

## HSHS is Officially Opening!

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### **Principal Dennis Owora and AAH Co-founders John and Joyce Wanda welcome you to the opening of Hawthorne Scribner High School, Bududa!**



Greetings!

The long-awaited opening day for the Hawthorne-Scribner High School in Bududa is almost here. On July 5, 2025, hundreds of dignitaries, well-wishers, government officials, and guests from all walks of life will converge in Kikholo town, Bududa, to witness one of the most magnificent ceremonies the district has ever seen. There will be over 30 guests from the United States, including REACH for Uganda board president Dick Burk, his wife and board member Carole Burk, Treasurer Benjamin Schoenbrun, board member and former treasurer, James Angel, board member Chris Shiplett, and co-founders John and Joyce Wanda. Uganda Members of Parliament like Nathan Nandala, John Baptist Nambeshe, David Wakikona, Isaac Modoi, Florence Nambozo, and many others are expected to come. But most importantly, the people of Bududa, and indeed the entire Bugisu region, from parents who already send their kids to the AAH programs, and others who see AAH as the symbol of change and progress for the region, will be there in large numbers. There will be music, there will be speeches, and there will be performances. More than 15 local schools across Bududa, Namisindwa and Manafwa will perform, showcasing the partnerships AAH has built across the region. Prospective parents who want their kids to come to HSHS will be there. All roads, literally, will lead to

Bududa, converging in Kikholo, at this place that a few years ago was just fields. July 5, for Kikholo, will be the symbol of renaissance, the growth of a new town and the promise of tomorrow.

At this historic moment, we yet again thank all those who have made this vision possible. We thank the US government, through United States Agency for International Development (USAID), who gave the initial grant of \$800,000 that kickstarted construction of this school. We thank the hundreds of donors from across the US, both individuals and organizations, that responded generously to our appeals. And we thank our community in Uganda for believing in our vision, for donating or selling land and other resources, and those who volunteered on this and other AAH projects. We also thank our construction partners like Sseko Technical Services, Generous Trading and Investments Ltd, and the many suppliers of quality products that have helped us deliver one of the most outstanding construction projects in eastern Uganda. We thank our dedicated staff over the last few years, led by Nelson Kamoti, the Project Director, and Brian Banoba, the Clerk of Works, who ensured that these buildings are constructed properly and meet all codes. And we thank our current staff, led by CEO Dennis Owora, for ensuring the successful completion of construction and the start of operations of HSHS. To all these partners and many others that we are not able to name in person, THANK YOU!!!!. The celebration on July 5 is just the beginning of a journey. We shall continue needing you as we walk this journey in our quest for quality education, community development, and a better future for Uganda. We need your prayers, your talents, and your resources so we can continue to build a better world for our children, and ultimately, for all of us.

### **Hawthorne - Scribner High School, Bududa**





**Classroom Block**



**Boys' Dorm**



**Girls' Dorm**



**Roads under construction**

The school has been up and running since February 17, 2025, when it opened for S.1, S.2, and S.5. New students wishing to join should contact HSHS Principal Dennis Owora. Learn more about the school by visiting their website at: [www.hawthorne-scribner.ac.ug](http://www.hawthorne-scribner.ac.ug), or reach out to us through [info@hshs.ac.ug](mailto:info@hshs.ac.ug), or call +256 200 946 933 or +256 787 818 047.

## **Save the date for the Gala - October 19th, 2025!**



We're a few short months away from our 21st gala. It will be held at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. Join us as we celebrate the achievements of REACH, its students, sponsors, and partners in transforming the communities we serve in rural Uganda through our schools, health clinics, and community development. **Mark Sunday, Oct 19, on your calendar and plan on joining us that evening. Stay tuned! Additional information coming soon.**

## **Adult and Family trip participants are ready for Uganda!**

The annual Adult and Family trip to Uganda is all set to go! Led by REACH president Dick Burk, the group consists of 17 travelers, coming from many states across the US. They will be joined by REACH for Uganda board members and will be on hand at the opening of the Hawthorne - Scribner High School in Bududa. The Adult and Family trip travelers work briefly at the three AAH schools and clinics, and also visit sponsored children. This year, beyond visiting Murchison Falls National Park, they

will also travel to Bwindi forest to track gorillas. If you would like to join this trip next year, please reach out to us at [info@reachforuganda.org](mailto:info@reachforuganda.org).

## Letters to your students are due July 21.



Letters to your student sare due July 21st. **Watch the video** above for instructions on how to exchange letters.

**Click here** for instructions on how to sign in to **your donor portal**. Your student has written to you! Read their letter to you and please write back. We hope you can build a lasting bond with your student.

**Below are the deadlines for the rest of the year to send letters to your student:**

**2nd Term: July 21st, 2025**

**3rd Term: November 1st, 2025**

Even a few sentences to your student can motivate them to excel in their studies. For any questions, **please call or email us**

**Thank you for coming to our pancake breakfast!**



We were grateful to all of you who joined us for the pancake breakfast at Lyon Park. We especially thank Carole Burk for her leadership on this event and all the volunteers who worked to make this event a success. It was wonderful to see all the volunteers who just returned from Uganda and to meet those going over this summer. Shout out to Marlene Mandel for all your help on supporting this annual event.

## **Fundraising campaigns make a difference - see below to support them.**



### **Supporting students with special needs.**

Marymount University Professor Dr. Nicci Dawn visited Uganda for the first time on the 2025 teacher trip and identified areas where she and her fellow educators could make an impact for some of our students at Matuwa and Arlington Junior schools.

At REACH's two elementary schools, students with special needs are eager to learn, grow, and contribute to their communities. However, these students need your support to unlock their full potential.

While both schools are rooted in love, dedication, and community spirit, they



### **Support Teens doing passion projects that help REACH programs in Uganda.**

Many of our teens travel to Uganda with a passion project. We're proud of their involvement and how they choose to share their gifts with the students in REACH schools. Here is a sample of a few who have ongoing campaigns.

### **Sofia Larsen's Campaign for period products.**

Sofia is a senior at **Madeira Girls School in Mclean VA**. She and fellow teens visited Uganda in 2024 and she is returning in 2025. Sofia is raising money to support re-stocking girls rooms at AJS, MJS and HSHS with period products .

**Please donate here to support Sofia's**

face challenges due to limited funding and lack of government programming surrounding special education.

Our goal is to raise \$16,000 to equip both schools with the tools and training needed to better support their students with special needs. Your contribution helps transform not only classrooms but entire communities. Whether you give \$10 or \$1,000, you are joining a movement. You can make difference in the life of these children. Be part of the change!

**[Donate here to support learning for students with learning needs](#)**

**Primary School Scholarships for students in REACH Schools by Jennifer Leach.**

Jennifer went to Uganda for the 3rd time on the teacher trip and has an idea to keep students in school.

Many students in rural Uganda face insurmountable financial barriers that prevent them from accessing the education they deserve. Without scholarship funding, these bright and determined young minds are unable to attend school, limiting their opportunities and potential. Your generous donation can change a life by providing tuition, school supplies, and the chance for a better future. With your support, we can break the cycle of poverty and empower the next generation of leaders, teachers, and innovators in these underserved communities. Please consider making a contribution today—your gift brings hope and education within reach.

**[Donate to support scholarships for primary students.](#)**

**campaign.**

**Ronan Doyle's fundraiser for Lacrosse.**

Ronan is a student at Washington Liberty High School. He will be traveling to Uganda on the teen trip for the first time. He's raising money to bring the game of Lacrosse to the students in REACH schools. Ronan hopes to bring this transformative experience to students in REACH for Ugandan schools. **[Donate here to support Ronan's Lacrosse campaign.](#)**

**Adam Archie's fundraiser to bring maps to REACH schools.**

Adam is a high school student at Arlington Tech in Arlington, Virginia. This will be his first time traveling on the teen trip to Uganda. He has a deep interest in geography, travel, and community service. **[Donate to help him bring maps to REACH Schools.](#)**

**Isaac Fenster's fundraiser for a solar farm.**

Isaac is a rising junior studying electrical engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a project leader for his school's chapter of Engineers Without Borders. This summer he will be contributing to REACH's initiatives in Bududa by planning a solar farm aimed at powering new buildings for the Arlington Junior School and surrounding area, as well as helping design future project proposals. **[Donate to Support Isaac's fundraiser by donating here.](#)**

**Say hello to REACH summer Interns working with us**



**Grace Byron - REACH Intern - American University**

Grace is a rising senior at American University, majoring in



**Alexis Pedersen - REACH Intern - Boston University**



**Marcella Circle - REACH Intern - William and Mary**

International Relations with a minor in Economics. She is passionate about economic development, conflict resolution, and women's rights. She began working with REACH after her group completed a capstone project at American University. The group produce a gender study for REACH for Uganda using both qualitative and quantitative research. She has also conducted research on women's rights legislation in Armenia and the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

### Departure

We bid farewell to our hardworking and reliable coordinator Casey Ruggiero as she seeks out additional schooling and new opportunities. We thank her for her contributions to REACH.

Alexis is a rising senior at Boston University, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Health Science. She is passionate about child development, health equity, and gender justice. This summer, she began working with REACH for Uganda through Boston University's Washington, D.C. program. As a Health and Communications Intern, she supports donor outreach, grant writing, and strategic communications. Alexis has also worked with bereaved children through Camp Good Grief and served as a teaching assistant at BU's Children Center, where she tracked developmental milestones and implemented trauma informed care practices.

Marcy is a rising sophomore at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg Virginia. She plans to major in History and Government. She is passionate about community development in relation to it's role in civil society, and political participation by everyday people. Marcy has just begun working with REACH as a summer intern, but her family have been long term sponsors of a student in Uganda.

## Upcoming Events!

**June 28** - Adult Trip departure

**July 5** - Hawthorne-Scribner official opening

**July 10** - Teen Trip departure

**Oct 19** - Gala at Army Navy Country Club. Please save the date. More info to follow.

**If you can host an event for REACH,** please reach out to us at: [info@reachforuganda.org](mailto:info@reachforuganda.org)

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PO Box 101383, Arlington, VA 22210

703-879-6034

[info@reachforuganda.org](mailto:info@reachforuganda.org)

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