Sanyu Babies' Home

Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 65 | Oct - December 2024



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the new Board of Sanyu Babies' Home (SBH) I would like to thank the Bishop of Namirembe Diocese, The Rt. Rev. Moses Banja, for appointing us to serve on the Board, and entrusting us with the responsibility of serving in this worthy cause of helping to correct the sad and sometimes traumatic experiences of abandoned vulnerable and sometimes orphaned children.

According to Psalm 127:3 Children are a gift of God. They are a source for the growth of his Kingdom here on Earth. It is therefore important to address their welfare and nurture the restoration of their self-esteem and confidence in a Christian environment. Placing them in good Christian homes with loving parents is crucial to our task. We pledge that we, and all SBH staff will continue to work with love and passion for the Children, the 'Sanyu Family'.

We would like to thank the outgoing Board led by its Chairman, Dr. Stephen Kituuka for a job well done. They ably steered the Home during a challenging time and were able to address a number of critical issues, and develop plans, leaving the home in a better place. We also thank the Homes committed staff led by Mrs. Barbara Nankya Mutagubya for a job well done.

We take this opportunity to thank SBH's many supporters, donors, volunteers, friends, guardians, foster and adoptive families, who have continuously come out to offer a home, or a helping hand to the Home, having realised the plight of these less privileged babies and children who desperately need love, a happy life, acceptance, good health, and a sense of belonging. We shall continue to respect and treasure this good-will, help, and outstanding generosity. May God bless you all.

Even as Sanyu Babies' Home continues to address the plight of the babies and children, it has a number of challenges that must be addressed. The home that can only accommodate 50 children at a time, must grow as Kampala population grows and societal pressure with the factors that cause child abandonment increasing. Secondly, the current ad-hoc person-to-person support given to SBH based on voluntary contributions from our friends and well-wishers could become inadequate. There is need for a more permanent, predictable and reliable income source. Our commitment, self-sacrifice, love, and determined effort to help, must take stock of these critical issues. We need the support of all well-wishers. Please keep praying for us and supporting us. May God bless you all.

Arch. Dr. Ian Senkatuka – Board Chairman

LETTER *from the* Director SBH

BARBARA NANKYA MUTAGUBYA



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year 2025! It is with great honour that I introduce to you the 65th Issue (September to December 2024) of our Newsletter. January is always a good time to look back at the last three months of 2024 with thanksgiving to God and also to look forward to 2025 for achieving greater heights. We are incredibly grateful and blessed for those who have believed in our ministry and the work God has called us to do; "providing Christ-like love to babies and children deprived of parental love; and reintegrating them into the community, through reuniting them with their families, fostering or adoption".

We thank God for the blessings of good health, daily provision and protection to the SBH family. There has been a lot of joy with many children being reunited with their living family members or fostered. We have reached our fundraising target for the Institutional Solar Power Generating and Electric system. We have enjoyed our Christmas party celebration and the staff awards. We are blessed by the many people involved with our ministry including the incredible volunteers, interns, visitors, child sponsors and donors. Many thanks for your encouragement, support and help; we would not be celebrating 96 years of service without you.

SBH is thrilled to welcome a new Board of Governors officially appointed on 4th December, 2024. We thank the bishop and patron of Sanyu Babies' Home the Rt. Rev. Moses Banja for appointing and presiding over the Inauguration ceremony of the new Board of Governors under the chairmanship of **Arch. Dr. Ian Senkatuka**. Other members include; **Dr. Moses Kafeero, Mrs. Harriet Semakula Mutumba, Mr. Paul Kavuma, Ms. Jane Namuddu Kiggundu, Dr. Annet Kugonza Khingi, Rev. Stephen Lumu Lwasi, Counsel Fredrick Mpanga and Mr. Charles Male.** Each of these new Board members brings a fresh perspective and a unique skill set that will be of enormous service to the Home. Their depth of experience and collective wisdom will enrich the Home. Their enthusiasm for Sanyu's mission is boundless. We want to say big thank you to the retired Board of Governors including Dr. Stephen Kituuka, Ms. Eleanor Mirembe, Dr. Sabrina Kitaka and Rev. Samuel Muwonge. Thank you for the guidance, support, love, care and great counsel accorded unto the entire Sanyu family.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we shall reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9)

Barbara Nankya Mutagubya – Director



Board Inauguration

The new Board of Governors for Sanyu Babies' Home was officially appointed on 4th December, 2024.











Hellos and GOODBYES

The past three months have been very busy with changes involving 27 children. Each time we receive a child, our Social Work department does their best to perform a thorough investigation to try and discover where the baby came from and if possible, to reunite the baby with their family. Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed the following babies:



Robert Teko (6 months) arrived on 3rd October 2024. He was rescued from a woman who was suspected of child trafficking by the Central Police Station who later referred the child to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as investigations are done.



Solomon Ddembe Lya Yesu (2 days) arrived on 7th October 2024. He was abandoned by an unknown person at the Old Taxi Park near Namugongo stage. The case was reported to Central Police Station and later the baby was referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as investigations are done.

#HELLOS



Emmanuel Otwee (1 month) arrived on 21st October 2024. His mother passed on immediately after giving birth. Dokolo District Local Government through the Probation and Social Welfare officer referred the baby to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection.

Moses Afuga (3 days) arrived on 28th October 2024. He was abandoned by his biological mother at a Medical Centre in Bulange – Rubaga division. The case was reported to Old Kampala Police Station and later the child was referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as investigations are done.





Daniel Muwanguzi (2 years and 6 months) arrived on 2nd November 2024. He was abandoned together with his brother at Mutundwe Christian Fellowship Church. The case was reported to Nateete Police Station and later the children were referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as investigations are done.



David Mwebaze (5 months) arrived on 2nd November 2024. He was abandoned together with his brother at Mutundwe Christian Fellowship Church. The case was reported to Nateete Police Station and later the children were referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as investigation are done.

#HELLOS



Gracious Pie (7 months) arrived on 30th November 2024. He was found abandoned by an unknown person along Gaba road. The case was reported to Kabalagala Police Station and the child was referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for care and protection as tracing for the known relatives is done.

Isaiah Lukyamuzi (2 years and 11 months) arrived on 14th December 2024. He was abandoned by his father at Crane Network. The case was reported to Old Kampala Police Station and later the child was referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as further investigations are done.



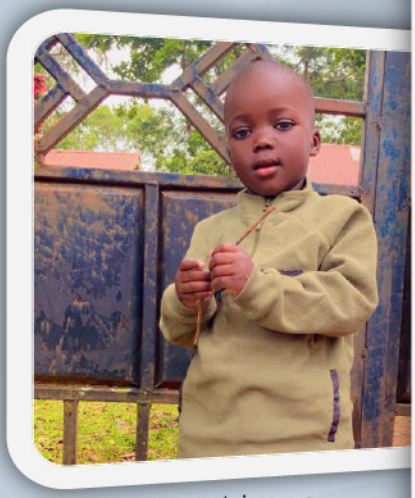


Josiah Rwotomia (4 months) arrived on 20th December 2024. He was rescued from a lady who was suspected of child trafficking at the old taxi park. The case was reported to Central Police Station and later the child was referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as further investigation is done.

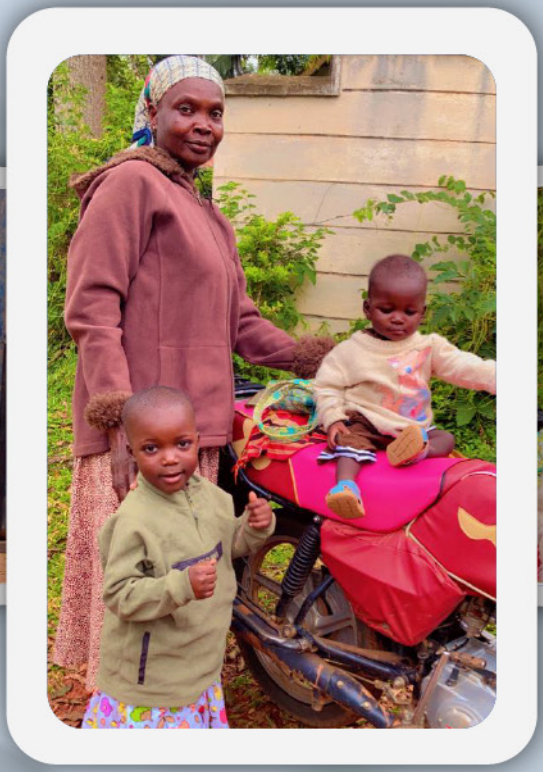
Osborn Mubeezi (8 months) arrived on 23rd December 2024. He was abandoned by an unknown person at KK building in Kampala. The case was reported to Old Kampala Police Station and later the child was referred to Sanyu Babies' Home for temporary care and protection as investigations are done.



#GOOBYES



Stella Athieono





Calvin Othieono

RE-UNITED CHILDREN

1. **Anthony Tumwesigye** *(3rd October 2024)*
2. **Wycliff Atukwase** *(24th October 2024)*
3. **Mercy Apio** *(31st October 2024)*
4. **Robert Teko** *(28th November 2024)*
5. **Nelson Mubeezi** *(4th December 2024)*
6. **Alex Opio** *(6th December 2024)*
7. **Charles Tumusiime** *(17th December 2024)*
8. **Calvin Othieno** *(23rd December 2024)*
9. **Stella Athieno** *(23rd December 2024)*

FOSTERED CHILDREN

1. **Edward Jesse Kansiime** *(2nd December 2024)*
2. **Trevor Kusasira** *(6th December 2024)*
3. **Ben Talemwa** *(10th December 2024)*
4. **Favor Tendo** *(11th December 2024)*
5. **Faith Natasha** *(16th December 2024)*
6. **Elizabeth Nakato** *(19th December 2024)*
7. **Evelyn Babirye** *(19th December 2024)*

Meet Gracious!







Meet Gracious, one of our newest and smallest babies at Sanyu Babies' Home. Gracious was abandoned on the 30thNovember 2024 and brought to Sanyu for love, care and protection while investigations were done. Despite being estimated to be approximately 7 months old, Gracious weighed just 3kg and was extremely malnourished. After an assessment by the Sanyu nurses, he was taken to Mengo Hospital where he was admitted for further treatment and monitoring. Gracious was diagnosed with congenital heart disease, pneumonia and severe acute malnutrition. He was given round-the-clock love and care by Mama Nasuuna whilst admitted to Mengo Hospital, and he started to make progress. He was given a specific feeding plan and began to take formula milk and a special porridge made for him every 2-3 hours. He fed well and started to grow stronger. Gracious was discharged from hospital on 10th December 2024 and was welcomed back home to Sanyu. He was settled into his bed in the baby room, and everyone was delighted to be able to get to know him at last. At the Christmas Party, Gracious was dressed up so smartly and was baptised along with the other new babies by Rev. Joseph Luvumu. Gracious is a very medically complex child but is growing stronger every day. He is so loved and we can't wait to watch him grow up!

Travor's Turn To Say Goodbye



Trevor with his family December 2024

If you have visited Sanyu at any point in the last few years, you will likely have met Trevor. Trevor arrived at Sanyu Babies' Home in December 2021 when he was approximately 1 year old. Trevor grew up into a clever, strong and happy little boy who loves cuddles. Trevor loves to meet new people and would often be one of the first children to make friends with visitors and volunteers. Trevor could be quiet at times, watching the world go by, but could also be the life and soul of the party, depending on his mood and who he was with. Though Trevor loved to meet new people, he was a child that loved strongly and he never forgot his special people that he had been loved by for years. Trevor was such a kind and caring little boy and was always so gentle with the babies. mama or volunteer.



Trevor December 2021



Trevor April 2023



Trevor July 2024

He loved to help the Mamas and volunteers, and you could often find him tidying up toys or volunteering to go and collect something for you. Trevor took particular interest in interacting with some of our children with special needs. He accepted their differences, loved them with an open heart and helped to look after and play with them. He was a child full of love and care, with a good dose of cheekiness too! Trevor loved to make people laugh and could often be found being cheeky and in the middle of whatever chaos was being caused. He loved to be with people, whether he was playing with the other children or sat spending time with a mama or volunteer.

As he grew up, Trevor started to become aware of the fact that other children were leaving and 'going home'. He still had his bubbly and loving personality but also started to have a longing for his turn. He would watch as other children had their goodbye parties and wait eagerly for his family to come. And finally, his turn came. When Trevor began the bonding process with his family, he slotted in straight away. One of his new sisters came with his mum and didn't want to leave him at the end of their first day bonding. To her, he was already part of their family after just one day. Trevor was matched with his family in November and spent time bonding with his family and getting to know them. On the 6th December 2024, Trevor said goodbye to his Sanyu Family and joined his forever family! He had a big cake and everyone sang songs together and celebrated this joyous occasion. At his party, Trevor was so peaceful and calm; he was ready to go, and it was something he had waited for, for as long as he could remember. Whilst we all miss Trevor's happy and loving nature so much, we are so happy that at last it was Trevor's turn to say goodbye!



Sanyu Christmas Party 2024

The Sanyu Christmas Party truly is a day like no other. The Christmas Party preparations start weeks in advance - looking for donations, buying all of the food, working with suppliers, preparing the children's clothes, buying the staff awards, putting up the decorations...the list goes on. When the day itself arrives, the hard work is done, and it is time to celebrate the past year together!

Even before the function officially started at 10am, Christmas spirit was in the air. The staff were all treated to a special breakfast and the children were dressed up in smart clothes. You know it is going to be a special day when the treats start at breakfast. The day of the Christmas Party always begins with a Thanksgiving Service. The service was led this year by Rev. Joseph Luvumu the Assistant Vicar of St. Paul's Cathedral Namirembe. All of the children who have arrived recently were baptised, with cheers and shouts of joy from the Sanyu Staff as each child joined God's Family. One little boy only arrived during the night before the Christmas Party, so when he was named and baptised, that was when we all learnt his name, Baby Josiah Rwotomia! The other children that were baptised included; Cynthia, Edina, Joram, Divine, Fortunate, Mathew, Hannington, Jesca, Joab, Abigail, Esther, Calvin, Stella, Solomon, Emmanuel, Moses, Daniel, David, Gracious, Isaiah and Josiah. After the baptisms, a short sermon was given before we sang together. The songs were led by 4-year-old Gloria. This time last year, Gloria was recovering from major brain surgery. To see her confidently



leading songs for all of the staff, children, volunteers and visitors was amazing! Some of the other children joined her to lead songs at the front whilst a collection was taken.

After the thanksgiving service had finished, it was lunchtime for the children. The children had a special meal in honour of the Christmas Party, and it was all hands-on deck to get them fed, changed and put to bed for their nap. Whilst there was a flurry of activity inside, outside the function continued with speeches and dancing before the heavy rain shower put a stop to the PA system temporarily. The rain didn't dampen any spirits though, and before long the music was back on, and it was time for lunch! Everyone queued up at the buffet and piled their plates high with food. There were so many different types of food, and almost everyone said yes to everything! Whilst some ate, others danced and the celebrations continued.

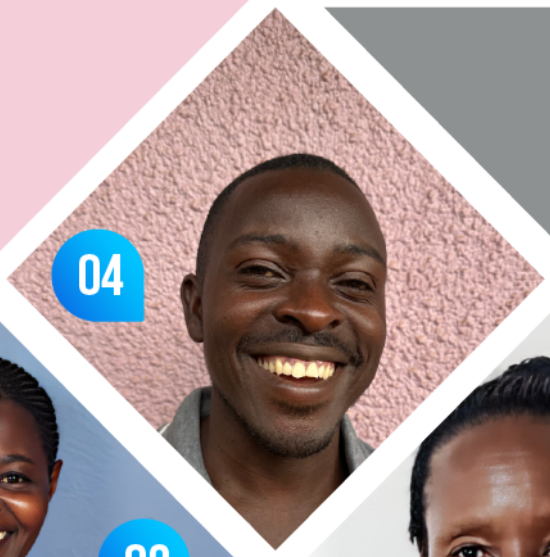
Once the children woke up, they were quickly gotten ready to re-join the party and once again were dressed up in smart clothes. The afternoon was filled with gift giving between the staff, the staff awards and of course dancing! The gift giving is full of so much joy as each participating staff member dances around the hut before finally revealing who their gift is for. Each gift has been so thoughtfully thought out and is perfect for the receiver. The staff awards always gather a big crowd as everyone waits to hear who has been awarded this year. There is always happiness whenever the awards are announced, but this year the excitement and cheering were something else. The awards were so well deserved, and the staff's reactions confirmed this. After the awards had finished, the children enjoyed eating ice cream and cutting the cake before heading down to the bouncing castle. The music continued, the dancing continued, the celebrating continued, and eventually the party came to an end.

One of the reasons that the Sanyu Christmas Party is so special, is that it's the only day of the year where the entire Sanyu family gathers together. Everyone is able to reflect on the year, celebrating the good and remembering the difficult times. There has been a lot of joy at Sanyu during the past year; many children have been reunited or fostered, new staff have joined the Sanyu Family, children have learnt to sit, walk, talk and run, and new projects like the Solar Project have come to fruition. There have been times of worry and sadness during this past year, too; losing our precious baby Henry to measles, the numerous hospital stays throughout the year for various children, and seeing the poor condition in which some children arrive at Sanyu. The Christmas Party is a time where everyone comes together to reflect on the year, and be together; be a family.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed towards the Sanyu Christmas Party – it wouldn't have been possible without you. The Sanyu Christmas Party really is the best day ever and is the perfect way to end the year. It is a day for you to dance, to sing, to pray, to laugh, to cheer, to reminisce and to celebrate. It really is a day like no other.











Loyalty Awards

This year, Loyalty Awards were presented to 5 members of staff in honour of their long service to Sanyu Babies' Home. They were awarded to recognise the steadfast commitment to the Sanyu Family and outstanding dedication to their work. Each of the 5 staff members have contributed a huge amount to the growth of Sanyu Babies' Home.

1

Mama **Agnes Nakakeeto** has given 20 years of service so far to Sanyu Babies' Home, starting her employment with us in 2004. Mama Agnes began as a home mother at Sanyu and is now the Store Attendant. She is responsible for keeping track of all the donations received and organising all of the supplies. She works with all of the different departments to make sure they have everything they need to carry out their jobs, for example giving pampers to the Home Mothers, food to the kitchen staff and laundry detergent to the laundry staff. Mama Agnes said that "so many things have changed at Sanyu since I joined the team. For example, the administration team has changed and back then they used to have to buy formula milk for the children but now we receive through donations instead. Even pampers were not enough then and pampers were only used for the babies' room, but now we receive enough through donations." When we asked Mama Agnes about her job, she said that she has worked at Sanyu for so many years because she loves her job and she is resilient in every situation that comes her way. She enjoys seeing the children happy, alive and healthy!

Agnes Nakakeeto

2

Mama **Grace Namayega** has given 21 years of service to Sanyu Babies' Home so far, having started her employment with us in 2003. Mama Grace started off as a Home Mother, then worked in the store as a store attendant and then finally moved to the Kitchen Department where she is now. Mama Grace told us that she enjoyed all of the different areas she worked in and found them interesting. She is very happy in the Kitchen Department and she likes what she is doing, which is why she has stayed working at Sanyu for so long. Mama Grace said that "if I am cooking I feel a lot of peace." She enjoys cooking for the children and giving them nice meals that they are able to eat and be healthy. It makes her happy seeing the children eat her food. So many things have changed since Mama Grace first started at Sanyu; lots of changes in staff, and also in attitudes and behaviours of fellow staff – she said that everyone is now respectful of one another. One of the biggest changes that Mama Grace noted is the style of cooking has now changed following the installation of the solar project!

Grace Namayega

3

Mama **Florence Nalweyiso** has also given 21 years of service to Sanyu Babies' Home so far, starting her employment at Sanyu in 2003. Mama Florence has spent the whole of her 21 years as part of the Sanitation Department and says she likes her job so much. She finds her job interesting and enjoys that she is able to plan her day and no one is forcing her to do things; she is able to work without pressure. She likes to look forward and focus on the future. Mama Florence said that so much has changed in the 21 years she has worked at Sanyu. When she joined Sanyu, she said that there was no Craft Shop, no Guest House and there was no gate or gate keepers. The children did not go to school, and the children were not cared for as well as they are these days.

Florence Nalweyiso

4

Chance Robert has given 22 years of service to Sanyu Babies' Home so far, as he started working at Sanyu in 2002. Robert is part of the Sanitation Department, and has been part of the same department the whole of his employment. Though that is not all that Robert does at Sanyu, as you can often find him helping out in various different departments and is someone that people call if they need help with something. Robert said that Sanyu is peaceful and he has worked here for so long as it has a good environment and food for employees! He said that lots of things have changed at Sanyu since he started working here, but also for him personally. He is now able to support his parents financially and that makes them very happy.

Chance Robert

5

And last, but definitely not least, Mama **Maria Nampiima** has given a huge 26 years of service to Sanyu Babies' Home, having started work here in 1998. She has been working at Sanyu for longer than several staff member and many volunteers have even been alive! Despite being one of the oldest members of Staff, Mama Maria can always be found playing with the children and having fun! Mama Maria said that the reason she has worked at Sanyu for so long is that she loves her job, she loves the children and she finds peace at Sanyu. Mama Maria first started in the kitchen department and was there for 2 years and then became a Home Mother. Mama Maria said so many things have changed at Sanyu since she first started working. Almost everything is different, including things like the food the children eat as well as the milk they drink.

Maria Nampiima

We are so grateful to have such wonderful employees that have provided such long and faithful service. Their loyalty, dedication and love is unmatched. They are true examples of the fact that when you are a member of staff at Sanyu, you are not just an employee, you really do join the Sanyu Family.

Sanyu Staff Awards 2025



The Unsung Hero Award
-Loy Komwaka



The Most Improved Performer Award
– Teddy Nakirijja



Volunteer's Vote Award
–Teacher Jacqueline Nassali



The Employee of the Year Award
Joint Runners-up, Jesca Namulinde



The Employee of the Year Award
Joint Runners-up, Mama Christine Nassuna



Employee of the Year Award 2024 –
Winner, Teacher Robinah Nyakuru

The Unsung Hero Award

This award recognises an employee who gives her all to the service of Sanyu Babies' Home. She just goes about her work and gets on with it and is always wonderful though under-appreciated and deserves credit for her hard work and commitment. This award went to ***Loy Komwaka***. Loy is a Home Mother and her dedication to the children of Sanyu Babies' Home is remarkable. Loy makes time for each and every child and loves them all dearly. She is particularly talented at working with our children with special needs and shows continuous patience, love and care. Loy works hard and is someone that the staff can rely on, and the children can trust but also have fun with! Thank you, Loy, for being the incredible Home Mother that you are, we are so grateful to have you.

The Most Improved Performer Award

This award recognises an employee who has made significant improvement in their performance over the years. It highlights outstanding performance and their dedication

and efforts to enhance their skills and contribute to the Home's success. The Most Improved Performer Award went to ***Teddy Nakirijja*** this year. In 2024, Teddy made the big jump from being part of the Laundry Department to being a Home Mother. It was a huge change and took quite some time getting used to – generally washing machines and bedsheets don't cause as much trouble or require so much round the clock care as some of our children do! Teddy is a wonderful Home Mother though and looks after the children so well. Her gentle nature means that she is approachable, and the older children love to play with her. Teddy never lets a baby lay there and cry even if that means that she has to carry several at once! Thank you, Teddy, for all of your hard work, we are so grateful to have you!

The Volunteers' Vote Award

This award is voted for by both the local and international volunteers from the past year. The award is for people who have really gone above and beyond to make the volunteers feel welcome and included and have been a real ambassador for Sanyu Babies' Home. This year's winner was none other than ***Teacher Jacqueline Nassali***! Teacher Jackie is part of our Sanyu School and helps to teach our 3 Classes; Joy Class, Peace Class and Faith Class. Jackie is someone who all of the children trust and respect. She is able to control a room full of excitable toddlers without even raising her voice, and is also someone who every child loves to run and show their work to when they've completed it. Some of the reasons volunteers voted for were because she was "so encouraging" and "helpful" and she "went out of her way to seek us out to socialise and welcome us. She helped us with language and cultural barriers too". Thank you, Jackie, for being an ambassador for Sanyu and welcoming all volunteers so well.

The Employee of the Year Award

This award recognises an employee who has made exceptional contributions throughout the year and has gone above and beyond their job description in some way. This award was voted for the day before the Christmas party in a secret vote by all Sanyu staff. This year there were two joint runners-up and one overall winner.

The two runners up were our Social Worker ***Jesca Namulinde*** and ***Christine Nassuna*** who is a Home Mother! ***Jesca*** is very committed to her role and is very popular amongst the children. She is someone that they can have fun with but also someone who notices when they are not fine. Despite Jesca's job being based in the office or in the field the majority of the time, Jesca always makes time to come and help with the day-to-day care of the children. Sometimes she appears in the afternoons and helps to cut the children's hair, other days she comes over and helps to bathe the children in the evening after finishing in office. She even passes by on weekends sometimes to check that everyone is well and to do any extra preparation or work on any of her pending cases. ***Mama Christine Nassuna*** is very popular with everyone who enters the Sanyu compound; staff, volunteers, children and visitors! Nassuna goes above and beyond in each and every task she completes. Every task she completes, she does with joy and love. She checks on each and every baby when she arrives for work, and the older children run to see her as fast as they can. Recently, Nassuna was in hospital caring for our little baby Gracious (read more about Gracious on page 7). Nassuna provided round the clock love and care to Gracious and did all she could to help him progress and recover. Her hard work was even noticed by multiple parents on the same ward caring for their own children who actually contacted Sanyu to pass on how wonderful she was. Thank you ***Jesca*** and ***Nassuna*** for truly going above and beyond!

The winner of Employee of the Year Award 2024 is ***Teacher Robinah Nyakuru***. Robinah is one of our three Sanyu School Teachers. She is responsible for helping to teach our three classes; Joy Class, Peace Class and Faith Class. Robinah is dedicated to her work and doesn't like to miss a day even if she is sick. Robinah is always very calm and makes sure all of the children in her care are doing well and are not crying. She knows all of the children's different personalities and how to interact with them and help them grow in confidence. Robinah is a hard worker and always helps out with the children even when school has finished for the day. She is organised and is always eager to learn and plan new activities for the children. Robinah is someone that can be relied upon and who is always happy to help. We are so lucky to have her teaching at our Sanyu School and as a part of the Sanyu Family.

My Experience While Working at Sanyu Babies' Home



Hello! My name is Joy, however at Sanyu I am called Mama Edinah, which I prefer. I'm a volunteer at Sanyu Babies' Home. When I applied as a volunteer at Sanyu, I couldn't wait to join in because it was very surreal. I had achieved one of my biggest dreams. On my first day when I entered the home, mothers welcomed me with bright smiles and the babies also welcomed me with bright smiles and warm hugs full of love. This made me feel at home and free to join in any activity. I worked with the home mothers that day and I knew how much they needed my helping hand. The next day I came so early, whereby at 6:00am I was already at Sanyu.

Waking up in the morning, knowing that you are going to meet your heart's peace, is so beautiful and it gives you peace with a glowing smile on your face. Working with mothers to feed the elder ones at 6:00am, giving them toothbrushes and helping them to brush, undressing them to shower, giving them towels and dressing them up, then preparing them for prayers and school. We have three classes at Sanyu: peace class, joy class and faith class. But remember we also have the babies; the volunteers divide into two groups so that some stay to help in the home and others go to school to help. In my lifetime I had never ever met so many people with great teamwork and love for whatever they are working upon. Doing all this has made me to feel like a mother and helps me understand most of the children. Following up every baby isn't easy, but with time you can notice whether the baby is fine or not, if they are happy or sad.

24th April 2024 was such a blessed evening when baby Edinah was brought to Sanyu. Oh my, she became part of me. As I was playing with the other babies in the hut, we saw the van coming and the Mamas were saying that they had bought a new baby. I ran and carried her, and they asked me to take her to the nurse in the clinic. The nurse asked me to change her clothes, and I couldn't hold it in, I burst into tears. Her condition was not good at all. We took her to Mengo Hospital and this was where the doctor informed us that she has cerebral palsy (CP). I had never heard of cerebral palsy, but the nurse explained it to me. That evening I really never wanted to go back home, however, I had to. Since then, we have gone for many check-ups, physio appointments and other medical procedures and Edinah is doing well. Edinah is my soulmate, I do believe that GOD brought her into my life as my gift. She has totally changed my life and I have learnt a lot about her for the time we have been together. With her I do have faith that the Lord has a greater plan for us all in life and we should not to give up.



I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that never think that you're useless, unloved or lonely because in life at any point, someone somewhere needs your helping hand as Sanyu does in all of the different departments. One sure thing is that the children and babies will welcome you with a bright smile full of love and joy and so will the cooking department, laundry, school and cleaning department and others. It might not be Sanyu, but always out there someone needs you.

NOTE: Family is not about sharing biological ancestors only but I do believe that family consists of people who support, love, trust, care about you, communicate and share values with you and that keep united together.

I am delighted that I found Sanyu my family and I will be more delightful if you join my Sanyu family this 2025 or anytime because for us we are always welcoming.

MAY 2025 BRING YOU ENDLESS JOY, SWEET HEALTH AND CHERISHED MOMENTS WITH LOVED ONES.

Joyce Nambuusi. W



COULD YOU SPONSOR A CHILD?

Often as one year comes to a close and another begins, people make new year's resolutions. Could your new year's resolution be to sponsor a child?

Did you know that Sanyu takes care of up to 50 babies and toddlers at any one time, who have been abandoned, orphaned or abused? When children arrive at Sanyu they are often in very poor states of health, sometimes malnourished, and they need a lot of love and care. One of the ways you can help these children is by sponsoring a child. When you sponsor a child at Sanyu you commit to partnering with us by making a monthly donation of $15/60,000 UGX. The monthly donation ensures that Sanyu is able to take care of every child's essential daily needs. Sanyu is run almost entirely on donations, many of which are one-off, so having a regular monthly donation means that Sanyu can reliably provide for our children day in, day out. It means that food can be bought, bills can be paid, medical needs met, and loving staff can be given salaries for their work. As we enter 2025, Sanyu is currently looking after 47 children. Can you help us to look after these 47 babies and toddlers by sponsoring a child?

When you sponsor a child at Sanyu, you are partnered with one specific child. Each quarter you receive an update on your specific child and find out about what they have been doing. You find out which milestones they have met and if they have done any exciting things. You really get to know your sponsored child and lots of photos are included too. Your monthly donation of $15 or 60,000 UGX helps the Sanyu children to have hope, to be loved, to be nourished, and to go home to their forever family when the time is right.

If you would like more information, please contact Director Barbara on sanyubabhome1@gmail.com or 0788162147. Thank you in advance for the difference you will be making in the lives of the Sanyu children.



A Family TRIP TO SANYU

We visited Sanyu for a few short days in August 2024. We being myself, my wife and our 4 boys ranging from 11 - 17 years old. We'd come over from England as part of a broader East African family adventure, retracing some family roots and, well...having an adventure.

Sanyu was the first place inked into our itinerary. My older sister has been often. Her family have visited. My cousin spent quite a bit of time volunteering twenty odd years ago. So I perhaps felt that I knew a bit and could imagine from all the photos and stories that my sister and her family have shared over the years. It looked the same as it does in the photos, and the daily rhythm was as they had described. But the experience was like nothing else. The warmth and joy of the place is something that can only be experienced by being there and joining in. From being picked up from the airport by the relentlessly jolly Pafula and Eric, to the extraordinarily varied and generous cooking of Joel, the patience, care and love of the mamas, and Barbara's careful guiding hand, it was wonderful. It was a massive privilege to be able to spend time helping out where we could. It's busy and it's noisy. It's also full of laughing, smiling, singing, running, dancing. I came away in awe of the mamas.

I loved sharing morning devotion with the children and mamas. Simple singing and praying to start the day. I also loved sports day; a chaotic, highly competitive set of races and games on the parking lot. Every child was involved.

By all accounts it was a profound and positive experience for our boys. It was radically different to anything they'd experienced in England. They loved it. Thank you Sanyu!

Tom Howard



Hector

Before I had ever been to Sanyu, I knew my cousins had gone and they had shown me all the pictures of them with the children, and it looked to me a very happy place for all the children there. From my experience, one of my favourite parts of the whole experience was Morning Devotion. This is where the children and my family and all the lovely mamas at Sanyu sing worship songs, and my favourite one was 'Telephone to Jesus'. This was a song about talking to Jesus everyday through song but mainly this song was easy for all the children to get involved in and they all loved it (probably not as much as me though). On our last day in Sanyu they hosted a leaving party where all the children sang and danced and my mum introduced the children to the song 'Our God is a great big God' with all the actions to help them remember the song. Soon everybody started joining in and by the end of the day the children were exhausted from singing their hearts out (especially Duncan). This is why I truly believe that you have to go there to get a true feel for the place and why Sanyu does deserve the name 'Home of Joy' which it truly is.

Angus Howard (age 12)



Ollo and Angus

When we first touched down in Uganda and got our luggage, Eric and Pafula met us and loaded all of our bags onto their trusty van and we made the 45 minute drive back to Sanyu through the amazing chaos of Kampala. We made it to the security gates and entered Sanyu Babies' Home and had our bags taken to our rooms and were introduced to Emily (another volunteer) who showed us around. The rest of the experience from there was amazing. The daily routine began at around 7 when we had our breakfast, then at 7.30, we went into the feeding room and helped feeding all the older babies and we then we did the daily morning devotion. The rest of the day consisted of playing with the children, washing them and clothing them and most importantly, singing with them! It was the most beautiful thing seeing the babies singing with actions to a song that we taught them.

Sanyu has been one of the most amazing experiences ever and I smile fondly over the memories I have of the sports day we held where I'm not sure if the Mamas or the Children were more competitive! I will never forget Sanyu; an amazing place where amazing things happen.

William Howard (age 17)



William

MEET OUR NEW STAFF!





What is your name?

Jenifer

My name is Jenifer Miriam Nankabirwa.

Robinah

My name is Robinah Naluyijja

What is your role at Sanyu?

Jenifer

I am a caretaker, a home mother.

Robinah

I am a home mother. My role is to take care of children, nurturing them and protecting them.

How long have you been working at Sanyu?

Jenifer

It's been now three months.

Robinah

I am now going to make 3 months.

What inspired you to apply for a job at Sanyu?

Jenifer

It's my calling. I did Early Child Development and Children's Ministry. I have taken 16 years serving. I am a Sunday School teacher. I am a kindergarten teacher. I love children and I am a mother, I'm a parent.

It has always been my passion to take care of children, and I love it when I am taking care of them. It makes my heart so happy.

Robinah

What do you like most about working at Sanyu?

Jenifer

I enjoy whenever I come to work. I even don't want to go on my offs (days of leave), I love these children, they are in my heart. I enjoy serving everywhere, as long as I am with these young children.

These children make me happy and that is why I enjoy working at Sanyu!

Robinah

THE DIFFERENCE BOTH INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL VOLUNTEERS CAN MAKE



A child sits bewildered by the scene in front of him and I watch as he tries to read the room. I can tell he is saddened by something but don't want to startle him.

Eventually his eyes meet mine and I subtly beckon him over. He recognises my invitation and, with urgency, makes his way across the room towards me. I open my arms and he falls into my embrace. We stick together for the rest of the evening and I wonder, "Is this what I am here for? I know this moment we are sharing is of importance but why did I assume before arrival that something so simple, and yet beautiful, would be insignificant?"

If you, the reader, are anything like me, you've based a lot of your recent successes and failures on seemingly more tangible things such as promotions, degrees, and measurements. Achievements have been founded on high-ranking scores and being acquainted with prestigious personnel. Even now, after spending a total of six months in Uganda teaching in the schools and spending time with the children at Sanyu Babies' Home, I still find myself falling into the endless search for praise and recognition.

I decided to interview a few other volunteers to confirm and gain a better understanding of what I was experiencing. I wanted to understand the value of our service and why it was so different from the work I had pursued in the past, besides the fact I wasn't getting paid and wasn't obligated to be there besides on my own accord.

I started by asking what it was that children needed and the answer I received was always the same: unconditional love and connection. Yağmur, a Turkish volunteer who has visited Sanyu twice now, related these insights:

"In my observations, children need physical contact the most.

They eat good food, sleep in clean beds, wear spotless clothes, and take regular showers. Yes, these are wonderful and important things. However, the main factor that develops a child's sense of security, intelligence, and social skills is physical closeness. You can observe this in the children's behaviour. Sometimes they want to sit next to you while eating, sometimes they want to hold your hand while riding the Ferris wheel, and sometimes they sit quietly on your lap for twenty minutes, just looking around. This shows me that what they need is actually something so simple—something that doesn't require great effort or a lot of money."

"It may not last long, your presence in their life. But the fact that you're being part of their journey, it's amazing," says Jemimah, a volunteer local to the Kampala area who spent her two month holiday at Sanyu. "Not everyone is going to add the same thing to their life. But when you're there, you add something to their life. They might realise it. They might not. You might realise it. You might not. But it's there and providing unconditional love is definitely positive."

Sanyu attracts individuals of many different backgrounds and expertise. There are plenty of opportunities to utilise your unique skills and to learn additional skills from the staff you work alongside. Tasks may include writing or taking photos for the newsletter, planning activities for class, participating in administrative duties, etc. Whether you are a beginner when it comes to children or someone who is mastering social work, you will find acceptance and purpose during your time of service.

...I didn't know how to take care of toddlers or how to even really play with them.

"I had never changed a diaper before," says an American volunteer named Peyton. "I didn't know how to take care of toddlers or how to even really play with them. I genuinely did not have very many skills but I was very grateful to the mamas for showing me and teaching me."

Yağmur states, "The only thing you need is your heart and good intentions and the mamas will teach you the rest!"

On the contrary, most volunteers, myself included, will tell you that they are the blessed ones.

"I think when God put Sanyu in place, he thought about me," says Jemimah. "He was like, 'Oh my God! Jemimah... She'll need this. She'll be at home here."

It has opened a door in my life I didn't know was there. I have seen God's love and I've actually experienced what it means to have your dreams come true. I feel so fulfilled and it's a blessing. I don't take it for granted because how many people wake up in the morning and they're looking forward to that day?

I can't monetise my experience here. Yes, people might have gone to work and gotten money but being here...I just can't put money to it.

"They definitely made the biggest difference in my life," says Peyton.

"This experience has changed me in many ways," says Yağmur. "I realised that I don't have to achieve something big or be perfect to appreciate and love myself. It's not about material success but about the quality of human connection and care."

On behalf of myself and the volunteers featured in this article, if you are feeling inspired to dedicate a small (or large) portion of your life to Sanyu Babies' Home, we strongly urge you to take the necessary steps and just do it! We hope and believe that you will not only impact a child's life for the better but find a part of yourself you didn't know was there.

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered your time and other resources to the home. Your contributions do not go unrecognised and are greatly appreciated.

Rebecca Gent



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
at Sanyu Babies' Home

We offer a number of ongoing opportunities for those individuals who wish to volunteer and serve alongside us at Sanyu Babies' Home. We are able to accept both national and international volunteers who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. We welcome day volunteers as well as volunteers who will live on-site and spend a longer period of time with us. Sanyu Babies' Home has an on-site guesthouse which provides our volunteers with a comfortable bed, good food and a safe place to stay. You are also just a few steps away from the babies' home. The guesthouse welcomes volunteers who have travelled from afar as well as local volunteers who wish to spend a night or two with us. Please look at our website to find out more information - *www.sanyubabies.com*.





DONATIONS NEEDED

01 CONSUMABLES

Sanyu Babies' Home relies almost entirely on the generosity and support of friends like you. Over the years, we have received many donations which have been enormously valuable to the home and especially the children. We thank you for all your love and support. However, we are always in need of contributions to keep the home running. Our wish list is endless and includes some of the following:

- ***Baby formula milk(0-6months)***
- ***Feeding bottles***
- ***Pampers/disposable nappies in various sizes from newborn to toddlers' pull ups***
- ***Baby wipes***
- ***Baby rocking chairs/soother chairs for the classroom***
- ***Food – rice, milk, sugar, eggs, fresh fruits, vegetables, matooke, potatoes (sweet and Irish), fish, meat, peanut butter, blue band, ground nuts, etc...***
- ***Disposable gloves***
- ***Milton Sterilizing tablets or other brand sterilizing tablets.***
- ***Cleaning products – i.e. Detergent, bleach, washing up liquid/soap, washing detergent, stationery for administration work and classroom***
- ***Activities, toys, books, arts and crafts suitable for nursery class.***
- ***Children's toothbrushes and children's toothpaste***
- ***Children's shoes – Croc style (rubber type flip flops)***

02

SBH EXTENSION PROJECT

This SBH extension project will cost *USD 3,090,264.95* and it will enable us to start generatinng an income of our own



HOW TO DONATE

- **Cash or Cheques**
- **Mobile Money**
- **Post Items**
- **WorldRemit** *(See page 28)*
- **Western Union** *(See page 27)*

(Check benefitiary bank details below)

You can do international transfers via the following bank details, by cash and or written out cheques to Beneficiary Bank Details:

BANKERS	Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Ltd 5 Speke Road, Kampala, P.O. Box 7111	Stanbic Bank, Uganda Ltd City Branch, Kampala Road
A/C Name	SANYU BABIES' HOME	SANYU BABIES' HOME
A/C Number	0102010619500 (UGX) 8702010619500 (USD)	9030005856247 (UGX)
Sort / Swift Code	08:02:47 / SCBLUGKA	31008 / SBICUGKX

You can also send money using Mobile Money Transfer:

1. ***MTN MOBILE MONEY**, dial: ***165*4*4#**, enter merchant code: **Sanyubabies**, enter your reference, enter amount, enter your pin and then send.*
2. ***AIRTEL MONEY,** dial: ***185*9#**, enter merchant ID-**1120469**, enter amount, enter payment reference, enter PIN and send*

You can post items to: **P.O. Box 14162, Kampala, Uganda**

Please ensure you let the Director know if you send any donations so we can be looking out for them. Send us an email: sanyubabhome1@gmail.com or call: +256 414 274 032 / +256 788 162 147 / +256 705 681 603

WESTERN UNION

moving money for better

Western Union is a reliable international money transfer service that operates in over 200 countries worldwide.

Important information: *Please note that Sanyu Babies' Home are only able to accept cash pick-up. Western Union do not currently allow individuals to transfer money to a business account.*

Transfer Guide

1) Create an account for free.
2) Select receiver's country (uganda).
3) Input the amount of money you wish to transfer. This can be input in the 'Send Amount' box (this will be in your local currency) or the 'Receiver Gets' box (amount will be in Uganda Shillings).
4) Select 'Cash' as the recipients preferred collection method. Select how you wish to pay i.e. credit/debt card or bank transfer. Select continue.
5) Then add the receivers information...

First Name- Barbara Mutagubya Last Name- Nankya

Email address- sanyubabhome1@gmail.com

****Barbara is the Director of Sanyu and is able to collect the money and deposit it in Sanyu's bank account.***

6) Select your payment method and follow the on-screen instructions.
7) Please send a brief email to Sanyu stating your full name, how much you have transferred and what the money is for (this is helpful for our accounts department and also alerts us that we have money to collect)!

Helpful Information...

- The transfer cost for cash pick-up is £2.90/$1.90/1.90€ per transaction.
- Western Union accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover Credit Cards.
- Payments can be tracked in the 'History' section of your account.
- Once a recipient has been paid all the details are saved for future use.

WorldRemit

WorldRemit is a secure, fast and reliable way to transfer money internationally while avoiding the high fees of bank-to-bank money transfers.

Transfer Guide

1) Create an account for free.
2) Select your country (e.g UK/USA/Ireland) in the 'You Send' box and Uganda in the 'They Get' box (select Uganda with UGX next to it).
3) Input the amount of money you wish to transfer. This can be input in the 'You Send' box (this will be in your local currency) or the 'They Get' box (amount will be in Ugandan Shillings).
4) Select bank transfer as delivery method. Select any UGX account at any branch and press continue. Then enter the following details...

First Name - Sanyu Babies Last Name - Home City - Kampala
Phone number - 0788162147 Email Address - sanyubabhome1@gmail.com
Bank Name - Stanbic Bank Branch Name - Metro Branch
Account Number - 9030005856247
Reference - In the reference section please include your surname and the reason for sending (e.g. Jones - Sponsorship Fees / Smith - Truck Appeal Donation) Reason for sending - Select what is most relevant to you

5) Press Continue and enter your own details.
6) Select payment method and follow the on-screen instructions.
   N.B. All options have been tried and tested and we have no issue with any of them!

Helpful Information...

- The transfer cost is £0.99/$0.99/€0.99 per transaction (regardless of the transaction amount or method).
- WorldRemit accepts Visa, Mastercard, Maestro and Apple Pay.
- Promo code 'FREE' removes the transaction fee on first transactions
- Promo Code 'MT21Q301' also removes transaction fees (it's less reliable but still worth a try)!
- £1450/$1950 is the maximum amount that can be transferred at once (this fluctuates slightly depending on the daily exchange rate).
- Payments can be tracked in the 'My Transactions' section of your account.
- Once a recipient has been paid all the details are saved for future use.

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DONORS *This Quarter*

Every gift that is given to Sanyu is so appreciated and we want to thank everyone who has given to the children of Sanyu. Special thanks go to John. & Ruth Everett of Rockland St Mary. They have this year raised over £2000 for Sanyu by selling plants donated to them and bee medicines. They have been doing this since their visit to Sanyu some years ago.

The donors listed have given in cash and also in kind (formula, food, clothes, toys etc.) We know that it is the heart of the giver, not the size of the donation. Thank you so much for your kind hearts!

This list is for October - December 2024.



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Kaggulwe CDC
Kampala School for the Physically Handicapped
Kawemba Preparatory School
Little Cranes Montessori Kindergarten - Bugolobi Campus
Little Cranes Montessori Kindergarten - Naguru Campus
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Makerere University 3rd Year Medical Students
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Namagunga S.3 A C.R.E Girls
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St Marcelino Academy Matugga
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Thank you very much for your Love and Support!



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