

Nyaka Notes

A Project of STSAD, Inc. / www.nyakaschool.org / (517) 402-2787

Nyaka's Mission: "To provide quality, free education, and extracurricular activities, both formal and informal, to children who have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS as a means to counteract pervasive hunger, poverty, and systemic deprivation"

Nyaka AIDS Orphans School Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3 - December 2008

In this issue...

Nyaka Accomplishments

In 2008, we accomplished a lot of great things...

Page 1

Allan in the U.S

Allan finally made it to the U.S. Catch up on some news about his trip here...

Page 2



Holiday greetings... Page 4

Planned Giving

Learn how making a planned gift can help you leave a legacy for years to come.

Page 5



NYAKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Some of our 2008 Accomplishments

On December 28, 22 youth will be honored as the first graduates of the Nyaka. These pioneers are proof positive that an investment in youth can reap rewards in the future. We look forward to many years of future classes graduating and making a positive contribution to Uganda. We are not only proud of our graduates, but our other accomplishments during 2008:

- * Retention of all previous year's students for the 2008 school year;
- * Training and participation of 6,280 grandmothers in our Grannies Project;
- * Breakfast provided to all students;
- * Over 17,500 people with access to clean water (including 2 public schools and 3 different church communities);
- * Our Anti-AIDS Choir visited and raised awareness in 32 schools this year;
- * Bringing Allan to the U.S. for surgery;
- * Beginning construction on the Kutamba School;
- * Acquiring funds to begin new projects in 2009: Vocational Farm and Community Library;
- * Participation in the Clinton Global Initiative in New York City.





*Jackson with a student from Univ. of Texas at
Austin "HIV/AIDS in a Global & Local Perspective" class*

NYAKA CORNER - TWESIGYE JACKSON KAGURI

I am so excited about our first graduation. One of our core goals is to develop sustainable solutions to all communities we serve. This is one of the main reasons we work in rural areas of Uganda and promise to stay until positive changes are accomplished.

In the experience of our graduates, we have not only employed teachers and other staff that have molded their lives for seven years, but we continue to work with students, grandmothers, guardians, and all community members to change more lives. The fact that our school retained 98% of our students for seven years and we have launched another school (Kutamba) tells me that we are meeting our goal of sustainable change.

In the beginning, our Nyaka community had no school, no clean water, and sanitation. School-aged orphaned children were constantly sick and missing school, had no food, no books, and no teachers either. Today, this is no longer the case. The community worked together with us for positive change and we continue to work together for the betterment of all. This, my friends is Nyaka's success and our success!!

Thanks to each and every one of you who supported us through the years and continue to love and care for our children and our communities.

Experience such as our graduate's this year is not possible without you.

Thank you again and please join us in reflection and joy in the job well done!

The best is yet to come!

Twesigye Jackson Kaguri

Leave a legacy - Consider adding our children to your will

Allan receives surgery in Michigan

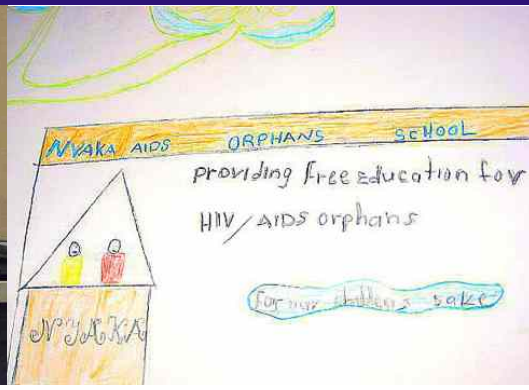
On December 15th, Allan had surgery on his legs at the University of Michigan hospital. The 6 hour procedure, performed by Edward M. Wojtys, M.D., was a success. Doctors expect Allan to be able to walk with the use of crutches or a walker as a result of this surgery and rehabilitation. Allan's will be quite extensive and could take several months. A second surgery on Allan's hand will take place as well.

Allan arrived in Detroit, Michigan from Kampala, Uganda on November 19th. While waiting for his operation, Allan kept busy with a variety of activities: visiting Hope Middle School in Holt, going to see Madagascar II at the movies, and going to see the Lady Spartans play basketball at MSU. Allan also saw his first snowfall, ate his first french fries at McDonald's, and had his first Thanksgiving dinner.

Thanks to University of Michigan for donating their surgical services, and to Ken and Patty Cousineau for hosting Allan in Ann Arbor for the surgery and rehab.



For updates, please visit: www.nyakaschool.org or
Nyaka News blog: <http://nyakanews.wordpress.com>.



From the Board

Dr. Nancy Colier is a member of the Nyaka Board of Directors. She is a psychotherapist in private practice. She is also the author of the book, "Getting Out of Your Own Way: Unlocking Your True Performance Potential," as well as many articles and essays. She is also a peak performance consultant, a public speaker, and a certified Focusing trainer. She is currently studying to become an interfaith minister and is now serving on the launch team of Faith House, an interfaith community in New York City. Nancy feels strongly that an education is a basic human right, and a fundamental component in watering the seeds of the human spirit. Nancy lives in Manhattan with her husband and five year old daughter.

On November 15, my husband Frederic and I hosted a house party in our home in New York City with a plan to raise funds for Nyaka graduate scholarships. In total, \$6,635 was raised for scholarships.

Several of our supporters were in attendance including board member Jennifer Thomson and her husband Shakil, Harriet Lewis, and Deborah Delmer. It was a wonderful evening of dialogue with new and old friends of Nyaka.

Regardless of where the economy goes, friends of Nyaka groups around the world continue to make an invest in our school and other life changing programs. From IN, CO, NYC, PA, TX, CA, NM, Canada, Norway, Japan, Australia, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya, Brazil, and many more places, we thank you all for loving our children.

(For more information on our Friends of Nyaka groups or on how to form one in your community - read the article on page 5)

Open Letter to the Nyaka Graduates

from Harriet Lewis, long-time Nyaka supporter - to be read on graduation day

I am sending my love and best wishes from New York to all of you who are graduating today. Circumstances prevent me from being with you on this most wonderful day, but my heart, thoughts, and love are with you. We, who have been privileged to have known Jackson from the very moment he dreamt of making this school a reality, are so very, very proud of him and of you who are graduating today from this wonderful school.

I know you have worked hard and sacrificed much to get your education and do well academically so that you can move on to the important next level in your education. You and the school have set a wonderful example that will spread throughout Uganda and the rest of Africa. I hope you will go on to do great things in your lives and for your country.

Sometime back, I had the privilege of reading the poetry and essays you wrote. You expressed your hope of becoming doctors, nurses, teachers, and lawyers. Do not stop dreaming...study hard and what you hope for will come to pass. I hope someday I will get to meet you, but in the meantime, I will be following your progress in the years to come.

All my love,

Harriet Lewis.

Comfort Dolls

Barbara Kroberger is a licensed social worker from Pennsylvania. She visited Nyaka in 2007 and came up with the idea for the comfort dolls.

It seems like a simple logical statement - everybody needs someone or something to hold. We need something when we are scared or sad or lonely. Kids especially need that special item, all their own, to cuddle. Even just the simple event of starting school can be scary. Our kids at Nyaka and Kutamba have so many reasons to be scared and sad. But giving them their very own comfort doll should help to ease the stress and fear that so many of them live with every day. It will offer a feeling of belonging and importance to the school community, as well.

The project was also an excellent way to connect women to our efforts. Eight women from around the state of Pennsylvania added their talents to this project. Everybody can understand the idea of giving kids something to cuddle and these dolls were a quick and easy way to help. One donor was a woman from Pittsburgh who is a lifelong friend of my mother. She told me that she made them in the evenings while watching TV and in the middle of the night when she couldn't sleep. She tried to personalize each one so that they were unique and special. Each crafter told me they would like to continue making them even after this initial shipment.

To learn more about this project or to get involved, visit:

<http://www.nyakaschool.org/comfort.php>



Happy Holidays
from Nyaka and our
2008 Graduates!
www.nyakaschool.org

NYAKA DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

YES - I pledge to become a Monthly Sustainer to the Nyaka AIDS Orphans School!

* My monthly gift will be: _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$20 _____ \$10 _____ \$ (other)
 _____ Please charge my gift to my credit card each month (_____ Mastercard _____ Visa)

Name _____ CC #: _____ Exp. _____

3-digit CV Code _____ Signature _____

YES - I wish to sponsor a Nyaka graduate for Secondary School

* I pledge to sponsor a graduate for: ____ 1 year (\$500) ____ 2 years(\$1,000) ____ 3 years(\$1,500) ____ 4 years(\$2,000)

YES - I wish to make a donation to the Nyaka AIDS Orphans School

* I wish to make a donation: _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ \$ (other)
 (Make checks payable to: STSAD/Nyaka School)

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I am interested in the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ Info about planned giving options | _____ A matching gift form for my employer |
| _____ Making a donation of air miles | _____ Receiving a monthly Nyaka update via e-mail |

Send this form to: Nyaka AIDS Orphans School, P.O. Box 339, East Lansing, MI 48826

Leaving a legacy - Planned Giving to Nyaka

by Chris Singer, Communications Manager

The HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa is over 30 years old now. Even if doctors developed a vaccine tomorrow, the struggles for children and families would continue for years to come.

Although much of our efforts at Nyaka center on our work today, we have made long-term plans to build for the future of our organization. Last year, Jackson Kaguri instituted the Nyaka Endowment. A few months ago, we also were made aware of our first planned gift. For a relatively young organization such as ours, these are two extremely exciting developments.

What is planned giving?

Planned giving is an organized approach to giving that takes into account the donor's personal values, the relationship with an organization, and the impact of the gift for both the donor and the organization. When all these factors are considered, the donor is then able to select the organization and gift-giving vehicle that best reflects those values and maximizes the financial and tax benefits of the gift.

Planned giving is not an impulsive type of gift-giving. Planned giving

takes time and requires careful and thoughtful consideration. Many people don't understand what planned giving realize is as they see it as too detailed and complex.

Benefits:

There are several benefits to planned giving. First, it allows donors to leave a legacy. Much research on fundraising and charitable giving shows that today's donor is concerned about the long-term impact of a gift and about being able to difference over the long run instead of short term.

Secondly, planned giving can allow for donors to make a larger gift than if they made an outright donation today. With the economic scare of recent months, many families are feeling the financial crunch. However, many of these families still wish to give and contribute to worthy organizations. A planned gift is an excellent choice for these donors.

There aren't just benefits to the organization with planned gifts. Donors receive benefits as well, chiefly in the name of tax benefits. Depending on the type of planned gift, these benefits may vary.

Types of planned gifts:

- * Nyaka Endowment Fund
- * Include Nyaka in your will
- * Gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- * Retirement funds
- * Life Insurance policies

For more information about planned giving, please contact Jackson Kaguri at tjk@nyakaschool.org or call (517) 402-2787. Please speak to an accountant or financial advisor to understand the impact of planned gifts on your personal taxes. More importantly, we urge you to consult with a lawyer so they can help put your wishes in a legal form. We can help direct you to a financial advisor or lawyer if you wish.

Visit our website: <http://www.nyakaschool.org/plannedgift.php> for more information.

You can also contact Nyaka's Financial Advisor with any questions as well:

Clint S. Fish, President/Sr. Fin. Adv.
First American Trust
3939 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-336-4810

The best is yet to come!

Smile, God Loves You

2009 Resolution - Form a Friends of Nyaka Group

As mentioned earlier on page 3 of this newsletter, people around the world have formed Nyaka Friends groups in their local communities. The purpose of Friends groups is to spread the message about our work with orphans and grandmothers in rural, southwestern Uganda. Some groups exist in churches, school groups at university, or are made up of interested individuals in a community. Activities of groups include: hosting presentations about Nyaka, special events, and/or fundraisers to support a Nyaka program.

Our first Friends of Nyaka group began in Bloomington, Indiana with the Indiana Friends of Nyaka (IFN). IFN began their efforts by holding an annual dinner fundraiser with funds going towards Nyaka capital projects. Other groups,

such as Kampala Friends of Nyaka, raise funds for general support of Nyaka activities. The Aspen Friends of Nyaka fundraising efforts were used to support the children at Kutamba School by building them a new school facility. Friends Groups work in cooperation with Nyaka staff but chiefly work autonomously on their own and support areas of interest to those who make up their group.

For those of you make New Year's Resolutions, a great resolution idea for the upcoming new year would be to form a Friends of Nyaka group in your community. To form a group, please contact Chris Singer, Nyaka Communications Manager (chrissinger@nyakaschool.org) and also visit our website at: www.nyakaschool.org/friends.php.

Nyaka News

* Nyaka on the web

Our main website: <http://www.nyakaschool.org>

Our News blog: <http://nyakanews.wordpress.com> - Subscribe to the blog here: <http://www.nyakaschool.org/wordpress.com/feed> and scroll down to the right. Click on SUBSCRIBE IN MAIL to receive updates through your RSS feed.

* Happenings since our last newsletter

September 21-23, 2008 - Participation at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York City.

October 11-12, 2008 - Trinity Episcopal Church hosted a presentation in Buckingham, Pennsylvania.

November 8, 2008 - Indiana Friends of Nyaka hosted their annual dinner in Bloomington, Indiana.

November 15, 2008 - Nancy & Frederic Colier hosted a house party fundraiser for Nyaka Scholarships in New York City.

December 1, 2008 - Presentation at Dr. Cindy Buckley's class on "HIV / AIDS in a Global & Local Perspective" at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas.

December 1, 2008 - Speaking engagement at World AIDS Day event sponsored by Lansing Area AIDS Network in East Lansing, Michigan.

Nyaka's foundation support comes from: *Stephen Lewis Foundation, Giammalva Foundation, and the Global Fund for Children.*

Thanks and best wishes go to all our donors, volunteers, and supporters around the world.