

# Notas

AMISTAD INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2022



## A Miracle for Baby Jasi!

Gogo sat up, riveted by the story on the radio about a baby found under a banana tree. Gogo began saying a prayer, "Father, this baby needs you and needs loving care. Please send the baby to Kuda Vana, oh Lord."

Kuda Vana is a loving group home for vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. Gogo (which means grandmother in Shona) is one of the loving women caring for the babies in the nursery. When the toddlers see her coming, they all want to jump into her lap.

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*Left under a banana tree at birth, miracle baby Jasi being cuddled by his KVCH Gogo (grandmother).*



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#### Amistad International

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# What is Amistad International?

**A**mistad, 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.

Amistad works in partnership with local 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>
- Universal Love Alliance in Uganda (ULA): empowering people of marginalized groups: vulnerable women and children, and sexual minorities and refugees. Founders Samson Turinawe and Sharon Kukunda teach that "every human being should be respected simply for being who they are as a part of God's creation." <https://www.universallovealliance.org>
- Lambano Sanctuary: homes and hospice for children with life-threatening illnesses, in Johannesburg, South Africa. [www.lambano.org.za](http://www.lambano.org.za)
- Buddha's Smile School (BSS): a free primary school for 221 children of beggars, lepers and refugees in Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Founder and director, Rajan Kaur. [www.buddhas-smile-school.org](http://www.buddhas-smile-school.org)
- Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BIACK): teaching sustainable agriculture, sewing, cookery, computer skills, fish culture and native seed saving. [www.g-black.org](http://www.g-black.org)
- 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.

# Good News from Haiti Adventist Hospital

**Though the headlines are not getting any better...It's like a warzone—Haitians surrounded by turf wars, gangs gain the upper hand in war with Haitian police, 'This country is not able to feed itself': Inside Haiti's spiralling crisis, hospitals to close as gangs blockade fuel.**

In spite of the increasing challenges around us, lots of great stuff is still happening. Since the earthquake just over a year ago our volume has overall doubled. The existence of Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH) during that crisis and the continuing one, is more important than ever.

Before the 2021 earthquake HAH struggled to define itself as a hospital available for all classes of people. Local people wondered if we were really serious about taking care of those who don't have money. However, nowadays patients know they can come to HAH and they will be taken care of. Not just taken care of but they will get great care. We take care of everyone. Many are victims of urban violence, some are perpetrators. In addition to motorcycle and other road traffic injuries, every day we are treating gunshot and machete wounds. It is sad to see so many injuries that are intentionally inflicted.

However, during the last several weeks the volume in our ER, clinics, and surgery schedule has declined due to protests and the fuel crisis that have paralyzed the country. It is very difficult for many of our staff to even safely come to work. Demand for our services, our reputation, level of efficiency and institutional work ethic have all steadily improved over recent years. Incredible efforts have been put forth by our staff to plan for and source oxygen and fuel. Although we have reached critical lows on several occasions, power and oxygen supply has thus far been uninterrupted at HAH!

The road between us and downtown Port au Prince is an important access route into the city. We have not been able to pass through

that area for quite some time now due to insecurity and frequent shooting. This once congested area is now completely desolate aside from some heavily armed individuals that control it. Local residents have fled and people are terrified of passing through, even though they sometimes do. Patients from Carrefour and the entire southwest part of the country are often unable to reach other health care facilities in the city. Supply chains are disrupted and medical facilities all over are struggling to survive, many are closing.

Each day is a challenge for us, but we remain courageous. We are grateful for your support and be assured that God continues to bless us in extraordinary ways.

*By Dr. Scott Nelson, Orthopedic Surgeon at HAH.*

*Dr. Nelson and his wife Marni live on the hospital campus.*



**Top:** Before surgery, Samuel had difficulty walking on his severely bent legs.

**Left:** Samuel's legs are now straight thanks to a high-tech orthopedic surgery at Haiti Adventist Hospital.

# Building Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo

For over 22 years, rebel groups, government forces, and international armies have targeted Ituri Province in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We have long supported their refugee camp job training schools. The province is rich in natural resources including minerals essential for making electronic components, oil, gold and uranium deposits. These riches breed international fights and internal power struggles.

In the midst of violence and instability, Pastor James and Riziki Byensi started their peace-building organization called *Rebuilders*. They founded Rebuilders in 2019 to bring peace and stability to rural villages in eastern DRC. Amistad International has provided support for Rebuilders since their founding. We are also long-time supporters of Rebuilders refugee camp job training schools, and have built an elementary school for the refugee children.

Burning villages is one of the tactics of the rebel groups, which they hope will destabilize communities. The name Rebuilders reflects the group's mission to rebuild the burned churches. In the past three years they have rebuilt 12 churches, including both Catholic and Protestant churches. In the process they are rebuilding community and providing places of gathering and refuge.

Much of the other work of Rebuilders takes place in one of the 62 camps for internally displaced people in their region. People fleeing violence in their towns seek safety in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.

Rebuilders is often the first responder to medical and food needs since they can move fast, unlike the larger international relief organizations. "In our IDP camp schools, we are training single moms in tailoring," reports Riziki. "An example is one of our staff members is a young IDP mother who came to the school to learn.

*Reverend James Byensi, founder of Rebuilders, addressing a conference of Congolese faith leaders, tribal chiefs, politicians and peace advocates.*





She and her four children were quite malnourished when she began the classes. Since she joined Rebuilders, we have seen a total transformation in the health of her family.”

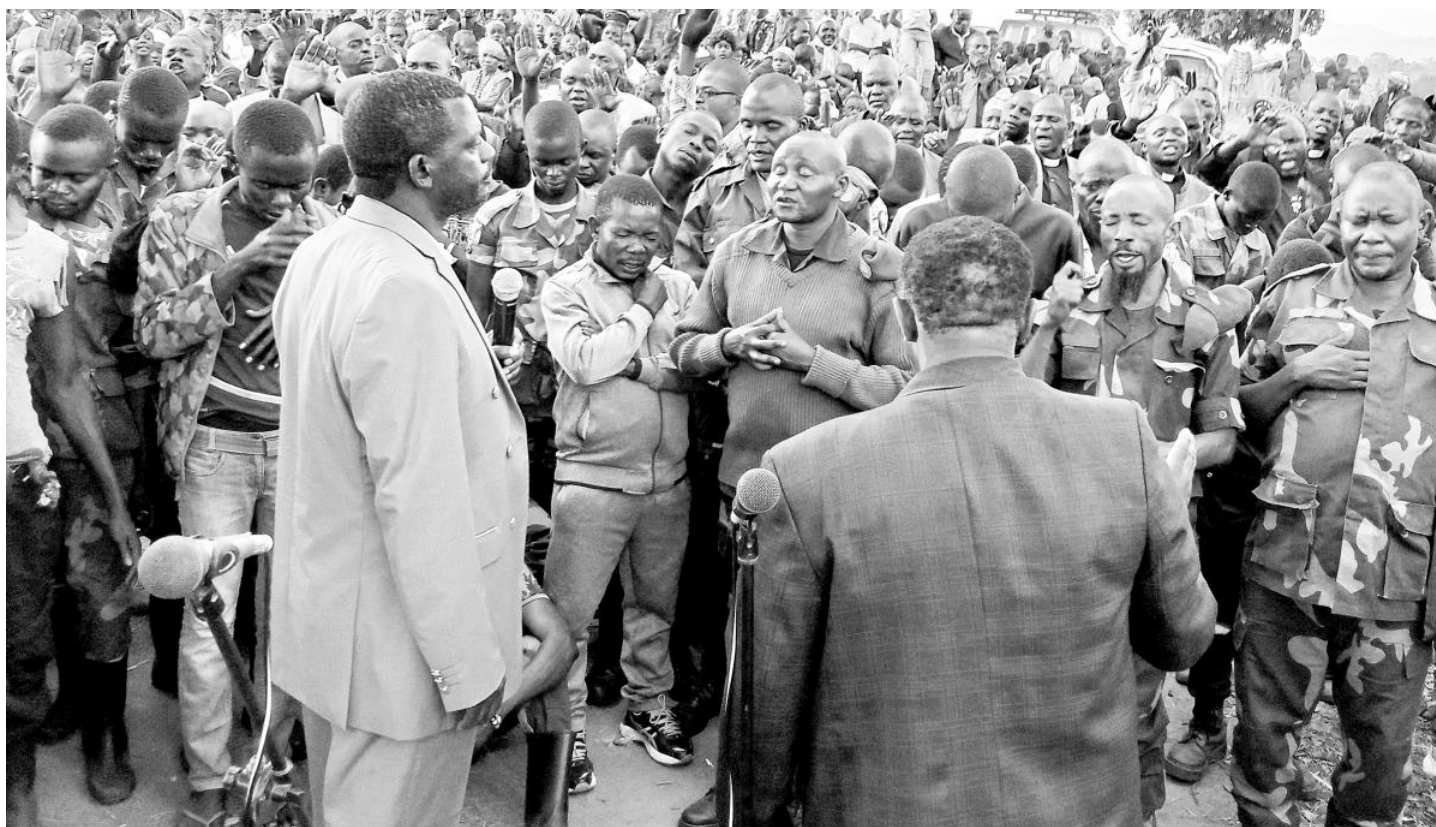
To address food insecurity in the IDP camps, Rebuilders is working with 25 families to grow food on a 15-acre farm. They have recently planted beans, tomatoes, cabbages and eggplant which will feed these families for several months.

People are beginning to recognize the successful and impactful work of Rebuilders. On July 2, Riziki and Pastor James were among 26 people selected to be Universal Peace Ambassadors by The Network of Universal Peace Ambassadors, a Geneva-based organization.

However, Rebuilders’ success brings unwanted attention as well. “Our work is dangerous,” says Pastor James. “People do not always welcome us, and we never know who might be working against our peace efforts.”

Last year, some of the unknown rebels poisoned Pastor James and Riziki. Pastor James was rushed to the hospital, where he had to stay for several weeks. This year a woman attempted to kidnap their young son from his school. Thankfully, the teacher refused to release the child into the stranger’s care, and he is safe.

Despite the threats, Pastor James and Riziki continue their work with passion. In January they organized a peace rally in Bunia, which gathered over 10,000 people. Throughout the year, they have engaged over 1,000 women to be ambassadors for peace and host conversations about peace-building for community leaders in the area. On August 12th Rebuilders gathered over 1300 youth on International Day to discuss peace. They also have a scholarship program for 22 orphans and vulnerable children. Rebuilders organization has trained 866 women and youth in a variety of job skills including hair and beauty, catering and driving.



*Reverend James Byensi and the Rebuilders leadership team mobilized a large gathering of armed militia resistance soldiers to discuss possible peace talks.*

# Saving Children from Forced Marriage

When Rajan Kaur heard that one of her students was going to get married at only 14 years of age, she immediately called the police. Rajan is the founder and director of Buddha's Smile School (BSS), and this was not the first time that one of her students faced child marriage. Her heart still breaks when she remembers one of her former students, Joyti, and her tragic fate.

Joyti, a BSS student, was only 13 when her mother took her 700 kilometers away to marry a 25-year-old man. During her marriage, Joyti experienced extreme domestic and sexual violence, and she was sent home to her mother nearly dead from her internal injuries. Rajan heard the news and took Joyti to the hospital by rickshaw. Joyti died the next day, a tragedy that continues to haunt Rajan.

Rajan first met Reena when she joined the BSS nursery school many years ago. She knew the challenges that Reena faced at

home in the Rajghat Leper community. Her mother has leprosy, and her father died four years ago. The pressures of poverty and limited opportunity made Reena vulnerable to forced marriage, which would relieve her mother of having to provide for her.

When Rajan heard that Reena's mother threatened to marry off her daughter this year, Rajan intervened. The police responded to her phone by telling the mother that it is illegal for anyone under 18 to marry in India. Raja also spoke, gently, to the mother, hoping to convince her of the value of Reena staying in school. After a while, the mother relented. Reena is now back in school and has high hopes for a better life through her education at Buddha's Smile School.

*BSS student Reena, 14, was saved from a child marriage thanks to BSS founder/director Rajan Kaur's intervention.*







Suman (age 3) is one of 15 lucky toddlers who come to the BSS Day Care Center each day. Without the BSS Day Care, Suman's elder sister Komal would have to stay home from school and care for her. The day care center, which Amistad built and funds, enables Komal to continue her education because she can bring her small sister to school. It also gives tiny Suman a safe place to be away from their alcoholic parents during the day. We hope Komal, Suman and all of the other girls at BSS will, like Reena (page 6), be able to continue in school and not become victims of a forced child marriage.

# Engaging Men in Support of Women's Empowerment

**A**mistad International supports many programs that directly fight for women's rights. These programs advocate for girls' education, provide alternative rites of passage, and provide spaces safe from violence. Despite these efforts, women and girls are still threatened within their own households. *Universal Love Alliance (ULA)* in Uganda has noticed that it's not enough to bring awareness, support, and opportunity to women

without first changing the habits and practices of the men in their families. Funds from Amistad cover the administration costs of Universal Love Alliance so that its staff has adequate support to run their impactful programs.

"We conducted a study in 2020, and we found for women's rights and empowerment to succeed, there needed to be an end to violence against

*Men of all ages now gather at Uganda's Universal Love Alliance workshops to discuss the worth and value of the women in their lives. ULA's goals include protecting women from violence.*





women,” says Turinawe Samson, Director of ULA. “For that, we needed to target the men committing this violence.”

This year, ULA is hosting a series of one-day workshops to talk to men about building a family life that centers on justice, equality, caring, and empathy for women. So far, they have held a workshop for 14 older men with histories of domestic violence and one for 22 young men who are students at the local university.

By the end of the workshop with the young men, ULA had created a safe space where they could talk about their own experiences of hurting women or witnessing violence in their homes. The post-workshop survey found that the men were newly committed to spreading the word about women’s

empowerment and forming clubs at their universities for men about women’s empowerment.

“These young people are leaders of tomorrow,” concludes Samson. “Starting these discussions with men and empowering them to protect women is a good plan; soon, they will be husbands, fathers, executives, and political leaders.” Opening the eyes of men to see the worth and value of the women in their lives is an essential complement to the programs that more directly support women to also see and claim their own power.

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## Greeting Card Project Illuminates Patriarchy in Uganda

Before the COVID-19 pandemic started, ULA volunteers used to visit male prisoners before Mother’s Day to bring the inmates greeting cards to send to their mothers. ULA Associate Director Sharon Kukunda brought four boxes of Mother’s Day cards to the prisoners at the Luzira Prison in Kampala. Sharon invited the male prisoners to send their well-wishes to their mothers who lived in villages around Uganda. Many of the male prisoners took the cards and sent them to their mothers. Indeed, there were not enough cards to go around. Sharon returned to the ULA Office that evening and told us this happy story.

But it was very different when Father’s Day came.

As Father’s Day was approaching, Sharon planned to take cards to the male prisoners so that they might send cards to their fathers. This time, she brought enough cards for every prisoner. However, not even one prisoner asked Sharon for a card to send home to his father. Sharon was stunned.

It has become clear to United Love Alliance staff that the African system of patriarchy often robs fathers and sons of the joy and the full relationship they might have with each other. Biologically, these sons have fathers. Relationship-wise, many don’t. It is the goal of ULA to help men become aware of the importance of their roles as fathers.



# Little Jewel's Life Transformed by High-Tech Surgery and Prosthetics

“What an exciting year this has been for the Haiti Adventist Hospital Orthotics and Prosthetics (O+P) clinic.

Despite the gangs, earthquake, and leadership transition, the clinic has continued to help our patients this year. In January, we celebrated the arrival of Tevita Paleki (CPO), Loma Linda University Prosthetics/Orthotics graduate, to work alongside our local O&P practitioner. There to meet Tevita was a very special patient.

Jewel was born with a shortened femur which was too short to walk on. It was so short, that the usual limb-lengthening procedures that Dr. Scott Nelson can perform at HAH would not lead to a useful limb. Instead, she required an extra special surgery called a rotationplasty. A rotationplasty involves removing the malformed femur and then inserting the knee joint into the hip joint backwards so that the patient can use their knee as a hip and an ankle as a knee.

It is a complex operation, and then afterwards it is a complicated prosthetic and physical therapy case—even in the United States! Fortunately for Jewel, Haiti Adventist Hospital could help.

Her rotationplasty was done at HAH by Dr. Scott Nelson in June, 2021. The surgery was a day-long procedure. Afterwards Jewel went home to heal. In the meantime, we at Orthotics and Prosthetics were carefully sourcing the parts for her prosthetic. We coordinated with the



*Little Jewel with CPO Tevita Paleki before her complicated orthopedic surgery.*

physical therapy staff on how to prepare her for her prosthetic. When Tevita arrived at HAH this past January, he helped put the finishing touches on her new leg.

All healed up, Jewel is now able to walk! Many factors had to conspire to lead to this wonderful outcome. To mention only a few, the hospital and medical staff had to have the resources and expertise to perform an operation of this complexity; the O+P practitioners had to have the training, tools, and equipment to fit Jewel; and the rehab staff needed the knowledge of how to help her.

Over 100 patients have now been treated at the HAH O+P clinic. Not all of them are as complex as Jewel's case, but her story demonstrates the wonderful, life-changing possibilities enabled by your help and support. Thank you for the ongoing support of the Haiti O+P program.”

*Little Jewel dancing  
on her new leg.*





# Building Self-confidence as a Tool Against Rape

“Say No and Be Counted,” run by Visionary Women’s Center (VWC), is the first anti-rape program in their semi-rural area in western Kenya. A recent study in Kenya found that one-third of young women and 18% of young men reported experiencing sexual violence before the age of 18. In response to this news, VWC developed a six-session workshop to train adolescents on human rights, women’s rights, effective communication, and self-protection. The organizers recognized that police often failed to follow up on reports of abuse. VWC now also provides critical support to those who report rape and helps ensure abusers are held to account.

With Amistad’s support, 677 students (377 girls and 300 boys) have attended Say No and Be Counted workshops. Boys and girls have parallel sessions and then come together to work towards a greater understanding of the experiences of each group. The sessions include conversations and role-playing about the pressures of gender norms, recognizing harassment and bullying, and self-defense and stopping abuse. Benter and Rodah, the VWC leaders, report that the students

are eager to learn these skills, not letting rain or cold deter them from attending each week.

Noela Rainees, a 13-year-old student, told the social workers that the workshops helped her gain self-confidence and gave her tools to confront and intervene when she noticed a girl being harassed. Frederic Chumbi (age 16) also reported that the skills he learned in the program helped him protect his friend’s sister from being hit.

The teachers at the school where VWC holds the workshops also learn alongside their students. Teacher Norah Otieno says she learned how to deal more effectively with students’ needs and problems. The workshops inspired her to be a more effective female role model for her students. Overall, she sees that the students have greater self-confidence and are more willing to come to teachers for support when they have an issue.

# CIFORD Distributes Food to Drought-Stricken Families

Drought, rising inflation, and grain scarcity are all conspiring to leave many families in Meru County/Kenya hungry.

“Many families in these areas are sleeping hungry for two or three days in a row,” reports Margaret Ikiara, Director of Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD Kenya).

Rural families who rely on rains to water their subsistence crops are particularly vulnerable to the erratic rains during the last few planting seasons. The war in Ukraine also increased global fertilizer prices, doubling prices for even basic commodities like beans and corn in Kenya.

As a result, children are dropping out of school to help search for food or do casual jobs to earn money for their families. Teachers see that children who stay in school come to class hungry, sometimes fainting for lack of food.

This summer, Amistad International and Spirit in Action joined forces to help CIFORD distribute much-needed food relief to hungry families. CIFORD bought corn, beans, rice, cooking, oil, and salt to share with 150 families from these vulnerable communities. Funding also covered the costs of transporting the food to two centralized school locations for distribution.

“This is a project which looks small but has a great impact on the lives of the community members,” assures Margaret. “The children burst into happy singing when they saw us arrive with food.”

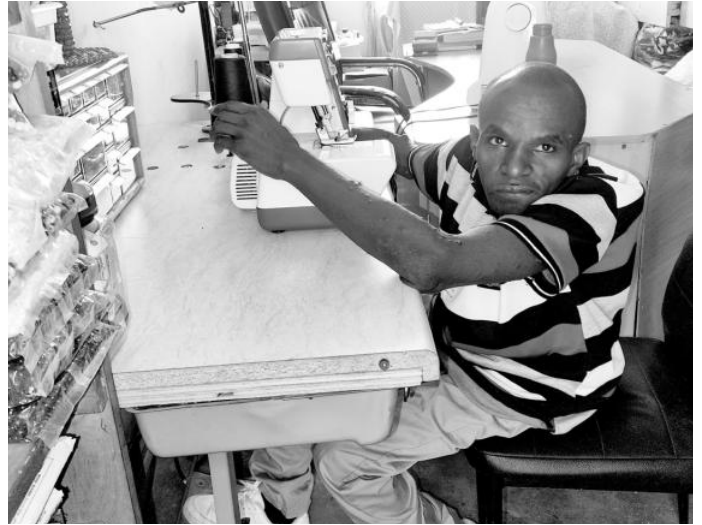


*Several schools and community families received drought-relief food packages through Amistad International’s grants to CIFORD/Kenya.*

# Seeking Support for Talented Tailoring Teacher

G-BIACK's tailoring teacher, Moses Mbugua, was abandoned by his parents in Thika hospital. He was born with a spinal defect causing hunchback and they did not think they could provide proper care for their needy baby. Because of the kindness of the hospital staff, Baby Moses ended up living at the hospital until he was a teen. That is when Samuel and Peris Nderitu, founders of Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BIACK) learned of the young fellow's plight. The Nderitus decided to invite Moses to come and live permanently at their school. There they gave him the possibility of being an independent person of dignity by teaching him tailoring skills. Moses became adept at the tailoring trade and was appointed as the lead teacher in G-BIACK's sewing school for at-risk youth. (Amistad has sponsored the sewing school since inception and has built a modest home for Moses on G-BIACK campus.)

Moses' monthly salary of \$300 has been paid by a sponsor who can no longer provide this support. Would you be interested in Amistad support Moses' salary at G-BIACK? If so, please contact Karen Kotoske, at [karen@amistadinternational.org](mailto:karen@amistadinternational.org)



*G-BIACK head tailoring teacher Moses Mbugua.*

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## "I am now a Proud Mother:"

"Thank you for being my guardian angel. I am now a proud mother of my children." This praise is from Mary Munoru, one of the successful graduates of the job training program run by Community Initiatives for Rural Development, CIFORD, in rural Kenya.

Mary is a single mother of two children. Before getting a job, Mary's brothers pressured her to turn the children over to their biological father. The brothers threatened to kick Mary and her children out of the family home since she could not provide food for her family. Joining CIFORD's sewing training program was a lifesaver for Mary.

After graduation, Mary was one of twenty students who received a treadle sewing machine, provided with funding from Amistad. Mary now specializes in making bags, and she rents a shop space from another businesswoman in the town center.

When Margaret Ikiara, founder of CIFORD, visited the shop, Mary told her of her joy at running her own successful business. "I sleep in peace now that I can support my children. And I no longer fight with my brothers.

With my sewing education and the treadle sewing machine from CIFORD, I can provide a home and food for my children. Thank you for making my dream a reality."

*CIFORD sewing school graduate Mary Munoru now runs her own successful business.*



# Saving Girls from Being Trafficked



*Because Soma Home, Sabina now has the hope of a bright future.*

Sabina Khatun is in the eighth grade and loves to paint and draw. She is quiet and friendly and likes school. For now, Sabina is hopeful, but the hope is hard-won.

Sabina's mother, Najma Bibi, came from a small village in Bangladesh. Najma's father was a subsistence farmer, and Najma worked in the house and field with no opportunity to attend school. Najma was just thirteen years old when her male cousin offered to get her a job as a maid in India. Her family gladly accepted the offer. The cousin illegally took Najma across the international border to India and sold her to a brothel in Kolkata. Having no way to return to her family, and after being told by her cousin that her parents were dead, Najma had to accept her new reality in Kolkata.

Najma started seeing a regular client and had a child with him before realizing he was married. She continued the relationship with him and had two more daughters: Sabina and her sister Rohina. The women at

New Light, a daycare and home for children in Kolkata's red-light district, saw the suffering of the three little girls. They knew there was a risk of their mother selling them into prostitution in her desperation.

When little Sabina arrived at the New Light daycare center in Kolkata in 2011, she was just two years old. Later, New Light leaders helped her attend primary school, and in 2019, she moved into New Light's Soma Home. Soma Home, sponsored by an Amistad donor, is a residential home for girls aged 6-18 born to sex workers. At Soma Home, Sabina receives regular counseling to address and start to heal the trauma from her early years. Sima Banerjee, one of Soma Home's leaders, reports that Sabina engages well with her peers and is a responsible member of the Soma Home family.

"We are grateful to Amistad donors who support Soma Home for Girls," says Sima, "so that we at New Light can continue to save many more girls like Sabina from the traffickers."



# Amistad International warmly welcomes, Tanya Cothran, our newest member of Amistad International's Executive Board of Directors.



*Amistad welcomes Tanya Cothran as our newest board member.*

As Executive Director of Spirit in Action (SIA), Tanya has been a collaborator with us for several years. SIA and Amistad have co-sponsored multiple African programs, including CIFORD, G-BLACK, Visionary Women Centre and United Love Alliance. Tanya and SIA hold sacred the same values that Amistad holds as we work alongside our African colleagues. Tanya is co-author with Jennifer Lentfer, of the book *Smart Risks: How small grants are helping to solve some of the world's biggest problems*. Tanya also a writer for Amistad's annual report, *Notas*.

I've invited Tanya to tell us a bit about her background and work.

We welcome Tanya.

Karen Kotoske  
Executive Director

Hi! My name is Tanya Cothran, and I'm pleased to be the newest Amistad Board of Directors member. For the last 15 years, I have been Executive Director of Spirit in Action (SIA), an organization similar to Amistad that supports grassroots solutions for justice and prosperity in Eastern Africa. My grandfather was active with Spirit in Action before me, so this international work is in my genes!

I've traveled to Eastern Africa four times, spending time with SIA's grant partners and learning about the context of this transformative work. I am continually impressed and inspired by their dedication to working on the front lines of change. Over many cups of chai, SIA African leaders and I have collaborated, talked through complicated problems, laughed at cultural differences, and prayed and sung together. One of my most cherished memories is singing "God is So Good" together, each singing a verse in our own language and teaching it to the others—Swahili (Central Kenya), Luganda (Uganda), Tumbuka (Malawi), French (DR Congo), Kalenjin (Western Kenya), and English (everyone).

Over the years, I have been so blessed to see the fruits of our combined efforts. I've seen children in Kenya graduate from high school and attend university. I've seen families in Malawi build homes after starting successful businesses. And I've witnessed elders in Uganda care for each other through peer-lending circles. When I travel to Uganda in November, I will visit SIA's projects, including Universal Love Alliance, which Amistad also supports.

I met Karen Kotoske in 2012 when we realized that Amistad and SIA funded some of the same organizations in Kenya. We became colleagues of a sort, supporting one another through the challenges of our parallel work. I'm so pleased to now be an official part of Amistad and contribute to this vital work.

# We Say Gracias



*Precious in an outfit she created during in her fashion and tailoring course at Uganda's Ishaka Adventist Hospital.*

—Dear Karen,

You have no idea what a blessing today's email about Amistad wiring funds to Lambano Sanctuary is. We are sitting here with absolutely no money. We were just praying and asking for our prayers to be answered and then I received your email. God is so good to us, thank you very much for the wonderful news!

Kind regards,

Lyn Croote, Executive Director  
Lambano Sanctuary, South Africa

—Dear Karen,

Warm greetings from Ishaka and Y-FAN. I hope this mail finds you in good health. I would like to thank you for the great support you accorded our student, Precious. She successfully completed her course at the end of May 2022, and she has learnt general tailoring, fashion and design. In the course of her study, she has fully participated in making nurses' uniforms and other works where she would get paid. She will be waiting to do state exams so she can get a certificate. I would like to thank you once again for transforming her; she now has a bright future! I wish you God's blessings.

Blessings.

Lydia Komugisha,  
Director of Ishaka Adventist Hospital  
Kampala, Uganda

—Dear Amistad,

We have not been able to thank you enough for your continued support as G-BLACK partners. We have been together for a long time and Amistad has contributed immensely to the growth and development of this organization. I have an agreement with God that G-BLACK will not die when we founders pass over from this world but it will continue for many years even in our absence. This is the reason why we are laying firm foundations in anything that we do. The textiles department is one of the areas where we want to really do some thorough work. I especially want to thank Chris and Debbie Seguin for helping in the collection of sewing materials, machines and computers.

Thank you Tom Seguin for providing the shipping costs. Materials we receive from the Seguins and their friends are used for teaching purposes, while others are made into salable products. Our textile teachers, Caroline Atieno (dress making and beading) and Moses Mbugua (tailoring) have been doing very good work of teaching the students. We currently have 30 students who are now moving onward to various communities for a 3 months community internships.

Thank you, Amistad.

Samuel Nderitu  
G-BLACK founder and director

—Dear Karen,

Jim and I donate with gratitude for the work of Amistad International and with solidarity and compassion for our global brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews facing hardship of all forms.

Susie King

Dear Karen,

We continue to have enormous respect for the life-changing work you and Amistad are doing.

(Drs.) Darleen and Bill Hemmerlin

Dear Karen,

Your genuine appreciation and personal accountability to your donors are two of the reasons I am involved with Amistad.

Tom Seguin

Dear Amistad,

We are so grateful for all the support to CIFORD. This is great sacrifice and we have no other way to say thank you other than may God Bless you. We have seen CIFORD grow with a lot of support and sacrifice from Amistad donors.

Margaret Ikiara  
Founder/Director Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD) Kenya.

Dear Amistad,

*There is huge difference in the lives of our first students who enrolled in 2003 (nearly 20 years ago!) Now most of our former students are engaged in jobs because of their education at BSS. Some of our students are now doing graduate studies. One of the most important marks of progress is that the BSS girls' lives are deeply changed; instead of an early marriage, they can have dreams and goals for their lives. Today we feel happy and proud to say that Buddha's Smile School is a success story.*

*Rajan Kaur, founder/director*



- Thank you to Debbie and Chris Seguin for collecting and shipping nearly 1,000 pounds of sewing fabric, sewing machines and computers which were then shipped to Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre Kenya (G-BIACK) for the youth agriculture and sewing programs. We also thank Expeditors International for free shipping of the pallet from Mountain View to San Diego, CA. We thank Tom Seguin for providing the funds for shipments to Kenya. Thank you, Nancy Orton, for your contribution of thousands of yards of fabric, sewing machines, sergers (commercial sewing machines) and computer equipment.
- Thank you, Ann Down, for providing the funds to build a new classroom for the sewing school at Community Initiatives for Rural Development/Kenya (CIFORD).
- We're so grateful to Chris and Bill McClure for generous support of the anti-rape programs at Visionary Women's Centre/Kenya, the purchase of a van for war victims in Kyiv, Ukraine, and the construction of the new training center at G-BIACK.
- We are deeply grateful to Don and Wanda Krein for supporting the development of the new Maruge Girls' After-School Program for Maasai and Kikuyu girls, and support for Amri Elementary School, both in Kenya.
- Thank you, Dick Noble, for providing funds for the first-floor construction of the new teaching and conference center at Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya (G-BIACK).

- Thank you, Ann Down, for continuing your tremendous support of the Soma Home for Girls in Kolkata and Buddha's Smile School in Varanasi, India.
- Thank you, Kee Flynn, for your tremendous support for the development of the new Maruge Girls' Centre program for Maasai and Kikuyu girls which will provide vocational trainings, health and hygiene training, peace-building and conflict resolutions, and awareness of harm from FGM, early and forced marriages for underage girls. The center will also provide weaving and sewing classes taught by Maasai mothers.
- Thank you to our generous donors who supported CIFORD's girls' empowerment programs: Ann Down, Pru Watson, Nazrin Kanzi, Conejo, California Soroptimist International, Jeanne Liston, Margo Kennedy, Jane Karageorge and Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland. We are also grateful to Conejo Soroptimist International, Manhattan Beach Soroptimist International, Arlene Van Rooyen, Beverly Bucur, Jacqui Purnell, Editha Fuentes, Allan Paulson, Carol Ann Burton, Cheryl Abel, Debbie Cutler, and Jane Karageorge, Soroptimist of Great Britain and Ireland, for their support of CIFORD's response to food and seed shortages caused by severe drought.

*Mothers receiving food through CIFORD/Kenya for their families during current drought. Amistad donors provided food for 150 families and several elementary schools.*



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# Here's What You've Done

- Amistad helped transport Ukrainians to safer borders, purchased food and provided medicines for elderly and shut-ins Ukrainians.
- Amistad provided a 2022 grant to Visionary Women's Centre (Kenya) for teaching self-defense classes to those enrolled in their anti-rape program for youth.
- Amistad helped CIFORD (Kenya) build a schoolroom for teaching young women how to sew clothing, bags, and commercial and school uniforms. The girls also learn manufacture of recyclable feminine hygiene products which can be sold for income.
- For Kenya's Meru tribe, we provided food for 300 drought-stricken farming families and food for four school lunch programs.
- TEAM: Amistad provided a grant for the support of economically-challenged women theology student scholarships overseas. TEAM supports equality for women in ministry.
- Kenya: Amistad is helping the ongoing transition of the Maruge Elementary School into an after-school Girls' Centre for Maasai and Kikuyu adolescent girls to build their self-esteem, teach agriculture, and hand-craft skills. The goal is to help the girls and their families reject early marriages and (illegal) FMG rites of the girls. We are deeply grateful to Wanda and Don Krein for sponsoring this program.
- At Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre/ Kenya, Amistad granted funds to build a new conference and teaching center, dining hall and kitchen. As soon as construction was completed, agriculture students poured in from several African nations to study sustainable farming. Groups of farmers from across Africa are scheduled to arrive in upcoming months.

Twenty-two impoverished girls arrived in July for their 18-month agriculture, sewing, computer, culinary arts and baking course. (The food they learn to prepare is grown at G-BIACK.) This December, this year's class of 20 is graduating and heading back to their communities self-reliant with new job skills and ability to teach improved food

production. The girls have the skills to open an eatery or bakery, as well as cook nutritious food for their families.

## Congratulations!

G-BIACK was awarded a first prize at the Indigenous Seeds and Food Culture Harvest Fair at the National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi, October 2022. This year's event focused on Seeds and Food Culture. G-BIACK-trained farmer, Mrs. Ruth Njeri, represented the women farmers in a talk titled "Women and Seeds." G-BIACK was awarded a first prize for having the exhibit with the most diversity of seeds, the best explanation of seed issues, the best organized exhibit, and the best teaching skills.



*In August, G-BIACK welcomed their first group of farming students at their new Amistad-funded teaching center.*

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# We Remember

- Shirley Moyer honors the lives of her husband Bruce, her parents, Elder and Mrs AD Nagy, her brother, Ernest Nagy and wife Helen Nagy.
- Karen Kotoske honors the life of Alice Esparza, a friend and faithful supporter of Amistad mission. Alice also kept a warm place in her heart for whom she always called 'Paula's kids' (Kuda Vana Children's Home.)
- Dorothy and Ernest Toppenberg honor the life of Thomas Kotoske.
- Audrey Shaffer remembers the life of mission pilot, Conroy Donesky who gave his life in service to the Huichol Indian people.
- Dorothy and Ernest Toppenberg remember Elder and Mrs Bill Baxter, and Tom Kotoske.
- Debbie and Chris Seguin honor the life of their friend, Donny Rigby, professor of speech, communication and theatre arts at Walla Walla University.
- The life of Connie Reuer is remembered lovingly by Gay and Duane Wilson.grand-children.

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# We Honor

- Joyce Runge gives thanks to God for another year of health and life. Happy birthday, Joyce!
- Gay Wilson celebrates the gift of another year of blessings.
- William and Donna Watson honor the selfless service of Dr Scott Nelson to the people of Haiti.
- Gay and Duane Wilson honor their beloved grandchildren.

(Miracle—Continued from page 1)

The story that Gogo had heard on the radio was about a woman working in the fields when she thought she heard a baby's cry. She sent her kids toward the banana trees, telling them, "Go and see if you can find anything!" Suddenly, she heard them shouting from the banana grove, "Mama, come quickly. It's a baby!"

Under a banana tree lay a two-pound baby boy, his entire body covered with biting ants. The woman picked up the baby, held him tightly against her chest and began running toward the hospital. She was starting to feel fatigued when a man in a truck generously offered to drive them both to the hospital.

### A baby comes to Kuda Vana

Three months later, the radio story of the miracle baby had faded from Gogo's mind. It was just a regular day when one of Kuda Vana's staff got the call from the hospital that there were three children—a three-year-old girl, a five-month-old baby boy, and a premature three-month-old boy—who needed somewhere to live. However, Kuda Vana was at its limit and didn't have enough funds to take care of three more children.

The team at Kuda Vana decided to take a step out in faith and take in the children, even though they didn't have the money to provide for the three youngsters. Hearing that three new children were arriving at the nursery soon, Gogo once again prayed that God would work things out. Three days later, Kuda Vana received the funding, and social services made an exception for them to take additional children.

It was when Gogo was cradling the new baby, named "Banana" by the hospital nurses, that something clicked in her mind. She realized that the baby she had prayed for three months ago was now lying in her arms. God had answered her prayers and brought him to Kuda Vana. She renamed him Jasi. (We've changed his name for this story.)

### The Miracle Continues

In 2020, a Zimbabwean pastoral couple approached Kuda Vana about their desire to adopt a child. They had heard baby Jasi's story and were immediately drawn to this miracle baby. During one of their visits to Kuda Vana, the couple also fell also in love with another child, a tiny girl whom they also wanted to adopt along with Jasi. Kuda Vana's team provided them with resources and information on adoption and parenting children who have experienced trauma.

Finding safe and loving homes for children is one of Kuda Vana's primary goals. Long-term residential care is never best for a child: being in family is. In the past several years, thirteen Kuda Vana children have been reunified with their biological families. Nine Kuda Vana children have been adopted (or are in the process), and six children are being fostered in local homes with families who care for them as their own.

On March 31, 2022, after much waiting and prayer, the Zimbabwean courts granted legal adoption of Jasi (who is now three years old) and his new sister. The staff and children at Kuda Vana shared an emotional goodbye, celebrating the love and commitment that brought this family together.

*Gogo has been gravely ill and now needs her own miracle. We pray for healing and a return of strength for this loving grandmother.*

*Inflation is rampant in Zimbabwe, prices for the children's food are rising rapidly. In fact, The World Food Bank recently released a list of the top ten countries hit hardest by food inflation: Zimbabwe is #1 at 353%. KVCH is building a greatly needed campus school and family support center to support more adoptions and reunifications in the community. All gifts greatly appreciated.*



**Top:** Baby Jasi in the arms of his new papa.



**Bottom:** Kuda Vana Children's Home mamas bidding a happy but tearful goodbye to Baby Jasi as he leaves with his new adoptive parents.

## 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:

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



# How Can I Help Keep This Vital Outreach Going in 2023?

Funds are urgently needed for the following 2023 programs. Please mark "Wherever my help is most needed." However, if you prefer, you can support 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 and the new school. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 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-BLACK) teaching sustainable farming and job skills for at-risk young women. Salary for tailoring teacher, Moses Mgubua \$3,600 per year. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to honor someone's birthday, anniversary, birth, retirement, or life, we will send an acknowledgment letter to the family or individual whom you designate. Please provide the following information.

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## Amistad International

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