



CHAIN OVC PROGRAM



HOLIDAY PROGRAM REPORT
May/June 2016

1. Introduction

The holiday program is one of those activities, with which we are able to monitor the progress of the children, as well as better understand their abilities. Thus a vital avenue where we inspire the OVCs to improve their school performance, writing skills through letter writing, life skills training, psychosocial counseling, awareness sessions on health issues, setting long term goals and play .

Forty five (45) children were able to attend the program.

It's with great pleasure that we hosted the children at the Ladd Children's Center in Kiwenda. It is a journey of 28 kilometers from Kanyanya to Kiwenda, a van was hired to transport the children from Kanyanya to Kiwenda to attend the two days holiday program.



Children boarding the van at the end of the day

The children enjoyed the trip from Kanyanya to Kiwenda and the atmosphere at the children's center.

1.1 Expressions from the sponsor & children about the center.



Rosa (a Germany OVC sponsor) happy to see the Ladd Children's Center.



Ahaaa.., At last we are here! We are overwhelmed with joy of being among the children to utilize the center. Thanks ever so much for making this happen in our lives.

After taking a walk around and inside the children's center, Gaster got a paper and pen. Below are his feelings about the center.....



LADD CHILDRENS CENTRE.

A place called home at last. Congratulation!

It's with joy and gladness that am writing about the glory of CHAIN. It has been a long journey of sweat but now finally I can say that we are almost reaching home.

I focus on my gratitude and appreciation to the vision bearer and all the carriers of the legs of the vision bearers who stood focused in order to attain this great achievement.

I have been able to walk around and for sure to all the corners and the rooms, it's just great.

The building itself looks really good and attractive. The compound is wide and large enough which I believe will be able to accommodate the playful kids. The environment is noise free, for sure you feel relaxed... I can mention a lot of the goodies in the place.

This is a true sign of great achievements which are yet to be manifested in CHAIN and I have the faith that more are to come.

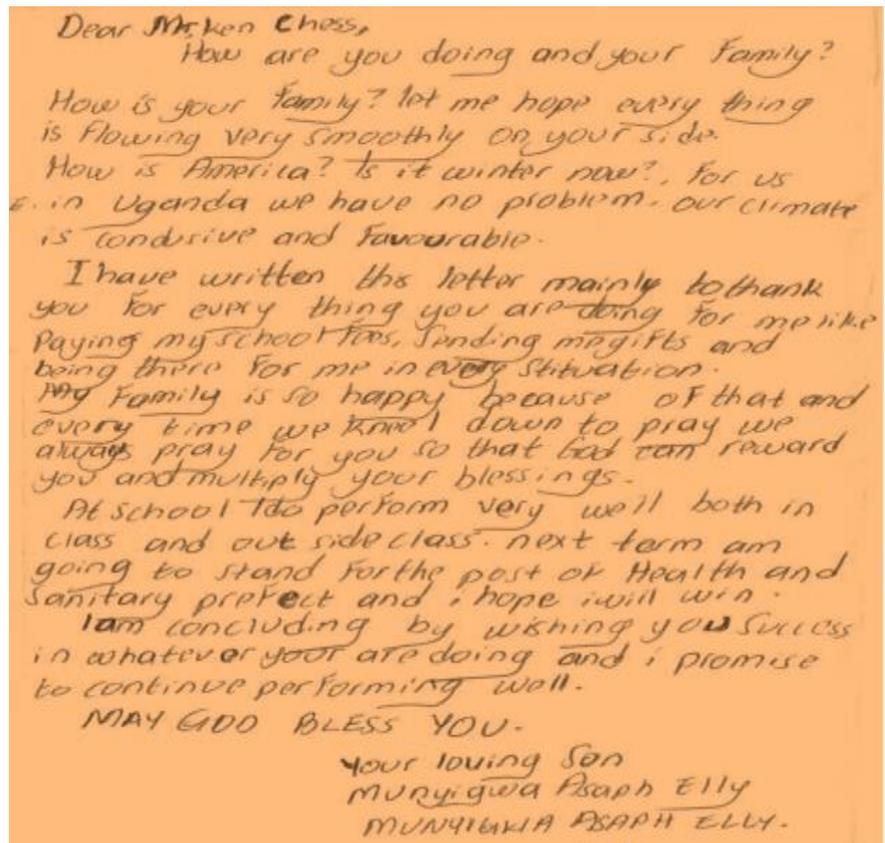
To all the CHAIN staff, children, Partners, Beneficiaries, Wellwishers and Founders, CONGRATULATION.

OBOTH GASTER.

2. To my dear sponsor.....

It is such a cheerful session for the children to communicate to their sponsors. This session enhances the children's writing skills. They inform their sponsors what is going on in their lives and their future plans. Happenings at home, school and in the they live.

Left is Asaph's letter to his sponsor.



Dear Mr. Ken Chess,
How are you doing and your family?
How is your family? let me hope every thing is flowing very smoothly on your side.
How is America? Is it winter now?, for us in Uganda we have no problem, our climate is condusive and Favourable.
I have written this letter mainly to thank you for every thing you are doing for me like paying my school fees, sending me gifts and being there for me in every situation.
My Family is so happy because of that and every time we kneel down to pray we always pray for you so that God can reward you and multiply your blessings.
At school I do perform very well both in class and out side class. next term am going to stand for the post of Health and Sanitary prefect and I hope I will win.
I am concluding by wishing you success in whatever you are doing and I promise to continue performing well.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU.
Your loving son
MUNYIGWA ASAPH ELLY
MUNYIGWA ASAPH ELLY.

3. Setting long term goals

Children were guided through a session on setting long term goals. The objective for the activity was to help them understand what a goal is, enable them better understand their interests and talents, and support them define career goals for themselves.

The questions used were;

- What am I good at? (talent)
- What do I enjoy doing most? (Interest)
- Who do I admire? (Role model)
- What are the things I like about my role model?
- What would I really like to do in future?
- Where do I want to be in ten years from now?

Children were given an opportunity to individually answer these questions on paper and present to the group.



Joel responding to one of the questions during the sessions.

Among the unique responses from the children regarding their talents were; playing & watching football, netball, singing, drumming, cooking, reading stories, drawing, dancing, hair dressing, swimming, making bags, praying and watching television.

Children cited role models who included their parents, teachers, football players both at the national & international level, music icons, television presenters and stars.

Regarding where they wanted to be in the next 10 years, all children still wanted to be in school.

Interesting to note was that all children had future aspirations despite their age. However, only four of the thirty career plans were linked to their interests & talents. One child talented in football wanted to be a professional footballer, another talented in drumming wanted to be a drummer, another talented in drawing wanted to be an artist and another a musician. The rest of the children's future plans were not directly linked to their talents & interests.

Children shared what they learnt through the session and were happy for presenting their work to colleagues. Children said the session helped them discover their interests & guided them to define what they really wanted to pursue in their careers.

4. Health Literacy

CHAIN integrated health literacy into all CHAIN projects; this is aimed at increasing the level of health literacy among the population.

With the aim to lower the risk of acquiring non communicable diseases, the children had a session on cancer to increase their awareness and be in position to make informed decisions on their health. The topics discussed included; what cancer is? Who can suffer from cancer? The different types of cancer, risk factors and how to prevent it.



Irene taking the children through the session.

Children knew the risk factors which include lifestyle changes such as tobacco smoking that cause lung cancer and consumption of alcohol causing liver cancer, diet, environmental changes and viral infections among others. The situation is made worse by late diagnosis and poor access to health services. Patients first consult tradition healers before seeing qualified medical personnel. There is need to raise awareness about cancer, the need for early diagnosis and treatment and it is everyone role.

The children were reminded about safe use of medicines and cautioned on self medication a common practice in the community. They were asked to share the information with their guardians and members of the community.

5. HIV/AIDS and Child Rights

In this session the children read a straight talk magazine and later they shared what they learnt. The magazines are got from one of CHAIN's partner organization called Straight Talk Foundation; they produce various educative magazines for children and youths.



Children reading straight talk bulletin

Below is what the children learnt;

- Falling in love with teachers is dangerous, it is good to consult them on class work but not to become intimate with them and never accept gifts from them.
- It is important to abstain from sex and when approached by the opposite sex, to be bold and say NO.
- Avoiding bad groups and getting friends whose focus is not on sex but rather education.
- One of the boys learnt how to clean the penis well and if it has a yellowish or smelly substance, to seek medical attention.
- The benefits of being circumcised which include, hygiene and reducing the risk of getting STIs and HIV & AIDS.
- Not to give excuses for mistakes but rather own up the mistake and change for the better.

The children were given the magazines to share with their fellow youth and other members of their family.

6. A right to decent clothing

Supporting OVC with clothing falls under “basic care” which is one of the major OVC core program areas under the ministry of gender, labor and social development.

It is usually an exciting moment for the children to receive such a humbling gesture of new clothes from their sponsors.

The children love to show off new clothes, so most of them put on their new clothes.



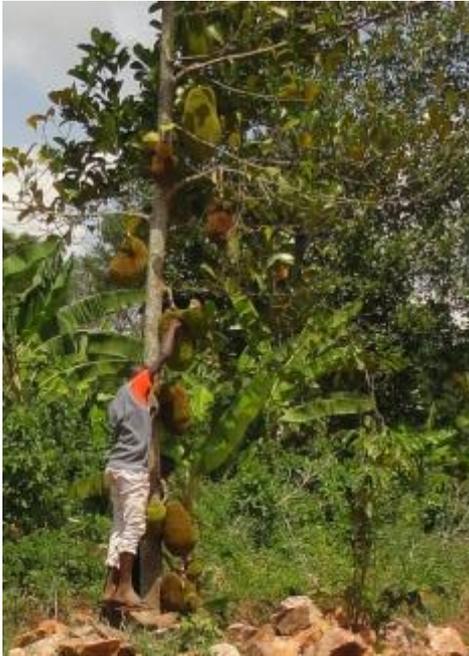
7. Trade school / Apprenticeship

Penninah has trained in tailoring course that entails garment and product development. Her sponsor has given her another opportunity to train in batik and weaving to enrich her tailoring skill.

In a red top from the left in the picture is Penninah working on her Batik piece at the trade school (TEXDA).



8. Pictorial



Left is Joel checking the jack fruit at the Ladd children's center and right are the children playing with blocks to make a house.



Lets read together



Rosa at the Ladd children's center in Kiwenda.

9. God's blessings.....

CHAIN acquired Land measuring one and half acres for a one stop community facility to increase access to prevention and treatment services, support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), youth and women. The facility will have a children's center, community resource center for video sessions, Health literacy library and IT section, community clinic with a youth friendly service center.



Clearing the land for construction of the Ladd Children's Center.



Panorama of the land and the access road to the center.



Children playing at the center during the holiday program.



The Ladd Children's Center at a distance



CHAIN acquired a double cabin Toyota Hilux with the support of MIVA Switzerland to improve service delivery to the vulnerable communities.

It is usually an opportune time when children from different schools and social settings gather and reflect on issues together.

Thank you so much our dear sponsors for providing us with such an opportunity and making this possible.



Keep in touch with us:-

 www.chainproject.co.ug

 Community Health and Information Network – CHAIN

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