

# ON THEIR WAY



# THE CHURCH CHILDREN

**For 8 children abandoned at a church in our community there was no road forward. All these children could hope was that they might eat each day. But then ...**

With the abandoned Boys and Little Ones under control, our team here began to look at the 8 children abandoned at a local church. These kids were allowed to sleep on the floor of the church keeping them safe at night. A lady these children called "Aunty" was also living at the church because she and her 3 children had lost their home. Aunty's real name was Annette and she sold corn in the community to raise funds to feed her children. Annette had seen the need of the 8 other kids and was sharing a little food with them. Unfortunately the impact of COVID lockdowns was hurting Annette's corn business and it was becoming harder each day for her to feed anyone.

When our team began to focus on these children, the first thing we realized is that they needed food. A short discussion with Annette lead to a temporary solution. Annette agreed to feed her family and the 8 extra children a simple meal each day if we could help with simple food supplies (maize & beans). This secured the time we needed to trace families without having to relocate the children.

Over the coming weeks, the team would connect children to mothers and find a way for each family to move forward.



# MAMA ANNETTE

**Annette displayed her huge heart for families and children by sharing all she had while she herself was struggling.**

Mama Annette was staying in the church as she was struggling to find an income and could not afford to pay her rent any longer. Her small business selling corn provided barely enough to feed her 3 children. Her home, a small 2 room space attached to the church was made from small wooden poles with tin sheets nailed to them. This provided some privacy and security but was still subject to weather conditions so that when it rained she and her kids would find their dirt floor became muddy.

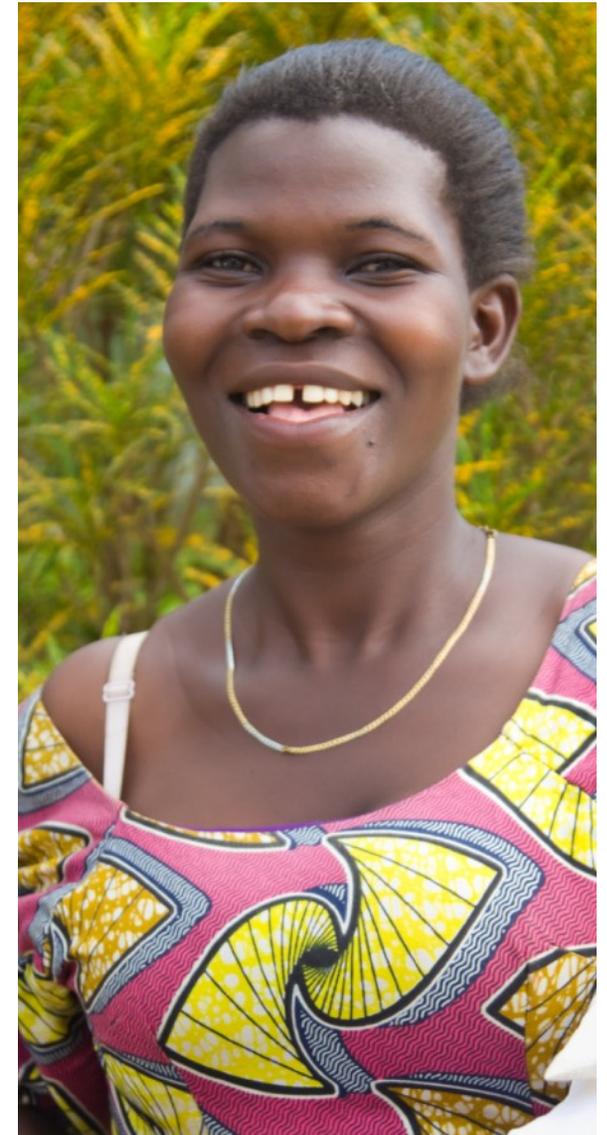
Shortly after we began working with Annette we learned that the current COVID lockdown was negatively impacting all small businesses like hers. Family funds were diminished and Annette soon found that her customers could no longer buy her corn.

Regardless of her struggles, Annette was willing to help our team by

continuing to feed the 8 abandoned children. She was even willing to house the children's mothers when they returned to their children. Annette and her struggling family had not been part of our work until this time but we soon realized that this mother and her 3 children were worth investing in.

After working with Annette to hear her business ideas, the team felt she would be an excellent investment. We found Annette to be full of courage, faith and hope. By her own design she has been provided with startup finds to run a wholesale business selling Bananas. She has found an inexpensive stall to operate from and plans to start a small food stand in the same location.

The team has paid the first 3 months rent on a small dry home for Annette and her 3 children. We have also supplied her first month of food staples. Finally, Annette has had the first instalment of startup capital.



# M A M A S C O V I A



**A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work. - Colin Powell**

Scovia left her children at the church praying they would be merciful and care for them. This is not uncommon when a mama has reached a point of desperation.

Scovia travelled west beyond the Masindi area where she took a job working in a small rural restaurant for 2500 shillings per day (\$0.89 CAD). She was living on 2000 shillings each day and saving 500 shillings with the hope of eventually returning to her children with some funds. We quickly realized that this plan was not viable and that Scovia did not have realistic expectations.

When invited to return to Kampala and her children, Scovia shared her fear that she would not be able to support them and would simply be back where started from.

Our team explained that we would help Scovia find a way forward but only after she returned.

Scovia packed her things and took a 1 day bus ride back to Kampala where we began talks about how we could help her manage to support her family. After some dialog, Scovia decided that like Annette she might wholesale Bananas.

Today, our team is working with Scovia to establish a Banana business that can support her family.



# MAMA JOYCE

In desperation, Joyce also left her children at the church knowing the Pastor would be merciful and help care for them. She traveled east to the Mukono area where she had a sister. With her sister who owns a salon, Joyce began learning about styling hair and doing ladies nails in the hope that she could use these skills to earn a living.

When our team located Joyce, she seemed willing to come home but could see no way to provide for her family. We asked her to return to Kosovo and we would help her find a way to earn a living. Once back with her children, Joyce seemed to have a willing desire to stay and support her family.

After some discussion and her own personal research, Joyce decided to sell charcoal to local families. Charcoal is the usual fuel used by families to cook their meals. One day later, Joyce has her stock and is selling charcoal. She buys a large back of charcoal and divides it into smaller portions using a bucket. Making a little profit from each sale, Joyce expects to raise enough to support her family. Over time, she will increase her stock and perhaps start selling in larger quantities.



# THE SOLUTION

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## **Church Children's Solution**

### **Homes**

**1 x 2 Room Home (100 sq/ft each)  
140,000/- Per Month  
(\$50 CAD)**

**1 Single Room Home (100 sq/ft)  
80,000/- Per Month  
(\$29 CAD)**

### **Food**

**100,000/- Staple Foods per family  
Maize Corn Flour & Beans  
(\$36 CAD)**

### **Businesses**

**Initial Startup Funds for Businesses  
200,000/- per mama  
(\$72 CAD)**

### **Businesses**

**Second Startup Funds Instalment  
(when funds are available)  
200,000/- per mama  
(\$72 CAD)**

It turns out that these ladies knew each other and even attended the same community church. This relationship provided a baseline for the three of them to support each other in the process of starting businesses and raising their families. While Joyce and Scovia are willing and able to work for their families, Annette is clearly taking a useful leadership role in the group.

While each lady will undertake their own business, the three ladies will collaborate to help each other handle the children and support each other daily. Our team has located simple 1-room homes located very close to each other so that they will see each other daily. It is hoped that this proximity and camaraderie will be useful in keeping the solutions in place when hard days arrive.

As you can see to the left, each lady has been provided with a home. The initial rent on homes here must be paid 3-months in advance and this prepayment will allow each mama to get her business running before monthly bills are regular. In addition, we have provided 1 month of very simple food to allow them some time to establish themselves.

Each mama has been given a small amount to start their businesses. As funds are short, this capital will be provided in 2 payments. 200,000 shillings has already been given to them and we have told them we will provide another 200,000 shillings once the business training is complete.

We are now approaching a partner with the hope that they will allow us to use their business training curriculum to teach the ladies about planning and operating a business.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY

**"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." – Nelson Mandela**

**1 FAMILY LAUNCHED**

**2 FAMILIES STABILIZED**

**3 FAMILIES REUNITED**

**4 BUSINESSES STARTED**

**22 CHILDREN SAFE !!**

Thank you for your trust and partnership with this very impactful project. Without your financial support, encouragement and prayer these families would have remained broken and these children's lives would have continued to be at serious risk.