

Notas

AMISTAD INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2021



Ready for Earthquake Victims

By Dr. Scott Nelson, Orthopedic Surgeon

When the 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the southern part of Haiti in August, Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH) went on alert, preparing to receive patients from the disaster. Within hours earthquake victims poured into the hospital, arriving in ambulances or brightly colored tap-taps (taxi vehicles).

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Zimbabwe: Kuda Vana Children's Home Uniting Orphans with Family



Uganda: Ishaka Adventist Hospital Showing Gardens Can Be the Best Medicine



Congo: Victims of Warfare Finding Help in Bunia IDP Camp



India: Buddha's Smile School Opens Doors Again

Dr. Jeffrey Cho, Assistant Medical Director of Haiti Adventist Hospital, attending the injured in emergency tents following the 7.2 August earthquake on August 14, 2021.



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We thank the following people for donating their services and time so that our annual report can be published at minimal cost:

Graphic Design

(Notas and website)
Lauren Smith
Brand Communications
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Writing and Editing

Tanya Cothran

Administrative Assistant

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Amistad International

is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity incorporated in California in 1980. All donations are tax-deductible.

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What is Amistad International?

Amistad, a word meaning friendship in Spanish, is a public nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity which supports humanitarian, self-help, and educational programs for communities seeking to lift themselves from poverty through education and opportunity.

By supporting local community leadership, Amistad works in partnership with community leaders to help children and adults develop the skills and knowledge necessary for building healthy economically-sustainable communities.

Some of the projects we support include:

- Kuda Vana Children's Home, Zimbabwe, a home for abused, ill, and abandoned children. <https://kudavana.org>
- Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD) in Kenya: providing agricultural training, water tanks, and a program to train teenage mothers in marketable job skills including sewing, soap making and jewelry making. <http://cifordkenya.org>
- Lambano Sanctuary: homes and hospice for children with life-threatening illnesses, in Johannesburg, South Africa. www.lambano.org.za
- Buddha's Smile School (BSS): a free primary school for 221 children of beggars, lepers and refugees. Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Founder and director, Rajan Kaur. www.buddhas-smile-school.org
- Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BIACK): teaching sustainable agriculture, sewing, cookery, fish culture and seed saving. www.g-biack.org
- Kenya: Support for Maruge and Amri elementary schools for impoverished Maasai and Kikuyu children.
- Mexico: A diversified program providing Mexico's Huichol Indian communities with humanitarian aid and job-skill training. In-country director: Dagoberto Cirilo. E-mail: amistadgdl@hotmail.com
- Haiti: Drs. Scott Nelson and Terry Dietrich's orthopedic surgical program and Tim Cleveland's orthotics/prosthetics clinic at Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti, Port Au Prince, Haiti.

Life is Precious

In August, a 15-year-old girl named Precious arrived at our Ishaka Adventist Hospital emergency room. Precious had eaten rat poison intending to end her life. Her father had abandoned the family and her mother beat her at the slightest provocation. She felt no reason to go on living. During the week Precious was being treated at our hospital, our staff took loving care of her, bringing her savory food, clothing and shoes.

After her recovery, Precious was unable to pay the hospital bill. The staff brought her to me, the hospital director, to decide what to do. Precious told me how she had been working as a housekeeper, saving money for a tailoring class. A light bulb went on in my mind! I invited Precious to enter our six-month job skills program for girls who are school dropouts or adolescent mothers. She immediately seized the opportunity.

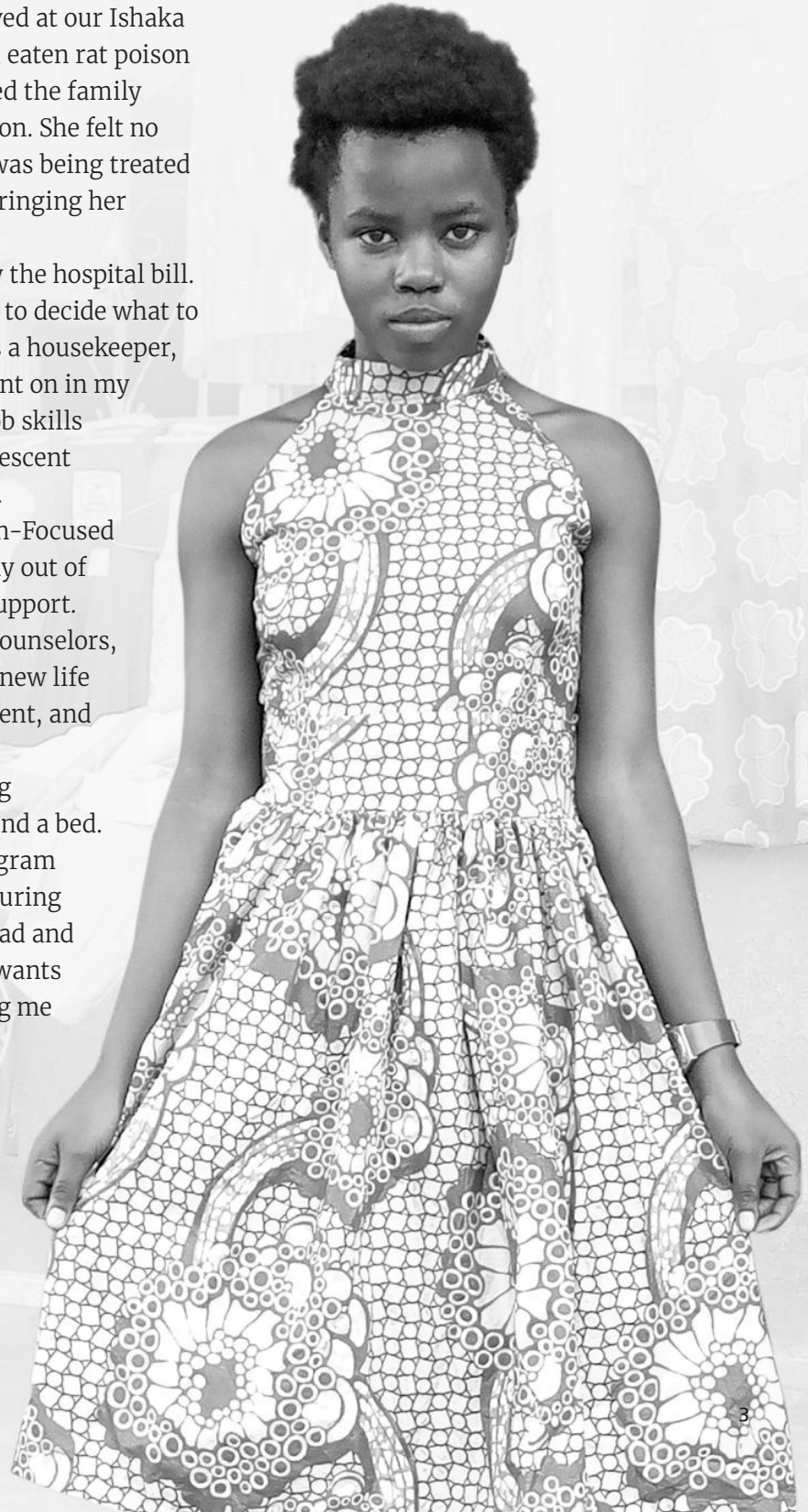
Girls like Precious come to our program, Youth-Focused Achievers Network (Y-FAN), seeking a positive way out of the struggles they face. But they have no family support. We provide the girls with job skills, professional counselors, and spiritual guidance. We also help them build a new life by learning entrepreneurship, business management, and gardening skills.

With help from Amistad, we are now providing Precious with school fees, meals, a small phone, and a bed. In September, Precious enrolled in our Y-FAN program where she is surrounded by encouraging and nurturing teachers. We are seeing her change from being a sad and frightened girl into a smiling young woman who wants to live. She recently told me, "Thank you for loving me and being both my mum and daddy."

Thank you, Amistad donors, for supporting Precious and the other young women at our Y-FAN program.

*Lydia Komugishu Executive Director,
Ishaka Adventist Hospital,
Ishaka-Busenji, Uganda*

Fifteen-year-old Precious, in a dress which she learned to sew at Ishaka Hospital's sewing school for at-risk girls, the Vocational and Entrepreneurship Skills Centre.



Buddha's Smile School Reopens!

On September 8, Buddha's Smile School (BSS) in India reopened after an 18-month COVID-mandated closure. There was great excitement as the children all gathered again at their beloved school.

India's two pandemic lockdowns made our students' lives difficult for several cliff-hanging months. The children were forced to shelter in their unsafe shanty communities. They lived without electricity, sanitation, running water, or computers, and ate very little food. Many of their parents lost their jobs recycling garbage during the lockdowns. Also, the children's main source of food income—begging from international tourists—dried up. The result was a food crisis. To add to the struggle, rising Varuna River waters washed out many of their homes this spring. Thanks to Amistad donors and donors across Europe, Buddha's Smile School was able to distribute several tons of survival food to the BSS families.

Throughout the crisis, our teachers continued to visit students in their homes, encouraging them to do their best with their lessons. Part of the work of the school is to orient the

children and their parents to understand the value of an education. Even though the students had fallen behind on learning, the staff visits let them know that the teachers were expecting them to return to school. The visits also encouraged the parents to continue sending their children back to school, rather than keeping them home to work for food money. The daily hot meal at school was another motivator for the parents to send their children back to school.

The school staff takes COVID hygiene and precautions seriously. The necessity of such measures was made very real last year when their beloved school bus driver died of COVID. Now, when the children arrive at school,

temperatures are taken and hands sanitized. In class the students wear masks. We hope that 2022 will be a better year for the school.

We recently received a letter from Andrea Parker, a physician assistant from Southern California who has volunteered at BSS several times. We would like to share Andrea's letter with you.

The smile on this student's face reflects the happiness of all of the students now that they've been able to return to school after 18 months of Covid-mandated closures.





Top photo: Masked up, this BSS boy is eager to learn.

Lower photo: This BSS student is one of the many who enjoy scarves knitted by volunteer Andrea Parker.

Dear Amistad,

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to visit Buddha's Smile School (BSS) in Sarnath several times. The first time I went, the daytime temperatures soared past one hundred and nighttime wasn't much cooler. Most local people looked at me and my group of volunteers with curious expressions asking us, "Why are you visiting when the weather is so hot?"

With lessons learned after trip number one, my return visits were in the much cooler months of February and March. While the warm sun took the mist off the mornings and afternoons were perfect for sitting outside and sipping chai, the nighttime was downright cold. I was so thankful to have multiple layers of clothing to wear (including a scarf and mittens), several blankets to crawl underneath and hot water bottles at my feet.

Returning to my warm home, I thought of the children of BSS—living in tents (if they were lucky!) with likely nothing covering them at night. Did they have trouble sleeping in the cold? How could they concentrate the next day at school without a good night's rest? I began to wonder if there was anything I could do to help...

Back home, while crocheting a scarf as a present for a friend, I was struck with the idea of crocheting scarves for the students of BSS. What if a cozy scarf, in bright happy colors, could let a child on the other side of the world know that someone cares about them and wants to bring a little warmth into their life?

And so, for the past 8 years, I have been crocheting as many scarves as I can and sending them off to BSS in time for the cooler temperatures. As a scarf enwraps each child, I hope that they feel the hug of their American Auntie Andrea who thinks and cares about them.

Andrea

Sagarika's grandmother and mother became sex workers while only adolescents. 14-year-old Sagarika has broken that vicious generational cycle thanks to the opportunities she is given at New Light's Soma Home in Kolkata, India.



Sagarika

Now a Shining Leader

After nine difficult months of living with the fear and anxiety of the COVID-19 pandemic, things are beginning to look up for Amistad's programs in India.

COVID-19 hit India hard in 2020. Then a second wave in 2021 devastated India again with innumerable new cases and daily deaths. New Light, a Kolkata charity with daycare centers and homes for children in Kolkata's red-light district, had the massive responsibility of protecting hundreds of children who come seeking shelter and food.

One of New Light's homes, Soma Home, opened in 2005 with funding from Amistad International. It is a residential home for girls ages 6-18 who are born to sex workers. For the past two years, an Amistad 'angel donor' has sponsored this unique home.

Now that the latest wave of COVID-19 has settled down, the girls who live at Soma Home can return to school. They are also resuming their sports and crafts classes.

Sagarika is one of the Soma Home girls who is happy to be learning again. Her grandmother was a sex worker, and Sagarika's mother became a prostitute when she was just 13 years old. Sex work in India is often a multi-generational occupation. Sagarika entered one of New Light's daycare centers when she was three years old. When she turned six, she was moved to Soma Home where she grew into a responsible young woman who does well in school.

Sagarika is now a seventh-grader at Narmada High School. She is a deeply motivated student and is well-loved by her classmates and teachers. She shines in leadership roles. Soma Home is a safe place where Sagarika is choosing to make her dreams a reality.

A BANK BUILT ON TRUST

A Bank of Uganda 2000 Shilling banknote is shown diagonally in the background, partially obscured by the large title text. The note features a green and yellow color scheme with a large '2000' and the words 'BANK OF UGANDA' and 'SHILLINGS'.

What do you do when you need to keep your savings safe?

What about when you need credit? What if you had no bank account and no credit card? For the elderly women in Kakuuto, Uganda, there is a new option—they can join a savings group.

Last year, a grant from Amistad helped Kakuuto Development Initiative-Uganda (KADI-U) establish a savings and loans program for the elderly, handicapped, and the youth in their rural community. Without such a program it can be hard for these community members to access other micro-lending programs, since they are seen as high-risk borrowers.

The KADI group now has over 100 members and they have built a fund of \$550 that can be lent among themselves. Extra income from a good harvest goes into the savings, and the women use the loans to boost their small businesses and pay school fees.

The group is built on mutual trust. “Members know and trust each other because they have broadly similar socio-economic levels. They are all residents of the same locality and the group has a constitution and follows it,” says Musa Semakula, one of KADI’s leaders. Regular group meetings also create space for people to discuss issues that affect their lives and the life of their community.



Refugees Learn Sustaining Skills

These young Congolese women, victims of tribal and political warfare, live in a displaced-person's camp in Bunia. After their homes and schools were destroyed, they became part of the three million rural citizens who fled to cities. Thanks to Amistad, these girls are learning the hair-dressing skills so that they can become entrepreneurs. Other Amistad-sponsored classes teach gardening and sewing.

In December 2017, new rounds of violence erupted in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Armed militias killed over 10,000 people, and three million rural tribal people were displaced, scattering across the DRC. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people are now living in over 70 camps around the city of Bunia, without adequate shelter or food.

Amistad has been supporting these displaced people through The Rebuilders Ministry, located in Bunia, an organization led by Reverend James Byensi. In 2018, Amistad built a school at one camp for 880 displaced persons. The Rebuilders ministry team held a series of talks with displaced Congolese families to determine their goals and

priorities. Through this process, they decided to focus on teaching agricultural and job skills, including vegetable production, food catering and tailoring. Amistad has been supporting these programs.

With Amistad's help, people from the Kigonze IDP camp are growing cabbage, eggplant, tomatoes, and other vegetables. In the tailoring program, young women are learning how to sew shirts, shorts, blouses, and skirts. In the food preparation program, women learn to cook and bake items for sale. In the works is a three-month course that will train young women to do hairstyling, manicures and pedicures.

KIKKI Finds His Family

Imagine growing up believing you have no family—and never knowing where you came from or what your story is. Imagine believing that your children or grandchildren are gone forever. Then a phone call changes everything.

At Kuda Vana Children's Home the FAMily program (Foster Adopt Mentor) works to place the children in our care in forever families. Part of this process involves painstakingly going through the records (which are often incomplete) of each child and discovering if there is any biological family who the child might be safely reunited with. Unfortunately, Social Services in Zimbabwe cannot be counted on to do this work. Not unsurprisingly, but happily, we have found that several of the children placed

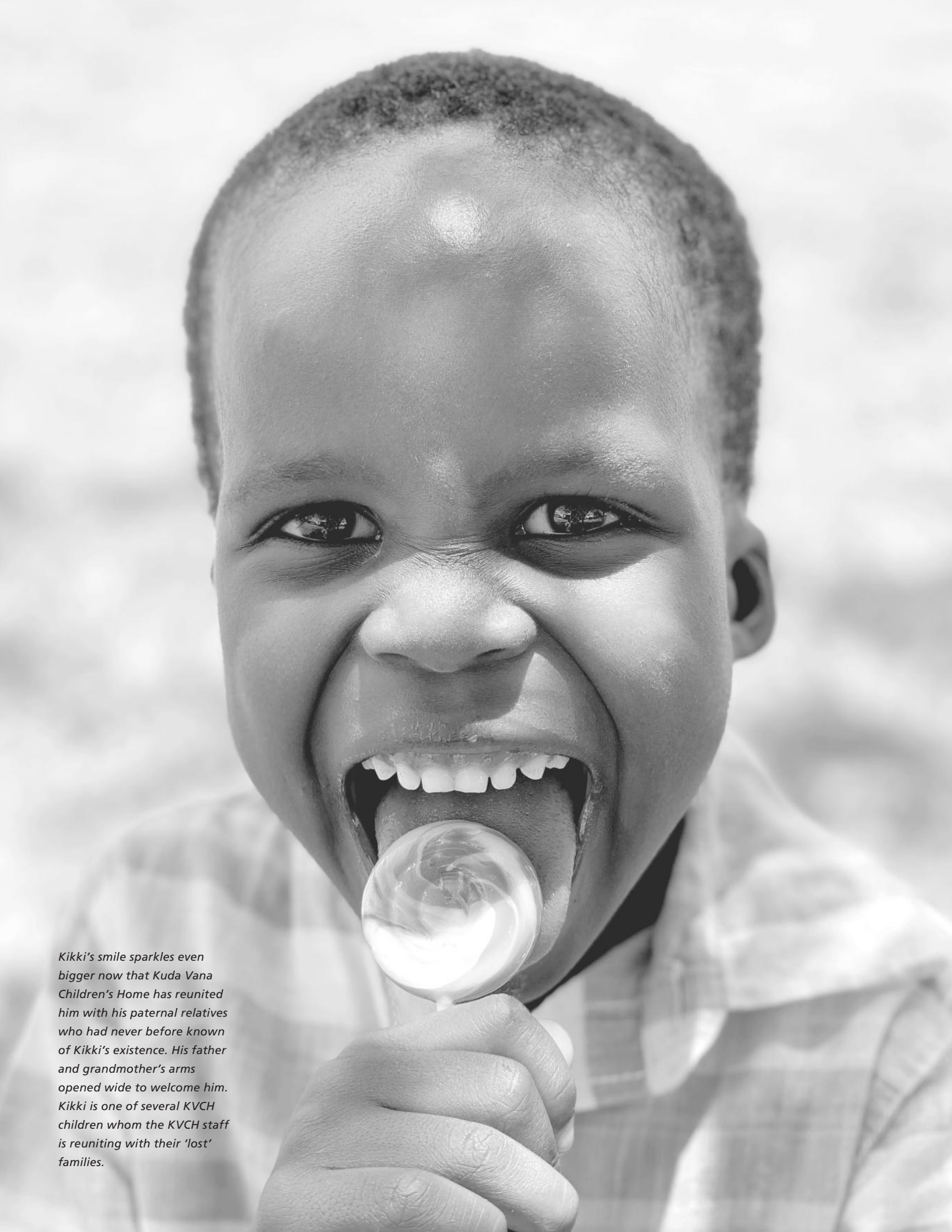
in our care years ago by Social Services had biological family who were unaware of their whereabouts.

Thankfully, our staff is dedicated and diligent at their work, including searching for unknown family members. To date, six children are in the process of being reunited with biological family! This process takes time, counseling, and care as we want to ensure each situation is in the best interest of the child and that they are safe. In some situations, Kuda Vana will continue to provide support in the form of school fees or other needs.

One such child is Kikki, a six-year-old boy who came to Kuda Vana from another Children's Home several years ago. Kikki's mother was wanted by the police and had abandoned her son and left the country without a trace when he was very young. Kikki's grandmother and father assumed that he had gone with her. Thus, you can imagine their joy when they were told that Kikki was alive, well, and coming home!

On September 15, Kikki was reunited with his biological grandmother, father, older brother and their family. Kuda Vana's staff psychologist and a social worker are working with and counseling the family on the transition and will continue to follow up well into the future. Kikki will be missed by his family at Kuda Vana—his giant smile brings joy to everyone—but we are thrilled to have reunited him with the family he should never have had to leave. Your giving makes this type of happy ending possible.





Kikki's smile sparkles even bigger now that Kuda Vana Children's Home has reunited him with his paternal relatives who had never before known of Kikki's existence. His father and grandmother's arms opened wide to welcome him. Kikki is one of several KVCH children whom the KVCH staff is reuniting with their 'lost' families.



Here's What You've Done

Ishaka Adventist Hospital teaches communities to grow nutritional food gardens because good food is 'the best medicine of all.'



- Amistad is providing the training of community leaders and classes who are in turn teaching 500 girls and women about reproductive health and hygiene.
 - CIFORD Kenya: Amistad provided a new Tesla well pump for their teaching center. The center provides 500 families with water. While their pump was broken, the women and children were walking five kilometers to get water.
 - CIFORD Kenya: With a grant from Amistad, CIFORD has been making home visits and group seminars for young girls at risk for pregnancy and malnutrition. Hundreds of girls have been given counseling on reproductive health and sexual rights, healthy relationships, the value of school attendance, and time management. The counseling is always done in the presence of the girls' parents or guardians. The families are also given food, and the girls given personal hygiene supplies and underwear. One mother, Grace Kauria, told us "We are happy to have these seminars. They have greatly changed our girls and now we have fewer cases of teen pregnancy as compared to before the seminars. Please continue mentorship for these girls until there is no girl dropping out of school due to pregnancy!"
 - In Kenya, Africa, Amistad supplied three new computers for agriculture teachers training farmers in their communities. Trained and supervised by Sustainable Agro-ecological Development Action (SADA,) the farmers do virtual electronic studies with sustainable agriculture guru John Jeavons at Ecology Action in Willets, California.
 - GrowBio-intensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya has 25 girls studying in their multi-faceted programs this year. Covid precautions are a priority. As a result, no students or staff have contacted Covid this year. The girls are learning sustainable gardening, sewing, cooking and baking, textiles and computer literacy. We are deeply grateful to Debbie and Chris Seguin and their friends who have collected and shipped sewing supplies, seed-saving jars, building tools, hardware, and baking supplies. Since their first shipment in 2017, the Seguins have gathered and shipped over five tons of needed items to G-BIACK. This year two shipments have gone to G-BIACK. Thank you Team Seguin!
 - In February, with a grant from Amistad International, Uganda's Ishaka Adventist Hospital sent a team of nine health workers to a gardening school in Kenya to learn the best sustainable methods of growing nutritional food. Hospital CEO, Lydia Komugishu, relayed to donor Dick Noble that good nutrition would, in many cases, help people more effectively than pills.
- When the hospital garden team returned from Kenya their first priority was to teach the hospi-



tal staff how to garden. Then they began teaching in the communities, with a particular focus on young mothers. The largest teaching garden was planted on hospital grounds as a model to patients and everyone passing by. The hospital administration's dreams for this program are now a reality; vegetable gardens are springing up all around the region.



- With Amistad's support, the Visionary Women's Centre in Kenya has started an anti-rape and anti-bullying program for boys and girls. The program is named "Say No and Be Counted" and is run by Kenyan social workers and a martial arts teacher. This year they have led four six-week-long workshops, reaching 235 teen girls and boys. Each workshop covers topics such as effective communication skills and self-defense. They also talk about the emotional and physical consequences of rape and the role of family, friends, teachers and community in rape prevention. Mothers of the youth report that the workshops are having a positive and transforming effect on community life.

Left photo: A composting class at Ishaka Adventist Hospital in Uganda.

Right photo: Buddha's Smile School distributed several tons of food to the BSS families during the pandemic.



We Remember

- Kathy Hayes Arct honors the life of her beloved mother, Carroll Huddle.
- Bruce Sacco remembers the lives of his friends Dr. Jack Griswold, Dr. Richard Guthrie, pastor Paul Hawks, and Travis McCorkle.
- Gay and Duane Wilson remember the life of their friend Judy Kramer, a Covid 19 victim.

We Honor

- Joyce Runge who celebrates her birthday, thanking "God for His wonderful and continued blessing."

Amazon Smile

We are excited to share some great news with you! 0.5% percent of all purchases you make through Amazon.com's special charity website will be given to **Kuda Vana Children's Home** through Amistad International!

When you make a purchase on Amazon and you use this link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2737593>

for your purchases, Amazon will send Amistad .5% of your purchase price. This program also applies to Amazon Prime members.





We Say Gracias



—Dear Amistad,
I felt so inspired by all the information in the (annual) report. I read each story with great interest. I like Amistad's personal interest in each project and person and how you build on the strengths that are already present to develop practical skills and humanitarian ideals. Thank you for all your work and thanks to all those working directly in the field. I have never signed on to the Amazon charity program, but I will do so now for the Kuda Vana Children's Home.

*From your friend,
Karen Marie Berman*

—Dear Amistad,
Thank you for serving as a guide and guardian of good news and support. You make it possible for someone like me to help someone I have never met in a place I've never been. Indeed, it takes a village.

Don Chotro

—Dear Amistad,
The new well pump is installed and is now operational. 459 households are very grateful for the new pump. Our women and children had been walking long distance to get water, wasting much time doing so. We give thanks to Amistad, to Margo Kennedy, and to Chris and Bill McClure for the financial support to purchase the new pump. Thank you so much for all the support and encouragement.

*Margaret Ikiara, Director
Community Initiatives for Rural Development
/Kenya*

- Thank you Ann Down, for supporting the training of families in gardening, hairdressing, catering and sewing at the Kigonze Refugee Camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Thank you also for your support for the Kopila Safe House for abused women in Nepal.
- We are deeply grateful to Don and Wanda Krein for supporting the Maruge and Amri elementary schools in Kenya. The schools are able to keep their doors open because of you. Thank you.
- Thank you, Dick Noble, for providing support for training of gardening volunteers from Ishaka Adventist Hospital/Uganda in sustainable agriculture at G-BIACK in Kenya.
- Thank you, Ann Down, for supporting the Soma Home for Girls in Kolkata, India.
- We're so grateful to these good folks: Chris and Bill McClure, Lois Blackwelder, Cindy Saca, and Arlene Van Rooyen for supporting the gardening and sewing classes at Ishaka Hospital/Uganda.
- Thank you to these generous donors who supported CIFORD's girls' empowerment programs: Ann Down, Dick and Nancy Noble, Chris and Bill McClure, Jeanne Liston, Kathy Hayes Arct, Brenda Martinez, Carolyn Civitarese, Karen Berman, and Zach Taylor.
- Warm thanks to Margo Rees, 83, who has been our #1 volunteer for nine years. Margo lives in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, but she might more accurately be thought of as a citizen of the world. Born in England, Margo spent several years living in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe.) Her life in Rhodesia sparked Margo's later interest in visiting and volunteering for Murwira Children's Home (now KVCH.) Margo's special talent is sending news and photos about KVCH children to our donors who take a special interest in the home. Margo, you are such an inspiration.



(Earthquake—Continued from page 1)

To help as many people as possible, we quickly turned the new ward (which was still under construction) into a functioning area with 22 beds. We received our first victim at 5 p.m., and from that point we worked around the clock. The whole staff did everything possible to triage patients and facilitate life-saving operations, with all three operating rooms running at full capacity. I operated until 3 a.m. that night, and Dr. Jimmy, our general surgeon, finished around sunrise the next morning. Recent updates to the hospital infrastructure allowed us to triple the number of patients we saw while continuing to offer top-quality care.

The last few weeks have been tiring for us but we continue to find energy in seeing the miracles that are happening. Although we see many crush injuries, so far we have not needed to perform a single amputation! Also, with our long-term follow-up care, our great rehab team, and the ability to do secondary procedures, the situation is much better for our patients than after the 2010 earthquake.

Carlande was at a market when the earthquake struck. She ran for her life, but the roof crumbled before she could get outside. The debris from the roof trapped her, and she broke both of her legs and dislocated her right hip. When Carlande arrived at our hospital, we had to be careful about blood loss since her blood type is in short supply and she was already anemic. Fortunately, Merrill, a nurse volunteer from Baltimore, was able to donate a pint of blood. After her operation, Carlande went into respiratory distress. Thanks to oxygen, prayer, and great care from our team she gradually improved and is now on her way to a complete recovery.

During a normal month, we average about 100 operations, but in the month following the earthquake, we performed more than 300 major surgeries. We have decided to offer all services to earthquake victims free of charge. This was done with faith that support would be provided. Every donation is another miracle for us.



Top photo: Drs. Jeffrey Cho, Assistant HAH medical director, and Scott Nelson, orthopedic surgeon who started the orthopedic surgery department at HAH immediately after the devastating 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Lower photo: HAH medical staff receiving the injured as they arrived by ambulance and taxi-vehicles in the hours after the earthquake.

Prosthetics Clinic Opens

By Annika Cleveland, R.N.

In late August 2020, my husband, Tim Cleveland, and I moved to Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH) in Port au Prince. We were responding to a request by HAH to open an orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) clinic. Tim is a Certified Prosthetist Orthotist, who makes and fits prosthetic limbs and bracing, and I am a nurse and nurse educator.

Before we left the U.S., we packed a large shipping container loaded with the many tools and equipment needed to open a clinic. It wasn't until April 2021 that the shipping container finally arrived and we were able to open up the clinic. Our hearts filled with joy as we watched patients begin to walk again.

Every day seemed to bring more difficulties for HAH patients and staff. There was escalating gang violence, the kidnapping of one of the physical therapists, the assassination of Haiti's president, and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August. Donor support helps HAH to stay open and offer care even in these tough circumstances.

In June, amid intense gang turf wars and a COVID-19 spike, the hospital began running critically low on oxygen. God provided a miracle when we saw our bottles of oxygen last long past when they should have run dry.

In July, after Haiti's president was assassinated, Tim and I returned to the U.S. for safety reasons. O&P practitioner, Tevita Palaki, will arrive in January '22 to be the new volunteer director during 2022.

How Can I Help Keep This Vital Outreach Going in 2022?

Funds are urgently needed for the following 2022 programs. We urge you to consider, when possible, the designation of "Wherever my help is most needed." If you choose a specific program, we will do our best to direct your gift to that program.

Wherever my help is most needed

- India: Buddha's Smile School, (Varanasi, India), an elementary school for 221 children of beggars, lepers and garbage collectors. \$ _____
- Zimbabwe, Africa: Kuda Vana Children's Home. Funds needed for day-to-day operations. \$ _____
- Kenya: Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD): Job skills training for at-risk teen girls, seeds, women's leadership training. \$ _____
- Kenya: Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BIACK) teaching sustainable farming and job skills for at-risk young women. \$ _____
- Haiti: Dr. Scott Nelson and Dr. Terry Dietrich's Orthopedic Surgery Program at Adventist Hospital, Port Au Prince, Haiti. Please specify which doctor's fund. \$ _____
- Haiti: Orthotic and Prosthetic program at Haiti Adventist Hospital, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. \$ _____
- South Africa: Lambano Sanctuary and Hospice for HIV+ children. \$ _____

Your gift is deeply appreciated. Amistad International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public foundation incorporated in 1980. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law and may be sent to: Amistad International, P.O. Box 9251, Auburn, CA 95603. You may request Amistad's EIN number.

Here is my contribution of \$ _____ Please use it for _____

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My name _____

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