



April 17, 2020

## A Personal Note From Lynn

I returned to the US on the last flight out of Uganda. I had believed I was safe in my small world until, on a Saturday night, they said the airport would close on Sunday. An awful overwhelming feeling of being trapped, if I needed to get back for family and a realization I had no freedom, swept over me. As I got on the plane I felt horrible leaving behind children, families, Charles, and in knowing the loss of life that may happen in Uganda where I have dedicated my life's work.

There are no words to describe what the world is going through. Our only hope is you, our donors and friends are safe and healthy. Back in 2004, to fund Connect Africa I wrote to 20 of you for monetary support to sponsor three children and to fund microloans. Now 15 years later, this newsletter goes to more than 500 people who support our mission.

I have stayed **diligent, determined, focused, and transparent to maintain your trust in us.** It is our 15th year anniversary and the growth and development of Connect Africa is beyond my wildest imagination. I met Charles in 2004 and my answer to his question "What do you plan to do here?" was always "I don't know; how can I know what is needed when I am a stranger in a strange land?". He asked over and over, waiting for an answer....in truth Charles and I created the mission together, then came the board of directors who help guide this fledgling charity, then all of YOU, who made the dream a reality.

Ugandans ask "How they love us having never met us?". If you met the families, and looked into the eyes of the children we help, you would fall in love all over again, 100-fold. See the joy in their faces when receiving your clothing donations.



Here's a snapshot of our time together from January until mid March:



Ssenoga John celebrated receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture. He has started a fishing business on Lake Victoria.



First year tailoring student, Kabanyoro Stella showed her mom what she has sewn at our Vocational Institute.



Second Year Metal Work students fabricated and installed 10 small windows, 8 large windows and 10 doors!



Once the building's cementing was finished the students painted all the doors and windows grey and white.

We want you to be aware that with the recent turn of events, we are taking steps to safeguard our funds for 2021. We will continue to provide sponsorship and hold fast to the **81 students** we have helped so far this year. **Our first and foremost commitment is to supporting orphaned and vulnerable children by empowering them through education.**

Who would have believed 15 years ago that some students would now have phones (what an accomplishment) and send me texts? What I read in messages from students and friends, their concern for me, my family and for America, makes me cry. During these uncertain times, those we support in Uganda have turned their thoughts to us.

Hi Lynn and Charles

How are you, let me hope you are fine? Ensure that you keep yourself well please. I am at home with having some malaria but I am getting better but it's not Corona as some people are afraid. I am at home praying for you Lynn cause of what I heard about Prince Charles makes me scared. I am just doing what I am to do, even if death comes, I have done at least what I was created to do though not too much. Love you

Kayim Frank 1st year in Clinical Medicine degree

Hello Auntie, how are you dear. Please keep safe I still need, love and care for you.

Nabachwah Brendah, Nursery School Teacher



**Our sentiment to YOU, friends and supporters of Connect Africa: please stay safe and know we love and care for you.**

Always,  
Lynn



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