



learning to fly

Working to free orphans from the cycle of poverty.

The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project quarterly newsletter

WINTER 2010

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy 5 months since I started working full-time for Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. In addition to raising money for our students, I have been traveling around the country promoting my book "The Price of Stones" which outlines how the Nyaka dream became a reality over 9 years ago. I've so enjoyed meeting with you - our donors, friends, and well wishers. I'm excited to report that our children, schools, and hard work in Uganda has been featured in Time Magazine, on NPR, and more than 20 newspapers around the United States. Please visit our new website www.nyakaschool.org for more information.

In early October, I went to Uganda with Dr. Paul Dewees and a team of visitors from Sacred Heart Parish led by Fr. Tim Farrell. Dr. Dewees saw more than 300 patients in one week at Nyaka and Kutamba Schools. Volunteers also worked with our students on their reading and music lessons, and they teamed up with our instructors to teach classes. I personally met with our staff in Kampala, Kutamba, Nyaka, at the new Blue Lupin library, and I toured all our many projects. So much has been accomplished this year.



We are most pleased that our students at Kutamba and Nyaka Primary Schools are healthy, they eat two meals a day, receive free health care, and have books, uniforms, pens and pencils, and all the scholastic materials necessary for success. Our teachers are well equipped and trained to care, love, and guide each student along their academic path. The 7,000 grandmothers we continue to help are organized in 91 support groups, and we have provided each of them a gardening hoe, we are building 131 houses for the most destitute, and our microfinance program, and kitchen and latrine programs continue to grow. Our library, farm, clean water system, and anti-AIDS music and drama club continue to improve the lives touched by the Nyaka AIDS Orphans project.

We are excited to pursue the dream of building our very own secondary school in the near future. Construction will begin in 2011 and we anticipate it opening to students in 2012. It is only with support from you, our Nyaka family, that we will be able to counteract pervasive hunger and poverty and systemic deprivation of many basic human needs in our rural Ugandan communities. For all your support, I thank you.

The best is yet to come!



SCHOOLS



HEALTH



GRANDMOTHERS



COMMUNITY



Looking for the perfect holiday gift that keeps giving? Make a donation in honor of a loved one and Nyaka will send them a beautiful card made by one of our students.

Go to "Donate Now" at www.nyakaschool.org for more information.

DONATE TO NYAKA
ONLINE AT
nyakaschool.org



Rita Blitt, international award winning artist, and her husband Irwin have been long-time supporters of The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. Most recently, Rita has extended her generosity by donating a select number of original pieces of her artwork as a premium for new major donors.

If you make a donation of \$1,000 or more, we will send you an original ink and oil pastel drawing by Rita Blitt.

Blitt drawings, paintings, sculpture, and film all reflect joy which she wishes for the children of Nyaka. What a great way to support Nyaka and acquire a unique piece of art that will be a regular reminder of your generosity!

Please visit www.nyakaschool.org for more information.



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Student Update Nestled in stunning steep and cascading hills, the Nyaka and Kutamba schools provide everything for all the students currently enrolled, including solar-powered torches with which to do their homework.

All these children have either lost a parent or both to AIDS. Today, they live either with a grandmother, an uncle, a distant relative, or a foster parent. The unassuming classrooms belies the immense ways in which the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project has transformed these children's lives.

Rosette Kyalimpa, 14, is the youngest of her four siblings. She is the information minister at the Nyaka School and an aspiring lawyer. Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project has given her a chance at an education since her parents died when she was still young. She was brought to the school by a relative, as is the case with each of the other children. Rosette has been at Nyaka for six years

now. And she can't be happier. **"Being in school helps me not to work in other people's homes,"** she says. Girls, who have lost their parents, in most cases become house helps.

Emmanuel Akankwasa's story is another manifestation of the good the Project has done. This 15-year-old has been at Nyaka School since Primary One and now lives with a foster family, since his grandmother's passing. Akankwasa will be taking Primary Leaving Exams this year. **"When I came here [Nyaka School] I was given counseling and it helped me a lot."** *He hopes one day to become a medical doctor and provide counseling services. There's plenty Emmanuel is thankful for, besides counseling. He is also glad he has learned English, and acquired the knowledge to protect himself against AIDS.* Most importantly, "I would have been a street kid had my grandmother not brought me to school." Where house helping swallows up orphaned girls, the street beckons to the boys. Emmanuel's class will be the third to graduate out of Nyaka, bringing the total number of graduates to 78.



New Country Manager

Nyaka is pleased to welcome Jennifer Nantale as our country manger in Uganda. She is a Ugandan who has been committed to humanitarian work for the past 12 years. Her experience, reliability and commitment have prepared her to take on this position of managing all Nyaka AIDS Orphans

Project's programs in Uganda. She has many years of experience as a leader and manager in many capacities including working with refugees, displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups.

In 2000, Ms. Nantale lost her elder sister and has raised 2 young children as her own. Through this experience, she learned that with love and commitment, one can find the resources to raise an orphaned child.

"I believe we can all contribute to a better world if we do our best and put our trust in God. I'm committed to serving women, children, and those at risk in different communities."

Justine's Story

We are working diligently to provide medical assistance to a severely burned student named Justine who is enrolled in our Nyaka Primary School. In 2007, Justine's mom gave her a paraff in lamp to light, unfortunately it caught her dress on fire. The dress was made out of nylon and the fire enveloped her body quickly. Today, 3 years later, the burns continuously collect water and swell up, and water comes out in a puss-like substance.

Justine's scars have made her skin so tight, that the simple movements like smiling and closing her eyelids have become arduous tasks. The scars also affect her ability to grow, and as her body develops her skin will not accommodate the growth process. One day soon, Justine will need to leave the Nyaka community to continue her education and career. The potential discrimination she will face in society, without this surgery, could leave her with limited opportunities for a prosperous future.



With surgery Justine will have the opportunity to renew her life, give back to her community, and use her experiences to improve the lives of other people facing incredible odds in Uganda.

Boston Hospital's Shrine Center has very generously offered to provide surgeries and follow-up care for little to no charge. However, we still need to raise \$20,000 to cover the cost of her and a chaperone's travel and accommodations while in the United States. She will need several surgeries and will need to stay for a few months to recover. Please go to www.nyakaschool.org to donate today!

Progress is Being Made on New Grandmother's Homes

With the help of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, we are providing 130 grandmothers new homes!

