AMISTAD INTERNATIONAL

Notas

Annual Report 2025

As Gang Violence Escalates, How is HAH Still Functioning?

Report from Dr. Scott Nelson, Orthopedic Surgeon

Every day, desperate patients come to Haiti Adventist Hospital (HAH) seeking help not otherwise available. Even if they have a condition potentially treatable in Haiti, they often cannot afford it or may not be able to physically get there due to roadblocks, gang tolls, and disruptions in public transportation.

(Continued on page 19)

At Haiti Adventist Hospital, life-saving surgeries continue as gang warfare escalates in the streets.

INSIDE

Notas

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

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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 as allowed by law.

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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.

Amistad works in partnership with local community leaders to help women and children develop the skills and knowledge necessary for building healthy economically sustainable communities.

Some of the programs we support include:

- Haiti: Dr. Scott Nelson-founded orthopedic surgical program and dental clinic at HopitalAdventiste d'Haiti, Port au Prince, Haiti.
- Kuda Vana Children's Home, Zimbabwe, a home for orphaned, abused, ill, and abandoned children. *https://www.kudavana.org/*
- Buddha's Smile School (BSS): A free primary school for 221 children of beggars, garbage collectors, lepers and refugees in Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Founder and director, Rajan Kaur. *www.buddhas-smile-school.org*
- Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD) in Kenya: Providing agricultural training, anti-FGM coming-of-age rites for girls, Girls' Leadership Seminars, and Boy's Redefining Manhood Seminars. *http://cifordkenya.org*
- Universal Love Alliance/Uganda provides health care and a safe space for vulnerable community members. There is no prejudice against gender identity or domestic violence victims: all are welcome for testing, and treatment and psychological counseling and workshops are provided for both victims and perpetrators.
- Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BiACK): teaching sustainable agriculture, sewing, cookery, computer skills, fish culture and native seed-saving. *www.g-biack.org*
- Lambano Sanctuary: Homes and hospice for children with life-threatening illnesses, in Johannesburg, South Africa. *www.lambano.org.za*

Redefining Manhood to Shape the Future

Ameru Boys for Change

This year 158 Ameru tribal boys participated in CIFORD's Redefining Manhood classes, a unique new program supported by Amistad.

"Before coming to CIFORD, I thought being a man meant keeping quiet when girls suffered. Now I know real strength is standing up for them. I want to be a boy who brings change, not harm."

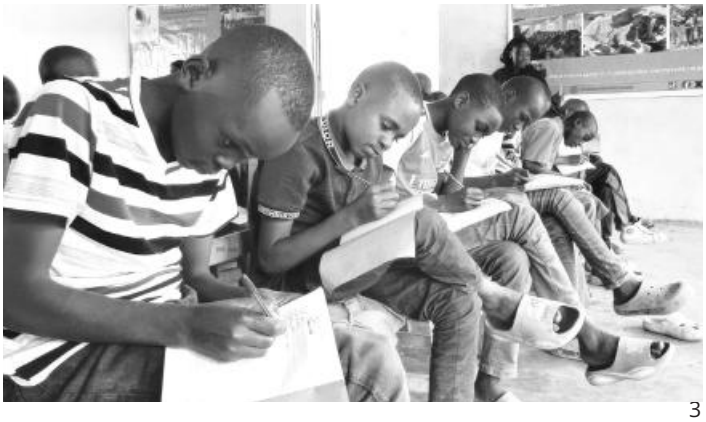
—Kelvin Muchui, Boys for Change Participant

With a grant from Amistad, CIFORD Kenya has launched a program to help boys understand their responsibility in working toward equality for women and girls. The boys participate in activities that emphasize the importance of staying in school and achieving academic excellence, while also introducing them to a broader role for men as supportive husbands and fathers. This aims to counter the message that men should only be the breadwinners in the household, which puts pressure on men who are unable to find jobs (common in Kenya's struggling economy). It also helps reduce the stigma of joining women in household chores and child-rearing tasks.

"Before coming to CIFORD, I thought girls' issues had nothing to do with me," said participant Ian Munene. "Now I understand that as boys we must stand with our sisters, respect them, and protect them. I want to be part of the change in my community."

This year, 158 boys attended CIFORD's Redefining Manhood programs, which is a parallel to CIFORD's Girls for Leaders program, also sponsored by Amistad.

The boys learn how to respect the girls and women in their lives, how to improve their grades, the importance of staying in school, and how they can be better husbands and fathers someday.



Buddha's Smile School

Deepak's Journey to the Stage

Deepak came to Buddha's Smile School (BSS) in 2003, when he was just eight years old. He belonged to the Harijan community (sometimes unkindly called 'the untouchables'.) During one of her visits to the informal settlement areas, BSS founder/director, Rajan Kaur, identified Deepak as a particularly vulnerable and disabled child who was not attending school. Rajan invited him to come to school.

Deepak had polio as a small child leaving him with weak arms and legs. He was born deaf, and, although he could make some sounds, he could not form words.

From the very beginning, the school staff cared for him with love and patience. Sukhdev, husband of BSS founder Rajan, personally took on the responsibility of massaging Deepak's limbs daily and assisting him with movement exercises.

Despite his physical challenges, Deepak's spirit was strong. At first, the class lessons were difficult for him because he could not hear the instructions and had to rely on visual aids and watching the teacher's mouth and gestures. With Amistad's support, Deepak had his hearing tested and got hearing aids. Through consistent practice and determination, Deepak learned to read his lessons and even assisted his classmates by using expressions and gestures to communicate.

Around the time he graduated from Grade 5 at BSS, Deepak was introduced to the tabla, a traditional Indian drum, which sparked something deep inside him. Initially, teaching Deepak the tabla was challenging due to communication barriers. BSS founder Rajan sat with Deepak during the early classes, patiently guiding him. His tabla teacher never gave up on Deepak, and his talent continued to grow. Deepak started performing in Uttar Pradesh State events and has now been featured in renowned city concerts.

Today, at 21 years old, with a beard and a gentle smile, Deepak is a skilled tabla player and is preparing to teach the instrument to other students at BSS.

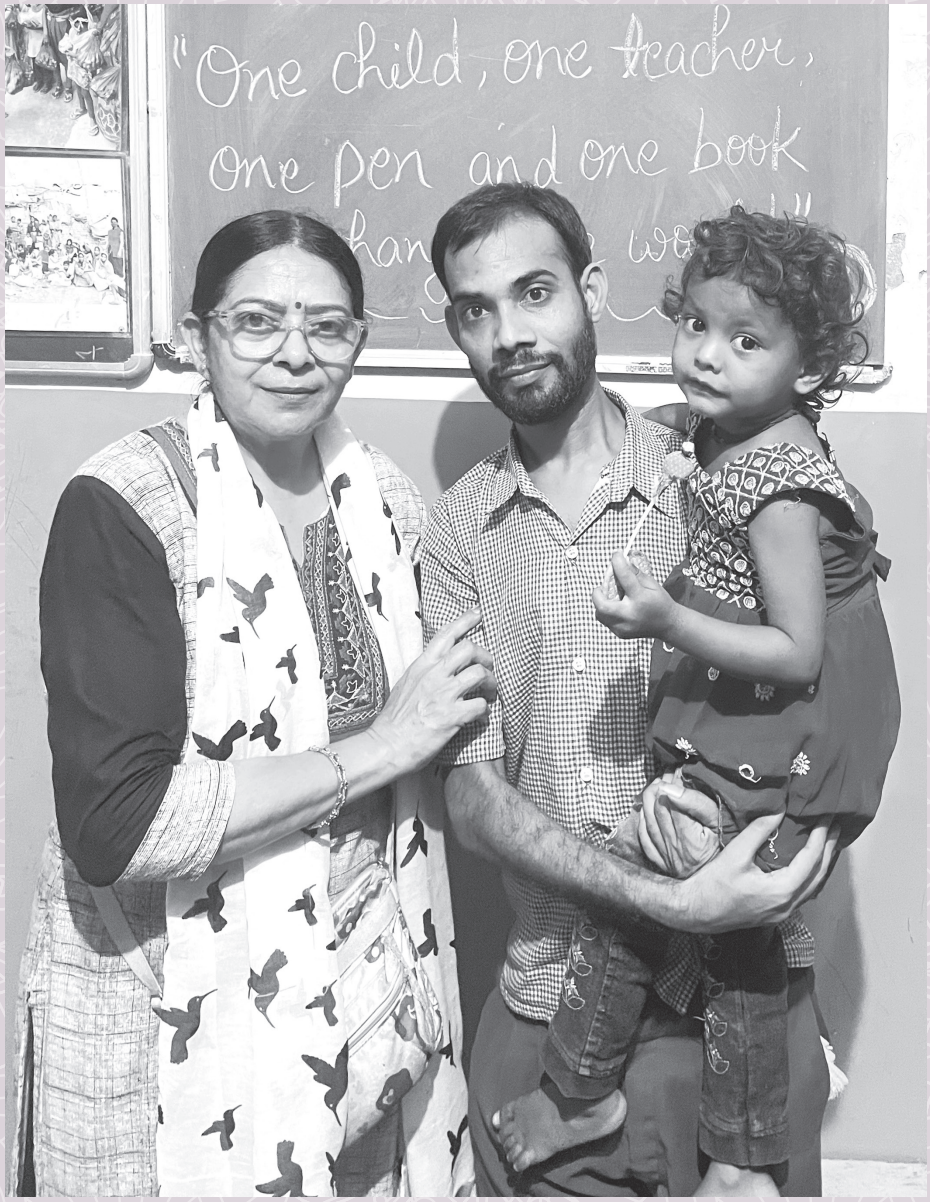
Deepak's siblings have also benefited tremendously from their attendance at Buddha's Smile School. His brother, Shamsher, is now the Marketing Manager at a bank, and Deepak's sister, a BSS grade school graduate, is married with children.

From a slum background to becoming confident individuals, their journeys reflect not just personal triumphs but also the powerful influence of education, empathy, and community support that BSS provides to each student. Deepak's story continues to motivate everyone at the school—and beyond.

We want to say a special word of gratitude to sponsors of Buddha's Smile School. Your love is helping to provide support for seventeen staff members, 220 students from Nursery to Class 5, twenty infants in daycare, and 180 students from Class 6 to high school graduation.

—By Daisy Saini

Daisy is the eldest daughter of Rajan and Sukhdev Saini, founders of Buddha's Smile School.



Buddha's Smile School founder, Rajan Kaur, with Deepak (holding a child who attends the BSS pre-school.) Deepak often returns to volunteer at BSS.

Amistad INTERNATIONAL

Celebrates 45 Years of Service

On May 18, 1980, Karen Kotoske, an unexpected guest passenger, flew in a four-seater plane to the remote western Sierra Madre mountains of Western Mexico with two American medical students and their pilot Bill Baxter. Twice a week, the students visited several Huichol Indian villages, providing care to communities without access to Western medicine. After the flight, Karen returned to the US, determined to help the flying clinic continue its life-saving work for the Huichol Indians. Subsequently, Karen founded Amistad International.

The flying clinic continued to provide airborne medical services, as well as educational and agricultural support for the Huichol Indians until 2012.

Today, Amistad International partners with communities in several countries around the world to support programs where grassroots leaders deliver essential services. We collaborate with these leaders so they can equip their communities with tools for accessing food, education, clean water, medical care, economic opportunity and dignity.

Among the countries where Amistad is serving is Haiti, India, Kenya, Uganda, Mongolia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe, and Mexico.

The Amistad Board of Directors, Executive Director Karen Kotoske, and the thousands of people that Amistad serves around the world, thank you for your support over these many years.

Among the many programs carried out during the past 45 years, Amistad International supported a medical and humanitarian aviation program for Mexico's Huichol Indians for 32 years.

Three of the 108 young women graduated this year from CIFORD's Girls for Leaders program.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

CIFORD's Girls for Leaders Program

We know that representation matters. If you rarely see someone who looks like you in a specific role, it's less likely you'll imagine yourself in that role someday. The Girls for Leaders program by Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD) Kenya aims to change that for girls from vulnerable families in Meru County.

In 2025, 108 young women were selected from CIFORD's Alternative Rites-of-Passage seminars to participate in this year-long program, which met for one week in April and August and will meet for a final two weeks in December.

During the seminar weeks, women leaders from Meru and Isiolo Counties, who have overcome great struggles to become leaders in their fields, share their life journeys with the young women, mentoring and encouraging them. These leaders include roles such as a National Assembly Member, a National Women's Representative, Sub-County Director of Education, and a Methodist Bishop.

Other topics covered include communication and self-branding, self-esteem, academic excellence, governance, and leadership skills. Besides leadership topics, CIFORD also discusses intimate relationships, reproductive health, and substance abuse. They also took field trips to Meru University, Meru County Assembly, and Weru TV/Radio Station.

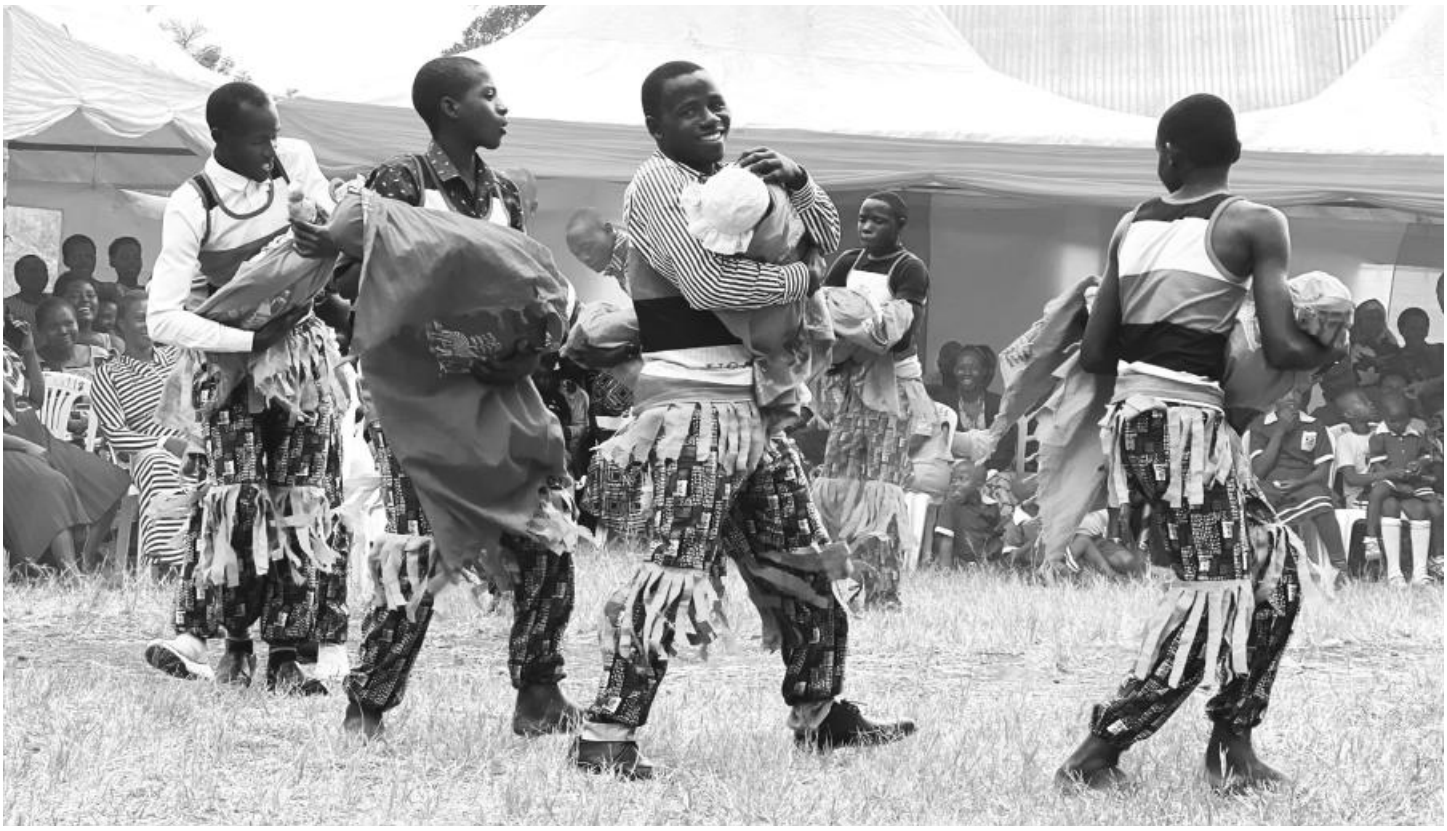
Understanding the importance of support at home, the CIFORD staff visit the parents or guardians of each participant. This helps the parents guide the young women throughout the year and allows the staff to better understand the girls' family circumstances.

"Coming to CIFORD for this leadership program has improved my discipline and academic performance," said Anita, one of this year's participants. "I am studying hard so I can become a lawyer to protect the rights of women and children in my Turkana community."

Providing Medical Care Without Discrimination in Uganda

Written by Tanya Cothran

When USAID funding ended in early 2025, many government-run clinics in Uganda abruptly closed. Community clinics like Universal Love Alliance's (ULA) Clinic in Kampala, Uganda, and funded in part by Amistad, became vital lifelines for vulnerable people who otherwise had nowhere else to turn.



In a humble home converted into a clinic and office, ULA's dedicated healthcare workers provide diagnosis and treatment for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. In the first half of the year, ULA served 4,730 clients, offering care to everyone without judgment or turning anyone away.

"The ULA Clinic has helped me in many ways as a woman because it has offered services I could not get from other clinics," said a client who prefers to stay anonymous. "When funding was cut off for other organizations that were helping the less fortunate, ULA stepped in to help me and my family. They have really helped me a lot, health-wise and with food."

The ULA Clinic has a small pharmacy counter where they dispense medications like antiretroviral (ARV) drugs that help manage HIV. ARVs are vital healthcare, protecting people with HIV and reducing the viral load so the virus won't be transmitted to others. However, these medications can cause nausea if not taken with food, so ULA also provides some food to the more than 200 people taking the pills.

Promoting Harmony in the Home

Besides their medical services, ULA also conducts Men for Women's Empowerment workshops to stop domestic abuse and promote harmony in households. ULA held three workshops for men and their wives, with ten couples attending each session.

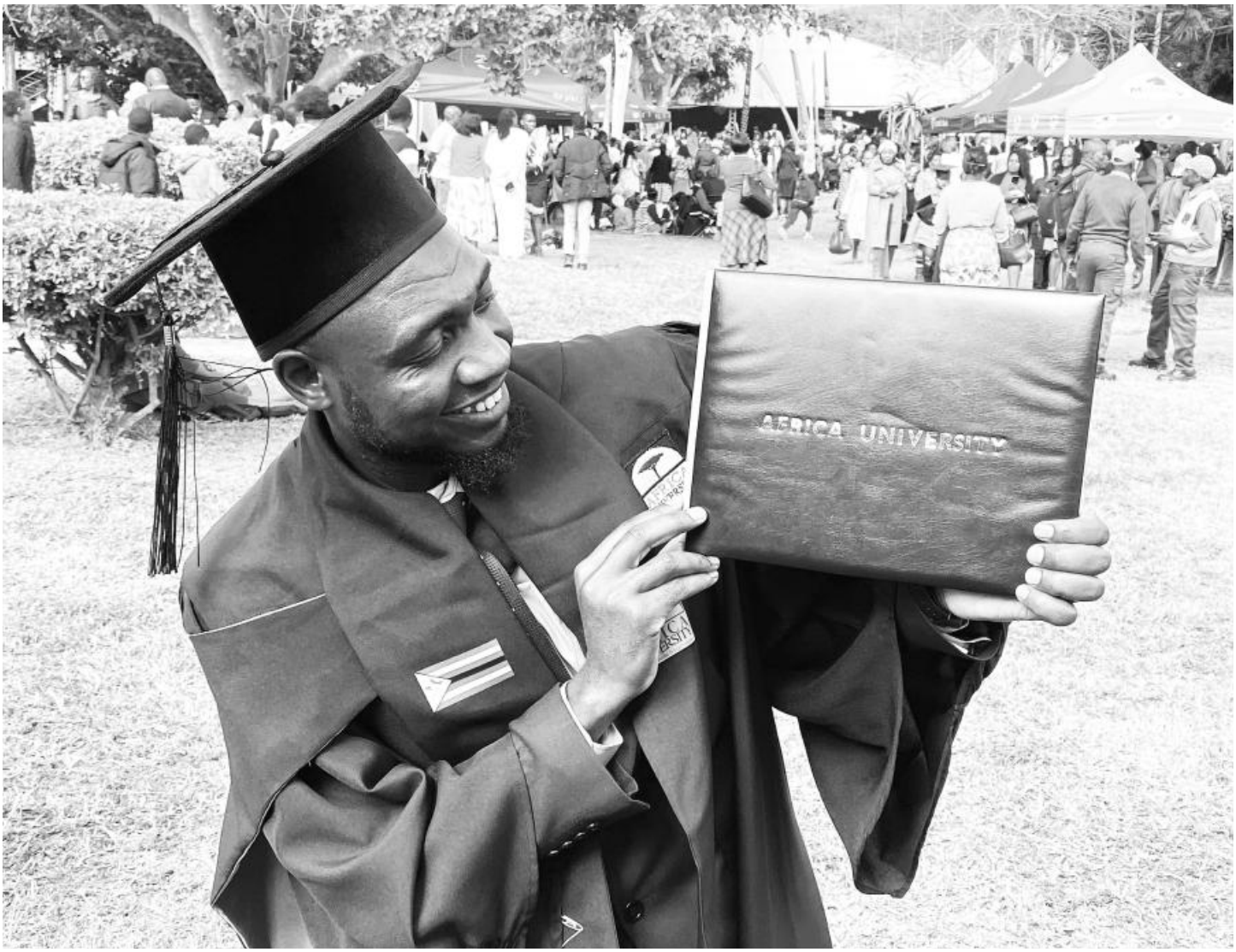
During Universal Love Alliance workshops to men's awareness of the difficulties of women's lives, the young men danced with homemade cloth dolls, bundles of firewood and water jugs to symbolize their respect for the difficulty of women's roles in their society.

Before ULA's program, couples described facing issues like domestic violence, emotional neglect, and unequal household responsibilities. Through interactive sessions, ULA guided participants in defining the principles of a respectful, loving partnership, empowering each spouse to express their needs and identify necessary changes. "The needs of the family are now shared," said one woman who attended the workshop. Many male participants reported notable changes, including stronger bonds with their children (such as eating together as a family), stopping abusive behaviors, and sharing household chores (like the husband fetching water while the wife washes the dishes).

In July, the workshop participants hosted an event to share what they learned with over 400 community members. Participants performed a skit about how domestic violence affects all family members, and a group of young men and women performed a dance in which the women handed off their babies (homemade cloth dolls) to their male counterparts. Then, they danced with the babies strapped to their backs, balanced bundles of firewood on their heads, and carried a plastic water jug. It was a fun way to start normalizing men's participation in responsibilities traditionally handled by women. Amistad's partnership with Universal Love Alliance is a way of showing solidarity and follows Jesus's example of serving society's most vulnerable members.

Tadairwa

From Orphaned Boy to College Graduate



Tadairwa grew up in a loving, low-income family in Zimbabwe. He knew that, even though he wanted to go to school, his mom didn't have enough money to pay for the school fees. His life changed when his mother died when he was just nine years old. With no relatives able to care for him, Tadairwa created a life for himself, living alone and earning just enough by fishing and selling small items to buy food for his meals.

After scraping by for five years, an officer from the county social services bureau realized that Tadairwa was alone and in need of care. They brought a teenage Tadairwa to Kuda Vana, where he was provided with food, a Bible, access to education, and the loving care of a House Mama. Through determination and hard work, he was able to overcome the years of missed formal education and catch up with his classmates, all while mastering the English language.

Tadairwa was a passionate student who took his studies very seriously. His hard work paid off! This year, Tadairwa graduated from college with a degree in social work and made the dean's list. His goal now is to give back to his community, inspired by the support and opportunities he once received.

Kuda Vana Children's Home has, on average, 50 children living in Mama and Aunty-staffed homes on campus. Ten children have been or are soon to be placed in our Foster Care program. Several children are attending Christian boarding school. Thirteen young adults are attending university or trade school programs. Twenty young adults are being supported while they finish school or begin job searches. About thirty families are supported with food, school fees, and supplies as needed. Kuda Vana Children's Home supports and nurtures each child into adulthood.

Thank you to our dear and caring sponsors who help us do this important work for children and families in Zimbabwe.

At age 9, Tadairwa became an orphan and was forced to do whatever could to survive until age 14 when Social Services discovered his plight and took him to KVCH. At KVCH he developed study skills and a vision for what he could accomplish. As a new college graduate in social science, his goal is now to give back to his community.

New Innovations in Mongolia's Bathrooms

My Name Is Jorlon, the Toilet

People used to avoid saying my name, which means toilet in Mongolian, at all costs. I was a taboo subject, with many people ashamed of having to use me in the disgusting deep-pit latrine form. Two-thirds of Mongolia's population has no access to running water or sewers. So, only wealthier people enjoyed water toilets connected to plumbing, while low-income families, off-grid offices, and residential buildings had dirty, dangerous, and impossible-to-clean toilets. In some cases, children would fall into the pits, and some have died.

In 2017, my luck changed when a woman named Oyungerel (Oyuna) Tsedevdamba wrote a book about new concepts for dry, waterless toilets. She and her dedicated team began promoting these safe, sustainable, and affordable toilets, which are well suited to Mongolia's harsh climate. Now, people are starting to say Jorlon with interest and curiosity!

There have been toilet campaigns in Mongolia before. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and others installed 600,000 pit latrines, but their programs weren't sustainable because they relied on only one solution—pit latrines—and gave away the toilets for free. On the other hand, Oyuna and her team are seeing their "Let's Change Our Toilets" campaign make lasting progress, selling over 1,100 toilets and helping 30 other new toilet businesses get started, which have also sold thousands of toilets. They found that those who receive free toilets do not clean them, but those who buy toilets actually clean and maintain them.

In May,2025, the team moved from Ulaanbaatar's downtown area to the nearby ger (yurt) community where there is no running water. Every day, they welcome an average of twenty visitors from across Mongolia, who come to learn how indoor, dry toilets work. They also handle between 450 and 1,000 phone inquiries each week. In their demonstration office, they show how the dry toilets use sawdust instead of water to operate, making them accessible even for rural herders.

Oyuna's team recently achieved a lobbying victory when Khan Bank, Mongolia's largest bank, began offering green financing for eco-dry toilets, making them affordable to many more families.

This year Amistad International bought a minivan for the "Let's Change Our Toilets" team, which makes it possible for them to transport the toilets across farflung Mongolia.

Oyuna Tsedevdamba with nomadic herder Agvaansodom (middle) who bought a Nomadic Toilet through the "Let's Change Our Toilets" program. On the right is Dashnyam, the co-leader of the project.

Here's What You've Done

Some of the 300+ farmers from several regions of Africa who were trained at Grow Biointensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya this year.

- Uganda's Home of Hope (HoH) is a beautiful nurturing haven for teenage mothers and other young women who come from traumatic backgrounds. This year Amistad provided support for HoH for their job skills program teaching hairdressing and skin care.

  Many of adult women of this area of Uganda, some are mothers of HoH girls, were themselves horrifically brutalized two decades ago by the young soldiers of Lord's Resistance Army. Many of the young soldiers were themselves kidnapped and forced to brutalize young girls. The girls who come today to HoH for job training are often daughters of brutalized mothers who have never fully recovered. Their unhealed trauma has been passed on to their children.

  Girls come to Home of Hope where they are welcomed with respect and love and given crucial job skills. Amistad provided a grant of $4,000 toward support the new group of girls who have started their fall 2025 programs.

- Amistad provided funding for staff salaries and office rental for Universal Love Alliance in Uganda.

- Grow Biointensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya (G-BiACK) was able to purchase additional land for their teaching farm with the help of a $5,000 grant from Amistad. The new parcel adjacent to their current farm expands their agriculture teaching land for students studying coming to the 18-month program.

  Amistad also provided the support of G-BiACK's tailoring teacher, Moses Mbugua for one year as well as the funds for the completion of their new indigenous seed saving business. G-BiACK is now able to save, store and sell seed for income to support the agriculture school.

  In July and August 2025, the G-BiACK program trained over 300 farmers from diverse African regions. The program emphasized soil health as the foundation of sustainable agriculture, equipping participants with skills in composting, soil preparation, crop rotation, cover cropping, and ecological pest management.

- Amistad provided 41 beds and mattresses for the new CIFORD Community Training Center. We thank donors Chris and Bill McClure, Kathy Hayes Arct, Jane Karageorge, Carolyn Civitarese, and Tom and Cheryl Abel.

- In Mongolia Amistad purchased a small pickup delivery truck to deliver portable toilet purchasers to rural and city dwellers who have been living without hygienic toilets.

- An Amistad grant to Youth Action for Rural Development/Kenya (YARD) enabled the Maruge Girl's and Women's Center to repair, refurbish and paint the center. We thank donors Kee Flynn, and Chris and Bill McClure.

  One of the participant/trainers, Lucy Kileita wrote Amistad a word of thanks.

"I am from the Maasai community. I am a mother of two boys and a girl. I work with the young girls to teach them Maasai beading skills. We Maasai do bead work a lot in our community.

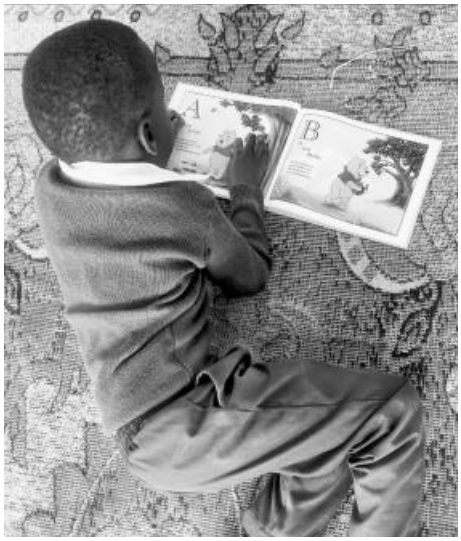
The women enjoy being able to have a place of their own to gather with each other and with their daughters. I also take my time at the center's peace garden to pray. It is so quiet and very spiritual to me.

It is my great honor to be part of the women and girls' empowerment program beneficiaries and am happy now to also be a trainer. God bless Amistad International and all those who support your center! It looks so good now that it is refurbished!

Lucy Kileita

- Over the 2025 Easter holidays, CIFORD held five health seminars for 511 girls giving them instruction on female health, staying in school, avoiding early marriage, STDs, and building self-confidence for saying no to boy's advances. Each graduate was gifted a 'Dignity Kit' which contained hygiene products and new underwear.
- Amistad provided a grant to Bridge of Solidarity, a volunteer and refugee-led organization in Uganda providing computer skills training to other refugees in Kampala. Amistad's grant is enabling them to purchase three more computers and rent a larger teaching space.
- Lambano Sanctuary was founded in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa in the late 1980's. They opened four homes to care for thirty children between the ages of 11 and 22. Through this experience, they decided to open the first dedicated Children's Medical & Palliative Step-Down Facility in Gauteng, South Africa.

  This year Lambano Healthcare Services moved confidently forward on the path to becoming the only private Medical Sub-Acute Facility for Children and Adolescents in South Africa. They are now raising funds for the necessary medical equipment.



At Kuda Vana children's Home, Solomon and the other KVCH children are developing a love of reading. Thanks to donations of books and funds, KVCH has a wonderful library.

At Home of Hope in Uganda (HoH), Executive Director of Spirit in Action and Amistad board member, Tanya Cothran (center wearing a skirt) with a Spirit in Action volunteer, gathers with some of the young mothers and staff at HoH.

We Say Gracias

- An enormous thank you to Kee Flynn, Ann Down, Chris and Bill McClure, Kathy Hayes Arct, Jeanne and Tom Liston, Cheryl and Tom Abel, Jane Karageorge, Caroline Civitarese, and Jane and Allan Paulson for your support of CIFORD's programs for girl's health, anti-FGM, education/leadership, job skills, and the new program for the redefinition of healthy manhood for young boys.
- We also thank the support of Manhattan, CA, and Conejo, CA Soroptimist International chapters for supporting CIFORD.
- We are deeply grateful to Ann Down for her support of the boy's seminars at CIFORD.
- Thank you, Dick and Nancy Noble, Chris and Bill McClure, Wanda and Don Krien, and Will Baron for contributing generously to the support of the Girls and Youth Empowerment Programs, the salary of tailoring teacher, Moses Mbugua, and the completion of the seed factory project at Grow Biointensive Agriculture Kenya (G-BiACK.)

  The seed program stores and packages seeds for public sale as a source of income for the school.
- We thank Tom Seguin, Wanda and Don Krein, Jeanne Liston, Chris and Bill McClure, and Will Baron who enabled G-BiACK to purchase the additional farmland and to support other programs at G-BiACK this year.
- A special thank you to Chris and Bill McClure and Kee Flynn for their contributions which enabled the refurbishment of the Maruge Girls and Women's Center in Kenya.
- Thank you, Wanda and Don Krein, for your crucial support of Kuda Vana Children's Home in Zimbabwe.

This year's students at the Empowerment Program at G-BiACK. The students learn farming, sewing and tailoring, computation, bookkeeping, cookery, baking, fish culture and seed saving during their 18-month course.

Dear Amistad,

We at G-BiACK are deeply grateful to Amistad International for your invaluable support in making this year's farm land purchase possible. This additional property will significantly enhance our capacity to grow more food to support our students and teach farmers at G-BiACK.

Much Regards,
Samuel Nderitu,
Founder/ Executive Director
Grow-Biointensive Agriculture Centre/Kenya

Thank you, Karen, for your ongoing commitment to Amistad's life-affirming work and the many people Amistad serves! We continue to be humbled by how much need there is in this world and grateful that so many talented people step in to help in ways we could not.

Eden and Kevin Jenkins

Dear Amistad,

I am praying for all of you who make Kuda Vana Children's Home the haven it is to so many! Amazing! And your crowns will be 'heavy' in Heaven!

With Best Love and Prayers,
Gay Wilson

Dear Amistad,

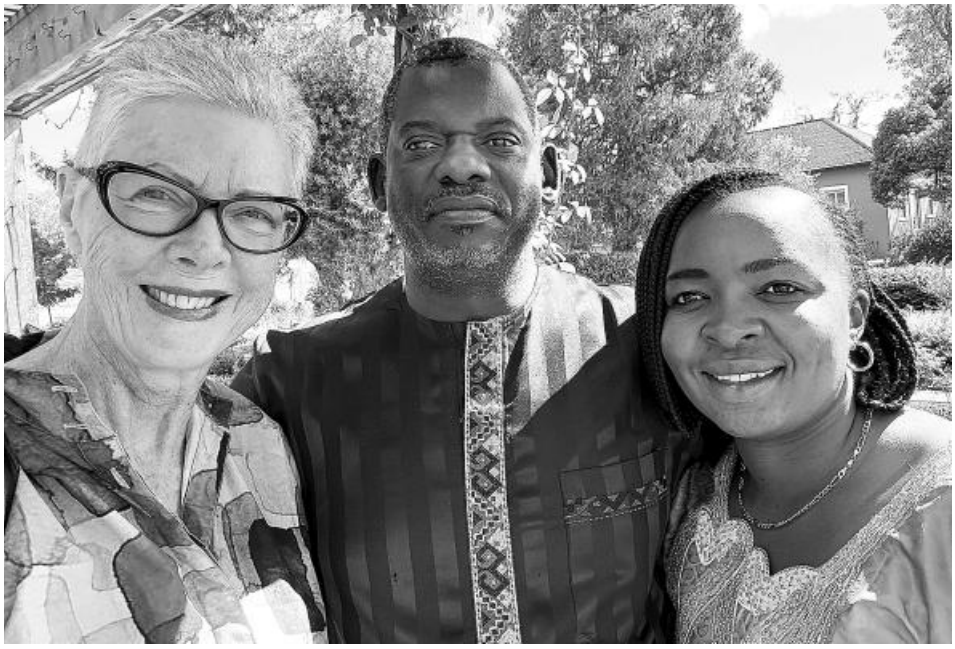
Organizations bombard me with requests. I love to support organizations like Amistad because you appreciate the gifts I send but don't make me feel guilty if I don't send money every two weeks. Thanks for all those beautiful pictures of the Kuda Vana children. I am so happy to have a small part in supporting these children who are getting a vital education and a better life.

Signed, an anonymous donor.

Dear Karen,

Keep praying for The Democratic Republic of the the Congo. God will visit us some day we believe.

James Byensi
Founder, Les Rebatisseurs



Karen Kotoske (left) met with James and Riziki Byensi, founders of Les Rebatisseurs/Congo during their US visit.

Dear Amistad,

I am always impressed by how much good this small organization can do.

Laurene Willet,
Clermont l 'Herault, France.

Dear Amistad,

Riziki and I are profoundly grateful for Amistad's generosity beyond words can express that you have shown us. Yesterday you presented us with 9 new laptop computers for the Rehema Academy, a school reaching out to internally-displaced children. You cannot know how many lives these technology tools will touch in DRC and beyond. May God remember and reward your act of kindness shown to us and the little ones in DRC.

James and Riziki Byensi

Hi Karen,

Amazing stories and accomplishments in Notas (as usual.) Continued best wishes and thanks for all you do.

Drs. Bill and Darleen Hemmerlin

Rajan Kaur, founder of Buddha's Smile School, (center) with two high school students. Rajan sends her gratitude to all who have helped BSS educate the children from the poorest of the poor for over 20 years.

We Remember

- Martha Donesky is remembered by Denise Ortiz and Ryan Love, Arliss Brooks and Karen Kotoske
- Carroll Hayes is remembered by his loving daughter Kathy Hayes Arct and son-in-law Michael Arct
- Karen Kotoske remembers the lives of Alice and Karl Trach with gratitude. The Trachs provided many years of generous support for Amistad. Their interest in Amistad programs began when, after retirement, they traveled to Mexico with team of volunteers to build a clinic in Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico.
- Gay Wilson honors the life of her beloved husband of 66 years, Duane Wilson. "We look forward to the day of Reunion."

"Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, mankind will have discovered fire."

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Amani Village Project

Amani Village Project is an initiative by The Rebuilders Ministry in Bunia, Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo which will restore dignity, peace, and livelihoods for 100 families displaced by years of tribal war in eastern DRC. Built on 123 acres of land, each family will get a modest two-bedroom home, one acre of farmland, training in agriculture and peace building. Amani Village will also teach vocational skills and micro-finance. Our project wants to create a new model for post-conflict recovery and to cultivate lasting peace through land and livelihood. 36 houses which cost $1,500 each have already been built on the available land. 64 more homes, 100 latrines, a water well, a meeting house and a playground still need to be built. We are seeking to raise $100,000 to complete this village of peace and reconciliation. Can you help us make this important step toward peace happen?

(Gang Violence—Continued from page 1)

The most respected private hospital in Port-au-Prince was sabotaged earlier this year. The largest charity hospital in Haiti at Mirebalais was closed several months ago after gangsters and liberated criminals from a nearby prison stormed it. The MSF (Doctors without Borders) hospital in Carrefour, one kilometer away from us, closed several months ago due to security threats. The main public hospital in the city was closed last year, and several months later, at an attempted reopening ceremony, gunfire erupted, killing police officers and others. The hospital was then set on fire and remains closed.

Violence and suffering in Haiti continue to spiral out of control. Killing, rape, and kidnapping have become so common that they are hardly mentioned on the news. Gang members continue unabated, with few if any repercussions. They are tightening their grip on the Carrefour community, and our employees are living under constant threat, with materials and supplies becoming increasingly difficult to access.

Protected by Angels

Providential circumstances and a team of angels no doubt surround our hospital. I cannot explain all of it, nor should we feel that we are more special than others who have been less fortunate. The strong faith and fervent prayers of our Haitian staff, combined with perseverance and a continued team effort, have called forth blessings and protection that go beyond our own accomplishments.

Several years ago, during much less challenging times, our hospital was in financial trouble, the reputation had declined, and poor patients were being turned away. The situation has improved now. Two hundred and fifty employees have jobs, they are paid on time, and people without resources come to the hospital and receive treatment. Equipment and supplies are maintained, and a sustainable economic model has been created that depends on both local and, to a lesser extent, international resources.

Continued International Collaboration

Over the past several years, our employees have come to value the benefits of effort and to work with intention and purpose. Although it has not been possible for foreigners to work at the hospital during the past year, our collaboration continues. Throughout the week, early morning Zoom meetings are held, messages are exchanged, and phone calls are scheduled.

Recent examples of meeting agenda items include sourcing parts for maintaining our oxygen generation plant, purchasing anesthesia medications and OR supplies in the Dominican Republic, reimbursing the indigent patient fund for submitted invoices, repairing our ultrasound machine, troubleshooting our electrical equipment and solar power system, and renovating central supply and one of our wards.

New Services and Supplies

Despite challenging times, HAH has recently expanded its service lines! We have recently opened an ENT clinic, ophthalmology service, and urology service. In addition, the dental clinic remains busy and continues to serve many people in need. We also continue with two orthopedic surgeons, a general surgeon, three anesthesiologists, OB/GYN, internal medicine, pediatrics, and emergency medicine services.

Over the past several months, a great deal of effort was put into sourcing needed supplies and loading a 40' shipping container in Southern California. Contents include new gurneys, oxygen canisters, construction materials, medical supplies, hospital furnishings, and a host of items that will be a huge boost to our hospital. Rather than just a container filled with leftovers and donations, this shipment contains 36,000 pounds of carefully selected inventory with many new and high-quality items. I would like to give a big thanks to the LLUSM alumni association for assisting with 50% of the shipping costs for the container. At present, the shipment has arrived in Port au Prince and is being cleared by customs. The logistics of getting it from the port to the hospital are not easy, but we are confident that our carefully planned strategy will work out.

We continue to thank all the donors and supporters of this special hospital for your support and assure you that your generosity continues to make a big difference for those who need it most.

How Can I Help Keep This Vital Outreach Going in 2026?

Funds are urgently needed for the following 2026 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 (BSS) In Varanasi, India, an elementary school for children of beggars, lepers and refuse collectors. $ _____
- Zimbabwe, Africa: Kuda Vana Children's Home. Funds needed for day-to-day operations. $ _____
- Kenya: Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD): Girls' health and leadership training, anti-FGM coming-of-age rites for girls. Redefining manhood seminars for boys. $ _____
- Kenya: Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre, Kenya (G-BiACK) teaching sustainable farming, job skills for at-risk young women. We support the salary of tailoring teacher, Moses Mgubua, $3,600 per year. $ _____
- Haiti: Dr. Scott Nelson Orthopedic Surgery and Dental Clinic Programs at Adventist Hospital, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. $ _____
- Uganda: Universal Love Alliance, support for facility and salaries. $ _____
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: The AMANI VILLAGE PROJECT, building a village for 100 internally displaced families, a place of peace and reconciliation. Needed $100,000. $ _____

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, 2205 Shirland Tract Road, Auburn, CA 95603. You may request Amistad's EIN number.

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Amistad International is happy to process credit card donations or PayPal donations through our website: (www.amistadinternational.org.) Please be aware PayPal and credit card companies take a processing fee of approximately 3%. Please add the fee amount to your donation if you are able.

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