

EDGE Featured in National Ugandan Newspaper

EDGE Project's efforts with the Lingira Girls' Football Club have been recognized on a national level in Uganda. EDGE has been featured in *A New Vision*, a leading national Ugandan publication. The article, entitled "US Charity to Support Buvuma," was featured on the main page of the September 22nd issue of the newspaper's website. [Click here](#) to read more.

Introducing our New Field Coordinator



EDGE Project is excited to announce the newest member of our team! We are privileged to have hired a Project Coordinator to track and oversee our projects between student travelers' visits in the winter and summer. Rachel is pursuing a Bachelors degree in tourism management with an emphasis in community development. EDGE will be supporting her education.

Mission: To provide students with a platform to engage actively in issues of sustainable international development, project management, leadership, and the realities of life in developing nations by connecting them with the resources necessary to research, create, and implement small-scale community development projects.



Dear Supporters,

On behalf of EDGE Project, I would like to thank you for your assistance, guidance, and insight. Our organization would not be nearly as successful without you. This is the first installment of a monthly newsletter our organization will be sending you with updates on our progress and stories from the field.

We were privileged to have had the opportunity to send eleven students to Lingira, Uganda this past summer for our first series of community development projects. Our summer, ups and downs included, was an overwhelming success. Throughout this newsletter, you will find details of the projects we began, stories from some of our travelers, and pictures of our experiences.

In addition to assisting with project implementation, student travelers had several opportunities for both personal and intellectual growth. Thanks to the help of University of Wisconsin alumnus and close friend Tony Carroll, eight of the students as well as two additional EDGE partners were able to attend the African Growth and Opportunities Act Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. We are sure future travelers will have similarly engaging opportunities.

We look forward to the year to come and are currently planning two additional trips back to Lingira. We will be sure to update you with new developments.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Farha Tahir

Co-Founder, EDGE Project



EDGE on Campus

We had our annual kickoff Monday, September 14th. Seventy students attended, enthusiastic to begin a new series of projects and travel to Lingira!

EDGE participated in two recruitment fairs in September. We researched out to hundreds of students at the Center for Leadership and Involvement's *Student Organization Fair*, September 9th as well as at International Academic Programs's *Global Citizens Conference for Returned Study Abroad Students* on September 18th.

AGOA Forum

Eight of our student travelers travelled to Nairobi, Kenya to attend the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) annual forum, which was held in August.

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Projects

As you know, over the course of the Spring 2009 academic semester, our student researchers developed a number of projects for the Lingira community. Over the summer, a group of 11 student travelers implemented these projects. Here are brief overviews of what was accomplished:

Lingira Girls Football Club (LGFC): EDGE has partnered with *Tackle Africa*, a UK-based organization that uses football to create HIV/AIDS awareness and promote healthy living. Together, we have launched a girls soccer team with that seeks to enable young girls in Lingira to dream big and empowers them to pursue those dreams.



Lingira Island Family Planning Initiative: Upon the request of the community itself, members of the Health and Nutrition team put together an informative guide and local committee tasked with spreading awareness and providing resources about family planning. The initiative works with YWAM, a clinic already present on the island.

Growing Together: Lingira Island Farming Association: EDGE worked with community leaders to create a farmer's association comprised of representatives from each of the four camps (Katonga, Lingira, Kyoya and Omolo) on Lingira as a means of knowledge-sharing in order to develop agricultural capacity on the island. The farmers association, known as *Basoka Kwavula Lingira Farming Association Group*, will also serve as a forum to host EDGE Project trainings, extension workers, and workshops conducted by community leaders.



Women's Craft Co-op: EDGE has created a women's craft co-op as a means of income generation for Lingira's women. The women make paper-bead necklaces and banana-leaf bags and mats. The co-op also serves as a platform for the women to discuss their interests and aspirations. The income they make helps feed their families and finance their children's educations. The items will be sold on fairtradeworld.org as well as auctioned off at our upcoming banquet in November.

Primary School: For two weeks, EDGE travelers assisted primary school teachers in teaching ESL through arts and crafts, music, and games.



Global Studies Program: EDGE created a program to inform students about world cultures, climate, foods, and traditions.

Secondary School Classes and Income Generation: Students were tutored in English and Math to supplement course material for their upcoming final examinations. EDGE also purchased land and an engine to establish a grain mill to grind sougham and maize in order to subsidize costs to the students and provide a means to generate income for the school.

Community Organizing and Leadership Seminars: EDGE sought to provide a foundation for emerging leaders to engage in projects that address community needs. EDGE provided information sessions and training workshops to begin a discussion of potential projects.

Girls Discussion Group: Secondary school girls were brought together to engage in discussions regarding their ambitions, aspirations, and futures.

