



Kitega Community  
Let's make it happen

# Kitega Community Centre

Annual Report 2019



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Let's make it happen

## KITEGA COMMUNITY CENTRE

*Freedom, self determination and justice for the poor, marginalised and underserved communities*





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## Executive summary

The Kitega Community Centre has yet again been honored to successfully complete another year of dedicated service to its people. It was also the year when the centre celebrated two decades of committed service to the communities.

This report is an update of the work; the achievements, the challenges and the success of Kitega Community Centre over the last few months.

## About us:

We are a Christian founded organisation located in Kitega Village in Buikwe District in Uganda, the 'Pearl of Africa'. We are a love-based organization that serves all members of the underserved communities without distinction. We are a duly registered Non – Government Organization and by the Grace of God, our services and impact know no-borders.

Our work is guided by Jesus Christ's love for all, especially those who are poor, sick and suffering. We believe in Jesus's teaching in Mathew 25 vs 40; *'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'*

Our work is to serve God through reaching out to those who have been neglected by our communities.

**OUR MISSION:** To empower disabled and disadvantaged children, to advocate for disability rights, to foster community-owned development so that every member of the community be proud of a dignified and productive life.

**OUR VISION:** The achievement of a healthy, inclusive community in which every member is living a dignified life and is respected as valuable and contributing to the development of the community.

**Administration:** The Centre is governed by the Board of trustees.

The executive committee is responsible for the general day to day management of the centre. It is the body that is mandated to implement the core resolutions of the board of trustees through the different activities of the organisation. The members of the executive committee are the different heads of ministries and other ex-officios.

The Centre activities are divided into different ministries. Each ministry is led by a head of Ministry who is responsible for implementing the different resolutions from the executive committee.

The centre is also blessed to have a team of dedicated staff who are always joined by a team of both local and international volunteers.

## Orbituary

We are thankful for the life of Ronald a.k.a Hallelujah who passed on. Ronald will be remembered as a friend, a role model, a motivator and a man who served the Lord through his unwavering service to humanity. We celebrate your life Ronald and thank God for all you have done for the Kingdom!

## Message from the Founders.

### The essential workers

1 Corinthians 15: 58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

We bless the Lord for yet another issue of the Kitega Community Centre Report for the year 2019.

Over the past few weeks of this year the world has been hit by a global health crisis, arguably the worst in our lifetime. It is pitiful to witness such gruesome suffering of our brothers and sisters who have been diagnosed with the novel Corona virus/ Covid-19. It is disheartening to see many people hopelessly losing their lives in our time and yet solutions and vaccines to the disease don't seem to be forth-coming. In such uncertain times as these, the Christian finds rest in the words of the Psalmist in Ps. 121:2; My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

We at the centre are praying for the whole world, we are praying for Uganda, for our Kitega family spread out across the entire World, particularly for our brothers and sisters in Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America where the virus has hit hard. Our help is from the Lord.

On the 31st of December, 2019 I retired from active administrative service in the Church of Uganda having served for the Last 40 years. My wife has also since retired from her banking job and we are quietly leading a life of prayer and thanksgiving many miles away from our former work stations. We continue to prayerfully lead the board of Trustees of the Kitega Community Centre as we believe God for his guidance and support in the years to come.

Uganda is experiencing a total lock down. Everyone has been asked to stay home and stay away from his job and observe an 'unsocial distance' from his neighbor as a way of curbing the virus. Offices, businesses, shops and income generating projects have been mandatorily closed. People's jobs have been classified as unessential for the health of the country. The government has classified a few classes of people as essential workers. These include doctors, care-givers, nurses, pharmacists and journalists. The rest of us have been asked to stay home and stay safe. At such a hard time in the history of man-kind, people in many European cities are taking off a few minutes each night to come together in gratitude for those that are giving their lives to serve the diseased and those that are suffering.. I have read and seen them stand at open windows or on balconies, singing, cheering and applauding the essential workers of their community that are giving everything to cause a difference in the lives of those that need the care. Sadly, some of the essential workers have lost their lives in the process of saving the lives of others. I believe that their labour is not in vain.

This year, we stand together in gratitude as a family of Kitega Community Centre, to thank our Out-going Patrons for their essential service to the Kitega Community Centre over last 20 years. We are thankful for the years you have selflessly offered to the centre, for your love, your wisdom and all your support. Our prayer is for you to continue to be strong and never to give up in most essential work of the Lord. Nicky and Jane, you are essential servants of God and Your labour is not in vain.

We are grateful for the children, the donors, the volunteers, the staff, the Vicoba members, the members of the different committees of the centre for the last 20 years; you have sustained the centre thus far, you have developed the centre, you have offered your lives to cause positive change in the lives of others. We remember Ronald Kafero who has gone before us and many others who have lost their lives in this struggle. You are essential workers of the Kingdom of the Lord and may you find strength and hope in your Service to God. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We continue to pray for our new patrons, the Kirkwoods and those of us that the Lord has called to be part of their team as they prayerfully lead us into this new season of the Kitega Community centre. He who has called you to serve in this essential role as Patrons of the Kitega Community Centre is a faithful God and He will surely give Grace to do His will.

We are praying for healing in the whole world. We are hoping that this year will be a year of many achievements and the Lord's Provision. We are praying that God will keep you and take care of each one of you, may the Lord be kind and Gracious to all of you, may He look upon you with favour and give you peace in these times.

Amen

Silas and Jane



## Outgoing Patron's Message

### Patron's Message for the Kitega Community Centre Annual Report for 2019

As the outgoing patron this will be my last message to all the many children, staff, community and supporters of the Kitega Community Centre with whom I have walked over the last twenty five years or so.

And in parting, I want to say a big thank you! Thank you not only for all you have done for, and within, the Centre, but also for what you have done for me personally. As I look back over the trials, ups and downs we have had over the years, I can see how much Kitega has changed and grown beyond words to express and, likewise, how much Kitega has helped me change and grow. Yes, I may have been able to contribute in a small way but I have gained so much, much more. Sharing in the life and growth of Kitega has helped me grow spiritually and emotionally and for this I thank God who has worked through us all.

Perhaps a hint of what I mean can be seen in the names of the existing Shalom home and the Umoja house currently under construction at Kitega. Shalom a Hebrew word meaning peace, wholeness and wellbeing and Umoja a Swahili word meaning unity and being of one heart, like its sister Bantu word Ubuntu expressing 'I am because we are'. Kitega is much more than buildings, it is the living Christian expression of what these words mean, loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

The western world has no words like Shalom and Umoja but is in desperate need of them. Wealthy and economically powerful the west may be but it is becoming an increasingly selfish, fragmented and lost society. It needs to hear what Kitega has say and share about Shalom and Umoja and my prayer as you venture into what looks to be turbulent years ahead is that Kitega will be a blessing not just to Africa but to the west as well.

My wife Jane and I are so pleased that the Kirkwood family, already well known to many of you, will be taking over and will be there alongside you in the challenges and opportunities that await you in the future years.

Blessings, Shalom and Umoja!

The block contains a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nicky King'. To the right of the signature is a small, square, slightly faded photograph showing two people, a man and a woman, from the chest up. The man is on the right, wearing a light-colored shirt, and the woman is on the left, wearing a dark top. They appear to be looking towards the camera.

Nicky King, Shalom, Pitlochry, Scotland

January 2020



## Patrons' Message



The year 2020 marks the first full year in which we will be your Patrons and we are very excited about this. I first hear about Kitega in 2011 when Daudi came to Scotland and spoke at the International Christian College about the work of Kitega and I knew God was telling me to go and visit. Little did I know that this would completely change my life. I am so excited that my whole family is involved and invested in the work of Kitega and the people of the community.

2020 is a busy year for Kitega with hopefully the completion of the Umoja centre which will be a great asset for the community, and we pray for the work that needs to happen so that this will be ready to use soon. We thank God for bringing Derrick to the centre to teach sign language and give these deaf children a voice and a means to be able to communicate with others. It was brilliant to see the photos from the Deaf Christmas and that will be an experience I'm sure those children will never forget. VICOPA is ever expanding and making the lives of so many community members better than before. Scotland could really benefit from something like VICOPA and we pray for the continued work of the VICOPA groups and the people involved, and yet to be involved.

There are so many elements of Kitega and so many people who are being blessed by the work: the disabled children; the children of Katungulu PS; the prisoners as part of prison ministry; the local communities and the volunteers who come from worldwide, but take part of Kitega back home in their hearts and heads.

I know from working in a school here, which it can sometimes be a bit discouraging when you plan to do something and it doesn't turned out like you had hoped or doesn't happen in your timeframe. I hope you never feel like that at Kitega as we are so pleased with the progress of the centre and pray for all the future developments. "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." 2 Chronicles 15:7

God Bless

Love from

Amy, David, Ally, David and Jenny

2019 in Summary

Kitega celebrated 20 years of existence.



Children with disabilities received support and skills for independent living.

- 40+ disabled and deaf children receive academic training in numeracy literacy, writing, art and craft or skills.
- 10 disabled students are trained in with vocational skills hand craft waving beaky and tailoring.
- Change the mindset of people towards people with disabilities.
- 5 + have income generating projects

Community Resource Banking (Vicoba)

- New VICOBA plus process piloted in 5 different Communities.
- 50+ members trained in Vicoba plus.
- Maize mill operating adding value to farmers’ products.

Orphans and vulnerable children

- 200 orphaned and disadvantaged children are supported to access quality education.

Church and community capacity building and development (Tusismuke)

- 6 Church leading sustainable community development initiatives.
- 1 Waste management plant constructed.
- 40+ latrines constructed.
- 1 school providing early learning and primary education started.

Access to health services

- Ground breaking for the new health center in katungulu.
- 200+ people received optical spectacles.
- 300+ received eye testing.

Functional adult literacy

- 200+ community members received functional Adult Literacy.
- 58 graduated and are using the skills to improve their lives.

Prison Ministry

- 20+ Church mission volunteers are equipped to facilitate Malachi dads and Hannah’s gift program in 5 prisons.
- 654+ inmates benefited from this program.
- 100 inmates are happily rejoined their families after sentence.

Legal Aid

- 40 + households especially women led households saved from land eviction.



## Board and executive meeting

On the 16th February 2019, the Centre administration held its annual Board meeting aimed at reviewing progress and making strategic plans for the new year. The meeting was held at African Village Hotel-Mukono.



*Board members and ministerial heads pose for a group photo.*

## Highlights of resolutions;

- New admissions for children with disabilities for 2019 with a maximum 20 new admissions.
- Sign language to be offered to the children and the wider community.
- The VICOPA - Plus model to reach more communities in Uganda.
- To extend the church and community mobilization model to 30 local churches.
- To Register the centre as a legal aid service provider to support so many that cant access services of lawyers.
- Prison ministry to focus on unreachable rural prisons.
- Education support/ sponsorship to support partner schools in general and not individuals.
- Creation of employment opportunities for the children with disabilities at the Centre.
- A clear safeguarding policy to be put in place for all involved in the work of the Kitega Centre.

## 20 years celebration:

Around this time, twenty years ago the Kitega Community Centre was born, starting in a mango tree at the Kitega Church of Uganda. On March 31st 2019, friends and well-wishers of the Centre gathered to launch the 20th anniversary with a ground breaking of the Umoja house. The Centre team led all the Church services at the church and it was special to witness the Kitega story through various testimonies and songs.



### Umoja house

The first phase of the Umoja House construction is underway and we are thankful for all the pledges and donations received to make this a reality. Work on the pillars has started. Pledges and donations are still coming in and we hope to be done with the first phase of the house by the start of 2020.



Architectural view of Umoja house.



We expect to have more space to facilitate community development activities. More community space means that people can come and have meetings, training and retreats at the centre without interfering with other schedules.

Children with disabilities that have graduated will also have the opportunity to be employed by the bakery and the tailoring units that will be housed in the Umoja house. The deaf children will have a special room to encourage learning and storage of their materials, a community resource centre will also be housed therein to equip community leaders with information that facilitates development among others.

The management committee has implemented and monitored a number of different projects at the centre to wit; Functional Adults Literacy, Vicoba camp, Poultry projects, Umoja house project, the 20 years anniversary celebrations. All have been a success and have positively impacted the lives of the members of the community.



*The management committee members took a trip at the Uganda national wild life conservation centre.*



## Children Programs

### Education and academics

Children with disabilities come to the centre every day of the week; Monday to Friday. They are trained in literacy, Numeracy, life skills and vocational training sessions and some home-based children are provided with basic needs like cloth, shoes and Epilepsy medication. The orphans and vulnerable children are supported to receive quality education in partnership with schools such as Sunlight Primary School, Katungulu Primary School.



“Thank you so much for the love, care, friendship you have shown us for the last 20 years, you are all blessed to be a blessing to many like us in the whole world” Shamim.



“For the last 20 years we have learnt a lot of things from the Centre with the help and support from our own teachers, volunteers and supportive staff thank you so much! For the effort to ensure that we are also heard in the community.” Susan.

Due to challenge of long distances, the Community Centre is empowering local communities to start up local centres to support and help vulnerable children in their own communities.

The new children have adjusted to life at the centre and feel inow feel like it is a new home for them. Hadijah has greatly improved in her socializing skills, while Hassan and Hakim are good friends and enjoy learning together and they are both very happy to be at the centre.

There has been a commendable improvement in numeracy and literacy skill amongst the children at the Centre, Ibrahim and Kamiyati were identified as outstanding performers.



The Children continue to learn several skills for independent living when they come to the Centre, and we thank the staff and volunteers for all they do to make life better for the children with disabilities. Several home visits were made mainly to monitor their ways of living while at home. Exciting reports are given by their own parents/guardians on the process of each child.

*Teacher Derrick, a sign language teacher leading the pupils in agriculture session, agriculture is one of the practices carried out for skills development.*



There is much effort being put on equipping some children with vocational skills like tailoring, gardening carpentry, bakery and weaving. Rachel has skills in tailoring was so much amazing, every Wednesdays hakim leads his follow friends to the workshop while Robert has set up a small shop, he uses his bakery skills acquired from the centre to make donuts which he sells at the shop, he also sells vegetable and other food items.

The children have been empowered with livelihood projects, to boost their income sources. A number of projects have been set up to improve and strengthen the financial status of the children with disabilities and their families.



*Robert and his grandmother at his stall.*



The other outstanding students who have developed confidence in the other areas of studies are Grace, Jalia have mastered weaving skills and are capable of helping their colleagues, Racheal has developed more love for tailoring and she trying her best. Hakim and Hassan are the masters of arranging the puzzle.

Most of the children have excelled and graduated in a number of skills, and there is need for the centre and the community to create opportunities that will provide a livelihood for the children that have graduated in specific skills hence participating in community development.

There has been a tremendous change in attitude towards children with disabilities in schools, churches, mosques and the community at large. In households that have children that attend the centre, the guardians are now confident that the children now have a valuable contribution they can make while at home which has increased on the confidence and self-empowerment in the community.



Equipping children with tailoring skills



Parents and guidance of children with disability celebration 20 years of Community Centre serving advocating from rights of their children.

Derrick joined the Kitega team in 2019, he has worked tirelessly to improve deaf learning and sign language, to the centre children, staff, and the general community has also learnt sign language from Derrick. #disability is not inability.



Two deaf children were enrolled last year that is Odongo Hannington and Senyange Sharif making the number to five deaf children being supported at the centre. Communication is much more easily now with fellow children, staff and the community at large.



*Odongo and Sharif really enjoy their stage and involvement at the Centre.*

Local and some international volunteers took effort in counselling and guidance sessions for the centre children on how to live and behavior in community mainly for the adult girls.

### Co-cumcullar activities

Last year the children took a tour to the national airport and exciting moments and joy was manifested on their faces. Richard and Sheila had the best moments of their life.





Game and sport were some of the activities the children enjoyed so much at the centre, Daudi Nyenga love football so much. While Diana and Pius enjoyed dancing and music, however not that all the children got involved in the activities, this was mainly due to their different abilities.



Demonstration gardens were prepared by the volunteers and children with a dream to develop a learning center for the farmers around the communities, these would enable many farmers learn and replicate better methods of farming and improve on the production on their farms and plantation.

### Advocacy

Advocating for the rights of valuable children with disabilities in the communities, our children participated in the Deaf Christmas celebrations at the National Theatre; featuring all the centre children.

They told the Christmas story to the world using sign language! Again we are #thankful that we are able to expose the abilities of our children. #Disability is not inability. Robert's progress is outstanding, our hope is to equip him to become a facilitator and help so many other deaf people in the communities we serve.



*Centre children performing at the national theater. this was an opportunity for the children to showcase their abilities.*



### In summary

- 35 children attend at the centre on a weekly basis
- 6 home based children are supported at home with the basic needs and medication. Frank being one of them.
- 5 children are given epilepsy medication.

### Christmas 2019

The Kitega Centre Christmas is made possible by several friends and well-wishers from all over the world (both local and international), the Christmas giving makes the celebration organization possible and also works as a good opportunity for advocacy and awareness, it was only exciting moments the children receiving Christmas gifts from the community and our partners.



The celebration was held together with the lunching of the VICOBA plus maize mill in Kasokoso community.



This year, the Centre was blessed with a van that has been of tremendous help in meeting the transport needs of many of our disabled children from their homes to the Centre.



In the same year the centre was able to adopt a safe guarding policy that will protect the centre children from any kind of abuses, right from the centre to the communities, both staff, volunteers and the general community agreed and signed into law.

### New team members.



Derrick Musoke Muwonge:-is our new Sign language instructor at the Centre. He is also deaf and this has been an inspiration for many at the Centre to learn sign language. The deaf children are moving on very well and their interaction with Derrick motivates them to learn. He also conducts community sign language classes to support interaction with the deaf children. We welcome Derrick to the Kitega family.



James Otim- Started serving as an intern at the Kitega Centre in 2017, and he has been serving as a volunteer at the Centre since he finished university in 2018. We are excited to welcome James Otim as the Centre's new Social Worker. Edith, Milly, Brian, are all in good health and we are thankful for their lives and service.

### Orphans and vulnerable children

- 200 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) are placed in partners schools.
- 100+supported with scholastic materials to access quality education (uniforms, desks, reading materials, etc.)
- Project porridge is ongoing, children have meals and porridge while at school, this has attracted many of them to stay in school.
- Provision of water containers and fixing of gutters to ensure access to clean and safe water.



*Pupils from Katungulu Primary school taking porridge.*



*Front(L) and interior(R) views of Katungulu school block after plastering.*



*A team of our Volunteers from Spain facilitating a session at Katungulu Primary school.*



*Pupils receiving water filters from Mrs Linda, to enable them access safe and clean drinking water.*





*Some of the pupils from Sunlight Nursery and Primary school took part in Computer literacy Training facilitated by our Volunteer Peter Ramsay.*



*Community children interact with some of the volunteers from the Centre.*



*Smiles from miles; Our volunteers in the rural communities where we serve.*

## Part 2- Community programmes:

### Tusisimuke - Church and Community Mobilisation for Holistic Development

Tusisimuke envisions and empowers the local church to lead Holistic development in the community. With the support of friends, Kitega community centre was able to replicate the Tusisimuke model in ten communities, many more churches have showed interest taking on the model as well.

Leaders from the Tusisimuke branches gathered at the Centre to evaluate progress and strategies for the last quarter of the year. The church continues to champion community development initiatives in over six communities hence the sustainability of the different projects.

One of the church community based driven projects on waste management was launched, Zuula waste management plant with will now turn waste collected from the community into charcoal A sensation workshop was held to educate the general community about the benefits of waste management, reduce on the amount of wastes that end up in water sources, we are happy that the community development project will soon be producing mature and creating jobs to the youths in the community.



### Functional Adult Literacy (FAL)

Community development initiatives like Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) has improved on the reading culture of many church goes and spiritual growth in the church.



### Improved sanitation;

“Our village had less than 15 latrines, many households had no latrines and the bushes worked as the latrines, the cost of constructing a latrine was considered to be very high by most of the households, when we started mobilizing the community through the local church to build latrines we realized that it is something we could do to improve the sanitation in our community.

We worked together and constructed over 30 latrines, and this has inspired many others in the community to build their own latrines, we have seen over 75 latrines constructed in the last two years...”David Wanyaka a disciple of the church and community mobilization process in Katungulu shared the latrine story:



## Church and community capacity building and development (Tusisimuke).

- 50 new members from various churches joined the process and got involved in community development initiatives.
- Members from 10 churches received capacity training.
- More than 200 people engaged in Functional Adult Literacy programme.
- More than 200 people who participated in the functional adult Literacy participants welcomed the community resource banking idea and embraced the training which is currently still on-going.
- More than 300 households are benefiting from the water, hygiene and sanitation initiatives in communities.
- 2 Communities are replicating what the Centre does, providing some skills to the children with Disabilities.
- Nursery school established by the community members as a result of empowerment from the “Tusisimuke” process.



*A group of volunteers posing for a group photo with community members.*

## Prison Ministry:

The Prison Ministry aims at giving hope and restoring broken hearts to the many inmates both men and women that are incarcerated in Prisons. This is by preaching the life changing gospel to all the inmates and teaching them new skills such as gainful work.

It is hope that when they get out of Prison they will join their families and people and live a happy life again. The Malachi dads for the men and Hannah's gift for the women Program is ongoing in five different prison, 600 inmates are involved in the program.

Five (5) local community churches were empowered to support and serve in prisons, workshops and training sessions were held at the centre, mainly to build capacity of locally based volunteers to extent the ministry to the inmates.

The local Church mission volunteers gathered at the Kitega Centre for a prayer breakfast, the annual prayer breakfast is an opportunity for fellowship, encouragement and praying together. Several stories and experiences were shared, hence creating a lot of hope and joy amongst the volunteers.

“Am are grateful that we are able to be part of the mission of serving the very marginalized in the community”  
Inmates yearn for the restoring love of Christ every day. They need to be shown the way, the truth and the life”  
Ssekago Godfrey lay leader in one of the local community church.



*Prayer breakfast session*

The ministry has got future hope and plans of setting up a rehab centre from the ex-inmates to go through before getting into the community, this is to help on the cycle of commitment of crimes by the same inmate.

A team of local volunteers from the Centre attended a three days capacity building workshop in Rwanda, mainly to strengthen prison serve and ministry in different prison. It was so exciting sharing a lot of experiences in prison ministry program in Uganda for the past two years with many ministries from different countries. We are looking forward to great 2020 while serving in prisons and restore broken hearts and hope.



*Philip and James attended a three-day prison ministry workshop in Rwanda.*

Christmas returning heart celebration was organized in the different five prisons mainly to celebrate one year of lifeline ministry program in prisons, certificates were given out to the most outstanding groups and individual's inmates in the program. Many prison wardens have appreciated the program has many inmates have changed in their ways of life and forgiveness.



*Returning hearts celebration in Nagojje prison, exciting moments with their families around.*

## Community Resource Banking:

**The VICOBA Maize mill:** This is a VICOBA idea that will improve the lives of several farmers in the communities served by the Centre. The Maize mill is expected to start operating in early 2020, and just needs a little push to get the building ready. Once it starts operating, we expect to witness improved; livelihoods, food security among others, we are all looking forward to enjoying the VICOBA Flour.



*Vicoba plus maize mill will soon be up and running.*

## Community Resource Banking (CoReB)

- 700 active registered members.
- 700 members' records are contained in the database.
- Building and Deepening community, 20 community groups formed.
- 400+business established.
- Increased VICOBA funds by 20%.
- Livelihood projects and income generating projects initiated by the VICOBA members.

*Below: Some of our volunteers visiting VICOBA members and sharing cultural experiences with local people in communities.*



*Empowering of members of the community to improve on their income earnings.*





## Community Health

The general community were able to receive health services from the Centre, with the support and partnership from Christina and William, volunteers from Spain spent two weeks in communities providing eye checkup exercise and over 300 people were tested and 200 received glasses in different many communities.



During the annual vicoba campus meeting, a team of doctors and nurses from UMEA Lugazi hospital, tested general illness affecting the local communities, the mobile clinics helped many to receive health services, these include counselling and guidance, dental, and HIV/AIDS testing among others, these gave over 100 people access the health services and treatment.

A piece of land was purchased for the construction of a community health centre in Katungulu, the architectural building plan of Ebenezer health centre was launched with a lot of excitement from the community members who will be receiving medical treatment and care therefrom. The community is currently faced with a challenge of inaccessibility of health care services and this is aimed at serving their health care needs.



This health initiative was appreciated by the community and we are looking forward to mobilizing resources for the construction to take place.



## Access to health services

- More than 400 people received optical services and received eye glasses.
- More than 600 people benefited from health services provided by the Kitega centre.
- We launched the Community Health Centre Program.

Katungulu is one of the communities where we serve. We obtained a piece of land where a community Health Centre will be established. The health care to be delivered will be tailored to the needs of the community.

One of the members of the community reacted to the proposed health centre thus;

“We are going to be saved from trekking through the dangerous sugarcane plantations to Kawolo General hospital for medical services”

*Below; Official launching and ground breaking of the Health Centre, in Katungulu village.*



*Community members receiving spectacles/eye glasses which will improve on their optical health.*



**Legal Aid Ministry:**

The legal ministry with the support of our friends managed to set up legal offices at the Centre. The partitioning and furnishing of the offices as mandated by the law has been completed. The Centre also submitted its application for registration that was duly approved by the Law council. We await the authorities to visit the premises which is the last step of the licensing process. We are grateful for the financial support in registration of the legal aid ministry.

Through the legal sensitization programs, our legal aid team has advised and given counsel to 43 members of the local communities on their different legal issues and 2 cases are currently being handled through litigation.

During our annual VICOBA CAMP meeting full desk was set up to create awareness of legal rights of citizens in the community, as a result many members of the community now can stand and fight for their own rights in the society.

A team of lawyers visited inmates in prisons mainly to create awareness of their legal right to apply for bail, this was after a search carried that showed most of the inmates in prisons were ignorant about this right

**Youth Ministry:**

September 7th 2019, Canon Silas Musoke and Janette Musoke celebrated their Coral wedding anniversary and 40 years in Church Ministry



**International Volunteers and Visitors:**

The Community Centre welcomed a number of national, local and international volunteers, Shalom house has always been home from most the volunteers and Visitors.

The Centre was blessed with several volunteers last year, Vero, Bea and Marisol, Cristina and William (the opticians), the Spanish team Joan Suades, Amparo Marin, Elisabeth Lopez, Miguel Angel, Sandra Fidalgo and Scotland was at the Centre too; Ruth Ramsay, Dona and Olivia, Amy and David Samson and the Kirkwood's, Linda Hopper and the Ramsay family and several local volunteers. We are thankful for all they were able to do while at the Centre.



The Ramsay family from Scotland spent a year at the Centre and also got involved in a number of activities with the children and the general community, their presence has filled various gaps at the Centre and we can't be more thankful for their involvement.



We received Linda from Scotland. Linda is a professional Counselor and she also spent one full year at the Centre. She spent most of her time at the Centre teaching and training the various members of the community on how to carryout professional counseling.



By the end of her time at Kitega, she trained over 20 participants. The successful participants were awarded certificates of Completion and we look forward to seeing the change that they will cause to happen in different communities.

We are thankful for their lives and the progress over all volunteers who make the works and dreams possible.

## Featured stories



My experience of East Africa began when I was 2 years old when my parents took myself and my brother to live in Kikuyu Kenya. They went out as missionaries with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and when they went out they were the only Bazungu (white people) in that area. When they arrived my parents had no experience of Africa and they did not know what they could even give their children to eat or drink. We lived and worked with the local community there for many years, but eventually the time came when my parents decided that they needed to return to Ireland. For me and my brother this came as a big shock as Kenya was our home and we didn't realise that one day we would have to leave. So we left a large part of our hearts in Kenya and tried to understand this strange, cold new land called Ireland.

Meanwhile in Scotland Peter had already told his mother that he wanted to travel to Africa when he had grown up. When he was aged 20 he went to a Scottish Island for a kids mission and ended up meeting an Irish girl (me) who told him stories of the colours of Africa.

So after marriage and children, one day a man called Daudi Clemy Kawooya came to speak at our church in Scotland and we knew that this was somewhere we would visit. On our first visit Mara was only aged 3 years, and she made her name carrying chickens and goats around everywhere she went. Seeing the children enjoying Ugandan life encouraged us to plan to return to Kitega for a longer period and we returned at the beginning of July 2018.

Over the last year as we have lived and worked among our new family at the centre we have met many different volunteers from all over the world and we have made many new friends.

So what is it exactly about Kitega Community Centre that attracts people from all corners of the globe? As we look back over 20 years, why do people come and fall in love with KCC and return again and again?

The answer is surely all about love. People come to the centre and experience, perhaps for the first time, a true and genuine understanding of God's love. They see it in action and they feel it touch their own lives while they are here. This is the true power and strength of Kitega Community Centre. It is a living witness to the love of God for everyone to be accepted and loved, just as they are. It is a place where the most vulnerable and the worthless in society are loved and respected as examples of God's love. As a family living and working in this centre we have learned so much from the disabled children who make up the centre:

- In Aida we see a pure, undiluted source of unconditional love for everyone who comes to the centre. She demonstrates pure joy each and every day in seeing and greeting everyone she meets.
- In Edwin we have learned that our own business and importance is nothing compared with sitting and finding joy in simple activities such as laughing and singing.
- We have watched the older girls at the centre work together to support each other with their different abilities to clean and cook and organize activities.
- We have watched and learned that even the most weak and vulnerable can help care for and look after other people.
- It has been reinforced that traditional markers of success such as money and power are not the most important things in life, and that love, respect, community and looking after each other bring a peace and a joy that traditional success could never do.

Jean Vanier in his book "Becoming Human" describes it as follows: "Those with disabilities do not cry out for power or success; their energies are used for seeking out the warmth of relationships... to become fully human is not a question of following what everyone else does, of conforming to social norms, or of being admired and honored in a hierarchical society; it is to become free to be more fully oneself, to follow one's deepest conscience, to seek truth, and to love people as they are." I have watched these children from the centre open their hearts to people of all colors and backgrounds. I have seen them love and take in my own children as part of their community here, and teach them the fruit of the spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

So as we look back at everything the centre has achieved, for us the steadfast witness of the love of God, as shown by these disabled children, is the heart of everything we do at Kitega Community Centre.

## Linda hopper



The year 2019 was exceptionally different from any other year in my life so far. In January, I boarded a plane to travel to Uganda to the Kitega Community Centre. Last Friday (December 6th) I arrived back in the UK. There was a two-week visit to London in June to celebrate Martyn's 50th birthday (which was in April) and Rodrigo's 40th birthday (which was to come in September).

Kitega has so many facets to its ministry and I feel as much Ugandan as British now! The people welcomed me so warmly and wanted me to build a house in one of the villages, with which I fell in love. It is called Katungulu (which means 'onion'). In January before I left, the pastor at our church asked me what I was going to be doing in Uganda and I remember saying that it was not so much what I would be doing as who I would be being. I knew the experience would change me far more than anything I could give to the people. I wanted to live as a Ugandan, to share what it was like in everyday life. I did not want to be a visitor. The people received me as one of their own and the Lord did amazing things in me and for the people. He would so burn into my heart things that needed to be resolved and then he answered in miracles those burning issues. The testimonies of the ordinary people totally uplifted me and there were so many inspirational stories from elderly women who had listened to the Word of God and acted in faith.

Daudi, the Project Director, made sure I heard these stories and it was very precious to hear how hopeless situations had been turned into hopes and dreams of great things that benefitted whole communities. Life in villages has improved in so many ways and Kitega Community Centre reaches out in so many different projects. They mobilise churches to be involved in volunteer work to help their communities and there is a true sense of belonging. My family and friends are aware of the delight this year has been to me and the consensus is that I should spend six months in the UK and six months in Uganda for the next few years. I can get travel insurance until I am 85. Some of you have received my weekly update on what I have been doing. I was able to contribute in various ways to Functional Adult Literacy classes, Counselling training for village representatives, the idea of setting up a legal aid facility, I preached in the local church. Then I was privileged to celebrate the 20 years anniversary of Kitega. A new Community building was begun, which will allow the vocational training to have an indoor space. At present they learn outside, but when it is wet it can be a problem. I was also asked to be a bridesmaid at the 35th wedding anniversary of Daudi's parents! His father retires from being an Archdeacon this month, so their church insisted they had a rerun of their wedding day! Daudi's Mum had announced that I was her sister, so was honoured with this role. They are a wonderful testimony to the Lord; they have been a one-woman one-man union all the time and have six lovely children. (Polygamy is very common in Uganda).

I was involved in projects such as building a brick house for an elderly lady who had helped her village by donating a piece of land for a primary school, so that the children would no longer have to walk the 4km to the nearest town.

Of course I have missed the family and my friends in the UK and shall catch up with them over Christmas (the English ones) and then in the New Year I shall be able to catch up with my Scottish friends. The theme at Kitega for Christmas is 'Be a miracle for someone'. I could tell you so many stories, but in the words of a song the children of Katungulu sing

'I cannot tell it all – what the Lord has done for me,

If you think I have been in hot sunshine all the year, you would be wrong. The locals say it has rained all year. That is an exaggeration, but there have been tropical storms so frequently. The storms are so spectacular – I had never seen red lightning before. Everything in Uganda is brightly coloured, the flowers, the birds, the lizards.

All this means that I have not had time to sort out Christmas cards, so I will email this with my Best Wishes for a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Good New Year. I cannot put into words what God has done for me in this amazing year.

### **We received the following volunteers in 2019:**

Olivia Mcglory	Piluca
Ruth Ramsay	Lola
Ramsay Family	Violeta Lillo
Veronica Varela	Laura Lillo
Ally and David Kirkwood	Amparo Marin
Brian Gibson	Priscilla Daniela
Carolyn Gardner	Prof. Joan Suades
Amy and David Samson	Miguel Angel Fidalgo
Linda Hopper	Sandra Fidalgo
Donna Mcgrory	Elisabet Lopez Orduna
Bea Miranda	Fanny Collando
Mariso	Prof. Rafa Laborda an Maria
Marisa Collando	

### **The following visitors were also received at the Centre.**

Area MP – Mulindwa Ssozi  
Deaf Development Foundation  
Peninah – Togetherness cooperative Rwanda  
Sean Callaghan  
Eliya Wilbert – New Hope for Girls Tanzania  
Stany Ryumeko – Pilgrims Chapel Burundi  
Earnest Kavulu – Headmaster Budo Junior School

### **Donors 2019**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lifeline Global Ministries Inc      | 24. Canon Silas & Jannette  |
| 2. Maria Luisa Tenjido Ramos           | 25. Celia Chen              |
| 3. Mulindwa Ssozi MP                   | 26. Clemy Social Ventures   |
| 4. Nathan Hirsh                        | 27. Counsel Philip Kasimbi  |
| 5. Olivia Mcglory                      | 28. Carolyn Gardner         |
| 6. Ruth Ramsay                         | 29. Amy and David Samson    |
| 7. Ramsay Family                       | 30. Donna Mcgrory           |
| 8. Riverside Evangelical church        | 31. Dr & Mrs Mutumba        |
| 9. Rebecca Sesanga                     | 32. Expedicion Solidaria    |
| 10. Sara Perez                         | 33. Friends of Kitega       |
| 11. Sarah Bulega                       | 34. Graham and Jenny Smith  |
| 12. Stewardship UK                     | 35. Gilmour Fair Foundation |
| 13. Teo Guek Neo Iris                  | 36. Imelda Mbazzo           |
| 14. VICOPA groups                      | 37. James Kalule            |
| 15. Youth VICOPA                       | 38. John Kayongo            |
| 16. Veronica varela                    | 39. Kathlyn Lim             |
| 17. African Road Inc                   | 40. Kavulu Earnest          |
| 18. Ally and David Kirkwood            | 41. Kikadde Joel            |
| 19. Ann Maria Gonzalez Ferran          | 42. Kyoyiga Shamim          |
| 20. Bride Adorned Church               | 43. Isobel Brown            |
| 21. Brian Gibson                       | 44. Iris Teo Guek           |
| 22. Bride Adorned Church USA           | 45. Kingserve Trust         |
| 23. Calderwood Primary School Scotland | 46. Linda Hopper            |

**The year ahead:  
Several initiatives.**

**Umoja house:** This will provide more space to facilitate community development activities. More community space means; that people can come and have meetings, training and retreats at the centre without interfering with other schedules, children with disabilities that have graduated will also have the opportunity to be employed by the bakery and the tailoring section that will be housed in the Umoja house.

**Ebenezer health centre:** The community members who will be receiving medical treatment and care therefrom. The community is currently faced with a challenge of inaccessibility of health care services and this is aimed at serving their health care needs.

Expand functional adult literacy to 10 more communities mainly to address issues illiterate in communities.

Empower 10 churches using the church Community mobilization for holistic development.

Extend education support to children with disability.

Support families to good health hygiene latrine construction



