

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CHARITY IN UGANDA:

Stichting Kinderhulp Afrika is a Dutch registered charity that consists of two projects: Children's Welfare Mission and Nafasi Welfare Centre.

Stichting Kinderhulp Afrika is registered at the Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam under number 41224830. The foundation is acknowledged by the Public Benefit Organisation ANBI.

It is a Christian relief organisation (NGO) that has been caring for the most vulnerable children in Uganda since 1986. It aims to fulfil many of The Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations. We offer these children shelter, education, spiritual and medical care. Many of our children are traumatized and therefore need to receive direct help and specialized tailor-made care. Many of them lost their parents due to AIDS or political unrest and are literally standing alone and empty handed.

Both our projects are based on a secure campus in Namugongo, a large suburban town 10 miles from the Ugandan capital Kampala. We have a safe water supply, a medical clinic, a church, and 3 schools -primary, secondary and vocational. The Nafasi Welfare Centre is the latest addition to the campus buildings. In conjunction with the Children's Welfare Mission the babies and children we care for receive all their basic needs, accommodation, necessary medical and psychological care, and the school age children receive an education. Our goal is that they grow into healthy responsible and well-balanced individuals who can provide for their own needs, in every aspect of their lives.

We act from a deep compassion and love for fellow human beings. We share what we have. The water supply, the church, the schools and clinic are open to all people, regardless of ethnicity, culture and faith. We therefore are also able to help individuals and communities in the immediate vicinity.

Nafasi Welfare Centre.

The Nafasi Welfare Centre is a self-contained unit within the campus and is in purpose built premises which were completed in 2016. It is deliberately small in scale to offer temporary crisis care to 12-20 babies and young children aged 0- 5 years of age who are in urgent need of care and shelter. It provides Ugandan orphaned and homeless children with a safe home and personalized care. Nafasi means chance. Our goal is to find a safe and loving home for each child within 8 months, and in the meantime we provide a safe-haven for the child and give them a new chance in life.

Our purpose -built premises provide excellent residential facilities in which each baby and child can receive care that is appropriate for their age and developmental stage, and in which they can be encouraged to learn to socialise. In addition to the babies' and children's bedrooms, there are indoor dining and play areas. We have a safe outdoor garden for play and exercise, plus a small kitchen garden that is being developed to grow nutritious ingredients for our cook to use in the children's meals.

The day to day running of Nafasi Welfare Centre is in the hands of professional care and support staff, all Ugandan. Our team of dedicated staff provide a high standard of care around the clock, sometimes to babies only a few days old whose mothers have died in childbirth, and through to pre-school children who have been traumatized by a family crisis and desperately need time and patience from supportive adults.

Immediately after first arrival each baby/child receives first aid, plus physical and psychological and other necessary examinations. During the first 48 hours there is continuous observation and monitoring.

An individual care plan is then set up and the Nafasi social work team immediately start investigating the background of the child, which is done in close collaboration with the Ugandan probation office, social workers or other involved parties.

Our primary aim is to reunite children with their biological parents or extended family, but when this is not feasible we search for suitable Ugandan foster or adoption parents to ensure each child can grow up in a stable and loving family environment.

The Nafasi Community Support Programme is an outreach initiative run by the Nafasi social work team. The Programme supports teenage mothers who are facing difficulties bringing up their young child or who have been forced to abandon their babies after childbirth because of the stigma of teenage pregnancy, lack of money or because they are rape and/or incest victims. Some of their babies spend time being cared for at Nafasi Welfare Centre. As the Centre is some 10 miles from the city centre we have found a church community centre in one of the most deprived areas of the city where we hold weekly meetings for these young mothers. Working in collaboration with social workers, probation officers and community volunteers, these meetings are also open to other young mothers. In this way we reach out to and engage with the wider community.

Together with our partner organizations we put on different kinds of training according to the needs that the young mothers identify. We support them in income generating training and parenting classes. We want to continue to develop more of these programmes and activities that maximize resources, and so that skills can be passed to these vulnerable girls. We want to explore many more avenues so that we can support these young mothers, not just financially but pedagogically and psychologically. These are disciplines that are relatively new to Uganda and are not yet given priority or attention. We believe that there is a need for a holistic approach to help these traumatized young mothers, who are themselves still children.

Children's Welfare Mission

The Mission operates the primary, secondary and vocational schools and a medical clinic.

Accommodation: the children live in small residential units under the supervision of a "foster" mother. Here they get individual attention.

Clean water and sanitation: The children have access to clean drinking water, showers, sinks and toilets.

Nutrition: The children receive three nutritious meals day. Much of the produce is grown on the campus or comes from local sources.

Medical care: The project has its own clinic with Doctors surgery, nurses, a maternity ward, a dentist, a first aid department and a laboratory. The clinic not only takes care of the campus children but is also open to those living in the surrounding areas. The clinic has a child vaccination program and provides information on family planning and AIDS.

Education:

Our co-educational schools are certified by the Ugandan government and are amongst the best in the region. All teachers are Ugandan and fully qualified with a teaching license. Class sizes don't exceed 30 children. The primary school currently has around 180 students and there are 500 students in the secondary and vocational schools. This means we must regularly invest financially to expand and maintain the school infrastructure. All classes are

taught in English, the official language of Uganda. As is customary in Uganda, all the children wear school uniforms during school-time which are provided for them.

The 'Samaritan Primary School' opened in 1993 and has seven classes. Because the children all have different backgrounds and differing levels of education, the classes are arranged by attainment level rather than age. Following end of year state exams, it is decided if a child can advance to the next class.

The Namugongo Secondary and Vocational school opened in 2000. It provides a combination of secondary and vocational education. Most of the students are residents and sponsored by Children's Welfare Mission sponsor parents in the Netherlands who cover the financial costs of accommodation, school education and medical expenses. In addition, there are fee-paying students from surrounding villages and areas.

The school has 10 classrooms, a comprehensive library and a fully equipped computer science laboratory. There is a building site where the students can learn bricklaying, welding and other building trades. We provide follow up and career studies for the students, helping them to find a job or start their own company. Uganda has a severe shortage of trained professionals with need for nurses, carpenters, electricians and IT experts. Some of our students go on to attend Kampala university, and many students choose to learn a craft, such as carpentry, computer science, construction, sewing or electrical engineering. The schools also have a number of recreational and sporting facilities including an athletics track, football and volleyball pitches.