

*Every child
should have the
opportunity to
succeed.*



Angela, 9

Angela, aged 9 years old orphan, is currently staying with her paternal aunt. At the age of only 5 years, she had been abandoned by her mother with whom she was staying. After her father's death – the mother woke up early in the morning left her in a rented room and has never been seen since! It was very unfortunate for the young girl because her father was already deceased so she was left by herself. Though, she lives with her aunt, her aunt is unable to provide basic necessities of life. Angela is now approaching puberty; growing breasts starting to protrude; lives in a slummy area. God help her and preserve her; ensuring she does not become a sheep living among famished wolves.

Catherine, 6

“Poverty and hunger have become part of us,” says Catherine’s Mother from Kabale District. “I have learned to live with the reality that nothing can change our life.”

Catherine, a six – year old single orphan last born girl, She is not attending school and was born to a drunkard mother whose main source of livelihood is odds jobs(washing and/or cultivating for others) and support from well-wishers / sympathizers. Catherine joined Rays of Hope just to find some food; at her arrival signs of malnutrition were remarkable. Catherine has to walk 18 km everyday just to benefit from GMDU/Rays of Hope food.

Her dream, “Going to school”.

What this little angel needs is education to give her hope of better future and to break the cycle of poverty! Surely no one would adore looking at the ugly face of poverty at such a tender age!



Allan, 10

Honestly when many of us shout hoarse with words like 'we are suffering' just because we took porridge without sugar, the phone we are holding is not a Smart Phone... How many of us, like Allan, were abandoned to die (by a womanizer father and equally irresponsible mother) at the tender age of 5; was malnourished and hence stunted because of not only going for days without any food but suffered from jiggers all the time; but, above all, have prevailed.

How many of us have the heart to help such a child who, in spite of being about 10 years or so, looks 6, has never been to school, and naturally has never seen a reason to smile! Can't you make a difference in the life of such an extremely vulnerable child? Saying he is extremely vulnerable is an understatement; perhaps development experts can coin a word to describe the state of such. It is not by accident that you received this stor

MAKE THE MIRACLE HAPPEN FOR THESE FOUR ANGELS

Your generous support for GMDU - Rays of Hope Program can make a world of difference for these children.

600 US\$ can send them back to school for a year including school materials

500 US\$ Startup capital for Income generating activities for guardians and foster families to cater for other family basic needs for a year

960 US\$ can help in feeding them a year while at school

Get Involved

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be a Star

PROMOTE THE WELL BEING OF CHILDREN AND SERVE AT-RISK YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES.



Darius, 9

'Give us this day our daily bread...' Listen to Darius' silent but pathetic prayer as he scavenges for food in the dust skips of Kabale municipality! The Grassroots Moved for Development of Uganda – Rays of Hope program is part of the solution (surely not part of the problem) to make his dream of going back to school and have a better future life possible. Together we can make it happen



Adults mentors

The Role of a mentor

- Encourage, organize, advocate, advise the child and provide parental love, give guidance and counseling to the child and the working group, monitor group activities, follow ups, and home visits, assist the child with the required assets, identify the needs of child caregivers and link them with the rest of the community e.g. the government, link animators and the community, assist child caregivers when they are in problems and assist in resolving conflicts, help child mobilize resources, sensitize child on cross-cutting issues, attend adult-intended trainings on behalf of the child working group

Criteria for selecting a mentor

- Must be selected by the children, • Must have a passion to work with the child, • Must reside in the area where the child live and must always be available, • Must love children, • Must be an adult, • Must possess good moral standards and be a respected member of the community – a role model, • Must be flexible, • Must possess the ability to understand and communicate with the child, • Must possess the ability to identify and solve problems in child working groups, • *Must be a volunteer*, • Must have good relations with the local authorities, • Must be compassionate, honest and committed.

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Your generous support for GMDU for Rays of Hope Program can make a world of difference. These examples demonstrate how your support to this special effort may be used:

\$35 Training in animal Husbandry, provision of goat or pig per household

\$250 One year costs per orphan family to empower

\$ 2625 Literacy class (25 students) a year/School fees

\$1000 Hygiene, latrine, and malaria prevention training for 100 households

\$ 1750 Child rights and advocacy education for 50 classes

\$ 1625 HIV and AIDS stigma reduction training for 5 communities

\$ 5000 Bookkeeping training for 100 orphan households/School materials

\$15000 Start up capital for Income generating activities for working groups

Previous outcomes

- This program reached 1279 OVCs within 479 households.
- 44 families have been reunited resulting in street children returning to their homes.



RAYS OF HOPE PROGRAM

Rays of hope began as a small program of the GMDU in 2006 to support Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) are here by classified as children under 18 years of age with the following categories:

Critically Vulnerable; children whose rights are not fulfilled, children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, children with disabilities, children in worst forms of child labor, and Children experiencing various forms of abuse and violence e.g. Street children / abandoned children and or neglected children, child mothers and any other children who are assessed to be in need of immediate care and protection.

Moderately Vulnerable children; children out of school, children in poverty stricken (impoverished) households, Children involved in hazardous work, children living with the elderly/guardians with severe disabilities and children in hard to reach areas.

GMDU therefore would like to address challenges being faced by OVCs in Kabale district through this project by lobbying for funds to implement it to address most of those challenges.



HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK

Empowerment vs. “Care”

Rays of Hope helps GMDU transform its program of compassion for children into strategies that empower children to speak for themselves, plan for their future, and care for themselves and their siblings. Child headed—households can plan and execute livelihood implementations, contribute significantly to the social and economic development of their communities, and responsibly manage the welfare of their families



Rays of Hope “empowerment” goals

- Restore family relationships and social structures
- Recognize and develop skills of Child—headed households to manage the wellbeing and stability of their families - so they can participate in the social/economic development of their communities and live in the shelter of hope.
- Strengthen institutions’ capacity to build child—centered empowerment programs and networks

Key Methodology Elements

Rays of Hope program is founded on the principles of empowerment and community building.

1. Children create their own psychosocial support structures by forming working groups—five to sixteen members (Heads of Households) and choose a mentor (Community Volunteer for guidance)
2. Children create their own personal and households “dreams” (Family plan)
3. Children are trained as “peer educators” who train other orphans.

4. OVC groups plan and implement income generating projects that produce a “loan fund” and dividends.
5. Individual households simultaneously begin household income—generating projects
6. OVC working groups are linked to community structures to access—education, health, and advocacy.

Impact

- Reduced stigma through reintegration into communities and social systems;
- Increased primary school completion and access to secondary school;
- Improved Health, access to care, ability to pay medical fees from family income;
- Food security improved through their own livelihoods sources;
- Livelihoods developed through new skills training and diversification;
- Child behavior related to HIV and AIDS positively affected—improved knowledge, reduced premarital sex, increased voluntary testing.