

# MUKO H.O.P.E. update

November 2008

## Greetings from Blessing Kyokwijuka (Social Worker),

*"We give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who gives us strength for our work. By His glorious grace, we have been able to finish the month of October with several activities which include: home visitation, training in vegetable gardening, letter writing [to sponsors], office paper work, updating children's files, and health talk on HIV/AIDS. May God's grace be upon you all. Yours in His vineyard, - Blessing"*



## Accomplishments on behalf of the orphans

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### School Report

Every MUKO HOPE child, who is attending school, was provided a school uniform including shoes and socks. Blessing thanked our partners in service for all they are doing to instill hope in the orphans. The children were reported to be very happy and full of hope. Blessings states, "We want to hope sooner or later the educational standards for our children will sky locate."

Blessing participated in a meeting of Muko-Butare Primary School PTA, the school of one of the orphans, in hopes of improving the quality of the education.

### Home Visitation

During the month, Blessing visited several of the guardians' homes to assess the needs of the orphans and their living conditions. The children's living conditions are improving and the impact of MUKO HOPE is evident. It was found earlier that one of the orphans, Kemigisha Phionah and her guardian family, is in need of a new house. A proposal by Blessing is forthcoming.

### Vegetable Gardening

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the orphans and their guardians were trained in vegetable gardening by Tito Tugume, the project manager and inspector of gardens. "The aim of the training was to train the orphans to acquire the skill of agriculture by using their own hands so that they may be good agriculturalists in the future, apart from



being idle and disorderly which may bring calamity to their lives." They were also advised on the importance of eating fruits and vegetables for good nutrition. The seeds for the green beans were originally brought by Sue and John Waechter in 2006.

### Health Counseling

Blessing arranged a visit from Mr. Vicent Bahikirwe from Alliance Group for HIV/AIDS who spoke to the guardians and children concerning the cause, spread and prevention of the disease. He also emphasized how one can live a positive life after acquiring the disease.

### Distribution

The orphans were given clothes, mattresses lamps, basins, soap, jerri cans for water, towels and "jelly" (Vaseline).

### Sponsor Letter writing

In October, there was a "letter writing exercise" in which the majority of MUKO HOPE children wrote their sponsors, introducing themselves. This is no small task as Blessing must bring the stationary to their homes and coach and encourage each child to complete their letters. We anticipate these letters to arrive in the next several weeks.



## Prayer Requests

- Prayers of sympathy for Generous and Richard in the death of Richard's father.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the full recovery of one of the orphans who was bit by a snake while collecting firewood in the bush.

After much thought and communication between S.O.S. in Uganda and the Task Force in the U.S., it was decided to create a new name and logo (designed by Jerry Maxwell), which identifies our Christian emphasis and further unites the bond between the people in Muko and Michigan. The new name is ACT which stands for AGAPE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION. Agape speaks to our Christian love for each other and Community Transformation speaks to the goals we have for both of our communities for we will all be transformed in Christ through our relationship with each other.



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An ecumenical program for community transformation