

So much to be thankful for in July

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Greetings!

July has been a special month in our history. Many things have happened that have filled our hearts with gratitude. At the top of that list was the official opening of our high school in Uganda, the **Hawthorne-Scribner High School, Bududa**. We hosted the largest contingent of US visitors on our adult trip. The teens concluded their summer trip to Uganda in style. In Uganda, as the school prepared for the official opening, finishing touches were made on the compound and the new Science and ICT buildings. We thank our staff in Uganda under the leadership of CEO Dennis Owora and the Matuwa community for hosting the US guests and for pulling off a remarkable month of activities. We also thank everyone who came for the official opening of HSHS. Below are some highlights.

**Opening day at Hawthorne-Scribner High School on July 5.
Watch the video below and see featured pictures.**



Hawthorne-Scribner High School: A New Era for Bududa!



For the July 5th opening of the Hawthorne-Scribner High School (HSHS), Bududa, more than three thousand people attended the festive ceremony at the HSHS school grounds in Kikholo town, Bududa, one of the largest gatherings Bududa has ever witnessed.

More than 30 Americans graced this event. Led by REACH for Uganda President Dick Burk and his wife Carole, there were seven other REACH board members (Holly Hawthorne, Dean Scribner, Benjamin Schoenbrun, Jim Angel, Chris Shiplett, and John and Joyce Wanda). John and Joyce came with their four children – JJ, Craig, Christine, and Chris. Jim Angel came with two of his sons – William and Peter. JJ brought two work friends and colleagues, Jack Torkaz and Faith Ho. Dick Burk brought a whole delegation of adult volunteers – Elise, Justin, Marcus and Paige Conelli; Daniel Burk, Kevin Burk, Damon Burk; Trish, Will, Abeht, and Zavier Kennedy; Kyndal Boykin, Jo-Ann Hoffman, Harry McWreath, and Annelise Selvaggi. From Arlington Traditional School came teacher Abigail Willard. And Isaac Fenster, a student at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, came as a summer intern. In total, 33 Americans traveled from the US to attend the ceremony, but there were also American friends from the Bududa Learning Center (BLC) and Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) in attendance.

The ceremony was a massive showcasing of the work that REACH and AAH has done in Uganda over the last two years. Since the groundbreaking on August 12, 2023, REACH/AAH has completed building a 12-classroom block, two three-level dormitories for 600 students each, a dining hall and kitchen; almost completed are a

science block and IT building. Modern infrastructure includes grid electricity, a solar farm and power house, and a gravity water and rain harvesting system complete with a purification system that is the pride of everyone in Bududa. Just days before the opening ceremony, AAH completed a full kilometer of tarmacked roads across the school compound, supplementing the numerous paved walkways.

The ceremony showcased the school and its students, as well as the extensive positive relationships the school has established with the surrounding communities. There were performances from 12 Outreach schools. Students from Bulobi Primary School rocked the audience with an extensive and well-choreographed traditional ceremonial dance. Student Mercy Kibone, from Tororo Girls School, sang a moving rendition of Shania Twain's *You Are Still the One*, eliciting tears and applause in equal measure from the crowd. The HSHS students themselves performed some of the most amazing dances from across Uganda.

In his remarks, Dick Burk, REACH for Uganda Board President, touched on the remarkable efforts and collaboration that ensured the completion of the Phase I construction of the school. Dean and Holly Hawthorne both challenged the students and community to turn the school into a center of excellence and renaissance. Dean made a special pledge to support the top students from our Outreach schools. Work on Phase II will begin in 2026.

The ceremony honored some of the biggest donors who have contributed to HSHS's establishment. There were tributes to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), whose award of \$800,000 in 2021 kick-started the building of the school. The ceremony recognized former Principal of Arlington Traditional School, Holly Hawthorne, and her husband Dean Scribner, after whom the school is named, for their pioneering gifts, leadership by example, and the connections to the Arlington Traditional School community. Other honorees included Ben and Inga Schoenbrun and Ben's extended family and associated foundations, Jim and Amy Angel, Jack and Jean Smith, Dick and Carole Burk, the Gupta Family Foundation, Carol Ann Bischoff and her husband Mike Regan, JJ Wanda, Celeste Land and Kent Giles, Oliveira Ricardo, JoAnn Willis and her husband Chip Kahn, Amy and Pete White, Susan Peters and her husband Richard Lee, and Hennie Deboeck and her family foundation who donated in memory of her late husband Guido Deboeck. All these donors were recognized with buildings, floors, or classrooms named after them. **You can view the pictures** for the school opening that day.

Naming building with love at Hawthorne - Scribner High School, Bududa

We are very thankful to all our donors who have donated towards the completion of Phase I of the building at Hawthorne-Scribner High School below. The students enjoy learning at a modern facility and having access to a robust quality secondary education.

The second and third phase are yet to come, so we still have much more to accomplish and celebrate. We invite you to join REACH change makers bringing quality education for children in rural Uganda. **Learn more about how you can be part of this change here.**



Schoenbrun Science and ICT Building



Gupta Family Foundation Boys' Dormitory



Carol Ann Bischoff Computer Center



Dick and Carole Burk Hall



Amy Juliet Angel Girls' Dormitory



Tennenbaum Dining Hall

REACH and AAH Leadership Meet with Uganda's Speaker of Parliament.



REACH leadership got to meet up with the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Anita Annet Among, and the Opposition Chief Whip in Parliament, Hon. John Baptist Nambeshe. The meeting was a follow-up to our request to the government of Uganda to meet its pledge of tarmacking the Bududa Ring Road and improving other roads in Bududa and Namisindwa districts, and to eliminate VAT on services provided by NGOs in health, water, and education. The speaker promised to follow up with the appropriate government departments and committees of parliament. She also appreciated the leadership of our REACH and AAH Co-founders, John and Joyce Wanda, for connecting Uganda to their many friends in the US. She lauded REACH for Uganda, and the friendships built through the work of REACH and AAH Uganda.

REACH Gets Its First Female Medical Doctor!

Class of 2025

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES



Dr. Hellen Timbe Nabutuwa

Bachelor of Medicine &
Bachelor of Surgery

First Female Doctor from AAH
program

Sponsored by
Doreen Jones, Bruce Leighton and
Beatrice Tierney



Paul Nabutanyi

Diploma in Environmental Health
Science

Sponsored by
Cyrus Karbassiyoon

Congratulations to our July graduates. REACH has now graduated over 300 students in all fields, including teachers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, engineers and many others. So far, we have graduated six male medical doctors, including Dr. George Bwaya who is in charge of AAH Uganda medical program.

Drum rolls for our first female doctor! We congratulate Dr. Hellen Nabutuwa Timbe for her hard work in earning her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees from Kampala International University. We are proud of all she has accomplished and know she will inspire so many little girls who dream of being doctors

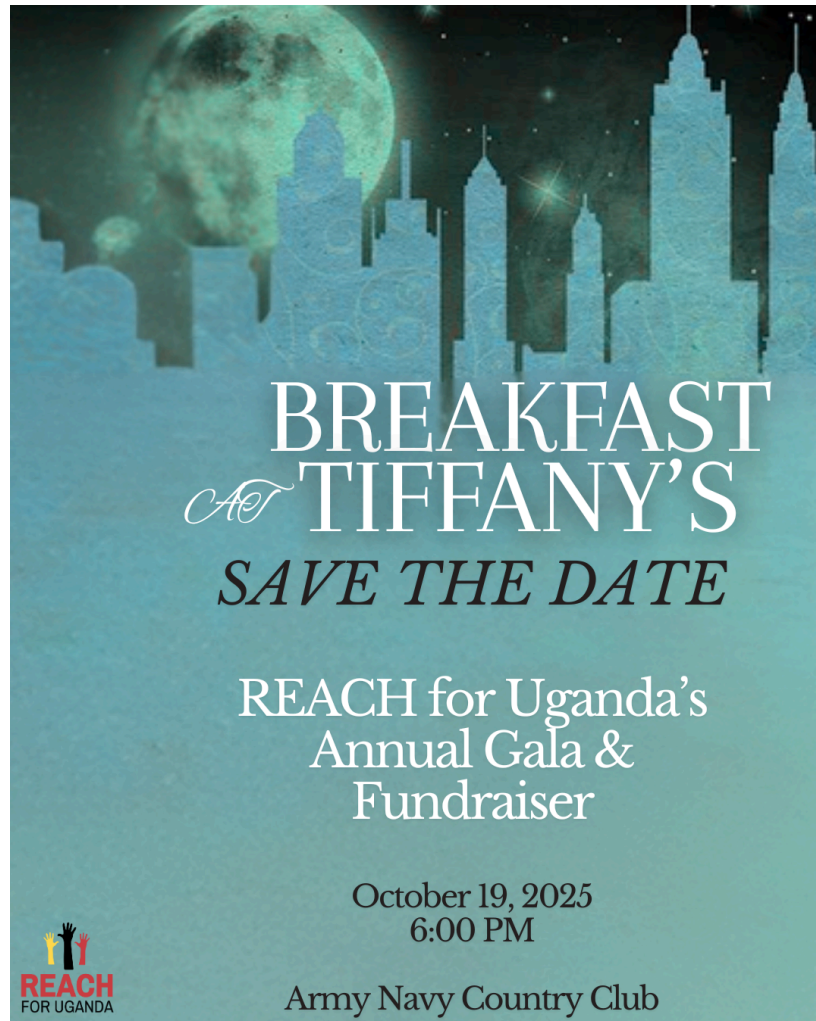
Hellen is an orphan and has been with AAH since primary school. She has had many mentors nurturing her along the way, including her sponsors at university, Bruce Leighton and Doreen Jones, and at secondary school, Beatrice Tierney. At primary school, she was supported by **She's the First**. Her determination and resilience allowed her to achieve this extraordinary goal! We are very proud of her hard work and accomplishments. Hellen will be joining Nsambya hospital in Kampala for her Internship which begins in August.

We also congratulate Paul Nabutanyi for earning a diploma in Environmental Health science and his sponsor Cyrus Karbassiyoon.

Would you consider sponsoring a student like Hellen and nurturing them along the way while supporting their education? If so, please **do so from here**. If you would

rather contribute to a scholarship fund that supports all students who are not sponsored, [you can do so here](#).

Gala Count Down! Save the date!
Oct 19, 2025!



Join us for our largest annual fundraiser as we celebrate the achievements of REACH, its students, sponsors, and partners. Mark Sunday, October 19, on your calendar and plan on joining us that evening. Stay tuned! Additional information coming soon.

**Designing and Fabricating Scientific Instruments
for Science Classes:
the University of Virginia Joins REACH**

The International Technology Engineering Education Association (ITEEA) and the Make to Learn Laboratory at the University of Virginia are collaborating with Hawthorne Scribner High School on an initiative designed to enable engineering students to design and fabricate scientific tools and instruments for science classes.

Harry McWreath, an alumnus of the University of Virginia (class '71), traveled to Uganda and assisted with the initial setup and calibration of a Bambu A1 mini 3D printer which was provided in support of the project. Glen Bull, a Professor of Education, and Jo Watts, Manager of the Make to Learn Laboratory, are collaborating

with teacher Isaac Matsanga on a weekly class that introduces engineering students at the high school to Computer Assisted Design (CAD).



Students are using 3D printers to fabricate scientific instruments for the school.

As an initial project, students have begun to fabricate a 3D-printed microscope. After completing a foundational model, students will have the opportunity to develop a computer-controlled microscope.

Rich Nguyen, an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Virginia, is directing a team of the University's computer science students who are developing artificial intelligence (AI) features that will be used in conjunction with the computer-controlled version of the microscope. This application will support automated microscopy in which samples are analyzed through the use of artificial intelligence to support comparisons of specimens collected across different biomes in different geographic regions.

Welcome Back to our Teen Volunteers and Adult and Family Trip Travelers



The annual Adult and Family trip to Uganda, led by REACH president Dick Burk, had a group of 17 travelers, coming from many states across the US., and were present for the opening



We are very thankful to our AAH and Matuwa teams for hosting all our guests, including our teens. They hosted 9 teenagers in Uganda this

of the Hawthorne - Scribner High School in Bududa. The travelers worked briefly at the three REACH for Uganda schools and clinics, and also visited sponsored children and outreach schools. This year, in addition to visiting Murchison Falls National Park, they also traveled to Bwindi forest to track gorillas. We are grateful for all the donations carried to Uganda this year by our volunteers and all donations extended to our schools and clinics. If you would like to join this trip next year, please reach out to us at info@reachforuganda.org.

We are grateful to our travel agents who did a fantastic job hosting our trip travelers.

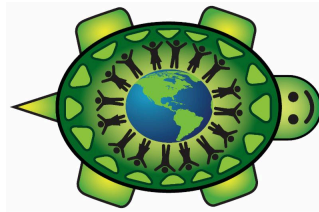
month on the annual teen service trip. The participants who came from area high schools spent time volunteering in our classrooms and clinics, hiking with local community members, and enjoying a safari in the Pearl of Africa! Trip highlights revolved around the passion projects brought to Uganda by the teens, including the games of lacrosse, flag football, and frisbee. They also brought brand new world maps for classrooms, clothing and book donations, and financial support for restocking period products at the schools. The teens were able to experience life in the villages through home visits and daily activities with the students and communities at large. It was a wonderful trip! We appreciate all parents and teens for the impact they had on our students in Uganda

News Briefs



Arlington Traditional School and the Reading challenge

We are grateful to ATS assistant Principal Inga Schoenbrun and teacher Abigail Willard for coordinating and writing this year's 2025 Reading Challenge for the children at Arlington Junior School and Matuwa Junior School. The Reading Challenge was distributed to the students by the 2025 teen trip travelers.



Tuckahoe Elementary School supports Matuwa Students

The students and parents at Tuckahoe carried out a fundraiser to help support students at Matuwa Junior school to construct a playground. We are thankful for the leadership of teacher Kristine Brynsvold and parent Annelise Selvaggi for helping coordinate the activity with the students and parents.



The Wanda Children Participate in the Official Opening of HSHS

They were hosted by their aunts and uncles: Stephen, Nathan and Flora plus Fred and Agnes. They had lots of fun times with their cousins. The highlight of the trip was visiting their only remaining grandmother Loy Butala. The Wanda children traveled with their friends Jack Torkaz and Faith Lo. The Angel children joined them on some of their visits.

Upcoming Events!

Date: August 15 - 17. Arlington County Fair. Find our indoor booth at

Date: Oct 19, Breakfast at Tiffany's Gala. Not to be missed at the Army

the Fair. If interested in volunteering at this event, please [sign up here](#).

Date: August 29 - Sept 2. UNAA 37th Annual Convention - New Orleans.

Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA.

If you can host an event for REACH, please reach out to us at: info@reachforuganda.org

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