

## November 2018 Newsletter from Barbara Wybar

Dear Friends,

It is the tenth anniversary of Bududa Learning Center and I would like to give you an idea of what we have done thanks to your support. A lot has been happening since my last report. In fact the progress is remarkable.

- ⌚ We have a new boys hostel funded by the Canadian CB Powell Foundation and Myers Park Presbyterian Church in North Carolina. It is adjacent to Bududa Vocational Academy and can house up to 75 boys/young men. It is spacious and “state of the art” for Bududa. We have solar power, a latrine and washing facilities. We even had blue curtains made while I was there. It will be much better for our students to stay there than in their previous lodgings in a rather undesirable part of the village.



The new boys hostel

- ⌚ In July the Bududa Learning Center was invited to apply to the Pincus Family Foundation for a grant. Our initial approach to the Foundation has been approved and now we can actually apply. The application is for funds to build a shop, in which we can sell goods made at school and thereby provide our students with entrepreneurship training. This is a step towards sustainability.



School is not all drudgery!

- ⌚ A new 3-5 year strategic plan has been put in place by David Kern and Karen Vaccaro. They have succeeded in getting all parties involved in this work, especially the stakeholders in Bududa. The plan is very detailed and gives us a formula to follow.
- ⌚ A local Philadelphia college professor, Lyn Buchheit, who is a teacher of English as a second language will come to Bududa in February, bringing her enthusiasm and skills.
- ⌚ Our Board has decided to initiate a fund raising drive to create an endowment fund for the Bududa Learning Center. We even have an anonymous donor who has promised \$25,000 to be used as a match. We will launch shortly.
- ⌚ This summer we were very fortunate to have talented enthusiastic volunteers from Philadelphia come to Bududa to teach at our school. First we had Eve Schwartz, a science teacher from Penn Charter School, who threw

herself into teaching life skills, making it interesting with interactive games, which our students loved. Then we had Kate O’Shea, head at Wissahickon Charter School Lower School and her 14-year-old daughter, Ada, taught English and more. They also visited orphan families and helped with reports. I was very impressed by Ada’s slide presentation to our students, illustrating Philadelphia life, including her family, home,



school, friends, sports, and interests. The BVA students were fascinated and asked many questions.

- ⌚ Matsanga Nelson, an orphan who has been in our program since he was a little boy has did so well in secondary school he qualified for nursing school, his chosen career. We scramble to find the money and now he is enrolled at Lugazi School of Nursing and Midwifery thanks to the generosity of two sponsors. Nelson is the first of our young men to go to nursing school. Three of our girls have graduated as nurses.

Matsanga Nelson, our future nurse

We are proud of our accomplishments over the last few months and are all set to continue the progress. We are encouraged by the increasing interests in the developed world in our Bududa work and by the increasing number of our students who are obtaining qualifications and finding jobs. Thank you for your support in making all of this happen.



Examples of some of the skills taught at the Bududa Vocational Academy: tailoring, weaving and literacy

