

Newsletter Issue 56 January 2026



Project region East Africa/Uganda



The children of Kikondo are amazed



When they went on holiday at the end of November at the end of the 2025 school year, these were their school toilets - not a pretty sight, not a nice place.

When they were in holiday, they had not seen this:



Instead, they see this, being back at school, and are amazed:



In what seems like an unimaginably short time by our standards, the new building with flush toilets and modern washrooms for girls, boys and teaching staff was built separately. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our project partner, the energetic people at ECOSS and the school management, and many hard-working craftsmen, it took just eight weeks to complete. We would like to thank you and all the financial supporters here, above all those responsible for the Schmitz Foundations, which administer the BMZ's EZ Small Projects Fund, the board of the Hans Mendel Foundation in Wernau, and also the many private donors who helped us raise the money for this urgent construction project. Now phase 2 of the project can begin: a school year of intensive teaching, learning and practising personal hygiene, both at school and beyond, in the family at home. Regular hand washing and other personal hygiene measures are so important in combating the pathogens that are still rampant in Uganda.



When the children turned around, they could not believe their eyes!



When the children in the lower grades (P 1 and P 2) of the school went on holiday, they said goodbye to these classrooms for two months. They did not notice what happened to these two buildings during that time. Within three weeks, these old, "ramshackle" buildings, through which the wind whistled and rain sometimes poured in, were demolished and new brick classrooms were built.

In the new classrooms, the children will not only be protected from wind and rain, but the classrooms will also have windows and plastered walls and be painted in cheerful colours. In addition, a movable interior wall will separate the two classrooms. When opened, it creates a large assembly hall – the Main Hall, which can accommodate all the school's pupils and is used for school events. The school office will be located on the far right. This will give the girls more space in their dormitories, which they urgently need. We were also generously



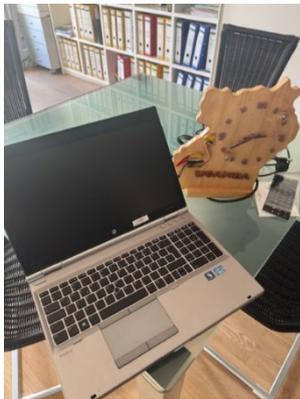


supported in this project by the Hans Mendel Foundation in Wernau. This enabled us to have a second well built for the new sanitary facilities and to contribute to the financing of necessary food supplies for school meals through school sponsorships. These will not be the last steps for St. Jude Nursery & Primary Day & Boarding School in Kikondo on its way to becoming an exemplary school in rural Uganda . Two more classroom buildings need to be constructed, an agricultural subsidiary is to be attached to the school to provide financial support for school funding, and new dormitories, i.e. buildings for boys' and girls' bedrooms, need to be built to increase the number of boarding school children.

"Reason, not force, should be used to lead people to the truth."

(Denis Diderot)

Modern IT is finding its way into Kikondo



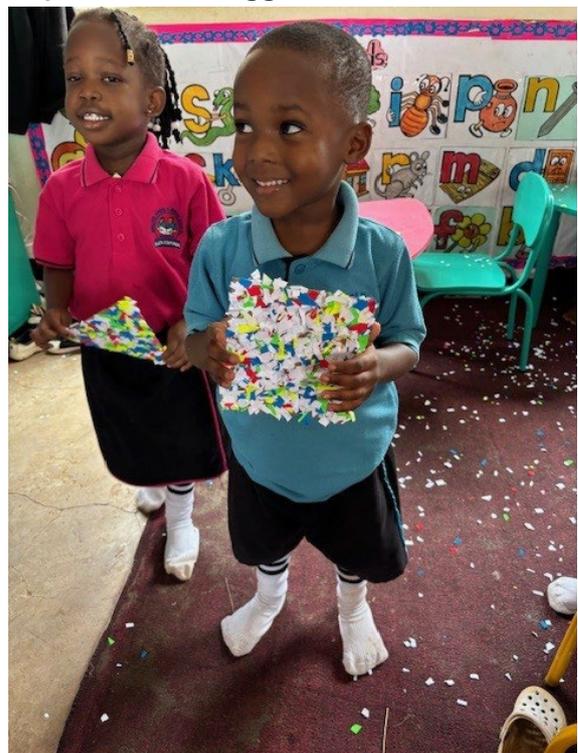
Our appeal in the last two newsletter issues to donate used laptops that are still in working order was very successful. Volker Ebert, chairman of the Association for Education in Tanzania, spontaneously donated two modern laptops with Windows 11 installed and valuable educational software, and a neighbouring family in Leonberg-Warmbronn also donated a laptop with Windows 10 installed. This brings the school in Kikondo another step forward. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the donors. Now there is hope that we will gradually be able to set up a computer lab at St. Jude School in Kikondo. This would be a very important step towards achieving the exemplary school education we are striving for at this school.

A big and very important step has now been taken for the future of Smiling Angels!





For a long time, it seemed that this step was still a long way off, even though it was so urgently needed. The exemplary educational institution run by Stephen, Lovisa and Gorreth, which brings smiles back to the faces of children and their young mothers from so-called teenage pregnancies, has reached its physical limits; i.e. there is no more room for the next higher class, the third primary school class (P 3). This could have meant the end of Smiling Angels in the near future. The possible solution that unexpectedly arose during our visit last October, namely to use the currently unused site of the former Elista Primary School Matugga next door, seemed unattainable. The owners were not willing to rent out the empty school buildings there. They had had bad experiences with a tenant in the past. The purchase price of around €70,000 (280 million Ugandan shillings) that was put forward was not feasible for us. But our friends at Smiling Angels Stephen, Lovisa and Gorreth, especially Teddy, Samuel, Deburah, Peter and David from our partner organisation T&H Education Foundation Uganda, did not give up and left no stone unturned in their efforts to find a solution. The new school year in Uganda begins in a few days, so a solution was imperative. Their persistence paid off. With the support of the local mayor, , the landowners were persuaded to agree to transfer the land in exchange for payment of the purchase price in instalments. By mobilising our reserves, we were able to raise the first instalment





and transfer it to Uganda. We now have a year to raise the remaining portion of the total amount. To achieve this, we are of course grateful for any support. But for now, Stephen, Lovisa and Gorreth are very relieved and delighted that they can continue and probably even complete their life's work with Smiling Angels, bringing smiles to the faces of disadvantaged children and mothers from teenage pregnancies. We would love to be there to see the joy of the children and their parents when they return to school at the start of the school year and suddenly find a large school grounds open to them.

"Let the children laugh a lot, otherwise they will become angry in old age. Children who laugh a lot fight on the side of the angels."

Herbanus Magnus

There are also some changes coming to the Anne Namuddu Motherhouse at the start of the new school year.



When we flew back from Uganda to Germany at the beginning of November, after taking stock of the situation in and around the Motherhouse in Masaka, we were somewhat concerned about whether this facility, which provides a home for around 70 children and has the mission of providing all children with the best possible school and vocational training, as well as running a diverse agricultural business, would be financially sustainable in the long

term. The experience we have gained since taking on our management role has largely alleviated these concerns. The great interest here in Germany in this facility, the large number of generous donors with big hearts, and the good cooperation with Teddy, the director who is always devoted to the children, and her team at the Motherhouse have given us the confidence that we can do it. My wife and I recently had the opportunity to share our impressions of Uganda with films and photos at the Filderschule in Stuttgart-Degerloch and the primary school in Aischbach in Tübingen. The interest shown by the children and their teachers in our presentation was extremely impressive and motivating.



First of all, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all donors and contributors for their commitment and their open hearts for the cause of these children in Uganda who have been affected by the loss of their parents. There are too many of them to list them all here by name.

However, I would like to mention one outstanding new source of support by name. We have succeeded in obtaining very generous financial support in the five-figure range from the **Beurer Foundation in Ulm** for the school and vocational training project of the Anne Namuddu Motherhouse. **We are very grateful to the management of the foundation, the Bühler family of entrepreneurs behind it and all the employees of the company who ultimately made this possible.**



"Without friends, our life is not a real life."

Dante Alighieri



A manager for the "farm" around the Motherhouse



Chicken farming with 2 x 600 chickens, a fruit and vegetable plantation, a corn field, pig breeding and a coffee plantation make up an entire agricultural business, a farm. With sufficient experience and expertise, good decisions must be made on an ongoing basis so that this farm performs as it should, namely to contribute a significant part of the Motherhouse's operations with fruit and yields. Until now, Teddy and her team have basically done this on the side. A lot has been achieved, even if there have



been a few setbacks to overcome along the way. In the meantime, the tasks involved have grown to such an extent that the management of the Motherhouse and we, who are also involved in financing the Motherhouse, have come to the conclusion that expert management of this farm is required. A number of issues need to be



addressed with experience and expertise; for example, pig breeding needs to be better protected against animal diseases, the fruit and vegetable plantation needs effective protection against crop theft, the corn field needs to be adapted to changing climatic conditions, and the coffee plantation needs a distribution concept. With our support, the management of the Motherhouse set out to find a suitable expert, and we found one. Thomas S., a former Motherhouse child,

has a degree in agriculture. As an agricultural consultant in various organisations, he has gained valuable practical experience over several years. Together with George, he developed the concept for the Motherhouse's new coffee plantation, which has now been established under his expert guidance and is expected to yield its first harvest in just under two years. From now on, he will take over the management of the farm belonging to the Motherhouse. This is an important step for the Motherhouse itself in its development towards greater financial independence. We are delighted that Thomas is taking on this task and are happy to support him and the Motherhouse management team in this endeavour. This measure is intended to pursue another goal, namely to introduce the Motherhouse children even more closely to the tasks of providing for themselves through sustainable agriculture, in order to awaken an interest in a career in agriculture in at least some of them. As understandable as the commonly expressed career aspirations of "doctor," "lawyer" or "accountant" are, the profession of farmer actually offers much more realistic prospects in Uganda.





A minivan for transporting the Motherhouse children



The old Mitsubishi Pajero, which is over 20 years old and which Francis used to ensure the necessary mobility of the Motherhouse with his excellent driving skills on Uganda's "roads", has unfortunately reached the end of its useful life. The increasing number of repairs required to keep it roadworthy are now costing too much money. The purchase of a suitable replacement vehicle is inevitable. After a long and



intensive search, Francis has found what he was looking for. A used but well-maintained Toyota minivan will take the children to school and to church for services in future, as well as being able to do the necessary shopping trips for the Motherhouse.



"You can take everything from me, but not what I have gained through education in my head."

(Robyn, 19 years old, scholarship holder from South Africa)

Project region Israel/Palestine



Outlook:



Our next trip to Israel/Palestine from 25 March to 7 April 2026 is booked

Save the date! Foundation concert 2 October 2026

This year, we want to continue our concert series in Leonberg-Warmbronn, which we started four years ago. We already have some preliminary program ideas and a date set. In 2022, we started with a concert under the motto

Diversity is a sound of peace



This year, we are planning a multicultural musical experience with artists from Africa and the Middle East. Let yourself be surprised and intrigued.

Have we sparked your interest in our work?



Visit our homepage at www.fam-hoene.de! Get in touch with us at stiftung@fam-hoene.de or by telephone on +49 7152 3537299!

If you would like to support our work, whether by providing information about educational projects worthy of funding or in any other way, we would be delighted to hear from you. If you would like to support us with donations or endowments, you can also do so on a project-specific basis. We guarantee that your donation will be used in full, exclusively and directly for the project of your choice. In the case of project-related endowments, we ensure that the income attributable to your endowment is used exclusively for the project you have selected.

If you would like to do so, you will find the necessary information on our homepage. Our donation account at the **Kreissparkasse Böblingen (BIC BBKRDE6BXXX)** has the **IBAN DE17 6035 0130 00011098 14**.

Responsible: T. u. H. Hoene Foundation, Riegeläckerstr. 44, 71229 Leonberg, Germany, www.fam-hoene.de, stiftung@fam-hoene.de, Tel. +49 71523537299, Chairman: Thomas Hoene, address as above.