

Our Own Home

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



Dear friends!

www.AfricaOurOwnHome.org

April, 2010

This month I want to tell you all a story. That is...I want to begin telling a story. My hope and prayer is that the story does not end with the bottom of this newsletter, but continues long after the final word has been typed. **Please read this letter to the end!**



Carly holds Moses

Carly Button, age thirteen, came to Uganda in the fall of 2009. She had a passion to see the world become a better place, and believed she could be one of the people who made it so. Carly spent her time volunteering at an orphanage for babies in Jinja, and fell in love with a special little boy named Moses.

Moses was abandoned by his relatives after his parents died of AIDS. Already at 3, he is on his second round of treatment for Tuberculosis, and it just won't go away (each round of treatment takes about 6 months, and he is currently on his third). He weighs around 15lbs., has sores in his mouth and on his face and his body is covered with the telltale rashes. He captures Carly's heart.

Carly spends as much time as she can with Moses during her brief stay in Uganda, pouring as much love into the child as she can, making the most of every opportunity to show him that he matters. Then she has to go home.

There is only so much a kid can do, right? And by all means Carly has already exceeded all expectations anyone could impose upon a thirteen-year-old! Her call in life, at least for now, is to return to America and go back to school, all would agree.

All except Carly. She just can't get Moses out of her head -- or her heart. And not only Moses, but all of the other children in Uganda and around the world who need their little corner of it to become a better place. You see Carly, along with her brother and sister and two friends, has already started a nonprofit fund raising organization called Dream of a Better World, hoping to inspire other people to dream with her on behalf of kids like Moses. With a keen recognition that the children of the third world are not so different than themselves, Carly and her "Dream Team" set out to raise as much as they can to benefit orphanages and other relief projects in countries like Uganda. Her 11-year-old brother, Jack, sums up their mission when he says, "You're never too young, or too old, to make a difference."



left to right: Hannah, Carly and Jack

Carly thinks often of Moses and prays for him. By and by, she contacts the orphanage where Moses had been to find out how he is doing. She learns that he was transferred to Our Own Home in order to receive more specialized medical care, so she hastens to contact...well, me.

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Carly wants to know how Moses is doing and if there is anything special that Our Own Home needs. She learns that Moses' doctor suspects he has lymphoma, and her special boy is undergoing testing. She perseveres in prayer.

Meanwhile, Dream of a Better World begins making plans. They want to help make the world a little easier for Moses, and all of his brothers and sisters at OOH. They want to help buy a van. Through March, we have received \$5,600.00 towards our second van.

Attention all OOH supporters, friends, and prayer warriors: Dream of a Better World will match all donations made toward a van in the next 60 days, up to \$10,000.00!!! This means if \$5,000.00 is donated toward the van, Our Own Home will receive \$10,000.00. If \$10,000.00 is donated toward the van, OOH receives \$20,000.00 through the generosity and perseverance of these special kids at Dream of a Better World. This would be enough to cover the second van as well as a portion of land.

A few days ago, Moses' lab results came in. He doesn't have cancer. In fact, his lymph nodes are working, which is very unusual for a child with advanced AIDS. His sores and rashes are improving, slowly but surely. He begins his new ARV drugs with hope that he can fight off the Tuberculosis, and one day be as healthy and energetic as his big brothers at OOH. After all, they have AIDS too, but they aren't sick anymore. So God hears the prayers of a young girl with a big heart. Didn't we already know He has a soft spot for children?

Our Own Home is praying. Carly and her family are praying. Please pray with us. A van with more space for transporting our 45 kids, as well as land on which we could build a larger and more permanent facility, would enable us to care for many other children like Moses. In Jinja the HIV rate is 40%. There are more kids out there...and there is more love in here. Let's watch the Father of the fatherless provide for His children once again. And anyone who feels led, let's give to Him as He gives to them.

Be blessed,
Mommy Holly

We continue to request donations toward a second van and for acquisition of our own land. **Our present needs are for boys undies sizes 6-12, medical gloves size medium to large, multivitamins, children's Tylenol and Advil tablets and liquid. Of course, generics are fine.** Please share this work with your church or others you know who may be interested. Let us know if you would like to arrange a presentation for your group or church. **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. 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.

Please visit our website at 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!

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