



NYAKA AIDS ORPHANS SCHOOL

Activity Report

May - July 2008

Country Coordinator: Sempa Baker

Message from the staff of Nyaka AIDS Orphans School

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Here is the latest Nyaka update for July, 2008. We look forward to sharing our recent news with you as our children are so lucky to have you in their lives. Your continued support will help to provide positive changes in their lives and help us reach more than 4700 school-aged orphans in southwestern Uganda - orphans deserving of the opportunity for education and a hopeful life.

Visit the following websites for more updates on Nyaka:

www.nyakaschool.org

<http://nyakanews.wordpress.com>

Thank you for your love and support!



"Thanks for loving us!"

Nyaka School

A number of activities have taken place since May and we are grateful the Lord has been on our side in various activities.

Second Term opens at Nyaka:

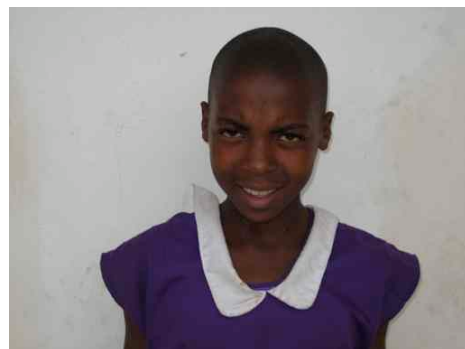
The second term opened on May 26th and all the children and teachers turned up as expected. The term opened on a day we had visiting Japanese journalists who were covering HIV/AIDS and the use of ARV medications. They were impressed with the good job Nyaka was doing in the community. They took a special interest in child-headed families.

Child-Headed Households (The stories of Abia and Daphine):

We took the journalists to visit the home of Akatuhwera Abia and Akampurira Daphine, both girls who stay in Kavenje and both are in Primary Six. Both girls grow their own food and earn a living with the support of Nyaka. They dream of being productive people in the future of our society. One wishes to be a teacher and the other dreams of being a nurse. Their dream is to see themselves excelling in school and to study beyond primary to the university level.

The current living conditions are quite difficult for them. They have to cultivate their own gardens for food. They also must provide for themselves all their essential commodities to live on. They do this by selling agricultural products from their garden. These products include: coffee, beans, and bananas.

Despite free education from Nyaka, these children still have many challenges to face. Due to budget constraints, Nyaka is unable to provide family support for them in terms of food and basic necessities. Another child-headed family has been forced to split due to this challenge.



Daphine

John Bosco and John Paul:

Both of these boys (brothers to each other) have been forced to be separated due to the financial constraints on their relatives. One has been relocated to a relative and another is living with a volunteer in the community (Ndazororera Silver), because the relative could not afford to support both of them.



John Bosco

During their school time, they are happy children and do well in class. However, as they leave Nyaka and head home, they often start to think about their hardships of their life. They have to think of preparing supper, looking after two goats, and gathering the money to pay for basic necessities.

Motorcycles and Vans

Through a generous donation from the Stephen Lewis Foundation (www.stephenlewisfoundation.org), we were able to purchase a van and motorcycle for Kutamba School. The arrival of these items was met with excitement for all teachers, guardians, and pupils. Happiness and appreciation was expressed through jubilant singing and dancing!

See the pictures here:



Grannies Project

- * A number of grannies workshops were conducted at the sub-county level for all 11 sub-counties from Kanungu, and ended successfully. Workshops took place from May 12th until May 30th. Lessons taught included: caring for orphans, counseling grandmothers, dealing with grief, voluntary HIV testing for orphans and grannies, home-based care for HIV + orphans, starting vegetable gardens, the role of grandmothers, household sanitation, engaging in income-generating projects, and personal hygiene.
- * Intervention programs continue as the distribution of cups, plates, drum tanks, and hoes to grannies is taking place. Local toilets are also being constructed to benefit more grannies.
- * Re-registration with the district authorities is also underway. Mr. Ngabirano is handling the issue.
- * Plans are underway for a Training workshop for Rukungiri grannies and a parenting training for Nyaka grannies to take place in the next months.



Other Updates

Kutamba School

- * Construction activities are in progress and Architecture for Humanity's volunteer, Matt Miller's stay has been extended to September 13th.
- * A donation of assorted secondhand clothes, shoes, dolls, and books for kids and adults was received from Pastor Kazibwe and others. Also included were mathematical sets, teddy bears, soap, and pencils.
- * We are intensifying our search for a school nurse for Kutamba.

Personnel/Administrative Staff

- * Interviews were carried out by the board to hire an accountant on June 26th. Byaruhanga Reuben was chosen.

Updates continued...

- * Justine is at Nyaka entering all pupils into the database and will be moving to Kutamba as soon as that is done at Nyaka.
- * Our inspector of schools continues to perform monthly check-ups as well.

I believe with this continued commitment and dedication of our staff, we will be able to achieve more in the near future.

Sempa Baker - Nyaka Country Coordinator, Kampala, Uganda

