

RWENZORI SPECIAL NEEDS FOUNDATION



CANON REV. ROBERT KEREOPA, VISIT TO RSNF-UGANDA, REPORT 2018

***Complied by
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We were very much honoured when we received news from RSNF-NZ Country Director Mrs Dot Muir that **Canon Rev. Robert Kereopa from Anglican Mission Board** will be visiting RSNF-Uganda in March for 4 days, His coming was a blessing to our RSNF-Uganda team because during his 4 days stay with us at RSNF, we took him around some of the families of children with disability we support.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

RSNF gives a certain amount of money to the parent of children with disabilities to setup piggery and agriculture projects. RSNF then finds market for these products, and from the profits, the parent can pay for school fees, medical bills for their children at home and continue with the project. This project is meant to help needy families where is a child with disability to find a source of income to support their children. The organization also empowers those with running businesses to increase on their capital. The organization in its efforts to become sustainable we need all the support to accomplish this



Mwesigwa John's family, John is aged 4 years has cerebral palsy and lives with his father and mother in kasusu village. He joined our program 2 years back and we have been supporting on his medication bills, offered a supportive chair, to help him at home and again started up a piggery project which has expanded and a garden project too, he attends to physiotherapy at Kyaninga Child Development centre (KCDC) in Fort Portal one of our partners.



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ASSESSMENT & OUTREACH CLINICS

Currently the RSNF does perform assessments of new and old client through its outreach program. This program is carried out in a number of villages in region. There is one assessment clinic program in a year. During the assessment clients are assessed by the occupational therapist and eye specialist from our partner organizations (Kyaninga Child Development Centre (KCDC)in Fort Portal and Organized Useful Rehabilitation Services (OURs)-from Mbarara 290kms away from Fort Portal to identify their functional deficits and their deficits are addressed or a referral is made for further management. Most of the clients assessed during these outreach are cerebral palsy cases, many cases of club foot, hydrocephalus, epilepsy, mental retardation, eyes problems and some deaf. Over the years RSNF has been able to assess 3,000 clients in the entire Rwenzori Region and all were given services as for the ones offered by the organization with the support from the people of New Zealand



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RSNF VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

Rev. Robert was welcomed by RSNF students at the RSNF- vocational centre in the same location with RSNF offices, he moved around and saw how these youth with disability acquire skills in hair dressing and tailoring, some demonstrated for him and he was pleased because it's interesting seeing someone whom people think may not be of any use to the society, challenging them. Below Rev. Robert takes a group photo with the students at the centre



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CHILD SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

This program, currently it cares for the educational needs of 123 pupils and 29 children with disabilities under (with inclusive education program) and the other attend the classes at the therapy room with help of a special needs teacher. This program has only lasted a year but still struggling due to inconsistent funding. Canon Rev. Robert also visited RSNF community school in Kicwamba 1 village, has an enrolment of 123 pupils from nursery to p.2 class, among these 29 pupils have disabilities ranging from physical, and others. The school promotes inclusive education has children with disability learning together with ordinary pupils, the pupils could not hold their excitement, Rev. Robert he prayed with them and blessed each of them.



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CLEFT LIP AND PALATE SURGERY CAMP on 23rd March 2018

Ability from disability, changing the world one smile at a time, those are slogans Rwenzori special needs foundation and smile train use respectively, last weekend we changed 30 smiles of children and adults with disability. We had 20 children and 10 adults. 13 children had cleft lips while the 7b had cleft palates. 6 adults had cleft lip and 4 cleft palate



WHAT IS A CLEFT?

The surgery camp lasted 5 days at Bukuuku health centre IV, the two teams (Smile Train and RSNF) worked tirelessly to offer services to children and adults with cleft lip and palate conditions.



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We are so much thankful to our consultant surgeon Dr. Sister. Najjuka Lillian and her entire Smile Train-Uganda team RSNF partners for the love of these people, as they usually offer RSNF Patients free surgery to over 73 patients each time we hold a camp.

Am also proud of the RSNF staff who take their time to mobilize these patients in different areas in the whole of Rwenzori Region, on addition of providing social support while the surgeries are being performed, RSNF can only say, together we can make a difference to children and adults with clefts in Rwenzori region. Here we are calling upon everybody to join hands with us as we change the smiles.

CHALLENGES

We encounter challenges but never the less, we are so much committed to change people's smiles when it comes to clefts. Biggest challenge is we have **"NO means of transport"** to get children and their care givers from their respective villages to the Hospital where the surgery can be done!; we are only using Boda Bodas that was donated by RSNF-NZ team.



In this report as cleft ambassadors we know that no one knows exactly what causes the clefts, but most experts agree that the causes of cleft lip and palate are multi factorial and may include a genetic predisposition as well as environmental issues such as maternal illness, lack of folic acid among others.

