

Welcome to our Spring newsletter! It has been a busy start to the year, as always. You will be able to read some of the highlights over the next few pages. As always, the need and the workload is immense, and we do thank you for your prayer and support as our committed staff in Uganda continue to work to bring hope, healing and opportunity to some of the most vulnerable children and their families.



Here are just some of the many children we have worked with in 2025 so far...

Davis

The Chilli Children Project doesn't just treat the child, but we look at the whole picture of what a family needs to thrive. Davis was born with cerebral palsy, and due to a difficult situation at home, his Mum brought him to the Project needing counselling and support herself, as well as seeing what we could offer Davis. Davis and his Mum stayed at the Project Hostel for a week, coming to us for physiotherapy every day, while his mother received psychosocial and counselling sessions at the Rehab Centre.



She admitted, "I had an intention of abandoning my son. I had lost hope and meaning for life." However, "the hospitality, love and care you showed me restored my love for my child. I believe that my child will be a better child in future. Thank you for your support and service. I promise to love and care for my child more than ever."

We sent Davis and his Mum home with a care package of soap, sugar and some other household essentials, and will continue to follow up the family. Please keep them in your prayers.

Javilla

Here we see a very happy Javilla who loves that he can now take his first steps!

Javilla has been undergoing gait training using a walker to help him learn to walk.

We'll be here for him every step in his ongoing journey.



Keith

No distance can hold back the love a father has for his son! Keith's father has been incredibly dedicated to bringing him to the Project every two weeks, so that Keith can receive treatment for his clubfoot.

He comes all the way from a neighbouring district to get new casts fitted. It's a journey that's well worth it to see Keith healed.



Deus

Bringing smiles to faces – literally! Deus had an untreated cleft lip and had an operation in August 2024. After his recent post-op follow up with Flavia, she said that Deus now “looks handsome with a beautiful smile. He has completely healed and the family is very happy and thankful to our Project for bringing an opportunity for their son”.



We never get tired of promoting chilli!

Growing and selling chilli enables our families to generate some extra income. Martin and Victory are our chilli champions.

They bring their expertise and best practices to parents who visit the Project office and Rehab Centre, encouraging them to keep growing through demonstrations like these.

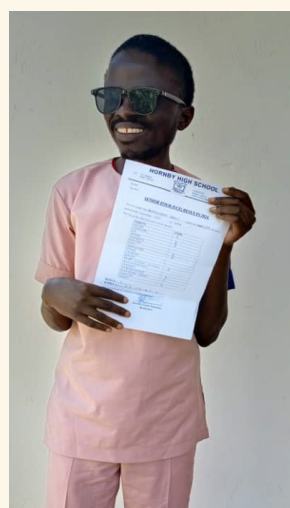


Educational Successes

We would love to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of some of our beneficiaries, past and present.



Victory, who has arthrogryposis and was studying at Kitazigurukwa Special Needs Unit passed his Primary Leaving Examinations with great results. We are so happy to support him to continue on to Secondary School. Well done, Victory!



We have been supporting Darius, who is blind, to attend Hornby High School in Kabale for a number of years. He recently passed his GCSE's and started A Levels at the same school. We are honoured to continue walking alongside this young man in his journey.



Patrick was treated for club foot back in 2009 when he was just 4 years old! Sixteen years later, he has just finished his equivalent of GCSEs and got great results! He called into the office to show the staff his examination results and was proud to share that he will now join A Levels. We hope he continues to go from strength to strength in his life!

Grants

Kitchen Tables Trust Grant

Kitazigurukwa Special Needs Unit has long been in need of some repair and renovation which we have just not been able to cover. We are hugely grateful to the Kitchen Tables Charitable Trust for enabling these essential works to be completed.

This has included; the repair of leaking water tanks, renovation of the classroom block and renovation of the floor of the dining room. Children and staff at Kitaz are very happy!

On Tuesday 15th April, we had a commissioning with the Bishop of North Kigezi Diocese, Rt Rev Onesimus Asiimwe and other Diocesan staff, School Management and PTA Representatives, former headteachers of Kitazigurukwa Primary School, Chilli Children Project staff, and, of course, all of the mainstream and Unit children.



Upon a tour of the school, Bishop said, **"This is amazing. I am sure the children with special needs feel honoured and respected and valued. So thank you donors and friends who have very thoughtfully enabled us to have such a facility and God bless you."**



The Anchor Foundation

At the end of 2024, The Anchor Foundation gave us a grant towards the purchase of rehabilitation, therapy and physiotherapy equipment for children with disabilities.

Where possible/ appropriate, we supported local and experienced craftsmen and tradesmen to make some of the equipment such as CP seats, crutches, walkers, corner seats and standing frames. Other items such as wheelchairs, KAFOs and AFOs were ordered.

On 7th March, Bishop Onesimus Asimwe came to pray over the equipment before it was distributed to families. On 20th March it was distribution day, and the following items were distributed: 6 corner seats, 5 CP seats, 5 walking frames, 3 posterior walkers, 4 standing frames, 2 wheelchairs and 1 pair of knee braces.

In addition to the above equipment, a number of therapy toys and specialist pediatric orthopedic shoes were also purchased using the grant from The Anchor Foundation.

We are so excited to continue blessing families with much needed equipment to assist in the development of their children over the coming months.



Sponsorship of Deaf and Blind Students

While we are so thankful for grants which enable us to go 'above and beyond', we desperately need more funding to enable the Project to keep running. The 'core funding' needed is around £18,000 per quarter, or around £75,000 a year. We are currently running far short of that amount, meaning that sadly from next year, we may have to reduce some of the work that we do.

One way that you could help us make up some of our deficit would be to become a sponsor! Part of our core funding covers the school fees of a number of blind and deaf children who attend specialist schools. Without the Project's support, these children would not access education and all of the opportunities that affords.

We know that, in a country where education is costly, children with disabilities are at a disadvantage for enrolling and completing school. We are lucky to have a good, specialist school for deaf children in Rukungiri, and a special school for blind children in Kabale, a neighbouring district. We identified children who would not afford the fees without our intervention.

Can you partner with us to continue to bring education to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in Uganda?

We need your help to sponsor the education of 9 deaf children and 4 blind children. In this newsletter, we introduce you to the deaf children, and in the next, you will meet the 4 blind students who need your support.

Please consider supporting us in this hugely important work. For just £25 a month, you can fund them to attend a specialist boarding school. School gives these children access to education and information. It teaches them confidence and vital life skills, equipping them as best as possible for a world which may be challenging for them. School gives them the foundation of communication and language – with their fellows and with wider society – avoiding a life of isolation and abuse. School gives them equal access with their peers to opportunity for success in various areas of life.

You will receive annual updates of your sponsor child, and periodic photos of them at home /or school. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the children below, please email **contactus@chillichildren.com**. We will get back to you with more information about your chosen child, as well as how to set up the sponsorship.

Thank you!



Name: Fiona
Class: P3
Best Subject: Maths
Best food: Fish
Future job: Business lady



Name: Trina
Class: P5
Best Subject: English
Best food: Fish
Future job: Tailoring



Name: Faith
Class: P2
Best Subject: Literacy
Best food: Chicken
Best household chore: Sweeping



Name: Denise
Class: P5
Best Subject: Maths
Best food: Eggs
Best household chore: Cooking
matooke



Name: Alex
Class: P1
Best Subject: Maths
Best food: Fish and meat
Future job: Tailoring



Name: Bridget
Class: P3
Best Subject: Maths
Best food: Meat
Future job: Selling clothes



Name: Verity
Class: P3
Best Subject: English
Best food: Meat
Future job: Tailoring



Name: Philip
Class: P4
Best Subject: English
Best food: Chicken
Future job: Builder



Name: Patricia
Class: P4
Best Subject: English
Best food: Fish
Future job: Tailoring

How else can you get involved?

Become a regular supporter or fundraise for us!

We are proud to say that over 98% of what you give goes DIRECTLY out to Uganda. So, if you give £100 today, more than £98 of it reaches those in Uganda who need it most. Can you support us with £10 or £20, or even £50 a month? Or a one off annual gift? We would be so, so grateful.

Alternatively, you could do a sponsored event, or a cake or bake sale for us. We can send you promo material for your event!

Leave a legacy and make a lasting change

Would you consider leaving a lasting legacy to the work of the Chilli Children Project in your will?

It would enable the work of the charity to continue and grow, and you would be passing on something wonderful to future generations.

If you are making your will, or updating your will, we would be thrilled to be included in your plans. Any gift, large or small makes a huge difference to the children and families involved with the Chilli Children Project. If you would like to speak to someone about this, then please do get in touch with us **contactsus@chillichildren.com**



Giving to Uganda

As you have seen from this newsletter, the Project and its committed staff are busy with so many different activities. But none of it can be done without your support. We are committed to sending more than £75,000 to the project in Uganda annually. Unfortunately, we have fallen short of our fundraising needs in recent months. This means that our Project staff may need to make hard choices about which activities they are able to continue to fund in the next year. If you can, please consider helping us with a financial donation.

What does my donation mean?

- **£8** can send a child to receive a neurological review in Mbarara
- **£10** can help a family to receive training and chilli seedlings to begin their income generating activity
- **£20** can feed a child at Kitazigurukwa Special Needs Unit for one month
- **£50** can pay boarding school fees for a blind student for a term
- **£500** can fix genu varum (bow legs) and genu valgum (knock knees)
- The Project employs over ten staff to carry out work at the hospitals, school, clinics and office!



How to give

By cheque

You can post a cheque to us, along with this page of the newsletter to include the Charity Gift Aid Declaration form (over leaf). Please make cheques payable to Chilli Children of Rukungiri Trust, and send to Chilli Children Trust, 37 Forest Road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8RL.

By regular standing order

You can give to us regularly by standing order. You can set this up directly with your bank.

If you would like to set up a regular standing order, our bank details are as follows:

Barclays Bank

Account Name: Chilli Children of Rukungiri (Uganda)

Account Number 00848883

Sort Code 20-84-17

If you are eligible for Gift Aid, this really helps too! Please post the Gift Aid Declaration Form (overleaf) to: Chilli Children Trust, 37 Forest Road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8RL. Alternatively, to save on postage, please copy the text overleaf, along with the required information, and email it to **clive@chillichildren.com**.

Through Stewardship

You can give to us regularly, or as a one off gift, through Stewardship, an online giving platform.

Go to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20095422> and follow the instructions.



Charity Gift Aid Declaration

Charity Gift Aid Declaration

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below.

☐

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Chilli Children Trust.

Or

☐

I am not eligible for Gift Aid.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Title

First name or initial(s)

Surname

Full Home address

Postcode _____

Date _____

Signature_____

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, and no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.