



Mission Partner of the month – March 2018

SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home

SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home is a registered 'Community Based Organisation' working in Eastern Uganda. It has just celebrated 20 years of Christian ministry and today cares for over 300 orphaned or disadvantaged children. Of these, 45 live in a foster home in Bugembe. The others are cared for through a foster parenting network managed by SIITA Nest.



The Home in Bugembe, funded by St Michael's in 2003

Background

Alice Kisolo worked for Youth with a Mission (YWAM) for 15 years. Then, following the loss of several family members in the course of a year, she was faced with the challenge of caring for their 11 children. Alice stepped forward in faith to take responsibility for parenting them.



Alice Kisolo – February 2018

This, in turn, led to the setting up of SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home in 1998. SIITA is an acronym of 'Salvation Is In Truth Application', which Alice regards as the foundation of the home: taking action in obedience to God's calling. 'Nest' arose from a picture of the way a hen cares for her chicks. 'Mother's Love' is self-explanatory – a quality that Alice seems very blessed with, a tough and determined love mixed with endless compassion.

St Michael's Church has had a link with SIITA Nest since 2000. We funded the purchase of land in Bugembe and contributed to the construction of the first two buildings and the site boundary wall.

Since then, through both the Mission Action Group and regular individual donations, St Michael's has contributed towards the children's education (fees, uniforms and study materials) and the running costs of the Home. In 2017 St Michael's supported the educational costs of 22 children, from primary through to tertiary and vocational courses.

Update

In 2016 SIITA Nest set up a Pre-school and early-years Primary school. This was the first move towards a long held vision to provide education for both its own children (thus saving school fees) and children from the local community.



The Pre-school

At the start of the 2018 academic year there are three nursery classes and four primary classes. Two of the staff are former SIITA children (one of whom still lives and helps in the Home).

During the last two years YWAM teams, with funding from Streams of Mercy in the US, have been building a new SIITA Nest Primary school about half a mile from the Home. It is hoped to open the new school by the end of this year. Many of the local SIITA Nest primary children and those from the Pre-school will then move to the new school. This will create space for expansion of the nursery and day care work at the Pre-school.



Teachers and children at the Pre-school



The new SIITA Nest Primary school being built in Bugembe (6 February 2018)

Sironko Heart of the Community Vocational Centre

Around a quarter of the children supported by SIITA Nest are now based in the Sironko district, some 80 miles east of Bugembe. Staff have been working there and visiting poor families for three years. A small plot of land has been purchased and is being used to grow fruit as a trial 'model garden'. But there is a long held dream to set up a 'Heart of the Community Vocational Centre', in conjunction with local churches, which will provide support and training for young people and widows, including vocational skills and farming. Whilst a possible property has been identified, the team is seeking guidance on whether it is the right one and big enough for future expansion.

Prayer points

1. Give thanks for God's amazing provision for SIITA Nest over the last 20 years.
2. The need for new regular donors and support, both for education and the ongoing welfare costs (particularly as a significant donor has recently ended its support for the children's education).
3. Successful completion and registration of the new Primary School.
4. Wisdom and God's leading in the expansion of the work in the Sironko area.
5. God's protection and the good health of all staff, helpers and the children.

Website: <http://www.siitanestmotherslovehome.org/>

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