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Subject: SUPER EXCITING NEWS ABOUT UME 2023
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To:

NK

Friends, we are so excited about our next visit. Please take the time to read about all the exciting projects we have for this trip.



Special Edition - April 2023 Newsletter

Uganda Mission Experience 2023
June 8-19

What are you going to do while you are in Uganda?

This is the most asked question, with good reason. You are interested in supporting the work but would like to know what you are supporting. UME 2023 is a mission trip that is organized by Friends of Kibbuse, a non-profit, fundraising organization in Grand Rapids MI. Friends of Kibbuse has been directly supporting the work of a vocational school (KVTC) and medical clinic (GSHC) in rural Uganda since 2013. For more information on Friends of Kibbuse, check out our web page at: <https://www.friendsofkibbuse.org>

UME 2023 is going to be an AMAZING experience for each team member and for all of our friends in Uganda. We have several projects and events that we are planning to do. With the support of our family and friends, and the Blessings from our Lord and Savior, we know these projects and events will be very FRUITFUL!



Commissioning of the NEW DORMITORY

In 2021 we started raising money for a much-needed dormitory for the boys at KVTC. Fundraising went great, but getting started took a little longer than we expected. But, 4 weeks ago foundations were started and the goal is to have it completed by the time we get there in June. We hope to be able to help bring in beds and put on the final touches when we arrive. This dormitory is of such importance to them, that while we are there, they would like to have a commissioning service and invite the broader community. This commissioning service will no doubt be a great witness to the entire community of how the Lord gives us our Daily Bread. They expect to have 400 villagers showing up for this time of worship, fellowship, and food.

Sterk Family Farm

Family and friends of the Tom Sterk family, have come together to raise the money for two very high-quality milk cows, both of which are pregnant with the next generation of high-quality milk cows. These cows will provide training opportunities for the students in the AG program at the school, teaching them the benefits of proper feeding and care to maximize milk production. These skills will no doubt be brought to villages all over Uganda, increasing the milk production for families far beyond the limits of the small village of Nyamarwa. The bi-product of this education, is the milk!! The milk from these two (eventually 4) will be used for students and staff at KVTC, sold to the local villagers, and the balance sold to a dairy in a larger town about an hour away. The proceeds from this milk will pay for the care and feeding of the cows, along with other needs at the school. Just to put it into perspective, if the students can maintain the milk production these cows are currently giving, the milk will generate as many Shillings in 4 days that most teachers make in 1 month.

George, the chairperson on the KVTC Board, wrote, “**this should also act as a Demo site for our farmers in Nyamarwa sub county and Kibaale District as a whole.**” These cows will give hope to so many!!

While we are there, we will be finishing the barn that is being built for these cows and putting up pasture fence for them. This is such an amazing gift, and yet another example of “Our daily bread”

Generator Project

In 2021 Friends of Kibbuse bought a generator for KVTC that could run the entire campus. The generator was delivered and placed onto the footing that was built for it. For a few different reasons, this generator never got wired in and used. We have a young man, named Jesse, that has joined the team, along with his wife Lily (a Medical Assistant). Jesse is an electrician and plans to work along side of a local electrician and students of KVTC to get this generator wired into several buildings at the school. This is a significant accomplishment because there is NO power grid in the village.



Solar Farm Project

As mentioned previously, there is no power grid in the village. Having the generator will be a blessing, but it comes with a thirsty engine. Being that the school is only 50 miles away from the equator, solar power is the most obvious solution. Even when the power grid does make its way through the village, solar will still be more cost effective. Clayton and Bob have made it their mission to use this visit to research and design a solar farm that will integrate with the generator and future power grid. With the proper design, Solar will be their number one source for electricity with the generator and grid being used as back up. This renewable resource is of great supply in Uganda!



Arts and Crafts

Amy, a Friends of Kibbuse board member, is working on setting up an opportunity for team members to spend time with local men, women, and children, to make arts and crafts that we will take back home with us. Then this fall we hope to have a fundraising dinner where we will auction off all the items made by Ugandans and UME 2023 Team members. Proceeds from that auction will go directly back to the school.

Good Samaritan Health Center

The UME 2023 team has 5 members that have some type of medical training and education. These skills and passions will be put to work at the GSHC while we are there.

Current, average monthly activity includes:

OPD: 70, ANC: 50, Post Natal Care: 2, Deliveries: 1

Immunization of 275 children, and 31 pregnant women for Td doses.

While we are there, we plan to offer classes to the surrounding villagers (6 to 8 villages utilize this remote clinic). Options for these classes include, Nutrition, general hygiene, STDs, or other topics that our Ugandan partners deem as important.

This will be the first time Friends of Kibbuse will have people contributing in this way. It is such a blessing to have this many team members involved!



Vincent Gedi Christian Primary School



In 2020 we started a relationship with this primary (elementary) school in the same village as KVTC. It was such a blessing to the students and an even bigger blessing to our team. For this reason, we will return to the school with much of the same goals in mind. Team members will start the day in worship with over 350 kids who love their Lord, and love to Praise him. The students start with songs that are familiar to them and then the Kibbuse team teaches them songs that our children sing. The kids there, love learning new songs and quickly catch on to the lyrics and motions. After their time of worship, the team will spend time with a different grade level each day, doing crafts and learning bible stories. In 2020, this experience reminded all of us that we do not go on these trips just to serve, BUT to be served as well. On the last day, the students presented us with gifts of pineapples, bananas, avocados, eggs, etc.

It was such a powerful moment seeing our friends literally giving us, Their Daily Bread.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF ALL THIS, BUT TRAVELING THERE IS NOT AN OPTION?
PERFECT, WE HAVE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

PRAYER – we covet your prayers for planning, but also for while we are there. You can pray on your own or you can join the prayer team by emailing Bob and Brenda Schuyler, asking to be added to the prayer team. bnbschuyler@gmail.com

GIFTS – We have a list of items we are looking for to bring as gifts for the staff at KVTC and GSHC. If you would like a copy of that list, email Amy at: shaybear_1@yahoo.com

CONTRIBUTIONS – All of these projects have costs related to them. Some are more than others. If you are able to help in this way, you can mail a check, written to Friends of Kibbuse, to: PO BOX 592 Jenison, MI 49429. Annotated “UME 2023” OR go to our website <https://www.friendsofkibbuse.org> and select “UME 2023” under the Donate Tab

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UME 2023

Contact Us:
Email: Info@friendsofkibbuse.org
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Website: www.friendsofkibbuse.org

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