



Mission Partner of the Month – September 2021

SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home

SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home is a Community Based Organisation in Uganda caring for orphans and vulnerable children. It manages a boarding home for 40 children who attend the SIITA Nest Nursery and Primary school in Bugembe, near Jinja. It also provides support to many other children and families in the community, both in Bugembe and in the Sironko District in East Uganda.

SIITA Nest Nursery and Primary School

At the start of 2020 the School registered 298 children, nearly double the previous year, across 3 nursery and 6 primary years. The prospects seemed good and the top Year 7 was due to be introduced in 2021. However, after only one month, the first Covid lockdown in Uganda closed the School for almost a year.



The School was partly re-opened in March 2021, on a phased basis in line with National guidelines, with a significant drop in pupil numbers. Many families could not afford the School requirements, with parents having lost jobs or closed businesses. Some of the teachers and staff did not return. Then, with only the three top classes having reported back, rising Coronavirus cases nationally resulted in all schools being shut again in June 2021. At the time of writing the School remains closed. It is understood that schools will be allowed to re-open when teachers have been vaccinated, although there is no clear timescale on this at the moment.

On a more positive note, the SIITA Nest School has secured a permanent registration certificate from the Ministry of Education and Sport.

SIITA Nest Home, Bugembe

While the schools have been closed, the children have been fortunate to receive some teaching in the Home. They have also been encouraged to take part in a variety of practical activities such as making liquid soap and growing crops: small plots have been allocated to grow vegetables and a larger tomato growing project is underway.



One of the small plots for growing vegetables



Making liquid soap

Some of the older children have been involved in mentorship training and some of the girls have been making re-useable sanitary pads.

Since the second national lockdown in Uganda, many schools have moved to online learning. This has been a challenge for SIITA Nest because of a shortage of computers and adequate internet connection.

During June and July several of the children (and staff) in the Home contracted Covid. Most have now made a full recovery. Since then there have also been cases of malaria and typhoid, but the children have all recovered with the help of local medical personnel.

In June St Michael's sent a special gift to help during the Covid crisis. That support was shared with other families. Alice Kisolo writes "Through the support from St Michael's we have been able to have food in the home and we have been able to help others in the community. Your support came when we were wondering how to survive this time of crisis. We thank God for your generosity."



Making re-useable sanitary pads

SIITA Heart of the Community Centre in Sironko district

A grant from St Michael's Heart of the Community tithe fund has been used to develop a multi-purpose community and resource centre in the Sironko district. The aim of this Christian ministry is to promote education and skills development among orphans and disadvantaged young people and vulnerable mothers. The main building is now complete and a bio-digester plant has recently been installed to treat the waste from the toilets.



Installation of the bio-digester plant

Prayer points

1. For staff to have wisdom and resilience as they continue to serve God and support the children.
2. For God's protection and the good health of the SIITA Nest team and the children.
3. That SIITA Nest can continue to obtain the necessary supplies, particularly food, for the Home.
4. For teachers to be vaccinated so that schools can re-open.
5. With the increasing move towards online learning, that the Home and the School will be able to obtain the necessary resources, particularly computers and internet facilities.

For more information please contact Alan Crofts, Mission Action Group link.

SIITA Nest website: <https://siitanestmotherslovehome.org>