



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Special Children's Trust

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Dear SCT Friends and Well Wishers



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S TRUST



The Special Children's Trust (SCT) is an umbrella organisation for a number of projects working with children with special needs in Uganda. It was registered as a CBO (NAK/11/065) in 2010 and as NGO (S.5914/9715) in 2012, with the goal of consolidating the work and building a larger base for funding, management and a stronger voice for the plight of children with special needs in the country.

The Trust started in 2006 as Mukisa Foundation...*hope for children with special needs*. Mukisa Foundation is based in Lungujja, Rubaga division, Kampala with the aim to empower families who have children with special needs so that these children can lead purposeful lives to their full potential, through activities such as Therapy and Medical services, Special Needs Education and Vocational Skills Training for children and their families, as well as Income Generating Activities, Counselling and Parent Support Groups. Through the years, Mukisa has supported over 1000 children and their families.

There are also a number of outreaches started under Mukisa foundation, such as, Luwero, Nkokonjeru and Bussi Island Outreach. These serve to take services closer to the people in rural areas.

In 2008, after realising that there was a big need for a safe place where children with special needs could be cared for and receive therapy under one roof, as well as have access to fun activities tailor made for them according to their abilities, Dawn Children's Centre was created in Bukoto.

The Dawn Centre is an Inclusive Primary School, Kindergarten and Day Care facility which provides quality care for children with special needs and quality education where children with special needs and those without can have fun, learn and flourish together. They also offer therapy services in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy.

**REACHING OUT IN LOVE,
OFFERING HOPE AND
RESTORING DIGNITY
TO CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS AND
THEIR FAMILIES
IN UGANDA**

**BUILDING A BETTER AND SAFER UGANDA
FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

UGANDA AND DISABILITY

According to the National Bureau of statistics, 19% of the Ugandan children has a disability. HOWEVER, this percentage does not account for children below the age of 5 years. Since the population of Uganda is more than 51% children, it is therefore estimated that over 3 million children in Uganda have a disability. Of these children less than 30% have had any form of intervention and only 2.5% enroll into mainstream primary schools. 1% of these children are able to join secondary school and sadly these percentages reduce even further as you go into higher levels of education.

Many communities still view disability as a bad omen, punishment or curse for sins the parents must have committed. Some people see disability as witchcraft or a contagious disease that should be avoided, leaving families who have children with disabilities alone and isolated.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide quality care for children with special needs through Mukisa Foundation, Dawn Children's Centre and partnerships with other organisations and projects.

We run and facilitate Advocacy/ Awareness campaigns, and trainings for parents who have children with special needs and their communities, students and all those interested in the plight of children with special needs.

Improvement of household incomes for families who have children with special needs.

Capacity building for organisations and staff members under the Trust.

Mentoring and management consulting for projects, organisations and schools working with children with special needs.

Fundraising and resource mobilisation.

Networking and linking organisations/projects and all persons with interest, in the welfare and development of children with special needs in Uganda.



HOW DO WE DO IT?

We do this through;

1. Medical Care and Nutritional Support.
2. Physical/ Occupational and Speech Therapy.
3. Autism and Behaviour Therapies.
4. Inclusive Education and Day Care.
5. Vocational Skills Training.
6. Family Empowerment and Parent Support Programmes.
7. Outreaches Programmes in Luwero and Bussi Island.
8. Advocacy and Awareness Days/ Campaigns.
9. Capacity Building, Trainings and Workshops.
10. Resource and Information Centre.
11. Networking.



WHY DO WE DO IT?

We at the Special Children's Trust believe whole heartedly that every child is a precious and unique gift that deserves to be loved, cared for and provided with an opportunity to learn, develop and grow.

ADVOCACY/ AWARENESS 2017

The 5th ANNUAL AWARENESS AND FUN DAY for children with special needs took place on 7th July 2017. What an amazing time we had! The rain came down but still we marched, the rain came down but mamas started singing and dancing and thanking God for the blessing. Rain or shine, the day was still as successful as ever, voices were raised, games were played, presentations were given, parents were encouraged and attitudes were changed.

The SPECIAL NETWORK FORUM continues to bring together individuals and organisations working with children with special needs and their families. In 2017, we met twice to encourage each other and discuss topics to help the work continue to move forward. The first meeting was held on 8th April, hosted by the GEM Foundation

MUKISA FOUNDATION

Mukisa Foundation is a comprehensive support centre (NGO) that was started in 2006 with the aim to support and empower families who have children with special needs so

that these children can lead purposeful lives to their full potential.

What do we do?

- 1) To be a one stop centre to equip guardians with skills and information to enable them to manage, understand and develop strategies to deal with disability and its consequences, for the delivery of an integrated and comprehensive range of support services nationally;
- 2) To establish an effective approach in promoting early intervention, in encouraging proper treatment and care that enhances children and adults with disabilities.
- 3) To create awareness and counsel among the public, on how to evolve, adapt and integrate children and persons with disabilities into modern, effective, efficient and creative care models by focusing adoption of new help care aids and technology.
- 4) To provide counseling services linking parents, guardians to other help service providers to link up with people in society to secure a better and stable home and care environment.
- 5) To promote and represent an advocacy forum for children and people with disabilities in homes, non-governmental institutions, civil society organization and public sector in general through existing agencies, such as, ministry of health and also directly with government authorities.
- 6) To set up Income Generating Activities for the support and sustainability of the Organization and create working opportunities for people with special needs.
- 7) To provide appropriate training and research facilities and services to various stakeholders in the Organization; To participate in training and research in various professions.

Over the years, Mukisa Foundation has seen its numbers grow from the first eight children, to over 1000 children and their families, who have been blessed by the receiving of various forms of Therapy and assistance.

OUR MISSION:
To support and
empower families
who have children
with special needs.

Although Mukisa started by assisting families mainly within the Kampala area, there are now families from a much wider spectrum passing through.



OUR VISION:
To create strong family units
which will enable children
with special needs to lead
purposeful lives to
their full potential

Mukisa foundation was created to support these families in whatever way possible so as to enable them to deal with their situation and facilitate the growth of the children to their full potential.

OUR CORE VALUES

- ✚ INTEGRITY
- ✚ PATIENCE
- ✚ CONFIDENTIALITY
- ✚ EMPATHY



- ✚ RESPECT
- ✚ TEAM WORK
- ✚ DILIGENCE
- ✚ EXCELLENCE



DAWN CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Dawn was established in July 2008 to help support working parents who have children with special needs by providing quality care for their children within a safe environment and helping them to understand their children's condition so as to handle their situation more effectively.

In 2012 we expanded Dawn from only Day Care services to an Inclusive Education and Day Care Centre for children with and without special needs to learn, play and grow together.

It was the first of its kind in Uganda with all specialist services including Physio and Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Special/ Inclusive Education, Special Aids and a Resource and Information Centre under one roof.

At DAWN we provide
a safe environment where children
with and without special needs can

HAVE FUN, LEARN
and FLOURISH TOGETHER

With a focus on Early Years Intervention and Early Childhood Development we take on children from the age of 8 months to 7 years.

In 2017 we found there was a lack of Primary schools willing to participate in Inclusive education and therefore expanded our services to include Inclusive Primary Level Education.



OUR CORE VALUES

- ✚ INTEGRITY
- ✚ PATIENCE
- ✚ PUNCTUALITY
- ✚ EMPATHY
- ✚ SELF ESTEEM
- ✚ TEAM WORK
- ✚ DILIGENCE

THERAPY and MEDICAL/ NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

During this year 2017, therapy activities went on well. The turn up of clients for therapy has greatly increased compared to the past years, more new clients were registered and started therapy and some are on pending list waiting for the year 2018.

There is increased mothers' participation in therapy as they have now understood the rationale of why therapy is done and many are also able to empower fellow mothers to continue doing therapy. This has enabled the mother's to make more suggestions during therapy sessions, as well as critically analyze changes occurring in their children, which in turn has greatly helped the therapists to revise the set goals and make favourable modifications for the most optimal results.

Music therapy sessions have also been successful this year, although at times the mothers needed encouragement and reminders as to the value of these sessions for their children.

	Jan	Feb.	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tue	58	99	131	98	146	129	120	142	127	155	149	77	1431
Wed	55	106	134	106	166	134	140	155	133	160	131	74	1494
Thur	37	88	139	116	59	176	80	103	155	128	162	54	1297
Fri	22	96	110	48	43	78	29	43	81	70	72	44	736
Total	172	389	514	368	414	517	369	443	496	513	514	249	4958



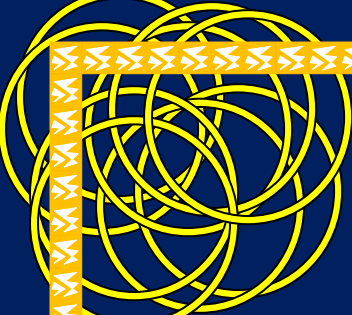
A Table
Showing the
Number of
Sessions in
General
Therapy in
2017:

As well as Therapy, MEDICAL and NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT is also extremely important for children with special needs to ensure good health and continued development.

We partnered with doctors and major health providers in the region to ensure that all our children received proper healthcare and supplements when needed.

- 20 children were referred to major hospitals, such as, Mulago (2), Rubaga (7), Butabika (2), Mengo (1), Corsu (7) and Kasana Health Center (1) for further management and proper healthcare.
- Reasons for referral included Nutritional Management (7), Orthopaedic management (7), Optical Management (1), Seizure Management (2), Neurology Review (1), ENT Management (1) and Persistent Gastro Intestinal Infection Management (1).
- 45 children received medication from Mukisa Foundation for different ailments, on a regular basis or once in a while.
- 23 children received medical support through financial contributions to hospital bills and upkeep in terms of cash, amounting to a total of 7,614,200/-
- 350 children received nutritional support to boost their health.

In partnership with Rubaga Hospital, ALL children below the age of 6 years, both at Mukisa Foundation and from Outreaches, were able to receive Vitamin A and Dewormers in 3 month intervals.



Meet GIFT MITCHEAL



GIFT is a jolly 2 year old girl born in March 2015 to Nakazibwe Hanifa, a housewife and Musoke Mathias, a businessman. She is the third born in the family. Mama Gift had a normal pregnancy and delivery, but after delivery she noticed the child's head was growing bigger. A scan was done and the child was diagnosed with hydrocephalus. The first operation was done at 3 weeks old and the next at three months old, however both operations failed. A third operation was done at CURE Hospital, Mbale, when Gift was 5 months old and a shunt was inserted, which she still has to this day. At one year old Gift could not do anything and mummy was distressed, crying all day.

In September 2016 she was referred to Mukisa Foundation by another Mukisa Mama and she reported for Therapy for the first time. Gift was assessed and a therapy plan was drawn together with the mother. When she first came to Mukisa Gift was able to sit independently and talk with familiar people. She also had good hearing, good vision, good hand function and was cognitively sound. The major challenges she faced included weakness in the upper limbs, poor balance in standing, fear of heights and space and an inability to chew solid food. Therapy sessions were aimed at improving these areas of challenge for Gift and a remarkable improvement has been seen.

Gift is now able to walk independently and has started feeding on solid food. This has opened up a whole new world of experiences and sensations for her and she loves to explore and enjoy her environment. Mama Gift is overjoyed at her baby girl's progress and hopes to take her to school next year. The family are grateful to Mukisa Foundation for giving them hope in the midst of a trying and challenging time.



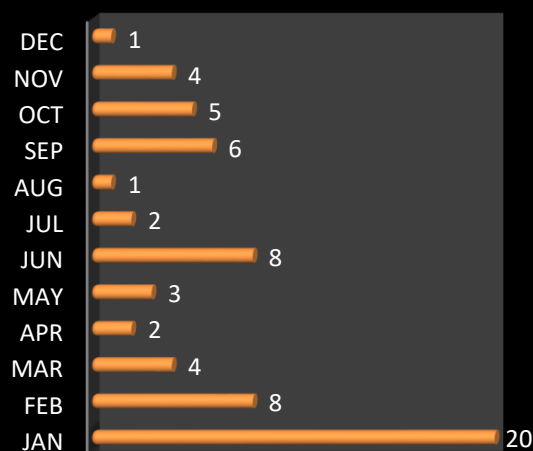


A total number of 46 new clients joined DAWN CHILDREN'S CENTRE for therapy in 2017, an increase from the previous year. 40 of these enrolled in full time school/ day care and 6 signed up for drop in therapy sessions.

Total new Assessments carried out	64
New clients who started Therapy	43
Clients referred elsewhere	2
Did not return	19

Results of assessments completed are seen in the table below according to months.

New Assessments 2017



A variety of conditions were observed in the children who were seen for new assessments this year including, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (24), Cerebral Palsy (CP) (27), Developmental Delay (1), Learning Disability (2), Hydrocephalus (1), Down Syndrome (3), Brain Injury (1), Spina Bifida (1) and those unknown (4).

This year the total number of children receiving therapy at Dawn was; Physiotherapy (43), Occupational Therapy (98), Behavioural Training (45) and Speech and Language Therapy (92).



HOME BASED CARE and SOCIAL WORK

- ✚ A total of 610 home visits were conducted successfully this year, 2017.
- ✚ 158 of these were conducted by the Social Work Team.
- ✚ 380 visits were conducted by the Therapy Team.
- ✚ 72 were conducted by the Mukisa Nurse, of which 16 were Hospital visits.



HOME VISITS are a critical component of care to assess the family/ home situation of any child and ensure that they are in a safe environment that will enhance their well being, as well as that of the family at large. They allow us to take Therapy and other services into the community and closer to the families, teaching them techniques to allow them to care for their children better and making important observations about the home environment and health status of each child, as well as improve follow up and documentation.

We also tracked girls who had been part of the Creative Learning Centre at Mukisa from the year 2013 to see where they are now and how they are doing. We found 47 of the girls but failed to find 4.

We handed over to CRANE Network who hired a field officer to assist in locating those 4 girls. Of these 4 girls, one is still not located, one was taken to Gulu, one was taken to a relative in Mukono and unfortunately one had passed on.



On a sad note, this year, 2017, at Mukisa Foundation we lost a total of 16 children and mothers who passed on due to a variety of causes. Unfortunately some of them preventable or treatable. May you rest in peace our Mukisa Angels.



Meet Mama Erik and Mama Aaron

a success story of parents in partnership and collaboration in learning

Meet Mama Erik. Her son was born with Hydrocephalus and came to Mukisa in September 2016. At 2 years old, he was unable to stand and would move from one place to another by shuffling on his bottom.



Meet Mama Aaron. Aaron had convulsions as a baby and as he grew mummy realized he could not settle in one place. He was eventually diagnosed with Autism and referred to Mukisa Foundation in November 2015.

When Mama Aaron and Mama Erick came to Mukisa, it never occurred to them that their relationship would go beyond meeting at Mukisa for therapy, which was the primary reason as to why they had come. Outside Mukisa, Mama Erick makes cakes, and other crunchy flour products like *mandazi* and *half cakes*. These she does from her residential home in Kyengera where she also runs a small retail shop. Mama Aaron, who has tents and chairs for hire got to know this and thought that it would be a good idea to incorporate this into her business. She approached Mama Erick who gladly accepted to teach her. Their relationship grew; they became good friends and started sharing ideas on how to make more income from their products and how to increase their production.

Together they decided to buy a local oven since they were using a charcoal stove and it could not make more than one cake. They asked for an IGA loan of 500,000/- which they used to purchase it. The two mothers now make cakes on a larger scale and they have devised ways of dividing the profits amongst themselves. They hope to improve their lives.



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

A large number of empowering workshops and trainings were organized in 2017 for parents in disability, personal development and medical concerns, as well as a workshop for siblings of children with special needs. All workshops were a success with good numbers in attendance.

Two DISABILITY WORKSHOPS were held for parents in 2017. The first was a Questions and Answers session about different types of disability, held on 28th April at Kasana Pentecostal Church during the Luwero Outreach.

The second was held at Mukisa Foundation on 10th and 11th August, where Therapists and the Mukisa Nurse discussed and explained different types of disabilities during prenatal, antenatal, perinatal and postnatal stages.



FAMILY LEARNING DAYS in partnership with CRANE Network were conducted throughout the year with a total of 60 parents at each meeting.

One such gathering that was held in November 2017, involved parents meeting Ms Annet Babirye.

Annet got measles as an infant and as a result they had to amputate her arms from the elbow and her feet, however this led to her parents abandoning her at a young age and leaving her with her grandparents. Her grandparents forced her to go to school even when she didn't want to go because she was being bullied, because they knew how important it was and they always encouraged her that she can be whatever she wants to be!

Now, she is married with 3 children and is a successful Motivational Speaker and Counselor for women.



A POSITIVE PARENTING Workshop was conducted for Mukisa parents, as well as parents from the Kampala Cluster Organisations, including YFC and AMG. The workshop was arranged to encourage parents and to provide tips in good parenting from a Biblical perspective, as well as address issues of abuse towards children.

A total number of 84 parents attended from Mukisa and 146 parents from YFC and AMG.

On 11th and 12th May 2017 a REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CAMP was held for Mukisa Mother's. Medical personnel from Reproductive Health Uganda offered their services in Cervical Cancer Screening, Family Planning and HIV Screening. A total of 86 mothers were screened over the two days.



Every year we love to celebrate Mother's Day with our Mukisa mama's, celebrating them and all they do to love and care for their children with special needs. It takes a special kind of parent to step up and do all it takes to make sure their child with special needs has a chance at life. Most of these parents give up on themselves and this day is aimed at reminding them that they are loved and appreciated by their children even when the children are not able to say it themselves.

This year we also held a SIBLINGS WORKSHOP on 19th and 20th January. Siblings of children with special needs also have needs requiring to be met. Additional to this, they often face challenges of resentment, due to their sibling with special needs getting more attention than them, and shame.

This workshop allowed the opportunity to discuss these challenges, as well as various types of disability in simple terms the children could understand. As a result of the workshop the siblings developed a group called Ambassadors of Mukisa Siblings (AMS) and agreed to meet up during school holidays.

A total of 40 siblings attended the workshop.

On 18th and 19th May 2017 we celebrated our Mukisa Mama's with a PAMPERING DAY.

They were treated to massages, manicure and pedicures, facial treatments and a brand new outfit (all of which were donated by well wishers and supporters of Mukisa). The mama's reported they had the best day and felt very special.

FATHER'S DAY took place on 10th June 2017.

The father's were invited to a special breakfast where they shared their experiences and networked with one another, as well as having a question and answer session on disability and care for their children's needs.



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

The focus, starting in 2017, was on helping the parents to learn new skills that would allow them to start and run their own successful businesses rather than offering financial loans. There has been continuous empowerment of parents in learning new income generating skills and starting up small businesses to supplement on their income. A number of trainings were held in 2017 in a variety of skills with good attendance from parents.

There have been 7 sessions throughout 2017 in which parents were taught how to make Liquid Soap. A total of 61 parents engaged in these 7 sessions.

On 24th November we had a training in Candle Making, which was attended by 38 parents.

On 15th December there was a training in making Counter Books, which was also attended by 38 parents.



CHILDREN LOVE YOGHURT, however, it is very expensive.

On 30th and 31st August 2017 we had a workshop, which was attended by 52 parents, to teach them how to make their own yoghurt, so as to save on costs, as well as to use it as a viable business idea because yoghurt is well loved by many children in Uganda.

Many parents have expressed their appreciation for this much needed opportunity.



The Parents Savings Scheme is continuing to do well and in 2017 they managed to save a total of 23,446,500/-, compared to the 13,922,000/- saved the previous year.

The parents meet every January and set individual goals and targets according to what they wish to achieve by the end of the year.

The parent who saved the most money, which was 3,700,000/-, was able to meet her goal, which was to be able to take her daughter who had completed senior 6, for higher education.

The savings scheme has become more structured, with an executive committee, a constitution and a bank account which is managed by the parents themselves.

SPECIAL and INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In 2017, we registered the largest number of children in the three levels of education at Mukisa. There were 12 children in Catch Up class, 4 in the Behavioural/ Autism class and 26 in the Creative Learning and Vocational School bringing our total to 42 children at the center.

We have also seen a significant reduction in the number of siblings' dependent on sponsorship, which can be attributed to the following:

1. Increase in Awareness about disability that has led to better acceptance of children with special needs by their families, hence the willingness to take them to school.
2. Increased visibility of the Mukisa Education Program that has led to more referrals of children by other schools, parents and the community.
3. The sibling program has gradually reduced because more parents have received trainings in Income Generating Activities and are currently able to provide for their children's school fees.



Two of the children on the Siblings program excelled in their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) and have been able to join good secondary schools.

Most of our children have made tremendous progress in their academics and life skills, as well as social behavior and interaction. Many of our children have been able to move up to another level of education, and some have been reintegrated into main stream/ special schools.

Apart from the Academics, the children were involved in a number of EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES to enhance their learning experience. These include the Night to Shine event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation in America and hosted by Watoto Church in Uganda, the Zoo Trip at the end of Term One, Awareness Day on 7th July 2017, a number of Leagues for Music, and Sports organised by the Children At Risk Action Network and a Christmas party on the 22nd of December.

We were also able to increase the size of the play area by building a new sandpit, new outdoor equipment and a therapy shade. Our children are now able to play, learn and explore in a more conducive environment.



PARENT MEETINGS: There was a remarkable improvement in the parents' involvement and cooperation with the school throughout the year. All meetings were well attended and the advice given was well received.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING CENTRE (CLC)

The CLC was set up in partnership with CRANE Network for girls who have dropped out of school or have never been to school because of disability. We accept girls between the age of 9 and 35.

The role of the CLC is to build independence, confidence and self esteem, as well as teach the girls useful skills. Many of the girls start when they have no independence in self care or hygiene and aggressive behaviour. Some of the things they learn in CLC classes are:

1. Self care/ Hygiene skills, such as, bathing, brushing teeth and others.
2. Social skills and interaction with others.
3. Basic numeracy and literacy skills.
4. Drama and Sports.
5. Child Protection and keeping themselves safe.
6. Housework.
7. Crafts and skills, such as, making table or door mats, scarves and bead work.

CLC identifies skills each girl shows an interest and potential in and once a certain level of independence is reached they are promoted to Vocational Class to build on the development of those skills.

Full medical check-ups were done for all girls in the CLC and free treatments were given to the girls according to their needs, including glasses, dental care and reproductive health.



AUTISM CLASS

Autism class continues to run successfully, Monday to Friday, under the guidance of the Occupational Therapist and implemented by the Volunteers and CLC Teachers.



CATCH UP CLASS

In 2017 classes were run 5 days in a week, from Monday to Friday. Children received special education, with the view to helping them to catch up and progress in their academic education.



VOCATIONAL CLASS

In Vocational Class children are taught a number of skills, such as, basket weaving, bead work, knitting sweaters or scarves, making envelopes and tailoring, as well as encouraging good personal development in hygiene. This is in order to increase independence, reintegrate the students into society and help them earn a living.

The first graduation for the Vocational School took place at the end of 2017 with 10 of the 11 children in the final year graduated. They each received a certificate, and a starter pack of materials for their specific vocational skill. These children will be monitored and followed up closely by the teachers, mentors and special project coordinator to ensure that they do not lose the skills mastered.

Plans are underway to get the Vocational School accredited by Ministry of Education so that the learners can get a more official certification at the end of their training.

THE MOTHER TO DAUGHTER CLUB was introduced in June 2017 for particular children who have difficulty grasping the vocational skills. Mother's were called upon to learn alongside their children so that by the time the girls were leaving Mukisa, they could continue practicing and developing the skills at home under the supervision of their mother's.

THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM was started at the beginning of 2017 with two girls, Maria and Esther, in the areas of Housekeeping and Childcare respectively. These girls were struggling to catch up with classes in the Creative Learning Centre, but it was noticed they had interest and ability in other areas. The Apprenticeship Program is designed to develop skill sets in specific areas until young adults reach the level of being able to work efficiently with minimal supervision, therefore allowing them to be employed by other willing organizations.



Meet ESTHER NABWISO



Esther was enrolled in the Mukisa Creative Learning/ Vocational Skills centre in 2017, with the hope that we could teach her numeracy, literacy, life skills and get her to graduate with a vocational skill or two in things like hair dressing, knitting or other.

Her family had tried many places both in Uganda and the UK, but had failed to find something for her to do, and out of frustration had resorted to leaving her at home. It was at this point that someone recommended

Mukisa Foundation to them, and without much hope they decided to give it a try.

So when she joined the school she was set to go through all those levels previously mentioned, but we quickly realised that none of our greatly organised programs were really helping. There was no way we could find to get her to co-operate, or participate in set activities. This caused a lot of frustration for the team, the family and very surely for Esther, because everyone around her was unhappy and of course blaming her for not 'behaving' as expected.

After some keen observation, we realised that Esther was only happy when she was around children. She took great care of them and really loved to play with them and we then gave her the opportunity to join in with the classroom activities of the little children. In a matter of weeks, Esther blossomed into this happy, confident woman who took every child and her roll seriously. She arrived on time, and was one of the last people to leave, but not before making sure that all toys and therapy equipment were securely stored in their rightful place.



She also learnt to feed and change all children, no disability was too hard or job too difficult, as long as there was a child involved. In the last year, Esther has become the person who the moms look up to, for help with the positioning and care for their children.

From Esther we have learnt that every person regardless of disability has an individual gift and that not every person should be forced to do the same vocational skills, just because they have a disability. We have also learnt that we need to pay close attention to our children so as to notice and tap into their special ability or we lose them entirely.



Looking at Esther now and the woman she has become, we wish that all this potential had been unleashed earlier.....



INCLUSIVE DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dawn Children's Centre, was started in 2008 as a Day Care Centre for children with special needs. It developed into an Inclusive Day Care and Kindergarten in 2012 and in 2017 we branched out to include Primary Level Education adding Primary 1.

In 2017 we had a total of 7 classes; Beginners (Zebra and Peacocks) Class, Special (Tex) Class, Baby Butterflies, Middle Leopards and Top Giraffes. These classes are inclusive catering for the educational needs of children with special needs and children without special needs, providing them with an opportunity to have fun, learn and flourish together.

Out of the 68 children that ended 2016 enrolled at Dawn Children's Centre, 10 did not return in January 2017. 7 graduated from Top Class and moved on to other schools, whilst 3 others did not return for a variety of reasons.

Therefore, January 2017 saw Dawn start with a total of 58 children, an increase from the previous year. Those with special needs enrolled in school (48), those with special needs enrolled for drop in Therapy sessions (6) and those without special needs enrolled in school (4).

Throughout 2017 a total of 53 new children were added to the Dawn register, also an increase from the previous year.

Those with special needs who enrolled in part time and full time school were 1 and 39 respectively. Those with special needs who enrolled for drop in therapy sessions were 6. Those without special needs who enrolled in full time school were 7.

By the end of 2017 the number of children who dropped out of school along the way was 17 and Dawn ended the year with a total enrollment of 89.

Those with special needs in full time school, 71.
Those with special needs for drop in Therapy, 7.
Those without special needs in full time school, 11.

From this 89, we saw 8 children graduate from Top Class including 7 children with special needs and 1 without.

Total number of children who received education, therapy, behavioural/ skills training and sensory stimulation from each class this year, 2017.	Peacocks Class	14
	Zebra Class	22
	Tex Class	19
	Baby Butterflies	22
	Middle Leopards	15
	Top Giraffes	9
	Primary One	7

OUTREACHES

OUTREACHES are an important part of the Mukisa schedule in bringing much needed services to the communities and villages.

In January 2017 we continued with outreaches in Luwero; Kasana and on Bussi Island, as well as Nkokonjeru, where children were given services in Therapy, Dispensing of Medication and Health Education. Medical referrals were also made to Rubaga Hospital, CoRSU and CURE Hospital.

DATE	LOCATION	No of CLIENTS
27 th January	Bussi Island	31
24 th February	Luwero	43
31 st March	Bussi Island	16
28 th April	Luwero	48
30 th May	Bussi Island	55
30 th June	Luwero	55
28 th July	Bussi Island	46
25 th August	Luwero	81
29 th September	Bussi Island	26
27 th October	Luwero	81
24 th November	Bussi Island	13
15 th December	Luwero	47
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>542</u>

Outreaches were conducted on the last Friday of every month in 2017 as follows:



In 2017 there was an increase in the number of clients seen during outreaches reaching a total of 542 in both Luwero (355) and Bussi Island (187).

