



Ekisa UK

Spring Newsletter 2024

**Dear Ekisa Supporter,**

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support the work of Ekisa in Uganda. You are part of the team who is “Rewriting the Story of Disability” for disabled children living in Jinja, Uganda. Day-to-day “Rewriting the Story” looks like providing specialist education, setting up income generating projects for families, teaching farming and vocational skills, providing physio, occupational and speech therapy, facilitating and subsidizing medical care, providing community education about disability, providing residential care for children who have been abandoned or abused, promoting foster care and adoption for children with disabilities and this list could go on.

**The Ekisa team is working very hard and they couldn't do it without your support!**

Fundraising Events: Dates for your Diary

**Ekisa Quiz:** The White Horse, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

**Ekisa Christmas Gift and Food Fair:** All Saints Church, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Christmas Concert:** All Saints Church, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024

If you would like to help us run the Fair do get in touch! We do need some new volunteers! You can get in touch via [info@ekisa.org.uk](mailto:info@ekisa.org.uk) Thank you!

Ekisa UK has continued to send its regular, quarterly financial support to the team in Jinja; in 2023 this amounted to a total for the year of over £43,000!

**The important work that is going on in Uganda would not be possible without your continued support! Thank you for your generosity.**

If you would like to set up a regular donation, please go to our ‘Donate’ webpage:

<https://www.ekisa.org.uk/giving> or contact our local treasurer by email at [treasurer@ekisa.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ekisa.org.uk)

**THANKS EVERYBODY!**

**Roger Lemon, Chair, Ekisa UK, Charity Number 1167405**

## Emily and Debra's News from Uganda

Debra and I were lucky enough to go and visit our friends at Ekisa in Uganda over Easter and we wanted to share a little bit about our trip.

After a slightly eventful flight involving some interesting accessibility measures (Debra entered the plane through the service hatch for one of her flights) we arrived in Uganda in the middle of the day. In the past our flights have arrived at night, so it was a bit of shock to have the full force of the equatorial sun as soon as we were out of the plane, but it felt good to see the sunshine after the weather we had left behind! As we had arrived during the Easter weekend the roads were especially busy, so our trip from the airport in Entebbe took a little longer than usual but we arrived safely in Jinja before dark.

Our first full day in Uganda was Easter Sunday and so we went to Acacia community church for the morning service. This was the Church I attended for the 10 years I lived in Jinja, and is also the home of Ekisa academy during the week. After church we walked across the road to Ekisa to visit the people we had been most looking forward to seeing! Every time I visit, it amazes me how quickly the children have grown and it is wonderful to see how happy and healthy everyone was. We enjoyed a couple of hours with the children from the residential home that day and lots more visits during the rest of our trip. It was great to see all the developments. There were new members of staff to meet and new projects to hear about, all very exciting. Debra has missed her old school so much that she spent 2 days back in class with her old teacher. She joined in with lessons and enjoyed spending time with her friends.



Towards the end of our trip we visited the piece of land that Ekisa now owns. Building has started and it already looks very different from the field full of sugar cane we visited on our last trip. Building a permanent home for Ekisa has long been a dream and it is clear spending time here that the project has outgrown the building we started in; in fact, Ekisa is now renting the properties on either side of their building as well using the buildings at Acacia community church for school during the week. They also have a building in a neighbouring town where they run a satellite project in spaces that they borrow for the community groups that run every week. I think every department is very eager to move and have the purpose-built spaces that they have needed for some time.



Thank you for your continued support for Ekisa, with your help we can make this dream a reality!

Emily Henderson, Co-Founder Ekisa Ministries

## A story from Uganda

### Akashi

Akashi is a sweet and smiley 5-year old boy living in Eastern Uganda with his mother and grandparents. Akashi was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at birth and while his mother tried her best to care for him, he often fell sick and spent a lot of time in the hospital.



It was after Akashi and his family found Ekisa and joined our Community Care Program that they were able to identify that he also had Sickle Cell Disease. Each week, Akashi's mother brings him to one of our therapy groups where he is seen by a physical therapist and his mom gets to spend time with others in her same situation. Our social workers meet with these parents each week to encourage them and help them to grow in their understanding of how to best care for their children. For Akashi, Ekisa stepped in and offered medical support, making sure he is able to get the medication he needs. Both he and his mother are much more stable and know that they are not alone.

In Uganda, families often struggle to access medical services. They may be too expensive, too far away, or non-existent... Some may wait all day to see a doctor only to find out that they can't afford to be seen. Other times the doctor they do see may not fully understand their child's disability and be of little help.

Akashi is just one of the 170 children for whom Ekisa is providing medical support. Our team of nurses and social workers stay involved, ensuring they get the right care and support them along the way: rewriting their story!