

# CHILDREN OF HOPE UGANDA

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**Number of Placements:** 1

**Location:** Lira, Uganda

**URL:** <http://childrenofhopeuganda.org>

## **Field/Subject Area:**

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria.

## **Position Description:**

The intern will work closely with the Executive Director and the rest of the COHU staff to support the war-affected youth of northern Uganda by:

- Paying partial school fees and providing scholastic materials to 163 children ages 11 to 18 who attend 31 primary and secondary schools in Lira, northern Uganda.
- Operating Barlonyo Technical and Vocational Institute for 120 youth, the majority of whom were formerly abducted by the LRA. BTVI trains students in carpentry, bricklaying and tailoring. COHU has initiated 8 school Income Generating Activities to make the school self-sustaining. The school IGA's are a piggery, poultry raising, tilapia fish farming, goat rearing, tree nursery, sale of carpentry and tailoring products and school truck rental. Barlonyo is 45 minutes to the north of Lira, which is 6 hours north of Kampala. There are 26 faculty and staff at BTVI.
- Operating Barlonyo Early Childhood Development Centre for 155 children ages 2 to 7. There are 4 teachers and 1 support staff at ECDC.
- Operating 6 Income Generating Activities (IGA's) to enable the caregivers of the 163 beneficiary children to pay a greater share of school fees. These IGA's are chicken, pig and goat rearing, oxen ploughing, bee-keeping, orange tree seedling planting, tailoring and paper bead jewelry making.
- Operating the COHU community Library at the Lira office for the 163 beneficiary children teachers from the 31 schools attended by the children and the whole community.
- Paying university tuition for 20 Aboke girls, who had been held captive by the LRA for 8 years, and paying partial school fees for their 18 young children, all born in captivity.

## **Specific tasks will include:**

### *Barlonyo Technical and Vocational Institute [BTVI]:*

- Work with BTVI Principal, Board of Governors Chairman to prepare monthly budgets, accountability reports and monitor progress of 3 year Strategic Plan.
- Work with BTVI faculty to prepare a needs assessment for tools, equipment and materials to better operate the courses in carpentry, bricklaying and tailoring.

- Liaise with community leaders to form working partnerships with other NGO's operating in Barlonyo. For example, Pastor Robson of Victory Outreach Ministries re Barlonyo medical clinic and primary school.
- Work with BTVI staff on adult learning centre to train local people to teach English.
- Work with BTVI students and staff on improving the efficiency of the 48 school IGA's, including increasing the market for the pigs, poultry, crops and tilapia fish.
- Work with the COHU Director and staff to facilitate health and sanitation and HIV/AIDS testing and information sessions, including distribution of deworming pills, malaria bed nets, etc.

#### Barlonyo Early Childhood Development Centre [ECDC]:

- Coordinate with COHU founder regarding equipping ECDC with appropriate teaching materials using local resources.
- Work with ECDC Principal and 3 teachers on needs assessment for furnishing, equipment and teaching materials.
- Work with ECDC faculty on community outreach with parents
- For example, initiate a lending library of primary concept books
- Assist ECDC faculty and staff in improving the program and logistics of operating the ECDC
- Perform feasibility study for a new nursery teacher training course at BTVI

#### COHU Community Library - Lira

- Perform a needs assessment for expanding the community library at the COHU office
- Visit the 31 schools attended by the 163 beneficiary children of COHU to assess how to facilitate use of the current COHU library
- Coordinate donation of appropriate books from Book Aid International warehouse in Kampala

#### Health and Sanitation Campaign - Lira

- Perform a needs assessment in rural villages surrounding Lira as follow-up to initial health and sanitation campaign performed as part of Rotary Water and Sanitation Hygiene WASH project in 2016
- Coordinate report on deliverables for possible extension of Rotary funding

#### Income Generating Activities – Lira

- Create a comprehensive field report on the current status of the 8 COHU IGA.'s in Lira with suggestions for improving yield of each.
- Investigate methods of expanding markets for honey, crops, paper bead jewelry and crafts
- Investigate possibilities of forming a farmer's co-operative for marketing crops
- Investigate acquiring contracts from local school for COHU tailors to make school uniforms
- Investigate creating or expanding other markets for tailoring products ie patchwork bags, aprons, baskets, both within Uganda and in Canada.

- Work with COHU Sales Coordinator to facilitate production and shipping of products

**Complete all tasks assigned, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities outlined above.**

**Expected work hours:** 35hrs per week

**Preferred start date:** Anytime in May

### **Qualifications/skills required:**

- Good computer skills, especially familiarity with Excel.
- Ability to take initiative
- Self-directed,
- Outgoing
- Ability to work independently
- Intrepid

### **Language requirements:**

English

### **Highlights of Organization/background information:**

Children of Hope Uganda is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated in Ontario on October 7th, 2011, Ontario Corporation # 1857838. It is registered with Revenue Canada as Canadian charity # 84461 3885 RR0001. Children of Hope Uganda is also the name of the Community Based Organization registered by Ojwina District Council, Lira, Uganda on January 27, 2009, # COH/01, reference OD/223/11. The partnership between COHU and COHU-Canada was initiated in 2007 between Lorna Pitcher, a retired teacher and former lawyer from Toronto, and Esther Atoo, the Director of COHU in Uganda.

The objective of COHU in Canada is to raise funds to support the projects of COHU in Uganda and monitor the progress and implementation of the projects.

COHU in Uganda was founded in December 2006 by Esther Atoo as a trauma-healing project to help a group of 43 children who had lost their parents to AIDS or the attacks of the Lord's Resistance Army. Many of the beneficiaries were former child soldiers, some HIV positive and all living in extreme poverty. There are now 163 OVC's (orphans and vulnerable children) in the core COHU project.

## **Accommodation Information**

Staying in the guest house of the Director of COHU is a great way to get the 'real Ugandan experience'. Living here you will have your own bedroom with a locked door, a washroom (flushable toilet, sink, and you will be provided with hot water to bathe yourself), and nice home cooked meals. The guest house is a 20 minute boda boda ride from the COHU office.

There is also the option of staying at the NGO compound (within walking distance to the COHU office) for about \$100 a month.