

Dear friends and family around the world.

We hope this newsletter finds you well.
Sending greetings from Mukisa Foundation
and wishing all of you a happy new year.



The Year That Was 2014!

“We have never had so
many families join the
Mukisa Family like we did
last year”

We at Mukisa, spent the whole of January planning, updating our records, cleaning and getting ready for what is in store for us this year, which by the looks of things is really promising!

2014 was a great year for us, in addition to the usual programs of Therapy, Medical and Nutritional support, income generating activities and family support programs, we had a number of highlights and these are what we would like to share with you.

We have never had so many families join the Mukisa family like we did in the last year. A total of 135 children came to Mukisa last year, with 71 of them joining our Therapy Program, 8 joining the school and the rest being referred to other places.

The Mukisa Family also grew to include two Physiotherapists for the Centre in Lunguja, an Occupational Therapist for our Nkokonjeru Outreach, a Teacher for our Creative Learning Centre and two volunteers from the German Red Cross.





"One of the skills most of the girls have taken to is scarf and sweater making"



Creative Learning Centres.

Our newest program, that officially started at the beginning of last year was the Girls Education Challenge or Creative learning Centres.

As you probably already know, we have been running a Vocational Class since 2011. This class was created for children who had out grown our Morning Class but were unable to fit into Main Stream School. The children in this class were introduced to vocational skills and later sent on to other Vocational Centers.

At the end of 2013, working in partnership with the Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE), we added another component to the Vocational Skills Class. This is called the Girls Education Challenge where by girls who dropped out of schools due to disability are taken into this program, are helped catch-up with school and then re-integrated into Main Stream Schools after six months.

While it is a challenge to get anyone who has been out of school for some time to catch up in that time period, we face a much bigger task at Mukisa because most of the girls that join the CLC have never been to school and most of them do not have the basic self-care skills. So when a girl is recruited onto this program, the teachers have to start with personal hygiene and self-care skills, such as, brushing teeth, bathing and washing before getting on to the education part of the program!

An even bigger challenge is finding main stream schools that are willing to take on our girls into formal education. We have also found that after the 6 months, many of our girls are not ready for main stream school, but can join a vocational or apprenticeship program. One of the skills most of the girls have taken to is scarf and sweater making.





MUKISA FOUNDATION

“Mukisa bought and now owns a small bit of Uganda”

Our own piece of Uganda!

Last year, Mukisa bought and now ‘owns a small bit of Uganda,’ as one of the Mukisa Directors, Alexandra Buecker says. This bit of paradise is on an island in Lake Victoria and plans are underway. Watch this space for more information coming about this exciting project.

Farming

A friend of Mukisa Foundation gave us free use of his land for us to grow our own food. We have so far grown Matooke (green bananas,) Maize and beans among other things.

Our biggest harvest last year was the Maize, which we milled into flour. Some being eaten at the Centre and some given out in the Christmas Hampers at the Mukisa Christmas party.



“Our biggest harvest last year was the Maize, which we milled into flour.”

Mukisa Star

“This is the Mukisa Story, every child to their full potential.”

It was 2007 when a young man walked into our office with a picture of a young boy with an untreated Hernia and a hydrocele. He claimed that the boy was his friend who had been suffering with this condition since birth and had never had any medical intervention because of lack of funding.

According to this man, this boy lived with his grand parents, who were old with no source of income apart from what they got from begging using the boy’s pictures. A decision was quickly made to go visit this young man’s family so as to provide a better option- an operation. With the help of some doctor friends, this boy received an operation and as they say, the rest is history!

This young man is John Mbuse known to many comedy lovers as ‘kaperé’. John is our own celebrity with a number of performances on both TV and live shows. He is married and is taking care of his grandparents. This is the Mukisa Story, every child to their full potential.





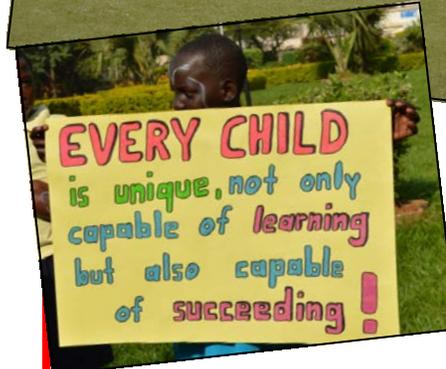
“ ‘Look at us’ they say, ‘we can do it too.’ ”

Sports Gala

June 2014 saw our second Sports Gala. This time we had over 1,000 children with their parents and teachers marching for awareness of Special Needs Education and participating in a variety of sports activities. We moved from the indoor arena to the hockey field as the space we needed was bigger. The whole day was a day of fun, laughter and participation from children of varying ages and disabilities.



Look at us, they say, we can do it too...



The Sports Gala model is now being followed in many Special Schools and we are happy that we have been able to rally for sports in schools for children with special needs successfully.



“We had a Christmas party like we have never had before”

Christmas Party

We had a Christmas party like we have never had before, not only did we have the biggest turn up ever, but this party was really a team effort. The Mukisa staff team, parents, and even the children worked together to make the day a success. This is the first time Mukisa parents have been actively involved in the Christmas Party.

First, the parents did the cooking, and donated the most amazing cakes we have ever had, they also provided the entertainment for the day...so, as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, here are some of pictures from the event.



PLANS FOR THIS YEAR 2015



As Mukisa Foundation we plan to:

- Expand our vocational skills program by building a bigger vocational class,
- Start an apprenticeship program for our older children,
- Develop our Island project,
- Consolidate our outreaches so as to serve more children.

We thank you and treasure all you do to make this work possible, and wish you a 2015 filled with every blessing.

With love and best wishes,
Florence, on behalf of the entire Mukisa Family.