Back to School for Some Children

The reopening of schools for candidate classes earlier this month was a busy, exciting time for the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) team and many of our Road to Hope (RTH) children. The 12 RTH children in candidate classes all successfully returned to their schools and are back in classes. These children will take their 'leaving exams,' which determine if they pass the candidate class, in March of 2021.

The Ministry of Education and Sports laid out clear safety guidelines for schools to meet in order for the candidate classes to return to in-person learning. All of the schools where we have RTH candidates have met these guidelines and welcomed our children back. Without the other classes in session, they are able to adhere to social distancing measures. Hopefully, this will help them stay safe and healthy while they are in school. Luckily, the President of Uganda issued a directive that schools could not increase fees during this time. Students did have to pack additional supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, extra soap and extra cleaning supplies for the school. Some of our children needed new uniforms as they continued growing since their previous uniforms were bought in January!

Although schools are not officially open for all other classes, PCAU has been able to make some special arrangements for a few of the other RTH children who were having trouble concentrating at home and finding support for their learning. They have returned to school for special tutoring. There will be no official exams or promotion to the next class, but they will receive structured learning right now.

The RTH children who are not candidates have settled into their new learning for the remainder of the year. In the various communities where the children live, 17 teachers have been recruited to provide tutoring to the children. In some cases, school administrators are making other arrangements to help support the children. For example, children can bring lessons to them for grading and feedback. PCAU continues to supply additional learning materials for all children as well as support for their basic needs. This has been an enormous help for families as many of the children's guardians have lost work during the pandemic and are struggling to meet the needs of the children.



Mwesigwa - S4



Evelyn - P7



Douglas - P7



Crispus - S4

PCAU Staff Highlight: Jaffar

Mohamed Jaffar works as a driver at PCAU. He has worked with the organization for seven years. He is responsible for all transportation issues within the organization including transporting staff as needed, routine checks on the organization vehicles, maintaining a record of the travel logbook, among other things. Jaffar also acts as one of the agents to the PCAU bank accounts.



Mohamed Jaffar

Jaffar often transports other PCAU staff on their visits to the RTH children and they know him as part of the team from PCAU. His big smile is always welcoming, and he probably has the best job of bringing the good news (support, supplies, etc.) to the children and their families. He is a very valued member of the team who is always willing to help with any need that arises.

He likes working with PCAU because of the knowledge he has acquired about caring for the terminally ill through the different trainings organized by PCAU. Above all, he likes the fact that he earns a living from the organization.

Thank you to everyone who wrote notes of encouragement to the RTH children!

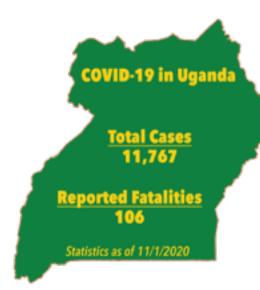
All of the candidates returning to classes received a personal note from someone here encouraging them to study hard and stay safe back in school. Thank you!

If you would like to write a note to the RTH children, we will scan it to share with the PCAU team who will get it to them. You may write a general note to all children, or specific notes to an individual child. Please contact Lacey at AhernL@cfhcare.org for more details.

Support for the RTH Program

Please help us support PCAU and the RTH children as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic! You may make an <u>online</u> donation or send a check to the address below. For more details about the Road to Hope program, please contact Lacey Ahern, international programs manager at <u>ahernl@cfhcare.org</u> or 574.367.2455.

For the latest information on Uganda Ministry of Health COVID-19 updates <u>click here</u>.









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