help of FORO and Dr. Margrethe Juncker on the ground (for the past two years), this organization has started to grow into a strong well-managed organization with the huge responsibility of working with the absolute poorest in the society suffering from severe HIV/AIDS or cancer. During the past year FORO has supported holistic care for the more than 420 people with cancer of severe HIV/AIDS patients enrolled in the RHHJ Programme:

Involvement of community Members in the Ongoing Care

Together with 40 community volunteers in the Busoga Region EVA was trained to follow-up with sick clients between the two-weekly visits of the RHHJ. Eva, who was provided with basic nursing equipment, is doing a fabulous job.



Testing and Treatment of Clients with Life Threatening and Treatable Diseases

All of RHHJ clients are very sick, but many can fortunately be treated – if only they had the means to do so. FORO has helped more than 35 patients getting the testing and treatment they needed to live normal lives again and no longer be in need of palliative care services.

KALOGO MUSAMIN, 20 year old, joined RHHJ in July 2016 when he was had severe headaches, was losing his vision, and paralyzed on his left side. The family was sure he was dying and they had no means to take him for treatment. With the help of FORO Kalogo was taken to the neurological department at Mulago National Hospital in Kampala where he was operated for a benign cyst behind the eye. He is now fine with his vision restored. His dream is to start a small business, and we hope to find donors to help him do so. Total costs to date for transport, testing, and treatment: US \$116 – a life changed for a young man.

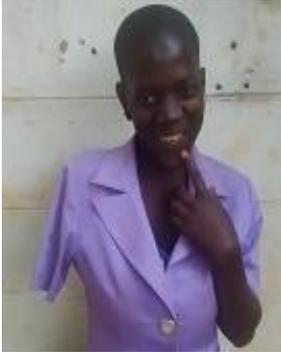
Oct.2016



Oct.2017



School Fee Support for 16 children who are either sick themselves or with sick parents



16 year old Mariam lost her right arm due to cancer. The family did not feel that they could spend money on her schooling, as she might not live long. With the help of FORO Mariam is now in school – and she loves it. She is facing many challenges with difficulty writing well, mistreatment from her own family members, and discrimination. But thanks to support from the social workers and clinical team of RHHJ, she is confident that she will succeed, and make a difference for herself and her family.

Housing, Material and Food Support

FORO is providing food to more than 30 client families per month. Mattresses and blankets are provided to those in need. During the year six small houses were built for clients who lived in miserable shelters.



With the support of FORO many lives have been changed in the Busoga Region. The FORO Treasurer, Benedicte Vibe Christensen, came for a visit with RHHJ in April 2017. She also visited the old beneficiaries of FORO grants, and prepared our new FORO website www.friendsofreachout.org. Please check it out to read much more about the work FORO is doing. Wherever Benedicte came, clients and staff of RHHJ and previous beneficiaries expressed gratitude for FORO. They sent their blessings back to you, the donors, and we are grateful to share them with you now at Thanksgiving. As people say in Uganda “*May God bless you and your families abundantly*”.



Friends of Reach Out is planning to continue our support of the very important work of Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja. The rural poverty of Busoga Region is deep and often heart-breaking, and people need help. The situation is not hopeless – a small gift can go a long way. **Ralph W. Emerson once said, "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."**

We will be very grateful for any contribution you may be able to make. Please send your gift to: Friends of Reach Out c/o Benedicte Vibe Christensen, 1701 Forest lane, McLean, VA 22101, USA, or pay online through our website <https://www.friendsofreachout.org/donate>

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Lisa Furmanski, MD, Chairman

Benedicte Vibe Christensen, Treasurer

Margrethe Juncker, MD