

Nyaka Notes



April 2008

Volume 7, Issue 1



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By the numbers...

- * Current number of students: Nyaka (216) / Kutamba (91)
- * The cost/student for a year of education at Nyaka & Kutamba: \$150

Foundation Support News...

- * **THANKS** to the Stephen Lewis Foundation as they continue to provide Nyaka with funding for education, our anti-AIDS club, and general support. As of April 2008, they now provide support for Kutamba School as well.
- * **THANKS** also to Global Giving for their continued support of Nyaka AIDS Orphans School.

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 Corner - by Twesigye Jackson Kaguri



For seven years now, every three months we endeavor to send you this newsletter. It is one way to keep you updated but also an account to you, our supporters, and to the children, grandmothers, and the communities we serve on a daily basis. We realize that with e-mail and internet, some of you get more frequent updates. However, non-internet users wait for this newsletter to read about the work you have supported and the love you have shared. We would like to hear from you; please let us know the type of coverage you would like to see and the type of updates we should send you.

2008 began with so much enthusiasm because 2007 ended on such a high note. Our pioneers will graduate this year. Some will join secondary school while others will begin vocational training. Looking at their pictures on our website, I cannot help but smile because these children have come so far. As tall and mature as they may look to you, they still struggle every night when darkness falls and they begin dreaming about their parents. Most of them wake up in the middle of the night and sit for hours explaining to their siblings why their Mom or Dad will never come back.

The grandmothers who care for the children continue to be the backbone of our organization. We thank the Stephen Lewis Foundation for continued support of these grandmothers and for extending their already generous support of Nyaka to Kutamba operational activities. We also thank Rob and Carol Auld and their friends in Aspen,

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In their own words

Carol Kemirembe - P1 Teacher



"I surely love children, especially the young ones. That's why I chose to teach that level. The P-1 students are from 5 years to 8 years old. I teach Math, English, Religion, and do counseling with the children.

These children need extra care and attention. They feel happy when we are in class singing, dancing, talking, and learning together. They also enjoy having physical education outside and playing football and basketball.

Nyaka is like a home to the children because it helps them forget about the pain of losing their parents. I encourage all of the children to concentrate on their books so they can grow up to help other orphans."

Hillary Niwabine - P7 student at Nyaka



"My parents died because of AIDS. I was still young, but I saw how they died. No one was there to help them. I suffered too. For myself, I was in the village, but I had hope coming from Jesus saying, you go to Nyaka AIDS Orphans School and study for free

I want to thank Mr. Jackson who is giving me free education. Nyaka is trying the best to help us so that we become people who are very useful to our country and anywhere, and help people and orphans. My future plan is to work for a time and get a job. If I grow up, I would like to have a school as what Mr. Jackson did for us. If the Lord bless me, I will become the minister of education and sports."

(Hillary would like to be an airplane pilot as an adult.)

See more testimonies from Nyaka visitors & student essays on our website: www.nyakaschool.org

Message from the board

Small Efforts...Big Impact

by René Montgomery - Nyaka AIDS Orphans School - United States board member

Here are a few simple questions for you to think about:

How often do you think about others outside of your immediate family? Not the fleeting thoughts about a co-worker's birthday or a play date with the neighbor's child; but a sincere thought and concern about others that we are not bound to by some deep emotional bond.

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News & Updates

Meet our new Project Assistant!



Chris was introduced to Nyaka by Jackson Kaguri at an African Book Club he and his wife, Deb, were coordinating. Chris fell in love with Nyaka almost immediately and helped start the Michigan Friends of Nyaka. Chris welcomes this opportunity at Nyaka and sees it as the opportunity of a lifetime. As Project Assistant for Nyaka, his duties include grant writing, fundraising, public relations, and outreach for all Nyaka projects, both in the U.S. and Uganda. Chris just returned from a recent visit to Nyaka! Read about his trip on the Friends of Nyaka blog: <http://michiganfriendsofnyaka.wordpress.com>

Wish to make a donation - go to our website (www.nyakaschool.org) to download a donation form or make your donation on line through PayPal

Kutamba School updates

- * Our school population saw an increase from 60 to 91 students with 31 young stars joining Primary One.
- * The school building construction project was launched on February 3, 2008.
- * Nyaka wishes to thank Matt Miller, a volunteer from Architecture for Humanity, for coming to volunteer as the Site Coordinator for the Kutamba School Construction Project. Visit our website at www.nyakaschool.org for more updates.

Nyaka on the web

Our website: www.nyakaschool.org

Our Friends of Nyaka weblog: <http://michiganfriendsofnyaka.wordpress.com>

Our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/crs2372

Nyaka School recognized on World AIDS Orphans website:

<http://www.worldaidsoorphans.org/content/blogdetail/647>

NYAKA CORNER *continued from page 1...*

CO who raised all the funds needed to build Kutamba. Global Fund for Children, Jewish Federations, churches, family foundations, and most of all, each of you - regardless of the amount, your age, and location - are all highly appreciated. This year also saw us hire a part-time staff member: Chris Singer, whom you will meet in this newsletter.

As our returning children continue to grow, we have continued to accept young children annually to start at Primary Level One. At Nyaka, the lines were longer than usual. More than 95 deserving orphan children turned up for admission but only 30 could be selected. Our management committee continues to face huge challenges in selecting the

poorest of the poor to attend our schools. We have continued and will continue to extend a hand to one child at a time, one school at a time, one community at a time, and one country at a time.

Just like many of you, this time of year I am thinking of mothers and the upcoming mothers' day holiday. Farmington Church in New Mexico will be sending their annual mothers' day gift to Nyaka children for the 4th year in a row. Please consider making a gift to support a motherless child, or to a mother (our Nyaka and Kutamba grannies) who has lost all their children.

Thank you once again for being there for our children, their grandmothers, and their community.

The best is yet to come!

Graduation Update



Denis



Jonathan



Denis



Moreen



Ronald



Hannington



Denis



Frediana



Hellen



Moreen



Annita



Shilah



Onesmus



Brendah



Precious



Hillary



Delick



Precious



Olivia



Izidolo



Become a sponsor of a Nyaka graduate

On the left is Irene - one of our upcoming Nyaka graduates. She dreams of attending secondary school to study to become a nurse. You can be instrumental in helping our graduates fulfill their dreams. Sponsor a Nyaka graduate's secondary school education.

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Specifically, how often are you concerned about children around the world who desperately need others to advocate on their behalf whether on a local or global level?

And most importantly, how do these thoughts manifest themselves? Are they just brief, sympathetic moments of concern or do they nag at you until you actually decide to do something to help?

We have all seen those heart-tugging public service announcements on television showing the devastating effects of poverty around the world. Seeing the empty eyes and swollen bellies of children who do not have enough to eat is enough to melt the coldest heart. But the question is “then what”? Do we quickly forget about them once the image is replaced by another attention-getting commercial? Or is a more prolonged, prospective approach given to their situation and unfortunate circumstances?

While these types of images often evoke an emotional response, as is the case with the children of Nyaka and Kutamba, it is the more practical response that is needed. Often times, people want to do something to help but think they cannot do something “big” enough to make a difference in the lives of these children. Think about the following “small” efforts that make a huge impact for the children of Nyaka and Kutamba:

- 1.) Send \$150 to educate one child for an entire school year or send \$500 to sponsor one year of secondary school for a Nyaka graduate.***
- 2.) Coordinate a fundraiser at your local church, school, or civic organization***
- 3.) Forward the Nyaka website address (www.nyakaschool.org) to everyone in your contact list***
- 4.) Visit GoodSearch (www.goodsearch.com) to conduct your internet searches or to shop online. Each search generates over \$0.01 in funds for Nyaka***
- 5.) Recycle and donate earnings to Nyaka***
- 6.) Drink coffee purchased from the Thanksgiving Coffee Company in affiliation with Global Giving Uganda (\$2 is donated to Nyaka from every coffee purchase). See our website (www.nyakaschool.org/help.php) for details.***

What small effort will you undertake to help us make a big impact?

A special thank you to the following volunteers who helped get Nyaka off to such a great start in 2008! (January 2008 through April 2008 - 24 total)

Indiana Friends of Nyaka: Brittany Linville

Architecture for Humanity: Matt Miller

Sherwood Oaks Church: Brad Pontius, Cynthia Parkes, Otto Ray, Whitney Gates, and Eric Rudd

Aspen Friends of Nyaka: Carol Auld, Rob Auld, Elaine Grossman, Alice Davis, Sara Auld, David Auld, Brian Auld, and Molly Brantz

Michigan Friends of Nyaka: Chris Singer

Canada - Prince Edward Island University: Teaching interns Jennifer, Shannon, Lynn, and Professor Graham Pike

Nurses with a Purpose: Pat Guenther, Pam Baldwin, Stacey Chaney, Alex Guenther

**Nyaka AIDS
Orphans School**

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*We depend upon the kindness
of individuals like you. Please
send tax-deductible donations
to the address above.*

Endowment Corner

An endowment fund has been established in order to provide a dependable and perpetual source of funding that will enable Nyaka to continue for generations to come.

You can contribute to Nyaka's endowment by:

- * Giving cash or checks indicating an allocation code or a name of an endowment
- * By giving funds in your retirement account IRA, 401(k), or 401(b); by giving gifts of stock; or by giving a charitable bequest or even part of your estate.

For more information, contact Jackson Kaguri at tjk@nyakaschool.org

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\$500 will cover all expenses for one year of secondary school. So far, our scholarship fund has \$12,000 in it. We need to reach our goal of \$52,000 to ensure all our graduates have their secondary school fees covered for them.

To become a sponsor, please contact Jackson Kaguri at tjk@nyakaschool.org.

You can also access the sponsorship form on our website at:
www.nyakaschool.org/graduatesponsorship

If you'd like to arrange a presentation about Nyaka, please contact Chris Singer at chrissinger@nyakaschool.org



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