



## Mission Partner of the Month – November 2023

### SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home

SIITA Nest Mother's Love Home is a Christian 'Community Based Organisation' in Uganda caring for orphaned and vulnerable children. It manages a home for some of the children who attend the SIITA Nest Nursery and Primary school in Bugembe, near Jinja. It also provides support to over 100 other children, both in the local community and in the Sironko District in East Uganda.

#### Background

St Michael's Church has had a link with SIITA Nest and its founder, Alice Kisolo, since 2000. Through both the Mission Action Group and individual donations from church members, St Michael's has been involved in the development of the Home and has supported up to 25 children each year (school fees, uniforms, study materials, food and medicines). These have included primary and secondary children and a few tertiary and professional students. We have also provided help towards the running costs of the Home in Bugembe.



*Alice Kisolo*



#### Education and welfare

A nursery and primary school building with 11 classrooms was constructed and opened in October 2018. This was the culmination of a long held vision to provide education for the children in the SIITA Nest Home and also for children from the local community. It now has over 300 children enrolled and some classes are full. Last year saw the first cohort of Primary 7 children sitting their national primary leaving exams: all 12 SIITA Nest candidates passed and were able to move on to secondary school.



SIITA Nest has a child sponsorship programme which last year included 53 nursery and primary children, 47 secondary (mainly boarding) and 23 tertiary students, including three at University and three in Nursing schools. Also in the last year, five children have graduated from University or College with qualifications in medicine, nursing, midwifery, accounting and tourism.

Tuition fees and scholastic materials for secondary and tertiary students have seen increases of 50-60% this year. With very little increase in external support, not all secondary children have been able to attend school and some have been sent home until outstanding balances are paid.

Coupled with massive increases in the cost of basic foods, utilities and transport, cut-backs are having to be made at a time of great need. Even so, Alice and the SIITA Nest team give thanks for the privilege of helping as many children as possible on their journey to adulthood.



## SIITA Heart of the Community

St Michael's has also been supporting the development of the SIITA Heart of the Community Centre in the Sironko District in East Uganda. This is a multi-purpose community and resource centre to promote education and skills development for



SIITA Heart of the Community Centre, Biwa, Sironko

disadvantaged young people and vulnerable mothers. The project came to a halt during the Covid pandemic. The building is now largely complete, but formal registration with the authorities remains elusive. With increasing levels of school dropout rates, teenage and single mothers, and drug abuse, the need has never been greater. Community Groups, YWAM and other ministry teams are awaiting the opportunity to use the hall. The will to help is there; the reality will surely follow.

Alice and the team are incredibly grateful for the support from St Michael's, both financially and through prayer.

## Prayer points

1. That SIITA Nest can continue to obtain the necessary supplies for the Home and the school and keep the school operating.
2. For God's protection and the good health of the SIITA Nest team and the children at this time.
3. For new regular donors and support, particularly for food, utility bills, education and welfare costs,
4. For resources to complete the Heart of the Community Centre in Sironko and securing the necessary operating licence from the authorities.



Mission Action Group Link: *Alan Crofts*