

**AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WELLS OF HOPE MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS 2015 TO PARTNERS IN HOPE**



We are grateful to God for all the achievements of this year, we thank you for partnering with us to make the work in this project a successful reality. Thank you for bringing hope to the children, you have made them to live a normal life as well as impacting the lives of grandmothers and spouses of prisoners.

### Summary of the programs

No.	Program support	Beneficiaries	Achievement
1	Education support	89 children in primary and 28 children in secondary retained in school throughout the year 2015	-Improved classroom performance - Promotion to other classes ,consistence in class - Increased self-esteem -Behavioral change -Spiritual growth, children can read and understand the bible
3	Welfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding</li> <li>• Medical care</li> <li>• Construction of new toilets</li> </ul>	117 Children	-Children have received four meals a day throughout the year -All the sick children have been attended to throughout the year - -Reduced malnutrition cases, children who were stunted are now coming back to normal
	Sports day	All the children at Wells of Hope Junior school	-Talent development - Team building - Healthy habits
4	Children prison visit	80 Children have visited their parents in prison thrice this year	-Family bonding -Closer linkages
5	Bible study	Once every week we have conducted bible study sessions with the children	Spiritual growth among children Children can recite the all the books in the bible
6	Birthday celebrations	Once every month we have celebrated the gift of life for the children	-Each child has received a gift -Improved esteem among the children
7	Psychosocial Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teenagers' camp</li> <li>- General school counseling</li> </ul>	47 children participated the camp under the theme run the race	Behavioral change Increased self esteem Increased HIV/AIDS awareness
10	Extension of Electricity to the classroom block		Class rooms at Wells of Hope Junior school have electricity
12	Registration of Wells of Hope Academy		The school is now officially recognized by the government of Uganda

14	Community visits to children sponsored outside wells of Hope Academy	Children and families of prisoners	Conducted monitoring and evaluation to community children under WOH program
15	Construction of the Bore hole		On ground water supply

**Below are the details of the activities;**

## EDUCATION SUPPORT



*Children at Wells of Hope Junior School*

One hundred and seventeen children have continuously been support with education. There are eighty children in primary at Wells of Hope Junior School ,nine in primary but supported with in the community and 28 students in the different secondary schools we partner with like Makerere High School, St Johns Wakiso Secondary school and Rubaga Youth Development Association vocational institute (RYDA). This has led to continued school attendance and retention among children with a parent in prison, thus reducing on the number of drop out among children of prisoners. the children are happy that they are in school for example Gloria 14 years in primary six says *“I am happy am in school, I study well and I thank Wells of Hope for paying my school fees”*

Additionally, the children write beginning of term examinations, mid term and end of term examinations that are used to assess the performance of the children, from these reports, the children have shown progress in their studies as most of their grades have improved compared to when they had just joined Wells of Hope Junior School for example Marias joined Wells of Hope Junior school when she did not know how to read and write but currently she is one of the best children in her class. This implies that the children receive the best education with the help of the skilled teachers that teach these children. As part of the education

support, the children are provided with games, sports, music, dance and drama not only to boost their physical life but also develop their talents. This year we had 10 children in primary and 4 students in secondary who sat for their final leaving examinations.

**a. Primary leaving examinations**



*Primary seven class at Wells of Hope Junior School*

Ten children sat for their primary leaving examination on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. As part of an encouragement, we conducted a dedication service to God and a leavers’ party to commemorate the seven years in primary level. The children were encouraged to seek the knowledge that comes from God so as to pass their primary leaving examinations on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015. After such a wonderful moment of dedicating the candidates in God’s hands, the candidates cut a cake to commemorate their last days in primary section. Peter one of the candidates said *“I joined Wells of Hope when I was a little boy, I did not know that I would reach this far, I have attained good education and now am among the candidates who are seating for the final examinations, I really want to thank Wells of Hope for making my dream and prayer come to pass.”* Each candidate received a Success card wishing them good luck in their examinations for the efforts they have put in since the beginning of the year.

b. **Sports day**



*Joshua and Baptista in the running competition during the sport day*

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 Wells of Hope Junior School conducted a Sports day. It was participated in by the Wells Of Hope Ministries board members, staff members, the teaching and non teaching staff, the children as the sole participants and some parents.

There were 3 teams (HOUSES) that participated in games these included Joshua, Elijah and David which are led by respective teachers. Games participated in were eight in number and both boys and girls equally participated. Rewards were awarded respectively to the winner in boys and winner in girls. It was really amusing and most colorfully blended by a special meal which was offered on that day after which the teams headed for a football match.

After the football match, having been a mixture of all the three sports houses to harmonize the children, Wasswa David from David house was crowned the best player, and the match ended in the other side scoring the other four goals to two. A 100 meter race was then done between WOHM team members and the parents, where parents in both male and female took the lead. Awards were given to the best participants in different games and a trophy was given to the overall competitive house which was David. Additionally, 30 Children from Wells of Hope Junior School participated in the National Athletics Competitions; they started with the sub-county zone level where they were competing with 5 schools at Kikyusa playground,

Kyajjinja, Semuto, Nakaseke District. Under the age of 12, we had 12 girls and 12 boys. Despite the fact that our children had little time (3 days) to prepare, they were very hard working and we ranked the second.

**c. Feeding**



Joseph enjoying his lunch at Wells Of Hope school

We have continuously provided good meals to the children at Wells Of Hope Junior School for proper growth and development. The school has a cook who prepares food on a timely schedule. The food provided has boosted the children's diet thus reducing on the nutritional diseases. Additionally, as a way of providing a balance diet to the children, the school has a cow which produces milk; this milk is given to the children to supplement their diet.

**d. Medical care**

The children have been healthy apart from a few cases where the sick children were taken to the hospital for medication. We have bought medication for minor illnesses for the children at Wells of Hope Junior School and the first aid tool box was equipped with the necessary items for children's health. We have continuously provided the children with a balanced diet to prevent malnutrition cases. Besides, on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, eighty children at Wells of Junior School were examined by a professional doctor in malaria, typhoid and measles. We provided medication treatment to the children who were found with the parasites in the health centers we partner with. Additionally, the school has two matrons who are equipped with knowledge to take care of the children with a parent in prison when they are ill.

e. **Children receiving new uniforms**



*Children at Wells of Hope Junior School posing photo after receiving uniforms*

Eighty children at WOHJS received a new uniform and new pair of stocking. The children were happy about the new uniforms because the old ones had worn out. The parents in prisons also loved the uniforms when the children visited them during the children prison visits

f. **New children enroll on Wells of Hope education support**



*New children enrolled at Wells of Hope Junior School*

Following family tracing which was conducted in 2014 and 2015, we have rescued 7 children who are now at Wells of Hope Junior School. The children were accompanied by their guardians to Wells of Hope head office; and were very excited to join Wells of Hope. It is from the head office that they proceeded to the Academy, accompanied by WOH volunteers. Upon arrival at the Academy, the guardians expressed joy for Wells of Hope Academy; they were very happy that their children were going to attain free education. The children were warmly welcomed by their friends and staff; and we are glad to let you know that the children are coping up very well at Wells of Hope Junior School; it is amazing that they can now communicate in English.

g. **Secondary school visits.**



*WOH volunteer with secondary students sharing eats and drinks during the secondary school visit*

We have conducted two secondary school visitations to the different schools to check on their academics improvement, health, discipline, challenges and interpersonal agility. For example, we conducted secondary school visits on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 to the different secondary schools which included Rubaga Youth Development Association vocational institute (RYDA), Bright Future Academy School, Makerere High School Migadde, St John Secondary School Wakiso and Kawaala College School. The students were happy to see us as some students like Doreen Nakiria at Bright Future Academy said *“am really grateful that you came, I never expected you, am really happy, thank you for loving me.”*

The students perform well in academics and are healthy as they are provided with good meals, the school compound is favorable for learning purposes, and they are well behaved and socialize well with other students as they have many friends in the school. We shared eats and drinks together took photos and later prayed with them. The students had joined different clubs which they called projects like Young farmers’ club, English club, Art and Craft club, Physics club. Betty Nabulondera for example said *“I am in Young farmers’ club because it teaches us practical life skills in farming which I can use to start up my farm instead of looking for a job after studying.”*

**CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOILETS AND THE BORE HOLE**

New toilets were constructed for the children to use. The toilets are easily accessible to the children because they were constructed nearer to their dormitories. The toilets also have a large bathroom attached to the building for children to use. This has largely contributed to improved hygiene and sanitation at school however there is need to improve on the girls' bathrooms as it is always a challenge whenever it rains

## CHILDREN'S PRISON VISIT



*Patrick and the children posing for a photo before heading to Nakasongola Prison*

Family bonding is one of the main objectives at Wells of Hope Ministries and one crucial way we are able to implement this objective is through prison visits. It is our policy that children with a parent in prison visit their parents once a term that is, thrice a year; and they are always accompanied by WOH volunteers. A total of seventy two children visited their parents in the different prisons. The first visit took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015, the second visit took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 and the third visit took place on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to Luzira Upper Prison in Condemn and Boma sections, Nakasongola prison, Kitalya Prison, Jinja prison, Women prison Luzira and Murchison Bay prison Luzira. One of parent said; *“every time I see my child coming to visit me it’s like it my first time and I treasure this day like gold because I know I will not see her until WOHM brings her, I am really grateful for what you do for us, I am happy to see my child.”*

In Murchison bay, two children were visiting for the very first time their father in prison. The father was really happy to see his children because it had been long since he last saw the children. This year (2015)

five children were visiting their parents in prison for the first time. The children were excited although they could not recall how their parents looked like. The parents were happy and could not believe that they were seeing their children after along time. Okiria Simon Peter one of the inmates said

*“I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw my child because I thought it was a joke when I was filling the forms in 2014. I only got to believe it on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 when one of the inmates informed me about the visit, I didn't know that Samalie had joined the Academy and I didn't know how she looked like, I last saw her when she was 3yrs old, now it's been 2yrs without seeing her”.*

## **COUNSELING**



*Mrs. Ssuubi conducting a one on one counseling session with Yasuri at Wells of Hope Junior school*

We have continuously carried out counseling to children with a parent in prison to live positive livelihoods. The psychosocial support has also helped the children to face the challenges they face and find positive solutions. This has boosted their self esteem and confidence. The children have been counseled in different topics like discipline, hygiene and sanitation, career guidance, sexual abstinence and academic improvement.

## **BIBLE STUDY**



*Children posing for a photo with their lanterns*

As a way of enhancing spiritual growth among children with a parent in prison, the school has a Bible study program that is in line with the school curriculum. The children are spiritually empowered to lead Christ like character and the Bible studies are carried out twice a month by spiritual personnel. We are grateful to God for the missionaries that is; Steve and Gina Gant who conduct the Bible studies. The children have been taught different topics like respecting elders, fishers of men and birth of Jesus Christ and the life of John the Baptist. For example, during one of the bible studies with the children at school, Steve and Gina taught about being the light in the world. During the session the children made crafts like crowns and lanterns; the lanterns were to help the children understand that they were called to be light of the world.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



*March birthday babies at Wells of Hope Junior School celebrating their birthdays*

How joyful it is to see the smiles of children as they celebrate their birthdays! As a way of showing love to children with a parent in prison, we celebrate their birthdays to remind them that they are not forgotten in this world, the birthdays are celebrated every month of the year. This year twelve birthday celebrations have been conducted and each child has celebrated his/her birthday in the different months of the year. The room is always decorated with balloons to show that birthdays are indeed going to be celebrated. The children are joined by staff and teachers of Wells of Hope Junior School. The birthday babies are face painted and wear caps which symbolize their birthdays. The celebrations are commenced by the Sunday service led by the children and there after the birthday babies are joined with Wells of Hope (WOH) volunteers to cut their cake as their friends cheer them on. They then served out the cake to their friends and have a share for themselves. The babies are then handed gifts by WOH volunteers.

## TEENAGERS' CAMP



*The visitors and WOH volunteers sharing a picture with the children*

Wells of Hope conducted a camp for Teenagers from 26th to 29th of August 2015 at the Academy. The theme of the camp was “RUN THE RACE” which was referenced from 1Corinthians 9:26-27. The aim of the camp was to equip and empower teenagers with skills to live positive livelihoods. A total of forty seven teenagers attended the camp. Each day had its own sessions and facilitators, among the topics taught were career guidance, self esteem, role models, behavior and sexual purity which incorporated pornography, homosexuality, sexual relationships and teenage pregnancy, voluntary counseling and testing, life skills, growth and development and hygienic and sanitation, integrity, avoid taking alcohol, should not allow situations to hold them back, abstain from sex and avoid playing with someone’s someone. We partnered with different organizations like Mavuno Church, MercyLink Foundation, SOMERO Uganda, Nurture Africa, Straight Talk Foundation, The Extended Family Support Organization, One Hope Uganda and Victoria University.

As part of the entertainment, there were fun activities like a football match between the teachers and students, a fashion show and mimes of different gospel music from the teenagers. Some teenagers were heard saying “*it is time I shown the talent God gave to me, I will dance like David danced as an honor to God for making this camp wonderful, I will attend it next year.*” The staff of Wells of Hope academy and

head office also joined in the teenagers' performance to commemorate the 4 days' activities. Gifts were rewarded to the best participants, best academic performers, best achievers and the best disciplined during the four days of camping. Goat roasting ended the event. As part of the camp, the little children(ages 6-10) were engaged with Raelene Wearne, a friend of Mrs. Susan Thompson, who encouraged the children that they were special in every way and she referenced the teaching in Psalms 139 which is about God's complete knowledge and care. The children then drew and colored a drawing of themselves on sheets of paper with the words "I AM SPECIAL" written on them. All the children and teenagers ate their tooth off in excitement remarking the end of the four days camping though others almost cried a river because they never wanted it to end; for example *"Morris said, this has been the best camp ever although I missed some activities but it feels like I have been part of it from the very beginning, thank you Wells of Hope for organizing such a wonderful event."*

## LETTER WRITING



*Lawrence and Deborah being guided by WOH volunteer during letter writing to their sponsors*

As a form of communication, the children write letters to their sponsors informing them about updates in their lives. The children draw pictures, while others color their letters to the sponsors. It is such a wonderful moment for the children who are always full of smiles to write to their sponsors because it is a reminder to them that some one somewhere is standing in their gap, loving and praying for them thus they are not forgotten in the world. The letter writing is conducted every term together with a picture when children posse in different styles for their sponsors.

## FAMILY TRACING



*Some of the inmates families visited during family tracing in Eastern region of Uganda*

As a way of reaching out to more children with a parent in prison, we conducted family visits on 8<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2015, to 13 children from five families in five districts that is, Bukedea, Serere, Soroti, Lira and Kole while on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 two inmates homes were visited in Nakaseke district. All the families visited have an inmate in Upper prison Luzira. The purpose of the tracing was to look for children who are needy so that we offer them free education at the academy, give them a chance to visit their parents in prison and also provide them with social needs like shelter, medication and also counseling. Most of the families that were visited live in dire conditions and the children truly need our help, the families were also encouraged to hear from their imprisoned sons that they were still alive because none of these families visit the inmates due to inadequate funds for transport.

## COMMUNITY VISITS



*From L-R Steve (WOH volunteer), Edward father to Gloria, Gloria Adaru (child under WOH), released inmate, Stella and Miriam (WOH volunteers) in Northern region of Uganda*

Every year Wells of Hope conducts community visits to children under WOH program in different parts of the country as a strategy to reconcile the children back with their released parents. These children stay with their parents although they are still under Wells of Hope until the father or mother stabilizes financially. The visits are always aimed at checking on the social - welfare, economic and academic progress of the children as well as their families at large. On 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015, Wells of Hope visited the seven WOH children who are studying from the community (that is, children who are not at the Academy, but still under WOH program). During the visit, we interacted with the parents and grandmothers to find out how they were coping up with the environment; and generally, the children are have blended well.

The children were encouraged to continue studying hard; they prayed with WOH team and were provided with scholastic materials, clothes and home necessities like soap, sugar to the family members.

The team also visited the schools where the children attend their studies from and interacted with their teachers to find out the children's academic progress. We are very happy that our children are performing

well, disciplined and also speak English much better than any children at the different schools. The children wrote letters to their sponsors as a way of thanking them for the support and care they (sponsors) provide them (children).

During the year we have also faced challenges as you will see listed here below;

1. The borehole that was constructed did work as we expected, the volumes of water that it brings in are not enough for the children's consumption
2. Children don't have enough desks to sit on while in class, we need \$2410 to purchase 50 desks that will accommodate all the children
3. The children's bedding are not enough to accommodate all of them, we need \$1000 to purchase mattresses, blankets, bed sheets and mosquito nets.
4. The ministry of Education requires us to fence the school boundaries which requires

# Thank you