



Whispers of Love Foundation(U)

“The healthy whisper”

Activity Report

Year 2023 - 2024

Whispers of Love Foundation (U) Limited.

Directed by Esther Mukwana & Janet Namono
Namulanda, Nganjo Village, off Entebbe road
PO Box 700392, WAKISO, BUSIRO County East



Acknowledgements

To begin this first annual activity report, we would like to thank wholeheartedly all the members of Whispers of Love Foundation:

Thank you Mama Maria, for your daily field implication with the children and their families.

Thank you Jajja Maria Goretti, Mama Agnes and all the parents for your commitment to the children and their well-being, preparing lunch every day, helping us in every occasion.

Thank you Susan, our beloved sister who gives us a hand managing our finances and supports us with patience, consistency and even with her savings when it is needed.

Thank you Jajja Brandon and Uncle Joseph for your daily advice and engagement to keep our community peaceful.

Thank you Teacher Stella for coming every Saturday, entertaining the kids with your joyfulness, teaching them bright things and assisting us in so many ways.

Thank you to all the volunteers who come to us and give their time and support to make this organization go further, Bruno, Shawn, Fane, Jessica, Ice, Nils, Ben, Katia, Berta and Grandma, Berta, Eva and Claire: we are deeply thankful for all the good you have brought and keep bringing here.

Of course, we need to address our deep thanks to Enjuba and to the African Library Project associations for their consideration and invaluable help. We look forward to receiving the books and are so grateful for this incredible gift you offered the community.

Many thanks to the NGO Office of Kampala, the District Office of Wakiso, the Local Chairperson and all the officers that helped us into the process of becoming a NGO.

Our deep thanks to our dear Parents, for the house you have provided which is home to our dreams, your day to day support, and most of all for having brought us up in such a open-hearted, kind, God fearing way. Thank you Grandmas, Grandpas, Auntie Diana and Auntie Maggy for your unconditional love, advice and support. Thank you to all our family and friends, Prossy, Fiona, Claire, Precious, for being there for us and make this happen.

Thank you all, with all our heart.
Esther and Janet, WLFU Directors

Summary

Acknowledgements..... 1

Summary..... 3

Who we are..... 4

Our Story..... 4

Our Place..... 5

Our Community..... 7

Members of the Association..... 8

What we do..... 9

Values..... 9

Vision..... 9

Mission and Objectives..... 9

Achievements and Strategic Objectives..... 10

Context and Stakeholders..... 10

Functional Needs and Objectives..... 11

Ongoing Projects..... 12

Achievements..... 13

Conclusion..... 14



Who we are

Our Story

Whispers of Love project has taken shape thanks to Esther and Janet, twin sisters who started up Whispers of Love after being touched by the lives of three children they met. These children did not have any assistance to go to school, and two of them were orphans living with their grandmother. Having seen the suffering and appealing situation of the children, they dedicated their efforts toward kids in similar conditions. They first tried to pay the tuition for the first three children, but as the number gradually increased to eight, then thirty-three, it became unaffordable to pay school fees for all of them.



From left to right: Janet and Esther.

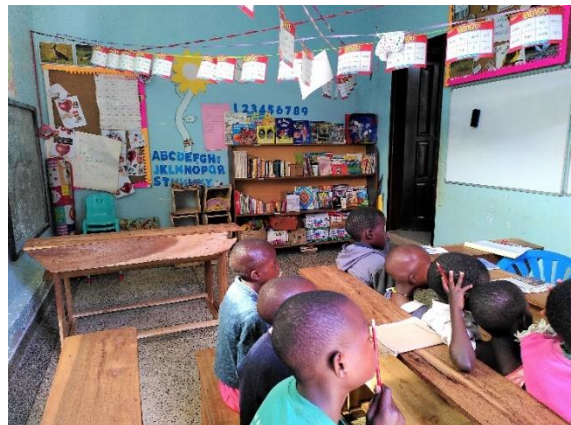
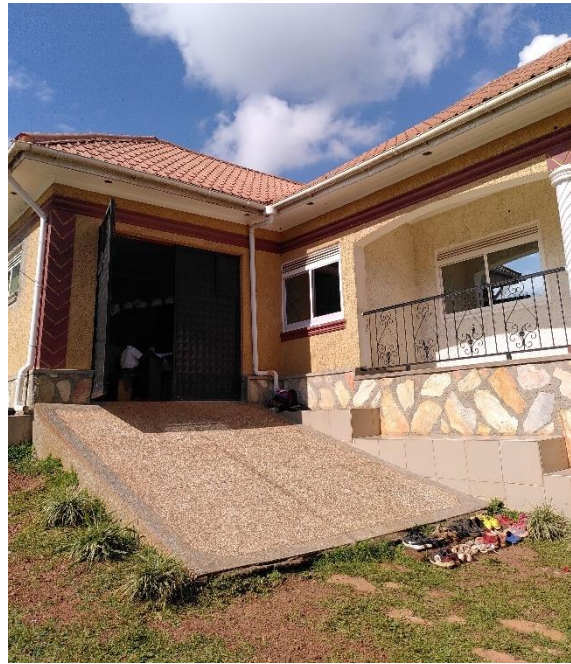
As a consequence, they decided to start a Children's Community Library and School at their home. Both of them have a superior degree in Accounting and have a part time job as remote accounting consultant. In the surroundings, most of the parents did not have the opportunity to attend school, and a significant part of them are growing their own food and selling the surplus to make a little money. People in the surroundings have to boil water to drink. Everybody here speaks Luganda, the local language, but few can express themselves fluently in English due to a lack of access to education. The children registered at the school / library for daily attendance have undergone a difficult history and are not able to afford going to school: this is why we do not charge anything for welcoming them, or for the food we provide. They decided to open this organization in order to give the least favored kids a chance to access for free the basics of education, such as reading, writing, counting, as well as a safe place to socialize in respect of others.

Our Place

The region of Uganda where we live is close to Lake Victoria, between two important cities (Kampala, the capital, and Entebbe). Nature is everywhere, lush, generous, and providing a magnificent living and learning environment. The School / Library is located into the sub-county of Namulanda, more precisely situated into the village of Nganjo. The surroundings are quiet and the organization is at least 200 meters away from the main road, which is clean and suitable for children. They enjoy a lot this environment, as much as we do.

Five years ago, we set up the garage adjoining our house into a playful, peaceful, and educative place where children can open themselves to new perspectives. The library consists of a 330 square inches (around 30 square meters) rectangular room. The wall opposite to the entrance door is covered with shelves, in which we put our books, games and teaching materials.

The two other sides are decorated with educational posters, maps, drawings, and equipped with black and white boards. In the center of the room, we arranged six desks that can welcome two to three children each. Depending on how many children are coming, and on the activities we are organizing, we keep re-arranging the desks to modulate the working space. We sometimes put them on the sides of the room and roll out soft carpets for the kids to read and chill. Inside our home, we have a special place where we keep the new school supplies, unused textbooks, paint, brushes, paper glue, etc., so the kids don't use them without an adult watching them.





We possess additional chairs and benches, along with a large porch in front of the house allowing kids to chill outside even when the weather is rainy or too hot. We are lucky to have a green area outside, just in front of the library, where we can play outdoor games with the kids when the weather allows it. Not far from the entrance is a little quiet field very suited for outdoor book reading. Children can use our restrooms which are cleaned every day.



Directly adjacent to the library is our personal kitchen, where every morning we cook a little breakfast for the children, consisting of a hot sweet tea and a snack. During the week, a lunch is cooked there by two volunteer parents, and served to the children to make sure every one of them is nurtured properly at least twice a day.



The School / Library is open every day from 8 AM to 2 PM except on Fridays and Sundays. We are teaching basic knowledge during the week, and setting up various pedagogical activities on school holidays season and Saturdays. As we dissociate the school project from the library, we do not restrain book access to our only school, allowing children from the whole neighborhood to come and entertain themselves at Whispers of Love.

As explained above, the children who daily attend our establishment for school teaching are not able to pay school fees, because public schools systematically require registration fees and significant investments in materials and activities (uniforms, school supplies, books, school canteen, outings). The disadvantaged kids we welcome everyday are spending the first part of the day at Whispers of Love. Other school students will come during school break as well (Saturdays or holidays), for books borrowing and entertaining. Some of them enjoy sharing their fresh knowledge to their library comrades and sometimes read them some books.



When they go home, they need to support their families and help their parents, foster family or siblings with household chores (collect water, sweep the floor, cook, wash the clothes, clean the dishes, take care of the youngest, etc.). Spending time in the School / Library is extremely important for them, it is a privileged place where they can be “normal” children for a few hours, express themselves and take time for themselves. We are giving our best selves to provide them with a space where they feel safe and taken care of, where they can develop their self-confidence. In the future, we aim at building a modal learning center: the road ahead promises to be as arduous as it is exciting.





Our Community

- **School / Library Committee:** In addition to Esther and Janet, their sister Susan is from the community and has a job in Kampala, she supports the project since the beginning through regular financial support and book supplies. In the same field, Kenzy is supporting Whispers of Love through fundraising project for two years now, and as she lives in the USA as a teacher by profession. Betty Birabwa is a Teacher as well, one of the closest neighbor to the School / Library and has seen the birth of the project: she acts like a field coordinator. Teacher Stella comes every Saturday, during her time off, to volunteer and manage the children. The local Catechist, Sarah Nampinga, is supporting us a lot as well.

- **Local Schools** established in the surroundings are entertained about Whispers of Love, and are happy to have a kid's library at disposal for their students in the close area. They are encouraging them to borrow books, and appreciate that we provide homework support during holiday season, along with a quiet place for them to repass their lessons. We are in relation with five schools around the library.

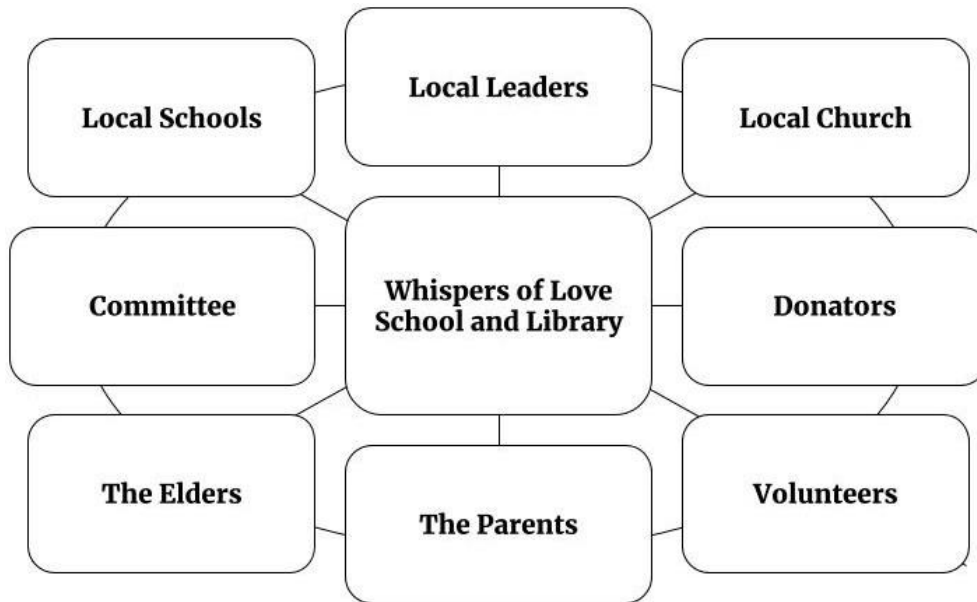
- **Local Leaders** have committed to support the library, along with the local chair person who ensures (through his officers) the paramount security needed to make this possible. They are promoting awareness in the community about the organization. They represent a higher form of authority that can be referred to in case of issues, such as child mistreatment.

- **The Church Community** as well is a great help for us. They share their knowledge to help us handle all kinds of situations that occur with the children. As you may know, some children are sometimes not willing to listen and comply with the ones closest to them. Some of the Church members have committed to mentor the children and are giving their time at the School / Library, or during parents/teachers/children half-year meetings. Church members will also make announcements at Church to promote library usage for the kids, the two community Catechists included.

- **The Parents** of the registered children are directly and physically supporting us. From Monday to Thursday, two of them volunteer and come to prepare breakfast and lunch for the kids according to a planning, We organize fixed in advance half year appointment with them, teachers and children included, to discuss children progress and behavior as well as global organization or special activity set up.

○ **The Elders** hold a special place in the community. They possess the knowledge of what we have been through and how we evolved as a group, and thus are able to make fair decisions about what is good or bad for the community. We submitted our project to them and they are convinced of the usefulness and relevancy of our initiative. They give us their total support and act as precious intermediaries between us and the rest of the community, especially the needy families we wouldn't know yet.

○ **Volunteers:** they are coming from time to time from the whole world, and help us to deliver our lessons, take care of the library, and entertain children. Their presence allow kids to open themselves to new cultures and people.



Members of the Association

Names	Role
Esther Mukwana	Executive Director
Janet Namono	Managing Director
Susan Kasula	Financial Manager
Betty Birabwa "Mama Maria"	Field Coordinator
Stella Nankinga "Teacher Stella"	Local Volunteer
Sarah Nanpinga and Uncle Joseph	Local Volunteer
Bruno, Fane, Kenzy Ice Frasier, Shawn and Jessica	Foreign Volunteers



What we do

Core Values:



Vision:

A conducive and supportive environment for children and youth to thrive through life. A society where all children have a chance to reveal their potential and to become responsible, compassionate and independent adults.

Mission and Objectives:

We aim at setting up and strengthening community based structures that address the basic needs of children in education, health and social economic empowerment in Uganda.

Our mission is to maintain and continuously improve a free, safe, educational place for the children to express and empower themselves, in order to break the circle of misery in the long term:

- **Promoting** quality, formal education for children and youth in extreme vulnerabilities.
- **Providing** a unique platform for the children youth in the community to share ideas, knowledge, information and best practices on issues affecting their generation.
- **Supporting** sustainable initiatives to empower economically the neediest families.

Strategic Objectives & Achievements

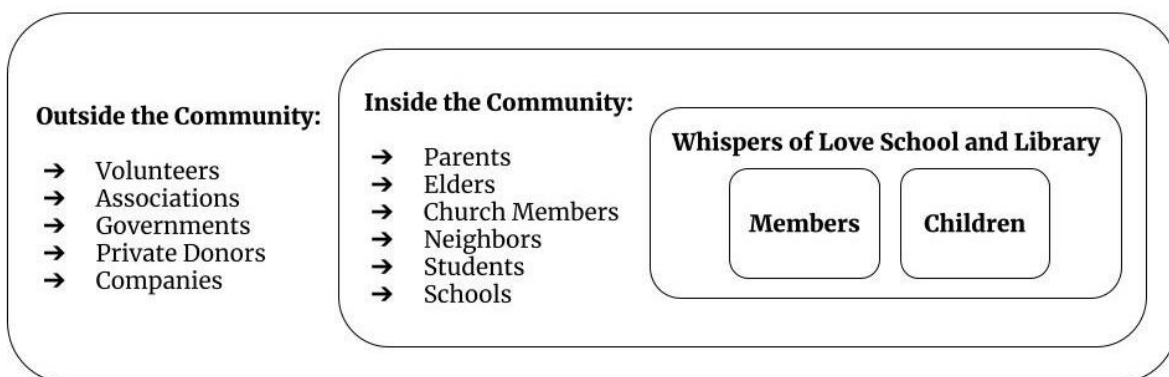
Context and Stakeholders



Our association is small, meaning that every member has a paramount and precise duty, and cannot be easily replaced or given more responsibilities. On a day to day basis, we are already extremely busy taking care of the kids, teaching, cleaning, buying supplies, talking with parents, and of course struggling even to manage our own accountant “side” job. The kids we welcome everyday need us.

Without Whispers of Love Foundation they would not have any place to go or anything to do, they surely would not be eating enough or receiving any form of education. This mission we gave ourselves is rooted deep into our affects and values. This is why we give so much of our time and income to keep it running, at the expense of other fundamental things such as privacy (WLFU is located into our home) or resting time (if we take vacations, it means that the kids can’t come, inducing consequences whose severity we cannot control).

All this has effects that we cannot ignore, because as the number of request keeps increasing, the time and money we need to allocate into the association is growing as well, meaning we have to find long term solutions to avoid refusing new kids and let them down into misery. Please find below an illustration of the stakeholders, internal and external, that we identified:



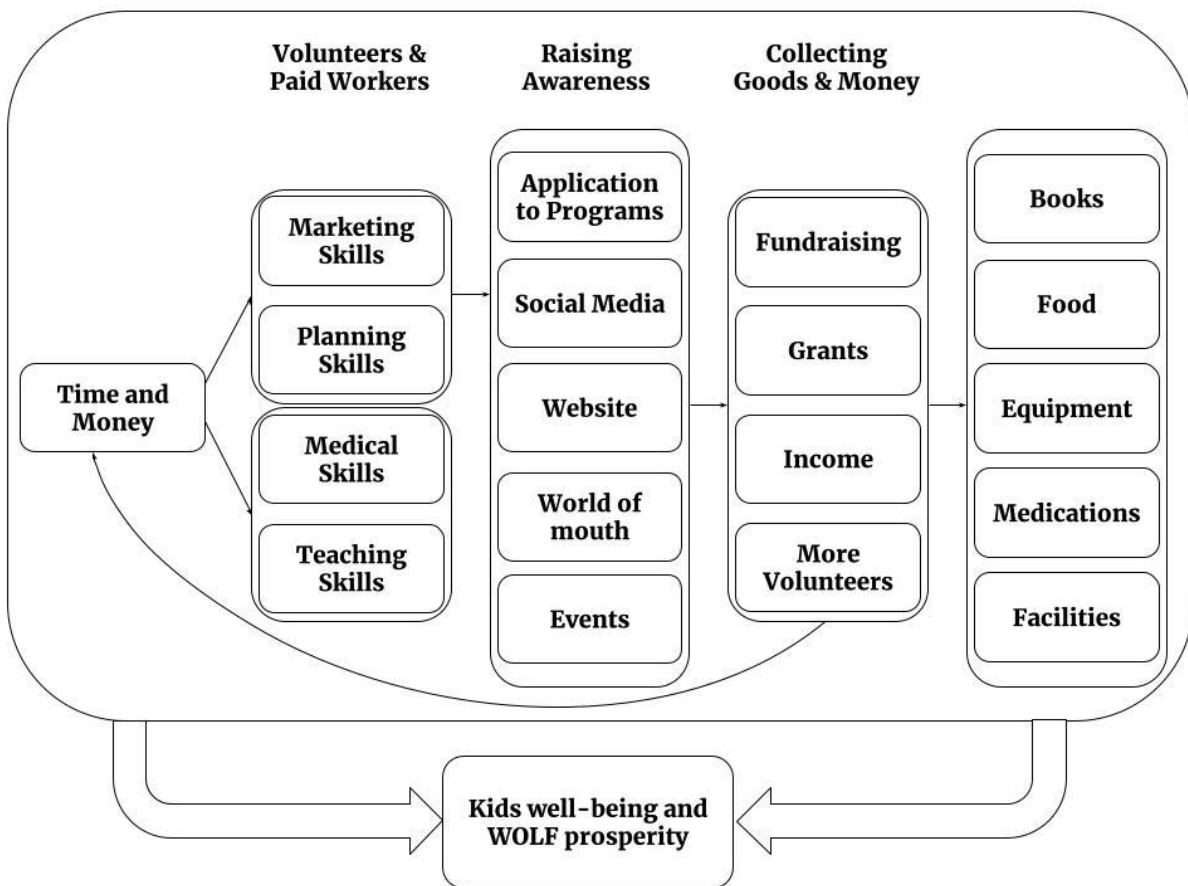
For sure, we need help from all these people and entities, but how to engage them, retain them, and insure a virtuous operating system? This will be defined in the next section.



Functional Needs and Objectives

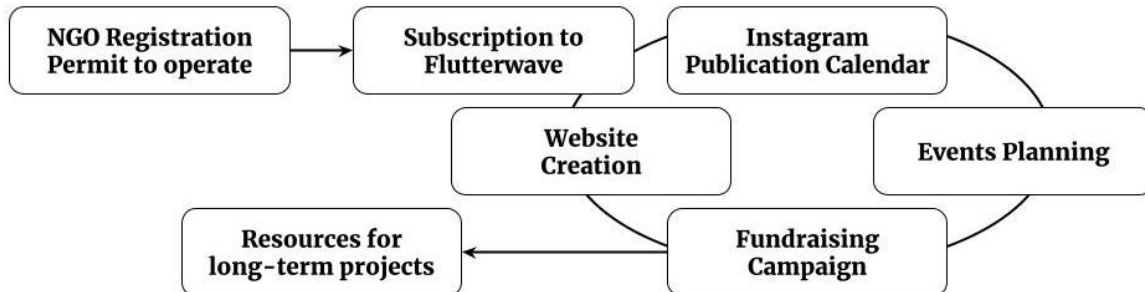
Like for all nonprofit organism, the key to longevity will be to engage our members on the long term, and find ways to attract new volunteers, well-wishers, granters, and build new partnerships with other associations, companies or communities.

For the moment we are not represented regularly on social media such as Facebook (due to government restrictions) or Instagram (due to a lack of time). As explained in the previous section about our community, our scale of action is very local and if everyone knows about us in the surroundings, for sure we are (for now) invisible everywhere else



The above picture illustrates how communication and volunteering are of primary importance into the process of being a healthy organization, and how they can interact to create a virtuous circle. Indeed, for the moment the only income of the organization comes from our savings and salaries, along with occasional money given by foreign volunteers. For sure we have a lot to do if we hope to become self-sufficient as an organization, beginning with our online visibility. We will explain on the next page the ongoing projects around this particular matter.

Ongoing Projects



Payment Solution for Donations: To receive donation easily, we needed to subscribe to a payment solution and picked Flutterwave. To have an account there, the permit to operate as a NGO was required, this is why a lot of our time, energy and money has been dedicated to create and submit our application to the NGO Office this year. Volunteers have been helping us during the process, and this payment account project had to be completed before launching our website, Instagram post calendar and fundraising campaign.

Fundraising: Ice is currently working on the specific communication campaign that will allow us to promote our organization to potential donors.

Website: Shawn and Jessica are currently working on the future website. They already bought the domain name (wlfu.org) and a website design agency is working on it (both are financing the whole project). It should be live soon, we are providing them with contents and attend weekly phone calls to follow up on this project.

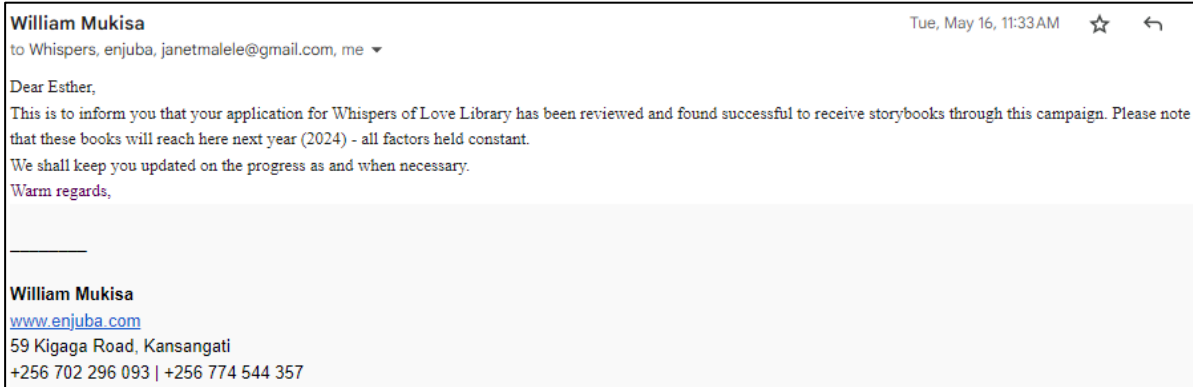
Social Media Publication Calendar: We already have an account that you can check: . For the moment we need to make a publication calendar to make sure we are regular and relevant into chosen topics and publication time/target. The main purposes of such a communication campaign are to extend the number of our members/followers, receive donations, attract volunteers and find sponsors for children.

Event Planning: Organizing events such as a tombola or dancing shows with the kids can be a great occasion to get in touch with other villages, in order to encourage those who have money or time to invest themselves into our association. For the tombola, we already gathered stuffed animals, games, and many things that could be of great use as prizes.



Achievements

Book Donation from Enjuba & African Library Project: We succeeded into our application to the African Library Project, carried by an American Association providing books for local libraries. We sent them a 23 pages report, and will receive about 800 books in the beginning of 2024:



Brickets Project: After months of experimentations, we are now running an activity of crafting brickets to replace charcoal chunks in collaboration with some of the parents of registered children. These brickets are made of sand, dried vegetable peels, leaves from sweet potato plants and a bit of charcoal dust. After being dried for a few weeks, they provide a free combustibile for the parents to cook, or a source of income is they wish to sell it.



Sponsor for Lunch, Alice and Maria Goretti: Bruno, a volunteer from Switzerland visited us during two weeks in June 2022 and decided to pay schools fees for Alice and Maria Goretti in St. Theresa Kisubi Girls Primary School. This initiative has been a blessing for us, as the number of children is increasing. These two girls keep coming to us during holidays and love to entertain their friends with their fresh knowledge. Bruno is funding us for the food of lunches as well.

Dental and Global Health checkup: Thanks to the generosity of Jessica, we have been able to afford a checkup for all the kids registered at that time, which was most welcome!

Conclusion

Dear reader, thank you so much for your time if you read us up to this little conclusion. As you may have understood, our organization is still young and as the very recent NGO registration process demonstrates, we are living a crucial time in our story as an association. It is time for us to build a sturdy and sustainable structure for this project to last and thrive. Indeed, as we grow we understand how necessary Whispers of Love Foundation has become for the community we support, and who supports us in return. This is a true dream we are making true here, a dream imbued of justice, compassion and teamwork.

If this dream comes true, the final achievement of such a project would be to acquire a piece of land not far from our home, and build a multi modal learning center along with boarding facilities for children without safe home. This dreamed place will always remain free of any charge for the children and needy families, and will embody a shelter of education, respect and compassion for those who needs it most. The society needs to cure the violence and the misery we witness every day: at Whispers of Love Foundation, this is our pledge.

