

As a church we partner with HOVC, an organisation working to help orphans and vulnerable children in Kisoro, one of the poorest regions of Uganda.



Hope for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Empowering Children to Reach Their Full Potential



Mission Statement

With God's help, our hope for every child is life in all its fullness and our prayer is that their hearts will be protected through counselling, and the comfort that only Jesus gives.

Hope for Orphans & Vulnerable Children (HOVC)

is a not-for profit Sponsorship Project in the Kisoro District (south-west Uganda), aiming to empower children to reach their potential by allowing them to access education. It also provides training and mentoring for caregivers to help raise health standards and skills in one of the poorest districts of Uganda. In addition, we strive to build an authentic and lasting connections and opportunities for engagement between the HOVC community in Kisoro and



the HOVC supporters / church community here in Australia, so we can journey together in our walk with Christ and in life. Parramatta Baptist Church has been a partner with HOVC since it was established in 2009.

A Brief History of HOVC

Opening its doors in March 2009 by Founders/Directors Marion Pendlebury and Innocent Ndagijimana, HOVC has grown through God's blessing and provision. Innocent, once a Compassion sponsor child himself and Marion (his former sponsor) were led by God to bring the hope and comfort that only Jesus gives to orphans and vulnerable children living in very poor and sub-standard conditions in Kisoro. Without any help, these children and their families / care-givers would have been stuck in the cycle of extreme poverty.



Marion Pendlebury,
HOVC Founder & Director

Beginning with just 45 children in 2009, HOVC now has 135 children in its sponsorship program. Over the past few years, HOVC has also been able to achieve many other wonderful things to help the children and their family / caregivers with school items, uniforms, health & sanitation products and other life changing items ranging from water tanks,



Innocent Ndagijimana,
HOVC Founder & Director

nutritious food, micro-finance loans and new houses. This has all been made possible from the generous donations from HOVC supporters, the Parramatta Baptist Church community and corporate sponsors. We are thankful for all this and for God's leading, abundant blessing and provision.



Rwaramba Farm



First group of HOVC Children
receiving new uniforms (2009)



Children in their new uniforms
(2009)

Who/How Does HOVC Serve?

HOVC's primary focus is to sponsor orphans and vulnerable children, ensuring that they have basic necessities such as educational supplies, primary school fees, uniforms, a mattress & bedding, toiletries and first aid supplies and a Bible. In just six years, HOVC currently sponsors 135 children from the Kisoro District.

Sponsor kids also attend an HOVC Project Day run every Saturday at the HOVC Property. Innocent and his team work hard to ensure that the project day is a day of fun and learning for the kids as well as a place where they can learn more about Jesus. There is much singing and dancing that takes place as well as games and the teaching of Scripture. Children also receive very practical help during Project Day such as regular health checks, a nutritious meal and receiving the provisions mentioned above.



Children at Official Opening Celebration of HOVC Property (2013)



HOVC Children having a nutritious drink during a project day (2013)



Children are growing and in good health (2015)

How Else Does HOVC Help?

In order to help lift these beautiful children and their families out of extreme poverty, it quickly became clear that more help and assistance was needed other than what was already being covered through the child sponsorship program. Many of the parents / caregivers of the children are landless subsistence farmers, without a stable source of income and some were also in poor health. So in faith and by God's leading, the following appeals have been setup, aimed at also improving the quality of life for parents/caregivers and the wider community.

Areas of Focus

- Water & Sanitation, (Water Tanks & Latrines)
- Building & Property, (New Houses & HOVC Facilities)
- Food & Health (HIV/Health Fund)
- Education (Secondary & Vocational Training)
- Micro-Finance Loans (for HOVC Families)
- Growing/Expanding the Project to Reach More Children/ Families
- Spiritual Teaching & Learning



Water Tanks- access to clean water, such a basic necessity and something that we take for granted in the developed world. Unfortunately, this is not the case for those living in Kisoro. Many children are forced to walk up to 14km each day to fetch water for their family in heavy jerry cans. Children who have to fetch water miss out on going to school, and the opportunity to get an education. The water that they collect is also unclean and not suitable for drinking. Children and families often

become sick because of the poor water quality they are forced to drink.

Kisoro is set in the mountainous region of south west Uganda and receives a fair amount of rainfall each year. In 2012, HOVC began our water tank project with the aim to install one water tank & guttering for every sponsor child / family. To date, we have completed the installation of 120 water tanks. Providing access to clean water has had a tremendous impact, it has been life changing. Children can now attend school regularly and their health has improved. The water tanks will also benefited their families and families living close by.



We still have a number of tanks to install for 18 children who recently joined the HOVC program. We are also investing in skills training to HOVC fathers / care-givers to ensure that they can look after/maintain their tanks so that the water supply is always clean.

We are also currently researching and scoping what the best solution is for improving sanitation for HOVC children & families.



Sponsor Child Houses- During a team trip to Kisoro in 2011, it was discovered that there were some children/families that were living in very poor / sub-standard conditions. Their houses, such as the one pictured left, were old and dilapidated. Families were often exposed to the elements such as wind and rain from inside their home. Poor health also results from living in these conditions. Being subsistence farmers, families who find themselves living in such conditions are powerless to change their

situation. They have no way to save money in order to rebuild their home. HOVC has been working hard to build new housing for families living in the most vulnerable conditions. A new house (pictured right) comes with a water tank and has made an enormous difference for the families we have been able to help. To date, have built 7 new mud houses, however there is still a need for more new houses to be built.





HOVC Property Fund- through many generous donations, HOVC was able to acquire a new property and land which would enable the children to meet in a safe and secure environment during the project days and to allow for future growth of HOVC's child sponsorship program. As the program continues to grow, so does the need for adequate space and facilities. Recent additions to the property include a kitchen, sun shelter for the children (pictured) use and a large 10,000L water tank for drinking, cooking and cleaning.

HIV/Health Fund- all children and parents/caregivers have been screened and tested for HIV/AIDS. We currently have 14 parents/caregivers with HIV and whilst they can receive free antiretroviral therapy from the hospital, it must be supplemented with a nutritious diet to prevent the onset of AIDS. Access to this type of food is normally impossible simply because it is unaffordable for them. We estimate that it will cost approx. \$60 per month per caregiver to provide this healthy diet to them. HOVC is helping by subsidising the cost of this food. By caring for parents/ care givers with HIV, we can ensure that they can live healthy lives and that HOVC sponsor children can be cared for.

We have also set aside some funds for other health matters or in case of a medical emergency. This ensures that an HOVC child or a parent/ caregiver can receive the health care they need which would otherwise be unaffordable for them.

Education Fund- it has been proven through many studies that the most effective tool to lift people out of extreme poverty is to give them an education. HOVC's child sponsorship program equips kids with all the equipment and clothing that they need to attend primary school. As our children learn and grow, our attention has turned to their future needs in terms of secondary education or vocational training. This level of education is currently out of reach for many children as their parents simply cannot afford to pay the costs associated with this level of education. Without secondary education, children would be forced to go back to a life of subsistence farming and thus trapped in the cycle of extreme poverty. It is our hope and prayer that we can support each of our sponsor children through all of their schooling/education so that they can have more choices in how they work and earn a living for themselves in the future.

Micro Finance Loans- a micro finance scheme was initially setup by the HOVC parents/caregivers themselves with the aim to provide them with an alternative to subsistence farming. A heavy reliance on subsistence farming as their only source of food/income is problematic, especially if drought or flooding occurs. Each parent/caregiver must make a small contribution to be part of the scheme. HOVC is also contributing to the pool of funds available so that the scheme can be scaled up to help more families find alternate sources of income.

Expansion of the Program- HOVC currently has 135 children in its sponsorship program. This has grown steadily over time as human and financial resources become available and will continue to do so in the future. HOVC has no ambitions to be the biggest child sponsorship program in the region but rather to do a thorough job helping the children and their families, that will help lift them out of extreme poverty.

Spiritual Teaching & Learning- HOVC places a high importance on teaching the children about the love and grace of God and the hope and salvation that comes through knowing and walking with Him. It is our prayer that each child will develop their own personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour. Spiritual teaching and prayer is an integral part of the HOVC project days run every Saturday and it will continue to be in the future.

If you would like to give to any of these projects, download an HOVC donation form from the Parramatta Baptist Church website.

Good Governance

The day-to-day running / management of HOVC is done in Kisoro by Innocent and his team. In addition, a panel of community leaders and a parent representative make up the HOVC Ugandan Board. Parents / care-givers are also encouraged to get involved with HOVC activities. Some parents are being trained and employed when development work needs to be done.



The Australian HOVC Board meets on a monthly basis and its members meet on a voluntary basis so that the maximum amount of supporter funds are made available for use on the ground in Uganda. The Australian Board is responsible for overseeing the raising of funds & the responsible use, creating good communication/engagement with our sponsors/donors and creating policies and to ensure best practices and child protection.

A close partnership/alliance was formed between HOVC and Parramatta Baptist Church in Sydney, Australia in 2009 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

To keep updated on HOVC please like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-for-Orphans-Vulnerable-Children-242379299129501>



Children receiving soap and books (2010)



The parents receiving new mattresses



Children dancing at HOVC's five Year Celebration