

Mezo Noir takes charity drive to children's home

By Sarah Nabakooza

Mezo Noir Uganda, a high-end eatery and pub in Kololo, last week carried a charity drive to St Lillian Children's Home in Gayaza. Management, staff, regular clients and resident DJs, donated essential supplies and spent time with children with special needs. The visit marked the second consecutive year the bar has supported the children's home, an institution that caters to vulnerable children from difficult backgrounds.

The team donated foodstuffs, sanitary items, groceries and household supplies. Caregivers at the home say these items are in constant demand as the number of children under their care grows amid rising living costs.

While the hang out is best known for entertainment and nightlife, the outreach reflected a deliberate effort to look beyond the "party". Volunteers spent time with the children through

shared meals, storytelling, play and prayer. These interactions, caregivers said, are often as valuable as physical donations.

St Lillian Children's Home, like many similar facilities across Uganda, operates under financial strain. Funding gaps affect nutrition, education and healthcare. Homes rely heavily on goodwill from individuals and organisations to remain functional.

Speaking during the visit, Mezo Noir Uganda managing director Grace Mbabazi said the outreach was part of a broader reflection on how businesses and individuals relate to the communities around them.

"As we begin a new year, it is important to pause and ask ourselves how our lives and our work touch those around us," Mbabazi said. "The stories shared here are humbling and, at times, difficult to listen to. They remind us to remain grateful for life and to respond when others are in

need."

She lectured her team that kindness is a responsibility and not a performance.

A regular client at the bar, who asked to be identified only as Uncle Danny, said participating in the outreach shifted his perspective.

"People often associate places like Mezo Noir with fun and nightlife, but being here today shows another side," he said. "Spending time with these children reminds you how much difference simple acts can make. It is something more clients should be part of."

The leadership of St Lillian Children's Home welcomed the donations as timely and practical. Caregivers noted that food and sanitary supplies are among the most urgent needs, particularly as inflation continues to drive up household costs.

"These items will help us meet the children's daily needs," a



The team donated foodstuffs, sanitary items, groceries and household supplies

caregiver said, adding that consistent engagement from partners helps create stability for the children.

"It also means a lot for them to see people come back, not just visit once and disappear."