

TERM ONE

# SCHOOL FEE REPORT 2020





# BACKGROUND

Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja (RHHJ) provides palliative care to patients with life-threatening or life-limiting illness in the Busoga Region.

Friends of Reach Out (FORO) has been a wonderful support to RHHJ, since 2016. FORO has been influential in the development of RHHJ, which has allowed us to expand our social support services significantly and allowed us to offer holistic care to our clients and their families - especially children in our School Fee Programme. Your support has also meant that RHHJ has been able to grow to the level where we can further develop and expand our services, and reach more children in need of care.

We believe that clinical and psychosocial support work hand-in-hand to improve a patient's quality of life. Our School Fees Program plays an essential role in psychosocial care because it provides relief to patients who are unable to send their children to school, due to their extreme poverty, and the financial burden their illnesses place on them and their entire family. In addition to alleviating our patients' worries, the School Fee Programme hopes to break the cycle of poverty by giving children a chance to continue with their education in the face of the other hardships they face.

# OVERVIEW OF 2019

To qualify for this programme, children must meet the following criteria:

- Parent/guardian is or was under the care of RHHJ
- Child is under the care of RHHJ

As part of the School Fee Programme, children are monitored either at their schools, or at home. We have planned, periodic checks which are meant to help keep the children in school and get good grades. During these visits, their school fees are paid, counselling is done with each child and scholastic materials are distributed to the children. Additionally, these visits ensure that the social workers from RHHJ interact equally with the children and their teachers to foster collaboration and success for the children. None of these activities would have been possible if it hadn't been for the support of FORO.

As we come to the end of 2019, RHHJ is proud to report that nine children in our programme have completed their primary levels. Some of these students, with exceptional performances will be joining secondary level and the others will join tertiary/vocational institutions. We are also helping some students, who are not doing as well in school due to the distress they face in their homes because of the illness that affects their family, to join the boarding sections of their schools to enable them to concentrate more on their academics. With the loving support from FORO, all of this will be perfectly realized.

For easy identification of all the children, the organization developed a unique child identification system. Each student has an identification number (IPN). This is very important to track and monitor the progress of each child among the many children on the school fees program.

A total of 99 children were supported in Term 1 out of the planned 112. Of those, 93 children managed to complete term one with an examination assessment. The six children who did not manage to complete their assessment had either been moved by their families to areas outside of the region, or were patients themselves and were not well enough to attend school during the first term.

In term two, 105 of the 112 planned children were supported with tuition and scholastic materials. Of the 105 supported, 104 successfully finished the term with an end of term examination assessment. The student who was unable to complete the term had lost her mother and could not sit for end of term 2 exams during the bereavement.

End of term two grading reports show an average overall mark of 53%. There was a slight improvement in the performance during term two compared to the performance in term one from 48% (see table below). This improvement means a lot, especially considering the problems these students face, like their own illness, or that of their family members, while they are trying to focus on their studies.

# STORIES

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