

THE JULIUS FOUNDATION UGANDA (TJFU)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022.

KAWANGO VILLAGES FINALLY CONNECTED TO THE NATIONAL POWER GRID.



TJFU believes that each and every person should have access to quality health, education and other essential services, no matter where they live. Thanks to TJF USA our development partners, St. Helena Cathedral Parish and all our sponsors for helping us improve the lives of our rural populations in Uganda.

**Dear Mgr. Kevin S. O'Neil,
TJF Board Members,
EWB Carroll College Chapter,
All our esteemed Sponsors.**

It is always exciting for me to return to the states! I bring hearty greetings from Kampala Uganda and more so from the beneficiaries of your kindness and generosity.

1- COVID-19 IMPACT IN UGANDA.

We shall all agree that the two years of 2020 and 2021 were unusual years to say the least due to **COVID-19 pandemic**. This is true for all countries, organizations and companies. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the normal operation of business, health, socio-economic activities as well as human interactions globally.

Uganda's response to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic was swift and largely effective. In March 2020, the country went into a strict lockdown for two good years, the longest lockdown than any other country.

While the pandemic in the country appeared manageable, with a comparatively low number of infections, on the other hand, the negative consequences were quite severe on other spheres of life.

The closure of schools, churches, public transport and formal workplaces for so long increased vulnerability in our different populations. We experienced loss of many businesses, lack of essential supplies, increase of domestic violence, teen pregnancies, and many other shortcomings to say the least.

Since many businesses died a natural death during the local down, the levels of poverty have indeed risen to alarming levels that people can no longer access essentials of life including taking their children to school.

This scenario has been worsened by the sky rocketing prices of fuel and other commodities internationally due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

Unfortunately, our president has consistently told Ugandans to forget about tax cuts and subsidies to reduce the skyrocketing commodity prices.

This therefore, calls for more private working interventions like grants and donations to rescue our overburdened populations.

The kindness and support of our benefactors and benefactresses is needed more than before as the situation is like getting out of hand.

2- THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL.

Uganda enforced the longest period of school closures worldwide of about 22 months during the COVID-19 pandemic. In no other country was face-to-face teaching interrupted for this long.

Like many other schools in Uganda, Holy Trinity School was deeply affected. We tried online (digital) learning as advised by the government. This caught us off guard as we didn't have the required gadgets to do the digital learning effectively.

We tried to improvise, but again the system was unsustainable as we couldn't afford internet all the time and not many parents of our students could provide it for their children locked down at home. We tried printed learning materials, but again not many of our students would come for them due to the very long distances of walking. In other words, most of our students received no virtual or remote learning assistance during the prolonged closures.

On the reopening of schools this year 2022, the government of Uganda introduced a condensed curriculum for both primary and secondary education, which is used by teachers. It is an abridged curriculum which emphasizes key concepts and competencies to ensure that core content is not lost. But again our teachers on ground confess that there was a lot lost which cannot be regained with this condensed program. And the likelihood of poor grades at all levels will be the price to be paid for the long closure of our schools.

However, despite the COVID-19 challenges that stretched from 2020 through 2021, we at Holy Trinity School and Kawango Villages in general never lost it all. Among other achievements, we undertook and accomplished the Electricity Project long waited for since time immemorial.

So, as we reflect on 2021/2022's accomplishments, you our supporters have been our constant partners through it all. Your gifts of support have kept our wheels of progress turning, and it is our hope that when you get the glimpse of the impact of your gifts, your commitment to our mission will continue to grow and deepen day by day.

3- KAWANGO ELECTRICITY PROJECT.

This is the project that was undertaken and accomplished during the two years of COVID-19 pandemic time. It was the long awaited project that residents of Kawango Villages up to now cannot hide their excitement at the new prospects of electricity in their villages. The project was implemented by LUKRON ELECTRICITY SERVICES LTD a local company that transmits electricity in rural central areas of Uganda.

The project was implemented in three (3) phases:

- a) **The High Voltage Line** from the Uganda Martyrs Nkozi University to Holy Trinity School, a distance of about one and half kilometers;
- b) **The Low Voltage Line** that goes back to Kawango Villages from the transformer at Holy Trinity School. It is from this line that the village residents connect to light their homes; and
- c) **Holy Trinity School Wiring.**



Interacting with **Mr. Henry Muwanga** (the Chairman of Kawango II Village) shortly before I came to the states on this trip, with a lot of excitement on his face, noted:

“Our people are now able to engage in commercial activities to boost their income due to opportunities such as milling machines, pop corns and welding amongst others.

Our children when they come back home are now able to revise and read their books in the night and the schools will also be able to study evening lessons comfortably,” he said.



The area Member Parliament for Mawokota South, Mr. Yusufu Nsibambi has gone through all the villages urging the communities to use the electricity to transform their lives and at one of Kawango Village functions he said:

“I would like to caution you residents against illegal connections and I urge you to protect the valuable investment that our donors have brought to these lucky villages! I urge you to use the investment profitably to transform your living conditions”.

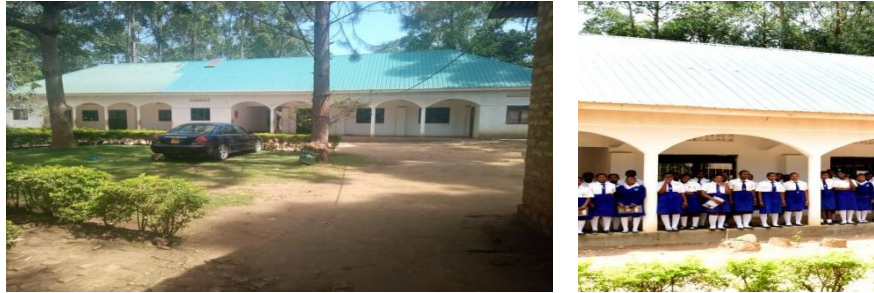
Special thanks to all our sponsors of The Julius Foundation (TJF) that made this dream of Electricity come true. We thank Ann Dooling who excited sponsors to start a serious debate about the project at TJF Fundraising Dinner of Summer 2019. Special thanks also go to Mr. Chris Collins for putting in all his energy, liaising with us on ground to see that the project is successfully implemented.

There is no doubt that the project will provide reliable and affordable electricity to Kawango rural households, public services, schools, health centers, small and medium scale enterprises. For Holy Trinity School, this project is a stepping stone for growing to greater heights.

4- HOLY TRINITY SCIENCE LABORATORY BLOCK.

We believe that science and technology is very important and cannot be learnt in a textbook alone. This justifies the need to have in place a science lab to do hands on practical science teaching. Understanding the practical part of things goes a long way in easing the student learning process.

Knowing that this is a necessary requirement, we have been working to put in place a science Laboratory block at Holy Trinity School. We have worked on this project for the last three years.



Thanks to the Cathedral Parish of St. Helena and the many generous sponsors of TJF that made this possible. You have given our students the opportunity to learn science.

5- KAWANGO WATER PROJECTS

We are happy to report that the Water projects installed a couple of years ago for Kawango Village Communities and Holy Trinity School are still in good shape. We thank EWB Teams that have been coming to Uganda for allowing working with local village leaders to own these projects. In that way, this has kept water flowing smoothly for the benefit of all the residents. For the sustainability of these projects is ensured.

6- THE WAY FORWARD

Those of you who know from where we started this journey of connectivity between Uganda and Helena Montana, can testify that it has been a long journey of love but also of patience. So far, we have done a number of good things to improve the lives of our rural populations of Kawango, and we believe, without the help of generous people like you, we would be nowhere.

As we usually say, the needs are enormous, we believe God is with us on this noble journey and we shall tackle one at a time.

TJF Board requested us to name some of the priorities that we think should be supported to have them done and we thought of the following:

- a) Furnishing Holy Trinity School computer and science laboratories
- b) Sanitation facilities at Holy Trinity School which can include the School Kitchen, Sanitary bathrooms and Toilets.
- c) School dormitories as our students come from very far.
- d) Harvesting rain water from roofs of school buildings.
- e) Getting more land to grow our own food to supplement our student diet.

I thank you once again, on behalf of the beneficiaries of your generosity, and I want to let you know that people down there are very grateful and that your kindness will forever be prayerfully acknowledged.
Sincerely Yours ever,

Fr. Julius Bwowe

On behalf of TJFU Board.