

in this issue >>>

- Beyond Our Comfort Zones
- Celebrating Our Stars
- 2019 - New Academic Year
- The "Love Box" Story
- New Staff Alert
- The Girls With Promise Project



ISSUE - 01 Quarterly Newsletter 2019

2019 FAITH & GROWTH

Our Inspiration CORNER

"LET LOVE
DEFINE YOU"

CONTACT US

Edu Child Foundation Uganda
Plot 30-32, Goli – Kei Road - Nebbi
P. O. Box 21134, Kampala (Ug)
Telephone: +256-772-646-357
Email: info@ecfug.org
Website: www.ecfug.org

Beyond Our Comfort Zones

New Insights / New Challenges / Growth!

The most scary thing to many is the idea of stepping out and facing a new challenge. Unfortunately, it is the only thing to do if one needs to grow. To us, this usually comes in the form of a new year. Every new year gives us an opportunity to start again and grow.

As the new year unfolded, on January 10th, we convened as a team to review and adopt the new work plan we had laid down to guide our every action throughout the new year. In the middle of our discussion; we got a word of encouragement from the Bible in Deuteronomy 28:1-6 which really impacted on the way we saw the new year. Here's a portion of the word:

"..the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out....".

Reading through the text, we all felt 2019 will

- be such a very special year for us. We could feel the energy, we could feel the endless love and see the light. Yes, we were gazing in hope, holding onto our faith - faith in becoming better, faith in exponential growth, faith in multiplication, faith in positive transformation of more lives, faith in ensuring that more girls who are out of school have an opportunity to resume the path to acquiring this precious right and faith in ensuring more vulnerable women gain economic independence.

This 1st quarter is ending when we are already seeing a lot of blessings coming our way. We are in total surrender, we are ready to yield to God who is above all we do - to guide our every step this year yet again; to hold our hands and walk this journey with us. We are grateful in advance to all the amazing relationships that we shall establish with more like-minded humans around the world; and to those who have already chosen to walk side by side with us. All we have is FAITH.

Celebrating Our Stars

"LIGHT at the end of the tunnel!" That's how best we could describe the immeasurable joy we felt on hearing the amazing news of good academic scores from the national exams by our sponsored children on January 18th, 2019. As our team were going about their usual work in the office, a call came in to inform our office that **Foska, Herbert, Rovia, Ian and Kevin** – our five (5) sponsored children who had sat for their Primary Leaving Examination in November 2018 had excelled extraordinarily, giving them automatic admission to any High School of their choice. This was so thrilling to hear having known the stories of these children. For each of them, if we never came in, to give them a chance to study by fully paying up all their fees and providing all basic scholastic requirements needed at their respective schools; they would never have even seen the Primary Leaving Exams.



Foska



Herbert



Kevin



Ian



Rovia

We are so grateful to God for the far He has brought these amazing souls and for the precious future He has prepared for each of them; and all the wonderful friends who keep praying with us for these children and supporting them in every little way. Your prayers and love to us is turning lives around in magical ways! Thank you so much! And yes, this year they will be adding on to the number of our students already in high -



school. To our super stars FOSKA, IAN, HERBERT, ROVIA and KEVIN; we continue reminding you that; *"Excellence isn't a skill - it's an attitude."* This is just the beginning and we are excited to share this important moment with you. Keep learning as if you were to live forever. Congratulations on passing your exams! Keep up your good work and continue to strive for more greater accomplishments. Congratulations and we celebrate each of you. You have made us so proud.

2019 so far >>>

2019 - New Academic Year

The 2019 academic year is already taking shape and we greatly appreciate all our friends around the world for the continued commitments and love they have lavished upon us over the years. We have come from a far. With little baby steps, today we are providing education opportunities for 75 vulnerable children, empowering 67 women and over 280 youth in the communities we serve.

The Academic Year started in February and this, as usual meant that we had to ensure each of the 75 children is fully equipped with all the school requirements such as scholastic materials, school uniforms and fees as they step into their classrooms. We are so grateful to all our Miracle Workers (friends) who have stood with us to make this possible each school year and each academic term - YOU KNOW YOURSELVES. Thank you so much.



Again, we were humbled that as 2019 academic year began, five of our children (Herbert, Ian, Rovia, Foska and Kevin) stepped into high school for their first time, a dream they once thought was impossible - coming alive. Out of thousands who sat for the same exams and failed - these five made it through and sailed with flying colors.

This however, has had another implication on our operations. 5 more students joining high school has resulted into increased cost of operation and the amount of resources that we pay at high school is usually over and above what those in primary pay. It's the reason why we are surely trusting God this year to enlarge our territories – bring in more people to help -



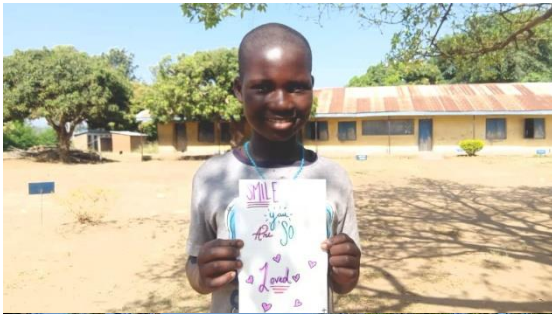
hold our hands financially to enable us be in position to meet all the ever-increasing operational costs of all our programs.

We are always grateful to have new partners join us in ensuring that all those we serve are fully equipped to live to their highest potentials. Our biggest area of need is in ensuring all our school going children are able to have their scholastic materials, school uniforms, school bags, shoes and school fees cleared early as they step back into their respective schools.

Above all, we are surely grateful to all our wonderful friends who continue making these acts of love possible and this time, we specifically want to thank our Board Chairperson, **Marcia Weimerskirch, MD** for supporting us just in time to enable us have all the needed scholastic materials available for our children. And as our theme for this year is (Faith and Growth), we hope that we shall be able to grow deeper and wider in this ministry and that together we shall contribute towards creating a better world.

The "LOVE BOX" Story

In the beginning of February this year, we received a package that we would prefer calling The "Love Box," that came to us all the way from U.S.A. This package was sent by Victoria Lazarou, a friend we have gotten to know this year. Vic, as we prefer to call her, is a very warm hearted individual who after getting to know about our work, did not hesitate to immediately start productively engagiving with our programs. Her passion is towards creating a more peaceful and better world for all souls to flourish.



Phrases such as:

"You're Loved,"
"You can achieve your dreams,"
"God smiles over you,"
"let your light shine so brightly,"
"You will overcome..."
"your dreams are valied - never give up,"

And more; were well written in those random letters and to each child, there was a special message. You can imagine the joy in each of them on reading or hearing the beautiful words we could read for them.

We appreciate Victoria for initiating this cause of outpouring limitless words of hope and love upon all our children. The messages in those letters brought lots of beautiful smiles to our faces. We are grateful. This is new and it's so cool. Our children are also writing their own letters to send back by 3rd quarter of this year. We are looking forward as well. We hope through this letter exchange, they will be able to build great friendship with those random souls from U.S who reached out to them.

The **Love Box** was a small package containing beautiful love letters written by some random people from the U.S to our children. You could also call them special love letters.

There were over 100 letters in the box for us to give out to the beneficiaries of our programs. Consequently, we picked these letters randomly and gave out to each of our children and for those who couldn't read so well, we helped read for them. The messages in the letters were so special for every child.

New Staff Alert

In mid February this year, we added two (2) new members to our team. These were **Liberty Adubango** (pictured on the left above), who joined us in the capacity of **Programs Manager**; and **Stella Driwaru** (pictured on the right above), who came on board as our **Admin and Fianance** Personel. Their joining us was in response to the gaps we had in our operations in terms of programing and management; and also to beef up our commitment to having more female leaders on our management team. Liberty holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Work and Social Administration with a Bias in Child Protection and Development from Uganda -



Christian University. She formally worked with Compassion International under children's affairs department. Since her arrival at ECFU, Liberty has been very instrumental in helping set up proper database or information systems for our sponsored children and for all our programs. She helps in



Meet Victoria Lazarou

Victoria is the face behind the "Love Box" initiative. She is oririnally from Florida, but now lives in Carlifornia, USA. Vic is an intentional multi-genre writer/story teller specializing in building brand identities and awareness in a humanitarian act for social impact. She strongly believes in a world full of wildly intentional ideas and work that stems from a deep well of purpose. We are so grateful for this new partnership with her



Liberty Adubango, Programs Manager

- overseeing day to day operations in the organization and has been a great leader in her capacity. Stella, on the other hand, holds a Diploma is Accounting and Finance from Makerere University Business School. She came in at a time when we surely needed someone to help manage our accounts and daily administrative duties. As ECFU has been growing rapidly, we felt we needed to have proper systems in place to manage the changing needs and Stella's arrival in the organization has helped us plan well and manage our finances and other administrative duties effectively.



Stella Driwaru, Finance and Admin.

The Girls With Promise PROJECT

1st March 2019, we receive news that we had won EUROS 1,000 in Grants for a project proposal competition that we submitted in December 2018 titled; "The Girls With Promise Project." The grant was being sub-granted by Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE); a local Ugandan based nonprofit that partners with Women2030 and WECF International to promote gender responsive initiatives around the world.

The Girls With Promise Project (GWP) is a 4 months initiative of Edu Child Foundation Uganda that is championing gender-responsive interventions to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls in rural communities of Goli – Nebbi district and strategically in terms of policy development and monitoring; plus educational and awareness raising activities on gender for better societal development and realization of the sustainable development goals by 2030.



ECFU came out among the top 10 local nonprofits in Uganda to win the grant from ARUWE and immediately started implementation of planned activities within the project. The 1st scheduled activity under this project was; Organizing a community celebration for the International Women's Day on the theme: **BALANCE FOR BETTER, investing in women and girls**; which event attracted over 270 participants from within Jupangira and Pawong Parishes – Goli, Nebbi District; including key leaders (district and local council leaders).

This was later followed by four Community Dialogue events held in the same parishes (communities) of Pawong and Jupangira under



- the theme: **Empowering Women and the Girl Child to Thrive**. As an activity, the community dialogues were platforms created by ECFU to offer conducive discussion space for key stakeholders of rural Goli- community to identify gender gaps existing in the communities and discuss how best they could address them, and more specifically, how they can support girl child education; plus generation of key strategies for ensuring rights of women and girls are highly respected in the communities.

Additionally, as part of the same project, we launched the GWP School Clubs in 4 schools within Nebbi District. The club launch is a targeted activity of Edu Child Foundation Uganda that aims at creating platforms for positively changing behaviours of students – both boys and girls – acting as fora to communicate accurate and appropriate behavioral change messages about girls' and women's rights and generally create a proper understanding on gender and its wider implications on general community and sustainable development.



PARTNER WITH US



As we close this quarter, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to our special partners who have stood with us through this first quarter to ensure we are able to carry out all our planned activities.

With the fast-paced growth of our programs and teams, we have realized the pressure on the little resources in our disposal also increasing. For this reason, we continually invite more partners to join us and be a part of our journey. Any donation will support Edu Child Foundation Uganda's vital work of ensuring children, women and vulnerable youth in Uganda have access to at least the most basic human rights: education, clean water, food, health care, and economic opportunities.

You can donate to us directly through our website: www.ecfug.org OR contact us through our details below for other partnership options.



CONTACT US

Edu Child Foundation Uganda
Plot 30-32, Goli – Kei Road - Nebbi
P. O. Box 21134, Kampala (Ug)
Telephone: +256-772-646-357
Email: info@ecfug.org
Website: www.ecfug.org