

# Our Own Home

A refuge for orphans living with HIV/AIDS in Jinja, Uganda



Greetings from sunny Uganda!

January, 2009

As I listened to Berlin's good ol' White Christmas, I couldn't help a chuckle. The temperature must be in the upper nineties here, and has been for weeks now! Today I made mango juice, for crying out loud! White Christmas? Maybe not, but we at Our Own Home did have a wonderful Christmas!



*A joyful Christmas morning!*

We went to Kampala, as promised, and the kids feasted their eyes on the KPC spectacle! Later in the week before Christmas, we went to a play put on by some of the local missionary kids; the Christmas Story. After the play there was a cookie swap. I even baked gingerbread cookies for the kids to try. They all liked them except for Aisha, who said they were too sweet and could she please have another brownie instead of a gingerbread man :o). I think the highlight for everyone was caroling on Christmas eve, though. We went to some of the orphanages and missionary houses in Jinja and sang carols by candlelight. Jackson (who you'll remember, was

very near death last year at this time, but after a year with good food and ARV drugs, and in answer to prayers from all over the world, he was "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf" this year!), Jackson exclaimed as we moved between houses caroling, "I don't mind if we do this every night!"

Christmas morning was a blast, as it tends to be with thirty-some kids around! They were thrilled with their clothes and sweets, and the water guns "Grandma Mary" (my mom) sent. Also had cinnamon rolls that morning, which was a real treat. My dear friend Amy baked cupcakes and brownies for all the kids and staff, too! Our church's Christmas service was beautiful, and in the afternoon our dear friends the Nester family brought over a few members of their congregation – and they had prepared gift bags for all the kids! Again the kids lit up as they opened more goodies: lotion, school supplies, toys, sweets, and bubble formula!

**Please pray for little Jackie.** She is a nine-year-old girl who is sweet spirited and tender. Each morning she waits at our bedroom door and runs into our arms, exclaiming, "My mommy! My daddy!" She loves her baby doll, picking flowers, and singing songs, and she is always ready to tell anyone that she loves Jesus. Though she is nine, she is about the size of the average six-year-old. Jackie didn't have the chance for much nourishment before she came to Our Own Home. Her mother had AIDS and was too sick to work or look after her four children. Jackie was the oldest, but all of the other three died of AIDS, just like their dad. Finally, a friend from the AIDS clinic brought Jackie to our attention. She has Tuberculosis and is covered with rashes right now, but with time we believe she will see a full recovery. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up.



*Jackie*

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Once again God has provided for us, in his perfect timing, a place for us to serve more children and bring in babies. Rather than one new larger compound, this is a 2-story home with large grounds just one lot over from our existing home. We will move the girls into the new home and establish the baby home there while keeping the boys here in the "original" Our Own Home facility. We are cleaning and preparing the home now and should have more information and pictures next month. Join with us in rejoicing in what God and his people (that's you!) have accomplished in barely one year.

Please consider making a contribution to Our Own Home to assist us in caring for Jackie and over thirty more like her. The Father to the fatherless, Our faithful Creator, will see that they have all they need.

With love,

Mommy Holly

Please visit our website at [www.africaourownhome.org](http://www.africaourownhome.org)! Here you'll find an overview of our ministry, pictures, our newsletter archive, volunteer, contact and donor information. Please share and e-mail this link to anyone who might be interested in learning more about Our Own Home!



*A visit to Bujagali Falls on the Nile River  
--just a 10-minute drive from Our Own Home.*

Rejoice with us in thanking God for providing the additional space we need to begin receiving babies at Our Own Home.

We are still requesting donations of cloth diapers, Balmex or similar generics, and baby toys that can be sterilized (boiled)...not teethingers or cloth toys. Of course we always need children's multi-vitamins....and some deodorant for the older kids. If you are in Casper, call and we'll arrange pick-up of the items. Otherwise, please see shipping information on the website under "donations".

Please share this work with your church or others you know who may be interested. If you know of someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please send us their address by mail or e-mail at the address in the next paragraph.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Our Own Home and send to: 1075 Beaumont Dr. Casper, WY 82601. We also accept credit card and Paypal donations online at [www.africaourownhome.org](http://www.africaourownhome.org). Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law. If you have any questions at all, please call Joe at 307-267-2712 or write [joe@africaourownhome.org](mailto:joe@africaourownhome.org).

Please write to me [holly@africaourownhome.com](mailto:holly@africaourownhome.com). I'd LOVE to hear from you!  
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