

ChildVoice

ChildVoice Has New Team and Intern Coordinator

Over the summer, we welcomed our new Team and Intern Coordinator, Kelsi O'Neil, to ChildVoice's U.S. staff. Kelsi graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor's of Science in Marine Biology, with a focus on education. In 2015, she spent five months at the Lukome Center in northern Uganda working on the farm to help develop a tilapia pond. It was during her visit that she fell in love with Uganda and its people.

Kelsi says she is thrilled to be working with team members and interns traveling to the Lukome Center. "My goal is to make their trip as smooth as possible and to support them physically, spiritually, emotionally, and culturally – both pre- and post-visit – so they have a wonderfully productive and satisfying time in Uganda."



Reaching Out to the Displaced and Traumatized of Nigeria

By *ChildVoice CEO Conrad Mandsager*

In May, I had the privilege of traveling to Nigeria on a fact-finding mission with ChildVoice Board Member Mark Hoffschneider. We took the initial steps toward determining whether it might be feasible to expand the ChildVoice model into northeastern Nigeria, a region racked by violence due to an insurgency by the Boko Haram. The Islamist militant group has been terrorizing people in this part of Nigeria for eight years now, forcing them to flee their homes and villages or be massacred.

During our trip, we visited Shuwari IDP (internally displaced persons) Camp on the outskirts of the city of





Our Students Get Under the Hood!

What happens when a group of extremely curious young girls gets a peek under the hood of a car? Great things!

The idea of an auto mechanics program for Lukome Center students came about when a visiting female team member – herself an accomplished mechanic – helped fix a broken ChildVoice van.

“Everyone was astounded that a woman could do this,” says ChildVoice Founder/ CEO Conrad Mandsager. “When we asked the girls if they’d ever be interested in learning something like this, they were very enthusiastic.”

We’re currently seeking donations to help buy tools and equipment for the new auto mechanics program.

For more exciting news, visit childvoiceintl.org.

Maiduguri. Earlier, we had met Agnes Bashir (page 1, bottom photo), an amazing and dynamic woman who runs a community-based outreach for traumatized women and children. She agreed to take us to meet some former abductees of the Boko Haram in the camp. It was painfully obvious that Shuwari is greatly in need of more aid; more than 2,000 refugees, mostly women and children, share only one borehole for water. Many women and young girls suffer from paralyzing grief caused by witnessing horrific violence perpetrated by the Boko Haram.

Our hearts were broken as we met with some of the victims and heard their stories. These women and children need extensive counseling and intervention, which is exactly what ChildVoice does, and what we’re being asked to do by the Nigerian officials we met.

In mid-August, ChildVoice Director of Programs Kristin Barlow and I will be embarking on another trip to Nigeria to meet with several women leaders who represent, in various capacities, the thousands of trauma survivors victimized by the Boko Haram. We will be escorting these women — one of whom is Agnes Bashir — to Uganda for a first-hand look at the Lukome Center. Our hope is that they will be excited seeing the ChildVoice model in action and will become advocates for launching a similar program in Nigeria. We’re anticipating great things during this trip!

Upcoming Lukome Center Trips

- 2017: November 4-19
- 2018: April 7-21, August 4-18, and October 13-27



Join an existing trip or schedule a dedicated trip for your church or community group. To learn more, contact our Team and Intern Coordinator, Kelsi O’Neil, at teamsandinterns@childvoiceintl.org