

## **JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH 2020**

### **WATOTO**

Watoto is a Christian organization that was founded in 1984 by Gary and Marilyn Skinner to meet the needs of orphans and vulnerable women in Uganda, Africa. There are over 1.5 million orphans in Uganda as a result of war, poverty, and disease. Because of Watoto, more than 2000 of these babies and children have been rescued and placed in a baby's home or in one of three orphanage villages. Each house in the three villages has a trained "mother" (often a widow) and seven to eight "brothers" and "sisters", also orphans or are unable to be cared for by family.

Since 2011 SCCUMC has sponsored one of these houses in Bbira Village outside of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Our donations provide food, shelter, clothing, education, and medical care. A school, medical clinic, and worship center are located in each village.

The children in our sponsored house are: Edward 22, Maimuna 17, Juma 17, Sydney 12, Paige 12, Junior 11, Brandonli 7, and Mamma Martha. All the children are well and have been having school in the home during the COVID19 pandemic. Edward was continuing his premedical studies until the classes were discontinued during the virus. Juma plays basketball and is enrolled in a technical school for design. Maimuna enjoys writing and produces a newscast for the village. Sydney enjoys soccer and dance, and Paige plays basketball. Junior also plays soccer and was chosen for the Watoto Children's Choir which is planning to tour the U.S. in 2021. Brandonli enjoys planting and tending a garden he made in the back of his house. All the children are doing well in school and are growing strong in their Christian faith.

Rick and Judy Maynard traveled to Uganda in March and helped to refurbish one of the houses in BBira Village where our sponsored house is located. They were able to spend time with the kids daily. It was the seventh mission trip by members of SCCUMC. The children pray for our church daily and feel blessed to have our support. Individual members of SCCUMC have been corresponding with the Watoto children and their letters are available to anyone in the congregation who would like to read them. In one of Mamma Martha's letter she writes: "Thank you Sun City Center Church for your generosity, care, love and support and above all your prayers. All wouldn't have happened but because of you. What you are doing is not in vain".

The SCCUMC Mission Team would like to continue sponsoring this family. All Mission of the Month funds raised in the month of July will be used for that purpose. The Mission Team thanks you for your support of these wonderful children and the Watoto organization.

Judy Maynard

