

# THE PROGRESSIVE EDGE



...breaking the cycle of dependence and providing hope through equipping,  
encouraging and investing

## Field Assessment 2016

-Bill DeCoursey

This year Progressive Missions teams visited Uganda in January and June. We are in the midst of a very successful year of partnership with both Ray of Hope and Hosanna.

In January, we visited Ray of Hope in Kampala first. The children are doing great. We increased pay for some of the teachers and repaired/replaced desks. We are reviewing estimates to add a second floor to one of the school wings.

Next we visited Hosanna in Busia. We had an excellent time visiting with the children. They are really doing well. They are so well behaved. It is a real treat to see children interact with their teachers and each other with such respect. During our visit, we were able to purchase land and contract a builder to start construction on our new primary school.

Our June trip was shorter than usual, but we accomplished all that we hoped in both Kampala and Busia. We found that the new school in Busia was nearly completed. We were impressed with the quality of the construction and the crew's hard work. The children are scheduled to move out of the leased space and into the new building this month.

Currently Progressive schools end after seventh grade. And while it is great to see the kids' hard work pay off as they graduate primary school, we find ourselves asking what's next for our students. In June we agreed to pay for education at the government school for the seven children who graduated, which is much more expensive than "in house"

### Mission Uganda January 2017

PMI is heading to Uganda January 7-14, 2017. We will serve at two orphan centers where we will encourage kids and teachers in order to positively impact their learning and living facilities.

We will hold a seminar to introduce the Child Training Bible, a resource for parents and teachers who want to help children grasp the Bible.

If you are interested in coming along or helping financially to send the team, email

[Mark@ProgressiveMissions.org](mailto:Mark@ProgressiveMissions.org)

[www.ProgressiveMissions.org](http://www.ProgressiveMissions.org)

education. Scholarships were offered on a term-by-term basis, with an extension of a scholarship requiring top grades from the student. We feel that this will reinforce and reward hard work and prepare students to enter the labor force with a strong work ethic.



**Hosanna's new facility**

Future seventh grade classes are much larger than this year's and providing scholarships to all graduates is not cost effective. We hope to acquire additional land adjacent to our new school in Busia in 2017 with plans to build a high school/vocational center. Ray of Hope graduates would relocate to Busia for continued education alongside Hosanna graduates.

Keeping our kids with us through high school is a wise use of financial resources and will give our staff further opportunity to continue to teach, train, and invest in them.

The vocational center is an exciting possibility which would enable us to offer graduates the option of learning a skill or trade instead of continuing their education. Trades include building, carpentry, tailoring, farming, and auto/motorcycle repair. The vocational center's products and services would be used at the orphanages and schools, which would help to reduce expenses while building skill sets in the kids.

The final project for 2017 is drilling a well in Busia. Currently the school utilizes a rain collection system. Historically, these systems run out of water during the dry season causing kids to trek a long way to carry back water from the public well. A drilled well would supplement the rain collecting systems for Hosanna and the future high school/vocational center, which would promote safety of the children who won't have to travel so far for water, as well as allow more teaching time during the day since long water trips would no longer be necessary.

Thank you to all of you who are partnering with us. 2016 has been an awesome year of growth and opportunity. With God's help, 2017 will be even better!

#### **Special thanks to:**

Atlantic Builders

Mount Ararat Baptist Church

Progressive Automotive and  
Tire

Stafford Crossing Community  
Church

Zoar Baptist Church

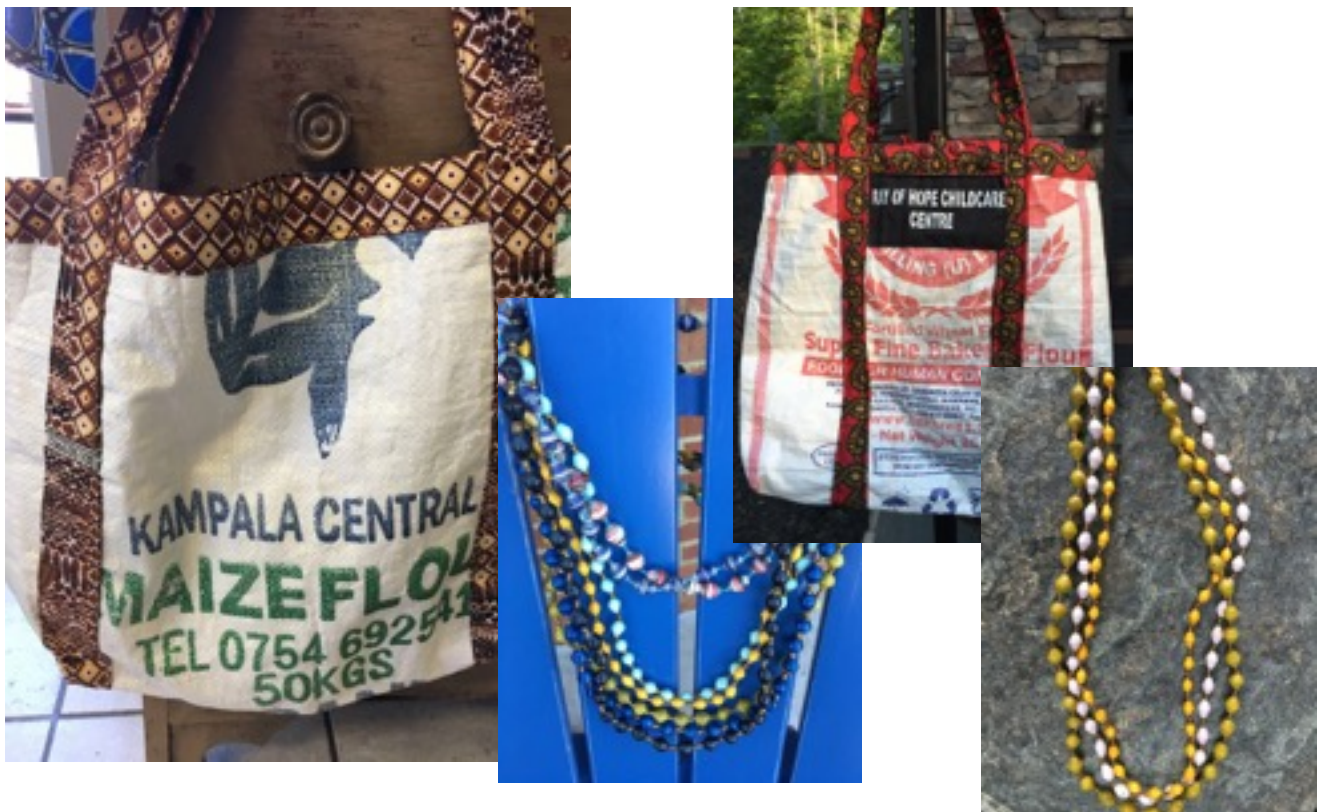
## Double Impact

The widow's at Ray of Hope have been hard at work making jewelry from paper beads and bags from burlap sacks, which are now available for purchase (jewelry for \$20; bags for \$30).

A portion of the proceeds will be returned to the widows to help them with daily living expenses and sustain their sewing business. These ladies are training on new sewing machines and learning to run a small business using the principles taught by our "Business on Purpose" program. Our desire is to help them provide for the children in their care.

The rest of the proceeds will be used toward drilling a well at the Hosanna orphan center. Currently, the children walk a long way to retrieve water and carry it back to the school. Public wells are not always a safe place for the smaller kids. Having their own well will improve safety, hygiene, and food service at the school.

These handmade items make unique Christmas or birthday gifts, while having double impact in the lives of widows and orphans in Uganda. If you are interested in purchasing these items, contact us at [shop@ProgressiveMissions.org](mailto:shop@ProgressiveMissions.org).



## Sponsor a Child



Shafik Mukuye is 12 years old and in 5th grade at Ray of Hope. His father passed away and his mother is caring for him and 5 siblings.

Would you consider sponsoring Shafik for \$40 per month?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email the information on this form to  
Mark@ProgressiveMissions.org

or mail the form to  
Progressive Missions, Inc.  
PO Box 5231  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407