**Matale Girls’ Dormitory GlobalGiving Report**

In the Spring of 2009, The Harambee Centre and Southridge High School in Beaverton Oregon brought four students, Robert Kasumba, Specioza Naligo, Rita Nabukenya, Denis Kagimu, and Father Joseph Kato on an intercultural exchange trip to the US, the first of Uganda its kind between Matale and their sister school Southridge. In November 2011, nationwide in the senior four (S.4) class sat for their O-Level Uganda Certificate of Education exams. One of the students on that trip, Robert Kasumba was the best in Rakai district, an accomplishment not seen before at Matale. Matale had its best year academically with 11 first grades and 27 second grades. This performance was not possible a few years ago. With the help of many of our supporters to fund a new science laboratory, Robert Kasumba and his classmates were enabled to perform well. Below is an email that Robert sent to the Harambee Centre after they received the results.

***“Harambee,***

***Am so glad to thank you for the support you've given to our school in all aspects that has enabled the school to perform well in last year's UCE exams that have been recently released. The science Laboratory that you constructed and opened in 2008 for the school has enabled us so much to improve our performance in the Exams.***

***Secondly I would like to thank you for the project you've embarked on of establishing a girl's Dormitory. I know it will help the girl students to improve in their lives and give them a comfortable environment for their Education.***

***Best Regards,***

***Robert Kasumba.”***

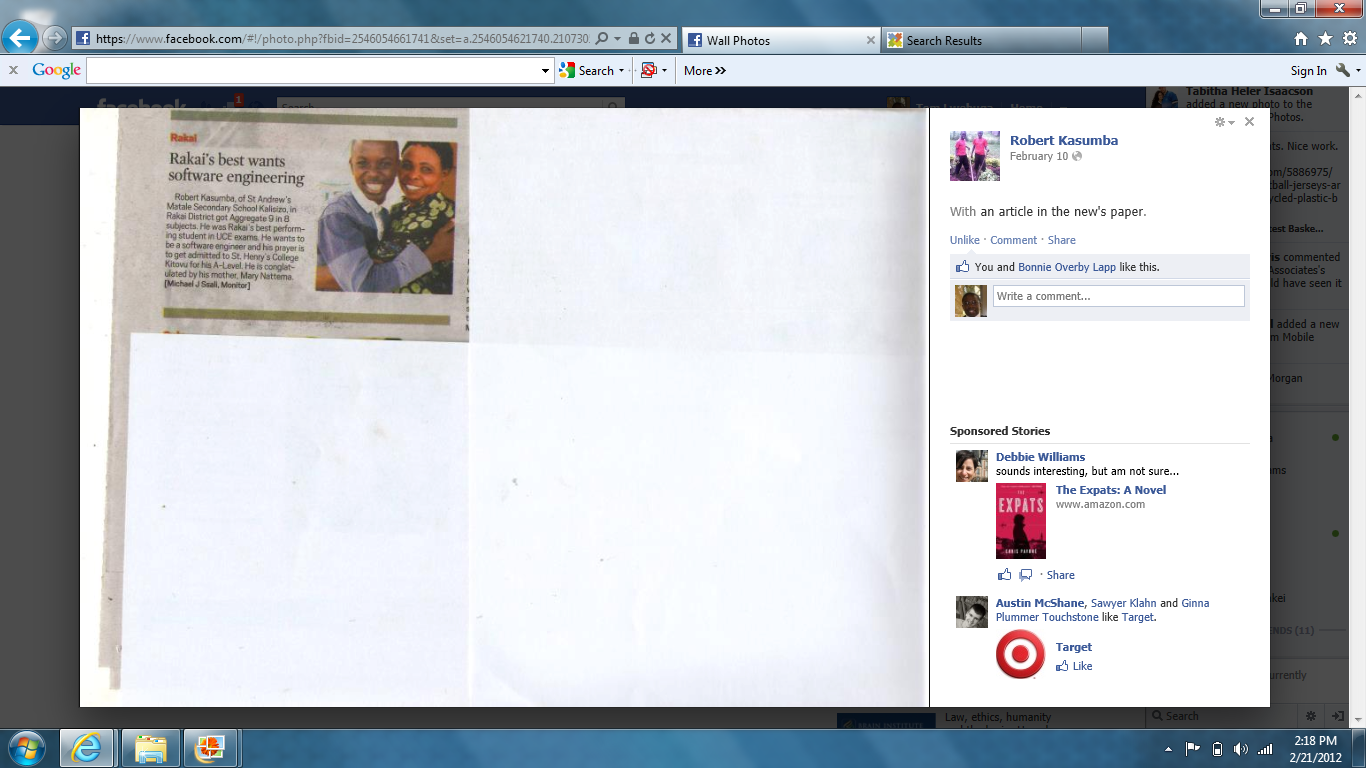
After reviewing the results, the fact still remains that the girls are not doing as well as the boys. They have the same potential as the boys, but the odds are against them. Our proposed girls’ dormitory is meant to address some of the challenges the girls of St. Andrews and the Matale community that cannot afford to go to the pricier, better equipped private school in Uganda face.

The science laboratory gave Matale one of the best facilities in the district, and two years after it was completed the results are speaking for themselves. It is with this same approach that we know the girls’ dormitory will create a safe place for the girls of Matale, enabling them to focus on their education.

Help us reach to this goal, and to give hope and opportunity for the girls of Matale. By investing in the girls, we invest in a better community for tomorrow.

Thank you.

A short newspaper article of Robert and his mother, Mary, after receiving news of Robert’s great performance. Feb. 2012. He just got admitted to Uganda Martyrs’ S.S.S. Namugongo, one of the top schools in Uganda for his A-Level (Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education). After two years of A-Level, he wants to study Software Engineering at University.



St. Andrews S.S.S Matale teachers celebrating the school’s performance. Feb. 2012.

