



March 2009

Shopping in the Store!

It was such a merry day as 35 children currently staying in our Transitional Rehabilitation Home were treated to a shopping spree...*in the store!* There were squeals of laughter, faces beaming with delight, and a lot of commotion as the children each got a chance to go into the store and pick whatever they needed...and wanted.

Earlier in the week, during the weekly Family Time meeting, the children were told about this day but received the news with a lot of skepticism.

"Today we are going to do a simple exercise. Each of you is going to be given a piece of paper where you will write what you think you need to make your life in the home more enjoyable," Ruth Nabibuga the Home Administrator communicated to the children during Family Time.

Murmurs were heard and frowns visible as the children looked confused trying to understand why Aunt Ruth needed this information.

"On Saturday, each of you will go to the store and pick whatever is on your list. As long as it's in the store, you will surely get it! But be very careful about what you write." Aunt Ruth explained

Still the children couldn't believe what they were hearing. Some just laughed while others simply sat and looked at their Aunt as if saying, *'what is wrong with you?'* Nevertheless, they wrote down their needs, if not in obedience then with a mixture of doubt and anxiety.

Come Saturday, the shopping spree was on and everyone was so delighted! We (staff) just stood and looked amazed at how a simple gesture can bring such joy in the lives of children. "Thank you Aunt. Thank you Aunt." They kept on repeating themselves.

But did we do it alone. Of course not! All the items in our store are donations from our local and international friends. We have Stationery, clothing, beddings, toiletries, etc given by people who want to make a change in the lives of these children. Indeed the change is there. The children have shelter, school requirements, decent clothing, toys and a lot more things that are going to make their childhood memorable. Thank you for being a donor.



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