



EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER. **PROJECT FOCUS**

ProjectFOCUS, founded in 2006, is a grass-roots initiative of diverse individuals bound by a common purpose: to EDUCATE, INSPIRE, and EMPOWER local communities in Southwestern Uganda and the United States. Our work in Uganda extends beyond material support and touches upon the human need to share experiences with others. Through creative collaboration, personal narratives and exhibition, we hope to support sustainable community initiatives, actively combat social apathy and reveal the common humanity between two seemingly different worlds.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Educate. Inspire. Empower.

Through a variety of creative art and media we hope to give voice to the unique experiences of individuals and communities.

Once these stories are captured, an exhibit of words, images, and sounds is presented to educate viewers. These narratives inspire the audience to relate and respond to an abstract social issue on an intimate level.

We hope this process will empower individuals and communities to actively combat all levels of apathy.

ART PROJECTS

From June to December of 2007, ProjectFOCUS visited Southwestern Uganda to work in the town of Lyantonde, a region heavily affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty.

“Story Ki” Visual Storytelling at Prince Primary School:

Students were encouraged to ask their parents or guardians for stories rooted in Ugandan culture. These stories were illustrated using embroidery, fabric collage, and printmaking techniques developed throughout the course. Final projects were presented to the community at the end-of-the-year school celebration.

Pinhole Photography Project, St. Gonzaga Secondary School:

Students captured images that represent their identity through 35 mm cameras as well as hand-made pinhole cameras. Through the process of building pinhole cameras, students learned the basic elements of photography.

Common Threads: HIV/AIDS Quilts:

Individuals created panels illustrating how their community has been affected by HIV/AIDS. Facilitators taught basic skills in textile art and sewing. Group members were encouraged to share these talents and skills with others. At the end of the project panels were sewn together into three large quilts and displayed during World AIDS Day in Lyantonde, Uganda.

Portraits of Resiliency:

Artists from ProjectFOCUS collaborated with 9 individuals who represent grassroots activism in their communities. Multi-media portraits were created in response to the participants work and aspirations for change.



(Lamula, a Portraits of Resiliency participant)



(Students get creative with insufficient table space at Prince Primary School)

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

Creative Projects empower participants by giving a voice to their personal narratives, teach valuable skills that participants can use in the future and facilitate collaboration between ProjectFOCUS members and the local community.

Exhibitions portray complex social issues through a personal and intimate lens, educate and inspire audiences and generate resources, both financial and other, for the community development projects.

Development creates sustainable change to address the tangible needs of the community previously identified by project participants, local community members, leaders and activists.

Before Exhibitions are created, specific development plans will be formalized, including objectives, budgets and timelines, so that potential donors can be confident that their contributions will be used as promised. A ProjectFOCUS volunteer, who will be based in Uganda for at least one year, in partnership with local community members of Lyantonde, will create the plans for sustainable development projects.

Trust is essential for an effective partnership. During the process of the “Story Ki” project at Prince Primary School in Lyantonde, a close working relationship was developed with the administrative staff. Due to this relationship, and other logistical factors, ProjectFOCUS intends to begin development projects at this site.

LONG TERM VOLUNTEER

While planning for development, Project FOCUS has asked the following key questions:

Who will implement these development projects?

Who will be accountable for the sustainability of these projects?

What role is the community taking in designing these projects?

We decided that the best way to answer these questions honestly and in their entirety was to send a long term volunteer back to Uganda.

GOALS:

Identify sustainable community development-projects; nurture pre-existing relationships in Lyantonde and the capital city of Kampala; cultivate relationships with organizations and Ugandan visionaries; and establish a continual and active presence in the community.

ESTIMATED 1YR. BUDGET:

Health	\$850.00
Transportation	\$3040.00
Communication	\$934.00
Living	\$3797.00
Meeting Costs	\$250.00
Emergency	\$887.00
Total	*\$9,758.00

*All costs have been derived from travel expenses incurred during ProjectFOCUS's trip to Uganda in 2007, where detailed financial statements were maintained.
Detailed budget available upon request.

VOLUNTEER:

Grant Buhr is an artist who was present with ProjectFOCUS in Uganda from June to December 2007. He is connected with the ProjectFOCUS network of mentors in both Uganda and Chicago, and has gained experience in navigating the cultural differences that arise when partnering with distant communities.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE: (first five months)

Arrive/find housing/logistics	(Oct. 08)
Set up meetings with mentors in Kampala and Lyantonde	(Oct. 08)
Development meetings with Prince Primary School staff	(Oct. 08)
Research project plans, consult mentors, develop formal project proposal (budget, timeline, goals, etc)	(Oct/Nov. 08)
Continue meetings with Ugandan mentors	(Nov. 08)
Formalized proposal completed	(Dec. 08)
Exhibits/Fundraising begin in Seattle/Boston/Chicago	(Dec. 08)
Development project begin in Lyantonde	(Jan. 08)
Planning for next development project begins	(Feb. 08)



(Grant Buhr capturing audio of Prince Primary Student Choir)



(Katovu village sewing group member from HIV/AIDS quilt project)

SUPPORT

ProjectFOCUS exists because of the kindness of others. In order to sustain our goals to educate, inspire, and empower, as we support community development in Uganda, we rely on the contributions of others who believe in our efforts. If you have questions regarding ways you can offer support, please contact us at info@projectfocus.org. We welcome your ideas, time, and donations.

To donate directly, send checks to:

ProjectFOCUS
11030 S. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60655

For tax-deductible donations, visit our website at projectfocus.org and click on “SUPPORT”. You will be linked to our fiscal sponsor’s website, globalgiving.org (10% of your contribution goes to administration fees of Global Giving).

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