



MISSIONREPORT

1ST QUARTER 2021



JOSHUA & GRACE

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

We finally acquired all the Ugandan paperwork needed to process Canadian citizenship for the kids. We now have birth certificates, adoption certificates and passports for both Joshua and Grace. This was such a miracle after almost a year of paying and getting very little traction.

Today, we are waiting for the Canadian authorities to decide that we are truly Canadian citizens with the right to ask for Joshua and Grace to be citizens as well. This process was started in November and we hope the process might complete this year.

Soon, we hope to submit this paperwork to the Canadian government so they can rule on citizenship. With that done, we could then have Canadian passports created and start planning our trip to Canada as a family. We dream of the day we can fly home to Canada together and introduce the kids to friends and family.

ARISE COMMUNITY

NEW FAMILIES

Over the past year, Arise has developed its Arise Community program and worked with 10 families. In most cases, these families were made up of children who had been abandoned. Our job was to trace and reconcile the mama to the children. We then helped the family start a business and earn a basic living. Along the way, we provided business training and helped them develop their income stream.

Recently, the team here realized we were doing a great job of helping these families practically, but we needed to help them emotionally and spiritually as well to ensure each individual was able to thrive. We began with the oldest children and established a bi-weekly youth group. These older children were the ones who shouldered the burden of caring for younger siblings in the absence of a parent, and we felt they may need some encouragement. Rather than dwelling on the obvious negatives, our team works to build hope in their future.

As these children may have been impacted by their experiences without a parent, we have also begun working with a group called Precious Jewels Ministry (PJM). PJM uses a tool called [Ang Tulay](#) to help children process trauma. The Arise Community team is learning the Ang Tulay methods as we partner with PJM to care for our current children.





ARISE COMMUNITY

NEW FAMILIES

In the first quarter of 2021, Arise engaged with 5 new families. Two were young single mothers willing to work hard but having no means of starting a business. These mamas were candidates to abandon their children as they had no viable means of supporting the family. As it is simpler and cheaper to engage with mothers prior to abandonment, the team decided to work with these 2 mamas and setup a chicken rearing business. This business has had its challenges but we feel it will succeed giving these mamas a long-term family income.

In addition, Arise met 3 more families where the children had been abandoned by both parents and were living in danger of eviction with almost no food. In one case, 3 small children (2, 4 & 6) had been under the care of their 13 year old sister for over a year.

Each family has now started a small business and Arise has resourced them with rent and food while they build an income. We have found most mamas are hard working and happily dig into their work in an effort to succeed. Today, each family is paying their rent weekly and feeding their families through these small businesses.

ARISE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING EASTER

As I walk through the Kosovo community where we live and work, I often note the lack of “community” there. People are struggling to earn a living while also managing a house and family. There seems to be no time to slow down and connect. For Easter, the Arise Community team started addressing this with the families in our care. We decided our little piece of this community needed to share a meal and celebrate the holiday.

Partnering with a small Christian church that exists in the area our mamas live, we brought a sound system, food, candy and energy and invited all the families to join us. On Thursday April 1st, the entire organization celebrated Easter. The kids danced for several hours and even got the adults engaged. Everyone had a good meal including rice, cabbage and chicken. This was a meal fit for Christmas as these families cannot afford meat of any kind outside the Christmas holiday.

Each family had photos taken and the pastor from the church shared an Easter message of hope to the Christians and Muslims attending. When the event neared its end, each child was given a bag with candy and prizes to go home with. Everyone had a great time and smiles were everywhere!



EASTER IS ...

SO

MUCH

FUN

CELEBRATING EASTER

Joyce and Scovia (pictured dancing below) are 2 mamas that we have been working with for more than a year. These ladies have had struggles but worked hard for their families. At the Easter event, they were only too happy to join their children and the Arise team dancing and celebrating.

We also noted a number of our mamas sitting together and chatting during the event. As they have all faced the same struggles and live near each other, it was great to see them connecting well. Perhaps community can be created within this group of families and even spread through example to the larger community. People need to be encouraged and supported to thrive.

The Easter event was so popular and such fun that we will certainly look for the resources to repeat it periodically. Perhaps a Christmas event would be an option.

So many of you have contributed generously to the Arise Community work. We can't thank you enough for your partnership and financial support. Your investment is transforming lives in this little community every day.



You can be part of the team here on the ground by joining the Compassion Hive on Facebook. This is where we share stories and details about our community work.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/compassionhive>

