

ON THEIR WAY



THE BOYS

The boys relocated to a longer term home this week. Their new home is near their old tin shack which is an area they prefer, but of course the new home is a huge improvement. The two older boys began training as motorbike mechanics at "2 Brothers Garage" on Monday, August 10th.

During the past few weeks, the team has interviewed a number of motorbike mechanics looking for the right place to get the boys training. Most offered to provide a month of training and then let the boys do what they could to earn money after that. These scenarios would cost about \$240 CAD and we questioned whether this would help the boys much.

There was one garage that seemed to know how to train. 2 Brothers Garage is run by (you guessed it) 2 brothers. We sat with them and discussed their training program and how the kids would earn money. After hearing their plan, we felt comfortable that if the boys were attentive here they would learn.

The brothers explained to us that they had a teaching method. They would provide some theory, then the boys would watch the mechanic do the work, then the mechanic would supervise the boys doing the same work. As this is a very normal and reasonable teaching methodology, we were filled with confidence that the boys could learn in this environment.

In addition to a training methodology, these 2 brothers had motorbike charts showing parts and assembly that the boys would be able to use to study the tasks. They even described a process by which the mechanic made an adjustment to a perfectly good bike and then let the apprentice practise a diagnosis and repair.



The Boys at their new home.

THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Motorbike Mechanic Curriculum

Theory

Tools

Primary Tasks

Bike Parts

Body Repairs

Frame

Exhaust

Forks

Etc.

Engine Repairs

Carboration

Drive Train

Internals

Wiring Repairs

The Boys began work on Monday, August 10th at 7:AM. The shop is open 7 days a week from 7:AM to 6:PM and the boys are welcome every day. If they want a day off each week, this is permitted, but they lose training time and potential earnings that day.

Training is expected to take between 6 months and 1 year depending on how fast the boys learn. The boys move on to new tasks when the mechanic sees they have understood. The boys will continue to train in a given area until they demonstrate the skill. Again, this gave our team confidence in their training methods.

Donations have paid the tuition costs for Nelly and Nicholas (\$200 CAD each). In addition, they provided 2 pairs of overalls well as good work shoes.

After some learning takes place, the boys will start earning. They will be paid a small stipend for assisting the lead mechanic with a repair. They will also be paid fully when they perform a repair that they are qualified to do. This will be small jobs at first (tire repair, tighten a chain, etc) but as their skills grow, so will their income.



Nelly and Nicholas with their mechanic teacher on their first day of work.

THE BOYS NEW HOME



The Boys yard (above) and latrines (left).



Inside the Boys new home.



The Boys at their new home.

THE LITTLE ONES

The little ones mother Stella has now returned home and the kids seem very pleased. Stella has begun a small business selling goods door to door. There is hope that this family can now function.

After tracing the mother of these kids (Stella), she returned home to look after her children. You may remember that Stella told the team she was not sure how she could earn a living for the family but was willing to try. Our team here has now set Stella up with some goods that she sells door to door. This was Stella's suggestion and this small business seems to be working for her. She proudly showed us her stock and told us the goods are selling. According to Stella, she already needs to restock many items.

We have incentivized Stella by signing a very simple one-page contract that makes her startup funds free if she can successfully continue the hocking business for 6 months. In addition, we have shared with her our desire to provide her with a sewing machine and lessons if we see her working hard and making money to support her family.

We have paid the first 3 months rent for Stella and provided her with one month of simple foods. This will help her get started. The team is now working with her to be sure she understands how to manage her funds for future months.

A stable, loving family is something that should absolutely, fundamentally never be taken for granted!

– Drew Barrymore



A SMALL BUSINESS



Stella shows off her stock.



Stella's landlord teaches sewing.

As Stella's landlord offers sewing instruction, we will provide Stella with classes right at her home. With a sewing machine of her own, she could add sewing to her business and build or mend garments for customers in her evenings.

CHURCH KIDS UPDATE

Our focus has turned to the 8 children currently housed in a local church. These kids also need their families so tracing has begun. We will do all we can with the funds remaining to help these children.

To date, the only thing funded for these children was some very simple food. They are still living at the church and the church caretaker is sharing a daily meal with them. Last week, the team began to engage with these children to help find their families.

In order to minimize costs, we are leaving the kids where they are at the church. We will continue to assist the caretaker with food and she will continue to help the children by providing them a daily meal. This lady also helps monitor the kids activities.

Through discussion with people at the church and neighbours where the children used to live, we have determined that both families come from villages to the north along the Gulu Rd. The team will drive to these villages and look for relatives in the next few days.

Assuming we can find a family member willing to take the kids in, then our plan will be to relocate these children into the village with family.



MEET THE TEAM ON THE GROUND

Andrew and Prossy Waiswa are locals who live and work in my community. Andrew took me on my first walk through this community before I had even moved to Uganda.

Andrew has a degree in Social Work, is an elder in a local Christian church, and is very entrepreneurial. Andrew has played a lead role in finding business and training options. He has also been our chief negotiator locally.

Prossy also has a degree in Social Work and I have witnessed excellent administrative capacity while working with her. Prossy has journeyed the full length of Uganda (north to south) tracing the families of these children. She has also shopped for groceries and helped with local logistics.

Prossy and Andrew have 1 biological child but are caring for several others due to the struggles of other families in the community.

This project could not have been successful without the expertise, local knowledge, and diligence of this wonderful couple. They have worked for and invested in solutions for these children.

Thank you Andrew and Prossy !!

Our local team has worked hard to ensure these abandoned children find solutions that provide a reasonable future. I am pleased to introduce Andrew and Prossy Waiswa.

