



NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA

PROGRESS REPORT 2022



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Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda (NACMU) is an indigenous, voluntary, not for profit organization registered with the NGO Bureau under the NGO Registration act 113, File number .MIA/NB/2003/07/4833. We focus on a holistic approach to child development and care, women, hard to reach people with a keen interest on the youth. NACMU runs a Childcare program, Education, Health, Agriculture and a Youth engagement program.



MISSION

To promote a Biblical and holistic approach to Child development and care in the family.



VALUES

- Biblical
- Child centered
- Family focused
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Dedication
- Practical/ action oriented
- Adaptability
- Exemplary.



VISION

Every Child a family.

Word from the founder.



Year 2022 was an interesting year with many challenges. The schools reopening after the lock down of 2 years due to the outbreak of covid 19 was one of them. Quite a number of students and teachers had lost track after sitting at home for so long.

We had to give them psychosocial support and encouragement given what most of them had gone through.

The suspicion about the outbreak of Ebola as well scared us.

The finances did come quite ok apart from the low exchange rates that lowered the values making us loose hundreds of millions but God still provided.

We are grateful to the Asian community for the support, this is an encouragement that even the locals are trying to come on board.

Political wise, we have been moving on. Uganda is neither positive nor negative. We are thankful to God because we didn't loose any children under our care nor staff member.

As for my self, have tried to step back to allow the people I have mentored to take over. I have kept on being on the supportive side and giving guidance where necessary.

The team is quite happy for the fact that they have been trusted to carry on with the big responsibility though maintenance is still a challenge.

Am grateful for all the supporters and well-wishers for being who you are Please be encouraged to stand with us as we help more children.

Sir. Piet C. Buitendijk

Founder - Noah's Ark Children's Ministry

HEADLINES FROM THE YEAR 2022

YOUTH SKILLING - BUILDING ENTREPRENEURS

Youth empowerment has always been at the forefront of the efforts of Noah's ark Children's Ministry Uganda. Our desire has always been to support marketable skills that create opportunities for self-employment. We believe, well tutored and guided young people are not only an asset to their communities but also catalysts for change in the future. The reopening of schools in 2022 was a breath of fresh air to our education program. We managed to sit 159 students for their Directorate of industrial training examinations which qualify them for a certificate in the vocations they major in.

This number was our biggest so far because it comprised of those that hadn't sat due the outbreak of covid 19 which led to the closure of schools in Uganda. The organization through its education program has continued to put in place various empowerment programs to broaden our youth's mindset.

Through this program, we have managed to hit milestones like tailoring all our student uniforms in the 4 NACMU owned schools, do our own construction on the Organization compass, make our own furniture, solve electricity, plumbing, welding, mechanical issues, grow our own food amongst the many activities we offer.



Above, a catering student plating his order for his 'customers' during the final examinations.



Above. The textile class.

Below, the electricity instructor guiding a student.



THE COFFEE PROGRAM - OUR OWN COFFEE SHOP !!

Through our youth skilling program, this year, our plan has been trying to diversify into trade with the intention of using the coffee program as a vehicle to transform the livelihoods of our youth at the different value chain stages while creating opportunities.

Through doing this, we are passing on skills at the same time creating jobs for our youth.

We have managed to package and brand our own coffee (Noah's Ark Specialty Coffee) and as well set up the first coffee shop which is run by our pioneer coffee barristers who are abandoned children formerly under the care of the Noah's Ark Children's home.

We are still continuing with developing capacities for the farmers under the coffee association set up by Noah's Ark Children's Ministry in Kayunga District. The farmers are exposed on the best agronomic and post handling practices that have helped our farmers to improve both quality and quantity which has increased their incomes.

We hope in the future to open a chain of coffee shops to increase youth participation and empowerment in the coffee industry, which will help to create employment for our youth.



Above, coffee picking by one of our youth



Above, picked red cherries and below, processed coffee.



Above, pioneer barristers in our coffee shop. Right, the front view of the coffee shop.

GROWING STRONG IN FARMING

Agriculture employing approximately 72% of Uganda's population remains the major source of livelihood in Uganda.

This helps us to open our student's eyes not to take it for granted.

Food prices in 2022 escalated justifying more the relevancy of our food security strategy started in 2020 as a result of the impact of covid 19.

Some of the foods are harvested from our gardens, which has helped to reduce our feeding budget.



Above, students carrying harvest from the farm

Our goat and sheep farm has picked up and quite a number of children have been inspired to start goat farming especially the children coming from communities. During the Agriculture class, the goat and sheep farm usually gets the biggest number of students compared to other farm activities.

We have rejuvenated fish farming as well as making our own fish feeds at Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Mukono as a way of exposing our children and at the same time be able to boost on their feeding diet.

This activity is specifically championed by our youth that are them selves training fellow students.

Pig farming is also going to be reinstated having lost all our pigs to swine flue.

This year, we chose to concentrate more on fumigating, cleaning and renovations so that the farm is ready in 2023.



Above, an agriculture class in the field.



Above, our students feeding goats during an agriculture class

THE PROGRESS OF THE BIG CHILDREN

Our goal of training self-sufficient problem solving youth, the second batch of our youth has already started to fly out of the NACMU nest. We have equipped them with skills, given them decision-making power as a way of empowering them, exposed them to entrepreneurship and given them responsibilities.

Sandra

Having completed a course in hairdressing, She is now employed as a hairdresser and independently leaving on her own. She is oftenly requested to come in and dress the bigger children's hair given her experience. Sandra is also a big encouragement to our hair dressing students as a sign of hope.



Sandra



Deborah

Deborah and her Twin sister Naomi

Deborah's leadership skills have always been evident given a big following she has of children and how they listen to her. Because of this, she is undergoing leadership training To take up an administrative role as a youth representative. She is also working as a volunteer coordinator a responsibility we see she is managing really well.

Her sister Naomi is training as a social worker. Having been exposed to what the social workers do all her life, she is flowing well with the daily responsibilities like picking up a child after a call from police and following up on social work cases.



Elisabeth

Elisabeth

She is undergoing training as a bookkeeper at the same time a practicing book keeper at our second base in Kayunga District. Elisabeth is passionate about figures and she is very strict with finances.

We are very optimistic that one-day she will work as an accountant in the Organization.

Mathew

Mathew is our Mr. Fix it, when you see how he does his work, he fits very well in our goal of creating problem solvers. Mathew is very handy and also very help full. Mathew is a role model not only to the youth but also to the young children.



Mathew

Second chances



Above, Mariam with her baby at the day care. Above, Sarah entering the school gate

After the re-opening of schools, the future of expectant students and those that were impregnated during the two-year covid 19 lockdown in Uganda was in jeopardy. The government and the church failed to agree on a policy that would allow those students to return to school. In the communities these children come from, having a child before completion of school is looked at as immoral and a curse.

Statistics show that over 9000 underage girls were impregnated in 2020 and this figure went up in 2021. Oftenly, parents who fear for their social reputation choose to hide the news from society by sending away these children from home or even hiding them which deprives these children of their dignity.

Most schools also don't have facilities for expectant and lactating mothers. The stigma from society some times leads to girls becoming suicidal.

At the NACMU owned schools, these girls were embraced and given a chance to become some bodies. The day care facility was an added advantage as well as the psychosocial support from our social work department.

The Noah's ark children Ministry community is empowered to embrace and encourage these students to love their children because we believe in re-uniting families.

Some of these children travel long distances with their children on their backs every morning to meet the school arrival time.

Mariam got pregnant as a result trying to look for what to eat having lost her father to covid 19. The opportunity of going to school was a second chance as she had lost all the hope. She confidently goes to the day care to breast-feed her child every after 3hrs and she is progressing in her studies.

Sarah a senior 2 student has been empowered by our social workers to keep her head high as she walks half a mile to and from school every day to fight for her future. She is optimistic that her baby's future is guaranteed because when she completes school, she will be able to get a job and take care of her.

The Health center on the fight against malnutrition



Above left, beneficiaries of the malnutrition program.

As per Uganda's Health mandate, every sub county should have at least one Health center III facility. This is supposed to have at least 18 staff members who run a general out patient and inpatient clinic, maternity ward, and should have a functioning laboratory among other services. Such facilities help to reduce the big numbers and burden from the few hospitals Uganda has. Oftenly, Health facilities do not have essential drugs, rural access to health care remains a challenge, limited funding from the government, understaffing and inconsistent drug distribution. Because of this gap the mortality rate remains high in Uganda.

Noah's Ark family Clinic (Health Center III)'s intervention has helped to solve health issues of the surrounding communities as well as the direct beneficiaries of our programs.

Through our facility, we have managed to achieve the milestones below.

- 158 Babies delivered.**
- 1,359 Malaria cases treated**
- 350 Malnutrition cases**
- 40 Out reaches carried out**
- 487 Immunizations carried out**
- 870 Antenatal cases handled**
 - **Kayunga Referral hospital joins us as a partner in the fight against malnutrition.**



Above, our nurse with a mother and a sick child.

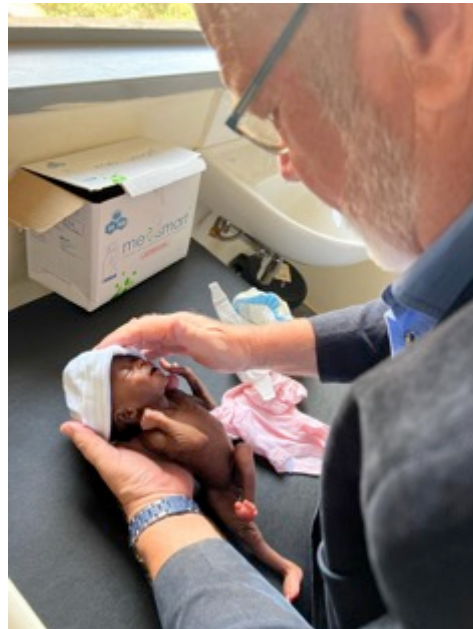


Above, patients on ward



Above, beneficiaries on one of our malnutrition out reaches.

A call from a Referral Hospital!



Above, the founder at a Referral Hospital after a call to pick a premature malnourished baby that had failed to thrive at the hospital.

Uganda's Health care system works on a referral system basis say if a Health center III cannot handle a case, its referred to a Health Center IV and a Health center IV refers to a Hospital. The system doesn't work from up going down, but at our Health facility because of the experience and commitment in handling Nutrition cases, we have earned trust from even a National referral Hospital that has been partnering with us for many years. Quite a number of Hospitals keep referring Children that have failed to thrive to us for further management.

Our commitment of going an extra mile to save a life remains admirable because we try all avenues to save a life as our Health facility slogan says;

‘ Serving with a patients heart ‘.

This year, another referral hospital agreed to partner with us in the fight against Malnutrition.

The children's home.

When schools opened up in 2022, many of the children under the care of the Children's home couldn't wait to step into class rooms after the closure of schools in 2020.

Being that we had home schooled them with the help of the teachers residing on the Organization compass and the caretakers, the two years didn't go to waste as it was for the other school children in Uganda.

This strategy helped the children under our direct care to progress into new classes, which motivated them to even love going to school.

This time, the number of children who were going to start the Nursery school was more than the usual numbers we have always had. It was a bit sad to have a completely empty home during school time.

When they come back from school, the usual routine kicks in.

Because children are fed on Nutritious meals, the levels at which they fall sick has reduced which has saved us on the medical bills.

New entrants in the Children's Home

The rising cost of living has had a big impact on house hold income. Because of this many children are becoming homeless and vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

Because we believe that every child deserves a family, Noah's ark children's Home continues to reunite the children that have traceable family members. The remnants are cared for holistically to become somebodies.

Baby Elim

Was abandoned in the garden, the locals heard him cry at night and took him to police.

The police officer spent the first night with him and brought him to Mukono police station where we were called to pick him from.

Baby Celine

Abandoned in a polythen bag in a garden with a placenta still on. The locals took her to the near by police station that called us for rescue. She is thriving very well.

25 children were abandoned

11 reunited with their families

180 children are housed in the Home.



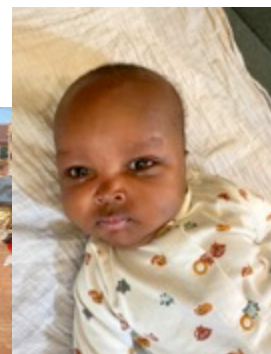
Above, Dinnertime at the children's home.



Above and below, breakfast in the children's home.



Above, baby Elim carried by the Home warden, our social worker and the police officer . Right is baby celine.



Thank you mama!

For 26 years Mama (Pita) has opened her arms to hundreds of Ugandan children. She has dedicated half of her lifetime to serve the vulnerable children. She has never cared where children were found, be it from a pit latrine, dumpster, drainage, roadside or bush. She has given names to over 600 children that have gone through her hands.

Out of the 600 children, over 400 Children have been reunited/integrated with loved ones.

She has nurtured so many! Even those that haven't gone through her hands call her mama.

She has sacrificed her precious nights to attend to the little ones. Her efforts are not in vain because many have become some bodies.

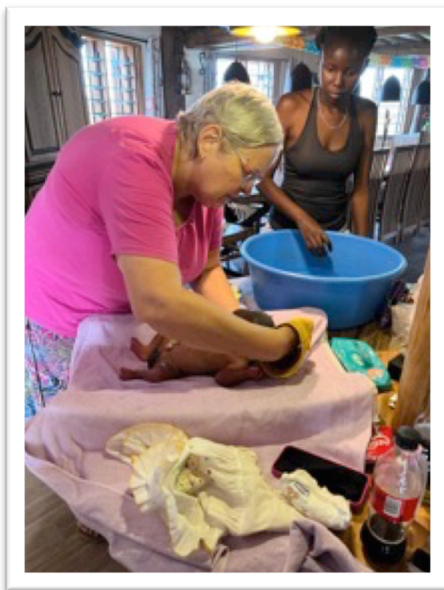
When she looks back at her journey, she is encouraged of the fruits of her efforts.

Her big heart is incomparable! She has never turned down a police call to pick an abandoned baby.

Even though she has slowed down, she has nurtured many to continue with the good work she started together with her husband Piet (Papa).



Above, mama with the first children in the home right, mama and papa with some of the big children on their 45 year's wedding anniversary..



Above, Mama demonstrating how to dress a little baby.

Stories of hope from our Reception /Temporary placement Program.

The year 2022 has had an increase in sexual and gender-based violence, which includes physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence.

Under normal circumstances, sexual violence and gender based violence cases often go un reported. The economic crisis the country is facing has made children more vulnerable to child abuse.

Also being that legal services are not considered essential in Uganda, it makes it difficult for victims to receive justice.

Noah's ark Children's Ministry has continued to fight as a voice for the voice less!



Katrina Above.

Katrina

Katrina was burnt with hot water by her step mom. Upon interrogation from the locals who had been suspicious about the way the stepmother was treating the little girl, went in hiding.

The Aunt who is also a resident of the same village took Katrina to a near by clinic for treatment. The wounds being severer required a big medical bill she didn't have. Also from the threats she was getting from the father, she had to report the case to police for their safety.

The police referred this child to our facility for temporary placement and treatment. When she had fully recovered, she was reunited with her Aunt plus a food package.

Her father and step mom are in prison.

Chris (Kurishi)

Chris was referred to our facility by Mukono Police after being mistreated by his stepmother. Because of not eating well, he became malnourished .He was helped with food and treatment.

Catherine

Catherine 13 years was defiled by her father when her mother had gone to attend a burial. When the mother got to know, she reported the case to police and the girl was referred to our facility.

The father being HIV positive, our health facility workers administered PEP treatment and rehabilitation. PEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) is given to negative HIV status people to prevent them from contracting HIV. It is administered within 72 hours of exposure.



Above, Chris with his mother. Right, Catherine with her mother

The progress of our new programs

The Busaana tree-planting program.



Above, the farmhouse at the busaana project.



Above, the founder standing in one of the places we have planted the trees.



Above, the Community school students



Above, the Community school students in a fundraising run

In 2021 we started a tree-planting program as a way of extending our influence in the environmental sector and climate change. We believe that this action will help to restore the environment, which had been degraded as a result of activities like sugarcane growing and deforestation by the people of Busaana - central of Kayunga District. So far we have planted 350,000 trees.

In the coming year, we hope to set up a borehole for the people of Busaana – Kayunga district

As a source for clean water to save them from water borne illnesses and walking long distances to fetch water.

We have managed to put up a farmhouse for security purposes and shelter for the one managing the program and the workers.

KALAGALA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In the run up for the re-opening of schools in 2022, the reception from the community was commendable.

We managed to open 3 classes with a total of 120 students. The school has not only helped to shorten walking distance but also the feeding. Compared to the surrounding schools, our students don't study on empty stomachs.

The coffee farmer's association members were given first priority and are appreciative of the transformation the school is making in the lives of their children.

The second 4-class room block was completed and furnished so that it's ready for the beginning of 2023 because by that time, Students would have progressed into new classrooms.

In the meantime, this block has helped to host all our Health facility community out reaches in that area.

Embracing Local philanthropy.



Above, our children displaying a dummy chq from our bankers.

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda has always believed in working collaboratively. Here, throughout the year, we have continued to seek partnerships in all our programs because we believe that we cannot work as a single entity.

These strategies have helped us to strengthen the local capacity. The beneficiaries get to own the programs which creates accountability and as an Organization, it has helped us to build alliances and networks.

Local Donors have helped us to reduce our big budgets especially in the feeding and in our Health program. The sky rocketing prices of especially food and fuel prices has led to the collapse of many NGOs. We thank God that because of you, we haven't fallen victim to this.

As an Organization, we have also continued to support other Organizations that have same vision like we do.



Above, our children with our two biggest local donors.



Above, donation received from one of our partners.



Above, a donation of bouncing castle and other fun activities from one of our donors.



Above, A donation of bread received every Friday from one of our local donors who also donated biscuits and soft drinks above.



Above, Uncle Manish with Gladys.

Celebrating Manish Vasani.

Manish Vasani commonly known as Uncle Ice cream a name given to him by the children because he donates ice every Sunday evening. We choose to celebrate him as our biggest local philanthropist. His big heart always amazes us. Manish will donate from building materials as a contribution to our education program, Medical equipment for our Health facility, food to aid in the feeding program and Baby formula for the malnourished babies on our Nutrition program.

Philanthropy is usually related hugging a baobab tree, because of it's size you can't do it alone. Manish has brought many local donors on board.

People like you make Ministry easier.

Uncle Manish, you are cherished!

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2022

Commodity prices country wide have been rising at a fast rate forcing Ugandans to adjust their life styles in a country that is recovering from the impact of covid 19.

Uganda experienced a critical food shortage with majority barely affording a single meal in a day due to poverty and the inflation in the food prices. 4 out of 10 households which is 37 % went with out a meal representing an increase in the number of starving Ugandans quotes the daily Monitor news paper.

The poor harvests as a result of the prolonged drought and the Russia - Ukraine conflict further disrupted the economy. This is also coupled with lack of Government support during hard times.

Majority of our beneficiaries with jobs earn 5\$ a day which is not enough for a meal in a family of 3. Essential items like soap which costs 2 \$ or even cooking oil which costs 4 \$ have become luxuries.

Because of you our well-wishers, the high prices didn't stop us from sharing the joy Christmas brings. This time, Uganda was experiencing a wet season, even muddy roads and a heavy down pour didn't stop the beneficiaries from coming for their baskets. Our children organized a Christmas musical to share the message of Christmas, there after, the baskets were handed over to the joyful parents.

The Christmas baskets for the beneficiaries of the malnutrition program were given out on a different day because it's a full day activity given the numbers.

The numbers of the malnourished children had gone up.

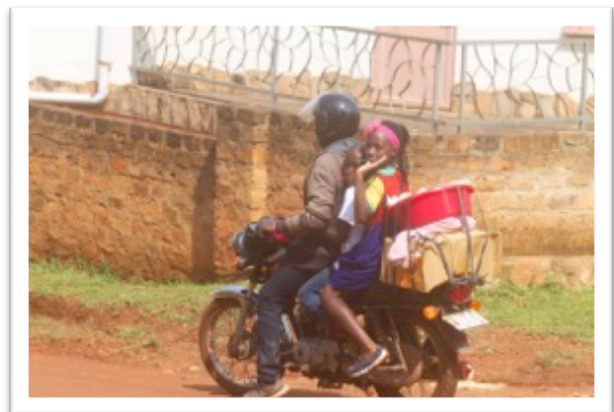
Our Health team used this opportunity to screen the children as well as health Educating the parents .The number we had planned for doubled. This is because the beneficiaries have become ambassadors as they keep referring many parents with children that are malnourished for help to our Health facility.



Above, School Sponsored children with their parents after receiving their baskets.



Above, the beneficiaries trekking home with their baskets



Above, school sponsored children rushing their Christmas baskets home on a motorcycle



Above, the Christmas musical presented by our children



Above, the beneficiaries of the malnutrition program watching the Christmas musical.

Majority of the children on the malnutrition program were improving apart from those with disabilities. Usually such children have feeding issues. The high food prices had worsened their situation.

In Uganda, it's very hard to get a caretaker for children with disabilities. Parents of such children give up work to stay home to take care of those children. Because of no source of income, their children got malnourished. Being that many had relapsed, they were put back on the program.

On this day, many parents were encouraged to see that there were many people with the same problem. The former beneficiaries of the program that had improved gave them a lot of hope.

This activity was carried out in both Mukono and Kayunga districts. Because of your support, we were able to give out 600 Christmas baskets.

May God bless you!



Above, our Health facility staff during the screening process on that day.



Above, the mothers with their babies on their backs carrying their Christmas baskets.

Our Challenges

- The high taxes on importation have limited us on the donations we used to receive from our donors out of Uganda. This made us resort to buying home commodities that are of poor quality, limited options and expensive.
- The high food prices that have increased our feeding budget.
- The high fuel prices, which have made our transport budget very expensive.
- Losing a big value of money because of the poor exchange rates in the foreign currency.
- The Ebola virus outbreak in some of the Ugandan Districts caused some panic because we didn't want to go back to what we went through during the covid 19 outbreak.
- Losing one of our oldest serving staff who was also a community mobilizer for parents of children that are beneficiaries of our School sponsorship program. He was really good at mobilization and a voice to those parents especially in community work as a give back to the organization and as well as away of owning this program as a community.



Above, Frank's body lying in the coffin.

Our prospects

We are still committed to helping to improve the lives of the most needy vulnerable children of Uganda, further through impacting more lives and reaching out to more communities in Mukono and Kayunga districts especially.

- We hope to set up a borehole for the people of Busaana – Kayunga district as a source for clean water to save the surrounding community from water borne illnesses and walking long distances to fetch water.
- Continuing with the roofing, shutting and finishing of the classrooms /main hall for the secondary vocation school, this will be able to sit more candidates during the National examinations. This was also a recommendation from Ministry of Education because the sitting capacity of our current classrooms is small which limits our examination capacity.



Above, the main hall block at the secondary sch.

- The Construction of the 3rd block which will house the library for Kalagala Primary School, a clinic to serve both the students and the community, school office and a computer room.
- Construction of an office block for our Kayunga base.
- We hope to resume the finishing works on the stored vocation classrooms to capture the increasing numbers of vocational students.
- Construction of a coffee roasting factory
- Construction of a woodwork show room for the items made by our students

A message from the CEO's office

We are grateful to our sponsors and well-wishers for your support throughout year 2022. Despite a few challenges, our desire to serve is still strong.

The resources given for our activities have been able to reach different beneficiaries and services in all our programs and interventions.

Throughout this journey, NACMU has shown encouraging progress and clear impact in the lives of our beneficiaries.

As away of increasing resource mobilization, we have managed to develop new partnerships and alliances for example in the Health sector, Education and local philanthropists. Such relations have helped us to serve more vulnerable communities.

I therefore wish to thank all individuals, funding partners local and international for supporting our efforts in the fight for the plead of the vulnerable children and communities of Uganda.

Gladys Nalunkuma Senkumba
Office of the CEO
NACMU.

A quote from Papa,

"My encouragement is seeing what mom and me have done because we simply showed that we care."

Sir. Piet Buitendijk

A quote from Papa,

"Childcare is not a job, it's part of life"
Sir. Piet C.Buitendijk



About us

Established 26 years ago, NACMU as a Christian Organization focuses on holistic childcare and developmental programs, which put children first in all its interventions.

NACMU has worked to provide Education in the four NACMU owned Schools, social welfare, food, accommodation and health needs for thousands of vulnerable children and communities.

NACMU runs a children's home which meets all the alternative care requirements, Health center iii and a Youth engagement program which simultaneously serves a wide community.

www.nacmu.org

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