

## Dear Sponsors...

*We say WOW and Thanks!*

As of May, 2021 seven new sponsors and their families have answered the call to sponsor a child through Blessings of Joy! We give thanks to God first, for placing it in the heart and minds of these individuals. Gonzaaga, Oliva, Andrew, Immaculate, Polline, Olivia, Veronica and Ssmujju Bright are now sponsored!

This brings our total number of sponsors to 52, and a total of 76 students sponsored!!

Please consider sponsoring a child. Your loving sponsorship will provide a child with hope for the future and health for the present. If you are interested in more sponsorship opportunities, visit our website, [BlessingsOfJoy.com](http://BlessingsOfJoy.com).



## Update on Shoe Drive (aka how to keep a cobbler up at night!)

If you remember from our Spring newsletter, we had a goal to raise funds for 350 pairs of shoes (\$5,950). That goal was exceeded!! We give thanks for the generous support of many, a \$1,500 matching grant, and contributions through Network for Good.

The April report from John Wasswa, chairperson Hygiene Committee: "When the grade six came back in March, they were measured their feet and in April, 37 pairs of shoes were delivered to them. As you can see in the photo. Again, in April, another 81 students in other grades were measured their feet, and we are waiting the cobbler to accomplish the program and then they will also be delivered by our Director, Benon, at any time they are finished. We thank our good God for all the provisions He is making. We thank the Board USA for making the provision of the shoes possible.

Our Children are looking too smart in the provided shoes with stockings. Everyone is appreciative and all send their sincere thanks to you. Students were put a smile on their faces. Many have been given a chance to push on with their studies comfortably without infections and other challenges associated with walking in bare feet."

**GIVING  
WITH A CLICK**

**AMAZON  
SMILE**

Make BOJ your favorite charity of AMAZON SMILE. Start by logging onto <https://www.smile.amazon.com> and registering. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase (excluding shipping, handling and taxes: to Blessings of Joy.

**BING**

Don't do much on-line shopping? Give With BING. Use BING as your search Engine via Microsoft Edge – Check it out! <https://www.bing.com/give/joy>

*Blessings of Joy is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible.*

# UPDATE: Days for Girls Program

**Days for Girls** (<https://www.daysforgirls.org/dfg-pads/>) is an international organization that provides sanitary kits containing reusable sanitary pads for girls. The Tulsa Chapter of Days for Girls and its representative, Kathy Parks, generously provides sanitary kits for Mweruka Junior School girls.

The April report regarding sanitary kits from John Wasswa, chairperson Hygiene Committee. "In April, a reasonable number of girl child was identified to have reached the period of using the sanitary kits. In May, these kits were served to the girls in need of them. We thank Everyone for making this program come true. We thank mummy Kathy for standing with this program.

Sanitary kits here in Uganda are very expensive most especially the non-reusables since each kit could cost \$1. Failure of a girl child to have these kits leads her not to concentrate in class and at times makes them to absentee themselves till the periods are past.

According to Marriam, the senior woman who coordinates the program, "some girls with no kits use unsecure methods of padding themselves. Therefore, providing learners with these kits, it does not only mean a mere Donation but it's a strong point of view God has established to help the girl Child to live a happy and safe life."



## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES:

- Continued protection over health, as Covid cases are up and the president of Uganda has implemented a 42 day "pause," closing schools and restricting travel between districts.
- Praise for the generosity of many which has enabled the school shoes for the children and sanitary kits for the girls.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for future development of the school campus, also for sufficient funds to cover the BOJ grant requests that have been received and approved.
- Pray for opening of Ugandan borders, for Solomon as he plans to travel to Uganda in October He requests prayer for safety, protection and financial support.
- Pray for a successful fund drive to raise funds for teacher/staff salaries.

! We currently have 10 children that are awaiting sponsorship. If you have questions, please contact Carrie at [sponsoredchildren@blessingsofjoy.com](mailto:sponsoredchildren@blessingsofjoy.com).

## CHILD IN NEED: Nanuyiga Oliva

To sponsor Oliva Namuyiga, visit [BlessingsofJoy.com/nanuyiga-oliva/](https://BlessingsofJoy.com/nanuyiga-oliva/).

**Oliva has been on the sponsored child list for more than a year.** She is eight years old, (birth date February 13, 2013). Such a beautiful smile! She is a happy girl at school. She loves studying and would like to go on to high school. Oliva has features that suggest she has experienced malnutrition. There are eight family members, so a lot of mouths to feed. Oliva's father requests assistance for his daughter to continue with her studies.

**Sponsorship would provide for Oliva's school tuition,** a daily nutrition fortified school lunch, her school uniform, a pair of shoes with socks and school supplies. Because Oliva likes school and studying, she has the potential to graduate, pass the exit exams and attend high school. You will also help her nutrition at home. Each month sponsorship provides Oliva and her family with two sacks of cornmeal, powdered milk, blocks of soap, toothpaste, Vaseline and shoe polish. It also would provide for any special needs such as medical care, mosquito net, mattress, clothes, a special gift from her sponsor at birthday or Christmas.





Josephine Namaganda

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MJS:

## Josephine Namaganda (TEACHER-LIBRARIAN)

Many of the teachers have been busy during the COVID “holiday” helping build tip taps (hand washing stations), distributing food and continued to teach small groups of children in the village.

As classes resume, one resource that students at MJS have access to is the library. In 2015-2016, construction began on the library and was completed in 2016. Through a grant funded by the Tulsa Rotary Club, tables and shelves were provided. Funded by a Blessings of Joy grant, library books arrived in late 2016. Josephine Namaganda is the current librarian. Read her story:

“I am teacher Josephine Namaganda. I teach lower Primary classes (Grade two and one) I am a mother of two girls Lina and Lisa and I am married.

I joined Mweruka Junior School in 2018. I was allocated to teach Literacy, Religious Education and English. By then, I was given the role of Class teacher grade three and also the director of studies (DOS).

In 2019, I was given the responsibility of being the class teacher grade two by the head teacher. In 2020, I was chosen to take on the duty of the Deputy Principal as well as the school Librarian.

As a Librarian, I have managed to work together with the teachers to give learners time to read books from the library. Each class is allocated time on the timetable to read books from the library each day that passes.

This has helped the children to improve on their skills of reading and speaking the English language.

I suggest for the provision of more text books since the number of learners has increased in case funds are available, so that each learner can have one book instead of a group reading for one book.



Teacher in Library

As the deputy principal, I have worked co-operatively with the head teacher and the staff of Mweruka Junior School to achieve the following.

- 1.Improved academic standards among learners. This was observed in 2019 when 10 learners managed to score first grades and 11 second grades. We had no third grades and failures.**
- 2.The smartness of the learners has improved. Some learners have shoes and the school uniform. On this note, I thank the board of BOJ USA for providing some children with shoes. This has greatly improved on smartness.**
- 3.Children’s discipline has also greatly improved. They behave well both at school and in the community. This has been achieved through the Devotion session held at school every Monday morning. Here the teacher in charge of religious affairs (Mariam), the head-teacher and the staff speak to the learners on different ways of behaving in the society.**

I conclude by sending my sincere appreciation to the board of BOJ-USA for all the support to teaching and non-teaching staff, the learners and parents of MJS. I ask God to continue blessing you richly.”

# Mweruka Junior School Committee Reports

At Mweruka Junior School there are two committees that oversee important responsibilities for the school. The Hygiene Committee provides guidance, supervision and monitoring of health-related issues. The Nutrition Committee provides guidance regarding nutrition standards for the student lunches and monitors the preparation and distribution of lunch meals. Every two to three months during the school year each of these committees communicates with Vicki, our Blessings of Joy USA Board member responsible for nutrition and hygiene support. The following are reports from each of these committees.

## THE HYGIENE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH/APRIL

"We take this opportunity to greet you in the name of Almighty God.

- The hygiene committee of MJS sends appreciations to the board member hygiene director USA for your endless support given to our School in order to uplift the health standards.
- Since the schools were reopened in Uganda for some classes, we are now having three classes that is P.4, P.5 and P.6. The learners in these classes are following the directives as were passed by the Ministry of Health like wearing the face masks in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19.
- A lot of hand washing facilities were put in place at school where learners have an access to wash their hands with clean water and soap as another measure of avoiding the spread of Covid-19.
- Not only that but also continuous Covid-19 talks are organized at school, which has enabled learners to get more information of avoiding getting Corona Virus.
- Fencing the school has also protected our learners from strangers who would have contact with them.
- Our learners are also measured their body temperatures at the school gate as they are entering and when they depart from school in the evening in order to identify their body temperature changes.
- In addition to that, the school compound is kept clean through regular cleaning. This has helped to control the spread of other diseases which may result from poor sanitation.
- The school is getting enough water from the water wells, the life straws provide enough drinking water to the entire school community.
- Also, latrines and toilets are kept clean by scrubbing them daily and ash is poured into the Ecosans to absorb moisture from feces and to control bad smell.

May God bless you.

Yours in service, the hygiene committee.

## THE NUTRITION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH/APRIL

"The special meal is always prepared on Friday. Children are served with Irish potatoes and well fried beans mixed with silver fish they are fried using vegetables cooking oil.

Fruits: From the time MJS was re-opened, at every special meal served, children receive fruits, Fruits are doing a great thing in building the children's immunity most especially during this period of COVID.



*LifeStraws provide drinking water to the entire school.*

Thank you for your generous support! Blessings of Joy, Inc, is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

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