

SANCTUARY BABIES HOME

PROJECT PROFILE 2011-2012-2013

Sanctuary Babies Home is an orphanage that Just Cause began working with in 2011. SBH is home to 13 children and is located in Bugeembe in Eastern Uganda.

The director of the home, Michael Zirintusa began taking in orphaned and abandoned children in 2009. His vision is to provide a safe and loving home to these children and provide them with an education. Michael's dedicated focus on education for children in his care makes SBH a project that Just Cause plans to continue to work with.

In 2011, Just Cause completed a needs assessment at this project and made the decision to invest in improving the living conditions of the children. This involved ensuring that all children were provided with a place to sleep. We purchased beds, mattresses, sheets and mosquito nets for all of the children that were sleeping on the floor.

A portion of the house was converted into an additional bedroom space and a living quarters for the "aunties", who look after the children along with Michael and his wife, Sylvia.

At the time of our initial visit in 2011, a charcoal stove in the kitchen of the house was being used to prepare meals for the children. Charcoal emits toxic fumes and was being used within metres of the children's sleeping quarters. Out of concern for the health and well-being of the children, it was a priority to change this arrangement. We were able to construct an outdoor kitchen to be used for the storage of food and meal preparation.



The following summer, in 2012, Just Cause provided SBH with dining tables and chairs so that the children no longer had to eat on the floor.

Throughout the last 3 years, each visit to Sanctuary Babies Home involves delivering much needed supplies. These include basic hygiene provisions such as soap, laundry powder, toilet paper, clothing, shoes and medicine. In addition, large quantities of food such as posho, rice, beans, sugar, salt, milk and eggs are regularly provided....and of course school supplies!

In the past year, the staff at Sanctuary Babies Home has worked towards building their own school on their grounds. The goal of this school facility is to have a means to educate the children that live at the orphanage as well as many of the surrounding village children who can not afford other schools in their area. To show our support for this growth, in 2013 Just Cause donated the materials for the construction of the Primary 1 classroom. We distributed school supplies to all of the students and teachers at this school to prepare them for their first full school year. Currently there are 55 children

attending, from Nursery school to Primary 4.

Michael's focus on education as a means of providing a future for the children in his care is the cornerstone of Just Cause's mandate. We hope to continue to support the growth of this project in 2014.

As a next step towards seeing the children's continued success in school, Just Cause has committed to provide Sanctuary Babies Home with enough food to feed the children who live there each month. If you are interested in helping us make this happen or visiting this home as part of a volunteer team, please contact us for more information.



OUR WORK AT A GLANCE

- Delivered clothing and new shoes for all of the children annually
- Provided 2 additional sets of bunk-beds with nets and mattresses to accommodate the home's growth and desire to take in more homeless children they were aware of in the community
- Construction and delivery of tables and chairs so the children did not have to eat on the floor anymore
- Addition of a second bedroom with beds, bedding and mosquito nets for 6 children who were sharing beds
- Provided one of the children with a necessary surgery and continue to insure the children have medicine and doctor visits as needed
- Subdivided a room in the house to serve as an office for keeping the orphan childrens' and later the school records.
- Monthly food and hygiene provisions
- Education supplies for students and their classrooms
- Construction of an outdoor kitchen and storage area
- Sourced, purchased and delivered a water filter and purifier
- Provided the materials needed for building a classroom for the new school facility

