



# **NORTHERN UGANDA COMMUNITY BASED ACTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES CENTRE**

P.O. BOX 362, Kitgum

Tel: 0772-568767

[www.nucbacd.org](http://www.nucbacd.org)

Dear friends of Javier Colomo,

Warmest greetings from Kitgum, Uganda and from the children who live and learn at Glory Special Needs Primary School/Northern Uganda Community Based Action for Children with Disabilities (NUCBACD). In a special way, I wish that I could thank each of you individually for the support that you continue to provide to NUCBACD, but it is my hope that Javier will share this letter and my greetings with you.

First, please allow me to express my gratitude for the generous support that you have already provided to the children of this school. In most cases the children who are supported by NUCBACD have been rejected by their parents and by their local community, but through your support our children are building hope for their futures through education and friendship. Without this support, children with disabilities in Uganda are considered a financial burden to their parents, and many are left to roam the streets while their more fortunate siblings are educated and loved. Years of war, generations of poverty, and of course HIV/AIDS have combined to make Northern Uganda an exceptionally difficult place to be a child. This is true for all children in the region, but it is especially true for children with disabilities. With your support NUCBACD continues to serve the most marginalized and vulnerable of all Ugandans and to provide education, as well as physical and emotional support to children who would otherwise be left to fend for themselves.

The generous support of Javier and other donors has led to major improvements on our campus over the last year. Our children used to live in darkness after sunset, a particular challenge for the deaf as it is impossible to see what someone else is signing, but now they have light thanks to a solar power system. We also have Javier and other Spanish friends to thank for a new classroom block, games, and for providing breakfast and other material support for our children. Your support has also allowed us to offer a modest bonus to our teachers as well as extra tutoring sessions for students with upcoming examinations in order to help them pass out of P6, the last year of Primary School in Uganda. With food prices again reaching record highs thanks to inflation and other factors, and the continued threat of climate change and food insecurity, it is more important than ever that the school should be able to provide food for ourselves. The support of donors over the last year has allowed us to build a greenhouse and water tank to help us grow nutritious foods on our own campus. We are also moving towards financial sustainability for the school by putting in place the first pieces of what we hope will soon be a thriving sustainable agriculture training center. This center will not only provide valuable training in sustainable agriculture to students in the community, but we hope that it will eventually yield enough nutritious fruits and vegetables to supplement our students' diets, which currently consist almost solely of beans and posho.

Though major improvements have been made thanks to the generous support of Javier and other donors over the course of the last year, much remains to be done in order to ensure that NUCBACD will continue to exist to provide support for the children who live and attend school here. We are currently in the process of finalizing plans to proceed with the next phase of improvements at the school and we are reaching out to all of those who know and love this place in an effort to see our vision completed. In



# **NORTHERN UGANDA COMMUNITY BASED ACTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES CENTRE**

P.O. BOX 362, Kitgum

Tel: 0772-568767

[www.nucbacd.org](http://www.nucbacd.org)

In addition to developing the agricultural vocational training center described above, we are also currently in need of a dispensary, a multipurpose hall for dining and community life, a classroom block for vocational training, and expanded on-campus housing. At present, sick pupils are treated in the dorms by non-medical staff, children dine sitting on the ground, tailoring classes take place in a UN tent that remained after the war, and the Managing Director is quartered in the girls' dorm. We believe that hiring a trained matron to treat sick pupils in a dedicated dispensary would drastically decrease the disease burden carried by our children and increase their ability to grow and learn in a healthy environment. NUCBACD also funds operating expenses (i.e.; for feeding the children, paying staff and teachers, buying educational materials, etc.) from a small number of dedicated donors, to whom we are very grateful. Drawing these operating funds from a small number of donors exposes NUCBACD to a great deal of risk, as the collapse of any one donor would likely lead to the closing of NUCBACD, so we are always looking for new ways to provide for the daily needs of our children.

Javier's contributions to the children of NUCBACD over the last year have been truly heroic. During Javier's visits to the school, he has become an integral part of our family, and we have developed a mutual affection and trust that is very important to us. Javier's passion for improving the lives of the children of NUCBACD is clear to see and his impact at the school is apparent everywhere. We ask you to join together with Javier in supporting these children and we hope that his enthusiasm for improving the lives of these children will inspire you to join him in supporting this special place. Javier has come to NUCBACD to live with us, to eat and play and learn together with our children, and to form relationships through which he provides critical support to an extremely vulnerable population. We ask you to join him in supporting NUCBACD, whether that support is financial or otherwise. If you can't join Javier on a trip to meet the children of NUCBACD, ask him to describe the place to you. His passion and commitment are obvious to see and are truly an inspiration to us. We believe that they will be to you, as well. Javier has many photographs of this place and he can describe for you the children and the work that is being done with passion and inspiration.

Thank you for your continued good work and daily sacrifice to support the children of NUCBACD. We ask you to continue with the spirit in supporting us.

Best regards,

Ayoo Teddy, Managing Director of NUCBACD