



**January–August 2025**

**MID-YEAR REPORT**

# Introduction

It is with deep gratitude that I present this report covering the period of **January to August 2025**. The past seven months have been a season of growth, resilience, and hope for the 99 girls under our care at Our Lady of Kibeho Orphanage.

With your unwavering support from Canada, we have been able to provide not only the **basic needs of food, shelter, education, and health care**, but also the love, mentorship, and opportunities that nurture the girls into confident, skilled, and compassionate young women.

This report highlights the **activities completed, progress made, success stories, and voices from the girls themselves**. You will also read about the **challenges we continue to face** and the most pressing needs of the orphanage. Through it all, your generosity has remained a beacon of hope, reminding the girls that they are seen, valued, and cared for.

## Message from the Board Chair:

### Mrs. Regina Laboke

The year 2025 began with great enthusiasm and optimism, and throughout these months we have continued to feel and witness the abundant blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Our Lady of Kibeho Orphanage Foundation, I would like to sincerely express our deepest gratitude to our friends and supporters, both here in Uganda and especially in Canada. Your generosity and commitment make it possible for us to care for the vulnerable young girls whom the Lord has entrusted to us. Without your support, this mission would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. We thank you wholeheartedly and continue to pray daily that the good Lord blesses your hearts and hands for the work you do in sustaining the girls in our care.

As you will see in this report, we have experienced many encouraging developments and successes over the past months. At the same time, like in all journeys of life, we have faced some challenges. Yet through it all, we remain deeply grateful and count ourselves blessed.

We thank the Almighty God for His continued guidance and providence, and we thank you for being a vital part of this mission.

With gratitude and prayer,





# Executive Summary

## Our Lady of Kibeho Orphanage Foundation – Mid-Year Report 2025

The first half of 2025 has been a season of blessings, growth, and renewed hope for the 98 girls under our care. With God's guidance and the generosity of our friends in Uganda and Canada, we have continued to provide not only the necessities of life food, shelter, and education but also opportunities for emotional healing, skills development, and personal growth.

### Key Highlights (January–August 2025)

- **99 girls cared for** with full provision of food, clean water, medical care, clothing, and school uniforms.
- **3 balanced meals daily** provided, with fresh produce from the orphanage farm and milk supplements every weekend.
- **Counseling & mentorship** delivered through matrons, a nurse, a retired doctor, and Springfield teachers, strengthening emotional resilience.
- **Social enrichment** through debates, drama, music, storytelling, and friendships that build confidence and joy.
- **Academic success** as girls at Mount of Olives and St. Edward's thrive in new environments, 2 serving as prefects.
- **Skills training expanded:** tailoring, computer skills, soap-making, candle-making, arts & crafts.
- **Income & savings:** 60 liters of liquid soap produced, 15 uniforms tailored, and handmade crafts.

### Priorities for the Next 6 Months

1. **Education support** – Ensuring all girls have school materials, fees, and academic mentorship.
2. **Skills expansion** – Introducing advanced tailoring, computer literacy, and small-scale agribusiness.
3. **Health & wellness** – Strengthening counseling services and medical care access.
4. **Infrastructure** – Begin construction of the perimeter wall to demonstrate our commitment to complying with the government directive and to ensure the safety of the girls

**With faith, gratitude, and your support, we look forward to building an even brighter second half of 2025 for our girls.**

## SOCIAL WELL-BEING & CARE

Over the past few months, we have placed special emphasis on strengthening the **social and emotional well-being** of the girls in our care. Basic counselling services have been made available through the dedicated support of our nurse, a volunteer retired doctor (a parishioner who kindly offers one day a week), and teachers from Springfield Junior School. Their efforts have played a vital role in helping the girls build resilience, process their emotions, and feel supported in their healing journey.

In addition, a variety of **social and recreational activities**, including reading newspapers, music, dance, drama, debates, storytelling, and emotional expression exercises have been incorporated into the daily routine. These activities have provided not only fun and joy but also opportunities for the girls to regain confidence, strengthen friendships, and discover their unique talents.

Thanks to the continued generosity of **Our Lady of Kibeho Orphanage Foundation Canada**, we have also been able to provide for the girls' basic needs, including **food, clean water, medical care, clothing, and school uniforms** for all 99 girls under our care. These essential provisions ensure that the girls can focus on their education, personal growth, and emotional healing within a safe and supportive environment.

### Maria's Story (Age 11)

*"I used to be very shy and afraid to talk in front of others. But through debates and drama, I learned to speak with confidence. Now I can share my ideas without fear, and I have many friends who encourage me." – Maria*





# NUTRITION

The orphanage has continued to provide the girls with three balanced and nutritious meals each day. With generous support from Canada, essential food supplies have been purchased, while fresh vegetables and fruits are harvested directly from the orphanage farm. This approach not only guarantees quality and freshness but also promotes sustainability.

In addition to receiving healthy meals, the girls are also building valuable life skills by learning how to prepare simple, nutritious dishes with readily available ingredients. This hands-on experience not only strengthens their confidence and independence in daily living but also equips them with practical skills to thrive in the future.

As a special supplement, porridge is enriched with milk every Saturday and Sunday. The milk, delivered by the farm manager from our own farm, adds an important source of nutrition and variety to their diet.

## Grace's Story (12 years old)

*"Before coming here, sometimes I went to bed hungry. Now I always have enough to eat, and I even learned how to cook porridge with milk. I feel healthy and strong, and I know how to prepare food for myself and others."* – Grace



# MENTORSHIP

Beyond nutrition and daily care, the matrons have continued to play a vital role in mentoring the girls. Through supportive, non-judgmental discussions, positive role modelling, and guidance in everyday life, they have helped nurture healthy relationships and build a strong sense of trust within the community.

The impact of this mentorship is evident in the way our girls have continued to thrive outside the orphanage. At their respective high schools; Mount of Olives Kakiri and St. Edward High School, they have adjusted remarkably well to their new environments, making new friends and excelling both academically and in co-curricular activities such as sports, music, dance, and drama.

We are especially proud to share that two of our girls at Mount of Olives Kakiri have taken on leadership roles as prefects; one serving as the **Health Prefect** and another as the **Assistant Prefect in charge of Games and Sports**. These achievements are a testament not only to their talents and discipline but also to the solid foundation of mentorship and care they have received at the orphanage.

## Agnes' Story (15 years old)

*"The matrons always listen to us and guide us with love. When I joined Mount of Olives, I was nervous, but their encouragement gave me courage. Now I am a prefect at school, and I help other students just like my mentors helped me."* – Agnes

## Grace, 15

*"When I first went to high school, I was nervous about fitting in. The matrons taught me to believe in myself and respect others. Now I have many new friends, and I was even chosen to lead morning prayers at school."* – Grace





# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

To prepare the girls for a brighter future, life skills training has been fully integrated into their daily routines. These activities include morning self-care, independent bathing, personal hygiene, household responsibilities such as cleaning, time management, and learning how to resolve simple conflicts peacefully.

Cooking skills are also taught in age-appropriate ways. The girls are introduced to basic tasks such as making fire, peeling local foods, and preparing meals. These lessons not only promote independence but also instill confidence in managing daily life.

Arts and crafts remain among their favorite activities. While enjoyable and creative, these projects also serve as marketable skills that can provide employment opportunities in adulthood.

For the girls in high school, additional skills development takes place every Sunday, where they gather to learn tailoring, computer skills, liquid soap-making, candle-making, and crafts. During school holidays, these skills are put into practice, for example, by tailoring uniforms for their peers attending Springfield School.

We are especially grateful to the administrations of Mount of Olives Kakiri and St. Edward High School for allowing our girls to participate in these extra programs and specialized training sessions over the weekends. Their support has been invaluable in equipping the girls with practical skills that will serve them well beyond their school years.

## Skills in Action – Success Highlights

- Produced over **60 liters of liquid soap**, which were used within the orphanage .
- A group of three girls successfully **tailored 15 complete school uniforms**, saving costs for the orphanage while building pride in their craftsmanship.
- Several high school girls created **handmade beaded crafts and candles**.

### Sarah's Story (Age 16)

*"When I first joined the tailoring group, I thought it would be too hard for me. The sewing machine looked big and confusing. But with practice and encouragement, I learned how to stitch uniforms. The day I finished my first uniform, I was so proud, I felt like I could do anything. Now I even dream of one day starting my own small tailoring shop."* – Sarah

### Grace's Story (Age 15)

*Grace attends high school at Mount of Olives Kakiri, but every Sunday she joins her peers for tailoring lessons. Last holiday, she proudly stitched her very first school uniform, which she gifted to one of the younger girls.*

*"When I sew, I feel I can take care of myself and others."* – Grace

*With your support, Grace is gaining practical skills that build both independence and dignity.*



### Sarah, 14

*"I never thought I could learn tailoring, but now I can make simple dresses and repair uniforms. One day, I want to be a fashion designer. Learning these skills makes me believe I can take care of myself in the future."* – Sarah





# EDUCATION

At the start of the year, all the girls received scholastic materials including books, mathematical sets, and other educational aids, thanks to generous donor support. They were also provided with uniforms, shoes, sanitary towels, and hygiene supplies, which are especially vital as some of the girls enter adolescence.

One of the most moving moments each school term is when the older girls prepare to leave for their boarding schools, St. Edward's and Mount of Olives. As they board the van with their belongings, the younger girls watch with both joy and sadness. While it is bittersweet to see them go, it also inspires hope among the younger girls, who dream of one day following in their footsteps.

## Education Dashboard (August 2025)

School	Number of Girls	Notes
Mount of Olives Secondary, Kakiri	18	Consistent attendance and progress
St. Edward High School	15	Strong academic discipline
Springfield Junior School	66	Spread across different grades <i>Primary Seven (P.7); 11 girls are Preparing for final Primary Leaving Exams; sat District Mocks in August with encouraging results</i>

**Total Enrolled: 99 girls across three schools**

Overall, academic performance has been steadily improving over the last two school terms. The Primary Seven girls, in particular, continue to show strong results, a testament to their commitment and the mentorship and support they are receiving.

### Aisha's Story (Age 13)

Aisha, now in Primary Seven, once feared she would never complete her schooling after losing both parents. Today, thanks to your generosity, she proudly wears her school uniform and prepares for her final-year exams. She recently scored highly in her district mock papers, and her teachers describe her as *"focused and determined."*

*"When I study, I feel my future is becoming brighter."* – Aisha

### Agnes, 14 (Primary Seven candidate)

*"I am preparing for my final Primary exams this year. It is not easy, but I know I can do it. The teachers and my friends encourage me every day. I want to pass and join secondary school so I can become a nurse."* – Agnes

*Your support turned Aisha's dream of learning into a reality.*





# FAITH & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Faith remains at the heart of daily life at the orphanage. The girls are encouraged to pray in ways that resonate with them, whether through novenas, rosaries, praise and worship, or quiet personal prayer. These spiritual practices nurture resilience, gratitude, and hope, reminding them that they are never alone on their journey.

They also joyfully take part in offering special prayers whenever intentions are shared, for example, for the health of Canadian Board Members, or for the success of fundraising initiatives such as the recently concluded Garage Sale. At first, many of the girls did not know what a garage sale was, but once shown photos from Canada, they understood and prayed with all their hearts for its success. This spirit of prayer continues to be a vital bond between the girls and their supporters .

## Beatrice's Story (Age 13)

*"When we pray the rosary together, I feel peace in my heart. Even when things are hard, I believe God is listening. We also prayed for the garage sale in Canada, I didn't know what it was at first, but I was happy we could pray for our friends."* – Beatrice

## A Word from Matron Proscovia

*"Faith is what keeps this home strong. Every prayer the girls offer, whether for themselves, their friends, or their supporters abroad, reminds us that God is walking with us. Their joy in prayer teaches us adults to trust and hope, even in difficult times."* – Matron Proscovia.

## A Word from Fr. Jeremiah , the chaplain

*"When I see the girls gathered in prayer, I see living faith. Their prayers reach beyond the walls of the orphanage, uniting them with people they may never meet but who love and support them. It is a beautiful witness to God's family across the world."* – Fr. JJ



# FARMING

The months of January and February, marked by rainfall, were dedicated to planting seedlings. Fruits and vegetables harvested from the orphanage farm have greatly supplemented the girls' meals, helping to ensure a balanced diet, particularly important at a time when market food prices have risen sharply.

Beyond providing food, the farm has become an **outdoor classroom** where the girls learn practical agricultural skills. Under the guidance of the farm manager, they actively participate in:

- **Preparing nursery beds** and planting seedlings.
- **Weeding and watering crops**, ensuring healthy growth.
- **Harvesting fruits and vegetables**, which they later help prepare in the kitchen.
- **Learning about soil care and composting**, instilling an understanding of sustainable farming practices.

These hands-on experiences have not only equip the girls with valuable life skills but also foster an appreciation for self-reliance, teamwork, and stewardship of the land. Many girls have expressed joy in seeing the food they planted make its way to their plates, reinforcing a sense of pride and accomplishment.

## Skills in Action – Success Highlights

- This year, the girls planted **over 200 tomato seedlings**, which grew into a flourishing harvest that contributed directly to their meals.
- They successfully **harvested 800 kilograms of beans**, stored for use at the Orphanage.
- The vegetable gardens (including spinach, carrots, and green peppers) have provided **fresh produce**, reducing food costs for the orphanage.

Looking ahead, the Foundation hopes to expand into **mechanized farming** to increase yield, strengthen sustainability, and provide even more opportunities for the girls to gain modern agricultural knowledge.

## Farming as a Path to the Future

The agricultural lessons are not just about food, they are about **building futures**. The girls are beginning to see farming as more than a daily task; it can become a **career path**. By learning modern farming methods, they gain early exposure to opportunities in:

- **Nutrition and food security** – applying what they learn to improve health within their own families and communities in the future.
- **Self-reliant farming** – developing the skills needed to start their own small farms or gardens, ensuring long-term independence.



### Lydia's Story (Age 10)

*"I like planting beans and watering the garden. When I see the vegetables grow, I feel proud because I know we helped. One day, I want to have a garden of my own."* – Lydia

### Joan, 9

*"I love helping on the farm because I get to see the vegetables grow. When we eat the food we helped plant, it makes me proud. My favorite is carrots, we grow them ourselves and they taste so sweet!"* – Joan

*Your support is not only feeding the girls today, it is also planting seeds of self-reliance, resilience, and hope for their tomorrow*





# HEALTH & MEDICAL CARE

Thanks to the gift of clean, safe water, the overall health of the girls has remained steady this year. However, the orphanage has managed several medical cases with care and prompt attention:

- **10 cases of chickenpox**
- **2 cases of measles**
- **7 cases of malaria**
- **2 cases requiring dental extraction and 1 requiring a filling**

With support from Canada, each of these cases received **timely medical treatment**, ensuring no delays in care.

The orphanage is especially grateful to have a **full-time nurse**, whose monthly remuneration is fully covered by donor support. She plays a vital role in:

- Providing **daily medical care** and monitoring the girls' health.
- Ensuring those living with **HIV receive their antiretroviral medication consistently**.
- Mobilizing medical resources and supporting prevention measures.

Her presence has brought peace of mind to both the children and caregivers, knowing that medical help is always close at hand.

## Shamim's Story (Age 10)

Earlier this year, Shamim fell ill with malaria and became too weak to attend school. In the past, her illness might have gone untreated. But thanks to the orphanage's full-time nurse, whose salary is fully covered by donor support, Shamim received immediate treatment. Within days she was recovering, and now she is back in school, full of energy. Shamim dreams of becoming a nurse herself one day, saying:  
*"I want to help other children get well, just like I was helped."*

## Assumpta, 10

*"When I got sick with chickenpox, I was very scared. The nurse took care of me and gave me medicine, and I started to feel better. Now I am strong again, and I know I can always get help when I am sick."* – Assumpta

## Success Highlights

- **100% of HIV+ girls** remain stable on their antiretroviral therapy.
- **Zero hospitalizations** were required this year, cases were managed on-site.
- **Dental and eye care access** ensured early treatment, preventing complications.
- **School attendance recovered quickly** after illnesses, minimizing disruption to learning.

*Your generosity gave Shamim, and many others, the gift of health, healing, and hope for the future*





# CHALLENGES

Despite many blessings and progress, the orphanage continues to face several pressing challenges:

- Rising Prices of Essential Commodities**  
 The cost of food items such as sugar, cooking oil, and maize flour has sharply increased, placing strain on our ability to consistently provide balanced meals.
- Impact of Climate Change on Farming**  
 Unpredictable rainfall and prolonged dry spells, clear signs of global warming, have begun to affect farm productivity. Crops that once flourished are now yielding less, reducing the supply of fresh vegetables and fruits that supplement the girls' meals. This not only limits nutrition but also increases reliance on expensive market food. Expanding into more resilient, mechanized, and climate-smart farming has become both a challenge and a necessity.
- Government Fees and Regulations**  
 This year, a new annual "ground rent" fee has been introduced by the local council, adding another financial obligation. In addition, a government directive requires the urgent construction of a perimeter wall around the orphanage grounds. While this measure is intended to improve safety, it represents a significant financial and logistical challenge. There is concern about potential government action if progress is not demonstrated soon.
- School Fees Arrears**  
 Ensuring every girl continues her education remains our highest priority. Currently, however, we face outstanding fees of **\$56,400.30**

## OUR LADY OF KIBEHO ORPHANAGE FOUNDATION

### PROPOSED ANNUAL SCHOOL FEED FOR THE YEAR 2025

NO.	SCHOOL	CLASS	No. of Girls	Rate(CAD\$)	No. of Terms/ Semester	Amount
1	Springfield Junior School	Primary	66	185.16	3	36,661.68
	Sub-Total		66			36,661.68
2	St. Edward High School	S.1	8	199.38	3	4,785.12
	St. Edward High School	S.2	7	199.38	3	4,186.98
	Sub-Total		15			8,972.1
4	Mount of Olives Kakiri	S.1	7	199.38	3	4,186.98
	Mount of Olives Kakiri	S.2	7	199.38	3	4,186.98
	Mount of Olives Kakiri	S.3	4	199.38	3	2,392.58
	Sub-Total		18			10,768.52
Total			99			56,400.30

*These challenges remain a constant reminder of how vital donor support is, not only to sustain daily care, but also to secure the girls' education, health, and future*



## Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the blessings and progress of the first half of 2025, we remain deeply grateful for the generosity of our supporters in Uganda and Canada. Looking forward to the remainder of the year, we have identified a few key priorities:

1. **Strengthening Education Support** – Ensuring that all our girls have the materials, school fees, and mentorship they need to continue excelling in academics and co-curricular activities.
2. **Expanding Skills Training** – Introducing more hands-on training in areas such as computer literacy, advanced tailoring, and small-scale agribusiness, so the girls are better prepared for independence in the future.
3. **Improving Health & Well-being** – Enhancing access to medical care, strengthening counseling services, and expanding nutrition programs to promote holistic growth and wellness.
4. **Infrastructure Improvements** – Construction of the perimeter wall.

We believe that, with God's continued guidance and the faithful support of our friends, the rest of 2025 will bring even more opportunities for growth, learning, and transformation. Together, we will continue to provide not only shelter and care, but also the tools and hope for a brighter future

## Closing Note

On behalf of Our Lady of Kibeho Orphanage Foundation, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you who continue to walk this journey with us. Your generosity, prayers, and love have made it possible for us to provide not just food, shelter, and education, but also hope and dignity for the girls entrusted to our care.

As we look toward the future, we remain confident that God, who began this good work, will continue to guide and bless it. We keep you in our daily prayers, asking the Lord Jesus Christ to bless your families, your work, and the works of your hands. May your kindness continue to multiply in the lives of these young girls, and may you always find joy in knowing the difference you are making.