



## Keeping Children Safe

### MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear CRANE Members, Stakeholders, Partners and Beneficiaries,

It's been a long time since we wrote a newsletter to you, sharing our stories and giving updates from the network. This year we are refreshing our efforts to update you on a quarterly basis.

A newsletter goes further than a report and is more pleasant to read.

We treasure our members and hope that we are mutually benefiting one another.

Our objective is to grow you as we grow together, expecting that when we train you, you apply what has been trained, especially Child Protection should have improved: everybody has a part to play in the improvement of the systems around the child that work together to realise the children's rights:

The right to feel and be Safe, the right to Education and the right to a Family: these are not exclusive of each other.

So the questions is;

Are children in your School, Church, Community, Care Institution and home safe? Safe from Violence? Safe from Neglect? Safe from going hungry? Safe in an environment of learning?

We at CRANE are Keeping Children Safe. What about you?

CRANE NETWORK DIRECTOR

**Faith Kembabazi**



*CRANE successfully had its Annual General Stakeholders' meeting on 29th June 2018 with over 100 network members represented.*



*A 4 Classroom block & Offices constructed by CRANE at Rock of Jehovah, one of the 62 schools benefitting from the Girls' Education Challenge-Transition Project. Geared towards creating a conducive and inclusive learning environment for the children. In what will become a model school..*



*CRANE has been able to construct 16 accessible VIP toilets in 16 schools with funding from UKAID under the GEC-T Project*

## SPLASH DANCE-CHANGING MINDSETS

SPLASH Dance Group which is run by Helen Burningham, integrates dancers with and without disabilities. They aim to be excellent as performers and wow their audiences. Overall, SPLASH is passionate about changing mindsets on disability from negative to a greater understanding of the potential of all people. Through CRANE, SPLASH Dance Group has been able to share its message of hope and inclusion to more audiences. CRANE connected SPLASH with Rock of Jehovah, a local mainstream school in Kampala, and SPLASH performed to the whole school. Afterwards one participant said: *"My opinion of people with disabilities has changed, People with disabilities are a part of us, We shouldn't segregate them."* It is our desire that through initiatives like this, inclusion of people with disabilities will become a part of our societal norms.



## SUCCESS STORY: A DREAM COME TRUE FOR SUDATI

Through the Girls' Education Challenge Project, I was able to return to school in 2015. Due to pregnancy, I dropped out in my High School. That is when I joined Youth For Christ Uganda (YFC), a pregnancy crisis centre for teenage mothers which was running a Creative Learning Center (CLC), in partnership with CRANE and Viva, supporting girls that had dropped out of school get high quality catch-up education in preparation of returning to school. Since the environment at home wasn't conducive to both my mother and I because my step father was harsh and rude at all times, this was a good alternative for me.

I spent five months at YFC, and after giving birth to a baby girl on 1st June 2015, I went back to my home Village. With the support of my parents and the skills I learnt in the CLC, I was able to enroll for a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology. As I went on, my parents could not afford all the tuition and I was at risk of dropping out again. With support from CRANE and other well wishers, I was helped at this critical time to stay in school and finish my university education. I believe I am one of the luckiest and blessed girls in this world, because out of the 16 children in my family, I am the only one who has



so far managed to earn a degree. I am looking forward to graduating by the end of this year and currently I am enhancing my professional skills as a volunteer at CRANE under the IT department and on the Mobile Library Truck. I desire to get a good earning job so that I can cater for my daughter's education, as well as support my three little siblings with their studies because they are still young and they have to stay in school. I also want to my mother with her financial bills. [Continued on next page...](#)



## AGNES GETS A LOVING FAMILY!

A few years ago Agnes\* was in need of a safe family to love and care for her. She was helped to find a foster family through CRANE's Children Belong in Families Programme. Agnes was blessed with a loving family where she has been able to bond and develop a close relationship with her mother and four other siblings.

Through funding from friends of CRANE, her fees have been paid for and the family is being empowered to be financially stable so that they can ably cater for all the needs of the children in the family. Agnes is currently in Primary four, is very hard working and in good health. She enjoys going to school and actively participates in both academic and the non-academic aspects of education, such as music, dance, drama and sports—she is part of the school netball team. She is also a very friendly person who enjoys a good relationship with both the children at school and her family.



CRANE, through the foster family arrangement under the Alternative Care Framework, spearheaded by the Ministry of Gender, Labor & Social Development, does a systematic process of identifying foster families for vulnerable children, and subsequently the families are empowered. At the moment, CRANE is working with church leaders from various denominations to identify foster and adoptive families for children without families. It is our hope that more families in Uganda will be compassionate enough to open up their homes to children that need families so that they can be as happy and loved as Agnes.

## NURTURING A SAVING CULTURE IN KARAMOJA

CRANE in partnership with Dwelling Places introduced the idea of the Village Savings & Loans Association (VSLA) Model to the parents of Lomaratoit Primary School in Napak District Karamoja Region in May 2018 in a training attended by 100 parents. At the end of the training, 5 saving groups were formed. By the end of July, the savings from the 5 groups was totaling to two million, four hundred and forty one thousand five hundred shillings( **2,441, 500 UGX**). The group members have started borrowing from their groups to start income generating activities. The picture above shows one of the beneficiaries running her own business with support from the funds in the VSLA.

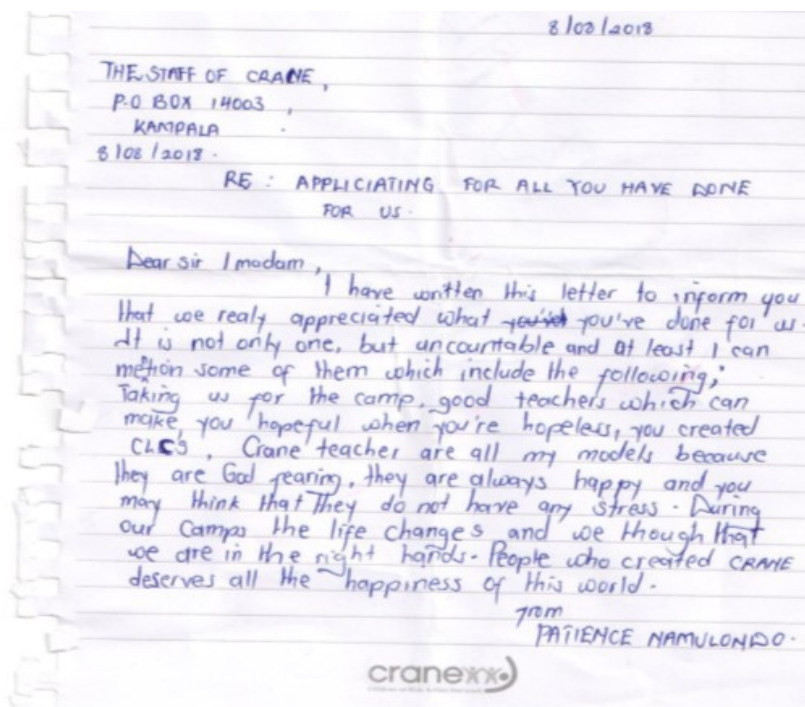


### [From previous page...SUDATI'S STORY](#)

I am proud and thankful for the opportunity given to me by CRANE & Viva to pursue my education. Parents should learn to be responsible because the girl child education is pivotal for nation building. To the Almighty God who has blessed me this far, I am forever grateful. To the CRANE staff, partners and donors for the great love and support towards the children education, to my family members and parents for their caring hearts and endless love they have showed me, thank you.

\*names of the child have been changed in compliance with our child protection policy

## THANK YOU CRANE...



## CASE MANAGEMENT CORNER

In April-June, CRANE supported the following children through direct Case Management;

- ◇ Counselling sessions to Children in CLCs \_\_\_\_\_ 283
- ◇ Defilement \_\_\_\_\_ 13
- ◇ Medical support \_\_\_\_\_ 8
- ◇ Neglect \_\_\_\_\_ 4
- ◇ Physical Abuse \_\_\_\_\_ 1

### Legal Updates

- ◇ In court \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- ◇ Sentenced Adult \_\_\_\_\_ 1
- ◇ At police \_\_\_\_\_ 3

## CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN



***“Equality for street children starts here: Let’s make it happen”  
(2018 Theme)***

CRANE’s Street Connected Child Working Group, commemorated the International Day for children living on the streets on the 12th of April, 2018 at Pan African Square in Kampala city. Advocacy efforts led to government through the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development committing to nationally commemorating this day starting the year 2019.

### The Vision That Inspires Us:

Children are safe, well and fulfilling their God-given potential

### The Mission That Inspires Us:

Lasting Change for children is realised through networking collaborative action amongst Christians and other stakeholders driven by the values of the Christian faith.

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