

NEWS FROM THE HEART



NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our Local Food Pantry & Children from Tender Mercies graduating.

Dear Friends and Family of AIDSpirit USA,

One of my New Year Resolutions was to do a better job of keeping everyone informed regarding the work we are doing in our local community, and in Uganda. We are working hard to keep digital and traditional communications coming your way this year.

Many of you will remember the early days when Sister Mary V spearheaded a hot meal program for individuals who were homebound and living with HIV. Sister also encouraged us to support a local pantry program that was originally housed at the Yellowstone AIDS Project offices. The pantry moved several times over the years but now thanks to the generosity and support of RiverStone Health, Seekers Harbor Faith, and First Congregational Church we've been able to continue to support a local pantry, that now has a permanent home and a wonderful new name, Mary V's Cupboard!

Mary V's Cupboard, (named in honor of Sister Mary V), is located on the second floor of First Congregational Church, 310 N 27th St. in Billings. This program offers supplies such as toiletries, dry goods, frozen meals etc. to those living with HIV as well as others in our community who find themselves in need.

We are so proud to carry on her legacy and we hope you will all take time to visit the Mary V's Cupboard, and we encourage you to join us in supporting this wonderful project.

On another note, Jean and I along with three others, are heading back to Uganda in December and though we have a small team and a lot of work to do, we are very excited to see the children again. We will be posting news of our accomplishments daily on our social media, updating our blogs as best as the internet will allow, and have many updates on our website when we return; we encourage you to visit our website and join our email mailing list to keep informed in the months to come.

This year we are celebrating the graduations of four of our children from university and vocational programs, and I am happy to announce that all of them have secured employment following their graduation. We could never have dreamed that the AIDSpirit sponsorship program, which begun just a few short years ago, would result in so many success stories. Please know without a doubt that these children's stories would have been much different were it not for your generosity and continued support.

THANK YOU!

Tom Jacques



EVERY PENNY RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TOWARDS THOSE IN NEED.



SPONSOR A CHILD AND CHANGE A LIFE!

Our Ugandan partner Tender Mercies continues to find children in need of care and an education. As the sponsorship program administrator, AIDSpirit is crucial to connecting these children to caring loving individuals who can support their education, forever changing their lives and creating positive change in the Kayunga District.

Joseph is 17 years old and came to live at Tender Mercies 2 years ago. He lived on a farm with his father who passed away and his uncle abused and abandoned him. He was brought to Tender Mercies for shelter and care and is one of our family now. He is very polite, loves farming and is now in high school (Senior 3). He is very polite and kind.

Bob has been SPONSORED! Bob is 4 years old and was left on the door step at Tender Mercies 3 years ago in the middle of the night. He is loved by all of the children and keeps everyone on their toes. He is funny, messy and a bit naughty. He is attending Kindergarten and is doing quite well.

OTHER CHILDREN IN NEED INCLUDE:

- **Ezekial, age 16, he is currently in a vocational program.**
- **Rhodine, age 16, he is currently in high school (Senior 4).**
- **Isaac, age 16, he is currently in high school (Senior 4).**
- **Pius, age 11, he is currently in elementary school (Primary 2).**
- **Maurice, age 10, he is currently in elementary school (Primary 4).**
- SPONSORED **Namutosi, age 6, she is currently in elementary school.**
- SPONSORED **Kirabo, age 16, he is currently in high school.**



Consider sponsoring Joseph or one of the other children in need, and change the world one child at a time. We have many options for you including joining as a co-sponsor to make this contribution both easy and rewarding. For more information please call 406-696-1164 or email secretary@aidspiritusa.org today.

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE!

Visit our website for up to date news and happenings all year long!

www.aidspiritusa.org

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UGANDA TRIP IS SCHEDULED FOR 2020!

Though our crew is small, it is mighty, and we're gearing up for another fantastic site visit to Tender Mercies. And our list of supplies needs your help. Please consider purchasing and collecting the following items for our team to take in December to the children and community in Kayunga District, Uganda:

- **Sun screen and hats** (needed for the albino community - about 20)
- **Sun glasses**
- **Band aids**
- **Gauze bandages Tape for bandages Antibiotic Ointment Hydrogen Peroxide Alcohol swabs**
- **Anti-Fungal cream**
- **Children's liquid Ibuprofen**
- **Hydrocortisone Cream**
- **Betadine**
- **Children's Liquid Tylenol**
- **Adult Extra Strength Tylenol**
- **Folic Acid** (needed for children living with Sickle Cell Anemia about 200) (40mg)
- **Tampons and feminine napkins**
- **Head and Shoulders Shampoo** (4 bottles)
- **Chewable vitamins for children - not gummy** (72 children)
- **Antacid tablets and liquid**
- **Nitrile gloves**



2019 ANNUAL REVIEW



LOCAL OUTREACH & EVENTS

6

HIV Positive Support Groups were provided with 41 people in attendance.

Thank you once again to our partners Seeker's Harbor Faith and RiverStone Health



The Client Advisory Board, in partnership with First Congregational Church and RiverStone Health have moved the pantry, now called

Sister Mary V's Cupboard,

and are leading in the execution of providing basic life essentials including toiletries, cleaning supplies, and donated meals and food supplies to those in need.

Thank you to all the volunteers that make this happen every day!

\$124,489

was raised through individual donors and grant programs!

which includes

200 for \$20 Campaign Contributions from

10 Monthly Donors



Less than

8.1%

of our funds were utilized for administrative purposes



We have a

GROWING LIST

of **NEW** partners, donors, and sponsors who are contributing to the work we do!

TENDER MERCIES HOME PROGRAMS & EVENTS

14

Volunteers traveled to Uganda once again to support the Sickle Cell Anemia clinics and outreach, as well as eyeglass clinics. These volunteers helped distribute supplies and love to all of the children and communities who benefit from our financial support of Tender Mercies in the Kayunga District of Uganda.

2

NEW children JOINED the Tender Mercies family

1

MORE water well restorations are planned and FUNDED for 2020

65

Tender Mercies children and other at risk youth in the Kayunga District of Uganda are **being supported and cared for**, with the support our sponsors.



900

Banana Trees were planted on the acreage we previously purchased.



12

Tender Mercies children graduated from University and VO-Tech schools!

67

children were enrolled in Primary, Secondary, University and Vocational schools

2,400

Coffee plants were added to the farm land, too



1,000+

children with Sickle Cell Anemia continue to be treated annually by the staff at Tender Mercies

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING IS HAPPENING!