

N Y A K A     A I D S  
O R P H A N S     S C H O O L

*2007 Annual Narrative Report*



**"FOR OUR CHILDREN'S SAKE"**

NYAKA AIDS ORPHANS SCHOOL

[WWW.NYAKASCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.NYAKASCHOOL.ORG)

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

# Table of Contents

2007 Annual Report	1
Education Program:	1
Nutrition and Gardening Program:	3
Vocational Training:	3
Personnel and Administration:	3
Infrastructure Development:	4
Volunteer Program:	4
Water (Clean Water Gravity System):	5
Radio Program:	5
Health and Physical Education Program:	5
Anti-AIDS Club:	6
Grannies Project:	6
Conclusion:	8
APPENDIX A	9
2007 FINANCIAL REPORT	9

# 2007 Annual Report

## Introduction:

Nyaka began the year by introducing some major administrative changes. These changes included the elections of a new national board and appointment of a national coordinator; the election of a new management committee; and the hiring of new staff members. A policy and procedures manual was produced to guide new administration on how to manage and conduct business professionally and outlined guidelines for achieving the aims and objectives of Nyaka. This manual also provides assistance for management in streamlining reporting and highlighting the duties and responsibilities of various people within the Nyaka organization. With the introduction of these changes, the mission and vision of Nyaka remains the ultimate goal. All Nyaka programs continue to be implemented along with some new initiatives.

## Education Program:

This program continues to provide education for 183 students at Nyaka AIDS Orphans School and 61 in the new Kutamba AIDS Orphans School. A total of 244 students are in both programs. This is an increase of 38% (or 91 new students), from last year's total of 146 students. Students continue to receive free uniforms. For girls, school attire consists of a dress, while boys wear shorts and a shirt. All students receive shoes. In addition, each student receives exercise books, pens, and other scholastic materials. This has resulted in a greater overall learning experience for all students. Textbooks are also available for both teachers and students. At Nyaka School, textbooks are currently needed for primary seven. In Kutamba School, textbooks are needed for primary three. A new thematic curriculum has been introduced in the lower classes of primary one and two. This curriculum includes material to teach students their indigenous language. Reference books are provided for teachers for all subjects at both schools.



In 2008, Nyaka will become a full-fledged primary school with levels primary one to primary seven. This year looks to be particularly exciting as it will mark the first graduation (December 28, 2008) of students from Nyaka. Kutamba School will add one class to include levels primary one to primary three.

Nyaka School performed well in their extra-curricular activities and was ranked first in the interscholastic football game competitions. The extra-curricular activities have proven to raise student's self-esteem and hope as their performance has shown their capabilities of performing well outside their own school

environment. We are thankful to all of you who donated sportswear and t-shirts for the students to wear during their extra-curricular activities. All in all, this has been an exciting year for Nyaka and the activities are helping to make a major impact in the lives of the children and the whole Nyaka community.

Academic performance keeps improving as most pupils have now grown and are focusing on their future education as a key element in their lives. This year, we recruited three new staff members: Kagaba Stephen, Abasa Joram, and Asingwire Ruth. Their efforts have been an enormous boost to the school program. They are very active and doing a good job with their teaching duties. One teacher, Kwihuma Milton, could not adhere to Nyaka regulations and was replaced by Tayebwa Emmanuel, who now teaches English and Social Studies for primary five and six.



Children continue to take regular tests to give them incentive to read and study hard. Regular testing allows teachers to follow-up on student's class performance and also allows for comparison with other schools in the region. Unfortunately, three students (two girls and one boy) dropped out of school: Ampereze Gift, Kyarisma Jackline, and Nyesiga Benjamin.



### **Nutrition and Gardening Program:**

We continue to receive catering services from a local contractor, who is serving us diligently. All our students continue to have breakfast. Students in primary three to primary six are provided with both breakfast and lunch. The food program at Nyaka still is often times the only meal received and enjoyed by the children for the entire day. Some of the children come from child-headed families (like Bruno and Mugisha John Bosco, whose grandmother suffered a stroke early this year and died), while others leave behind their sickly and weak grandmothers.

Breakfast, consisting of milk or porridge and a roll or pastry, is served at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is served between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. and consists of a menu ranging from beans (regularly), meat/protein (once a week), posho/corn mash, rice, banana paste (Matooke), sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes. The menu changes each day in order to provide the children with a balanced diet, which has greatly improved their health and concentration in class. It also serves as a good morale boost and incentive for the children to attend school. As a result, the food program has helped make student absences almost non-existent. At Kutamba School, we have not seen this be effective yet.



This past planting season, green vegetables were planted. Besides being enjoyed by the students, they provide a great source of essential vitamins. In addition, we have provided seeds for the students to take home. Many students are helping grow vegetable gardens with their caretakers. The Community Gardens program includes free distribution of vegetable seeds provided by Seed and Light Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. In addition, Nyaka continues to work with the community on promotion of agriculture and nutrition programs. However, we are challenged by having a lack of land space available for this program, as we do not own the land currently used for this program.

### **Vocational Training:**

The vocational training program started with tailoring and brick-making for children in primary four and five. This was initiated so they could be learning trade skills at an early age. This program provides an alternative for all students and will benefit many of those who will not continue to secondary school. Early introduction of vocational training allows students to choose a vocational skill they feel they have a talent for.

### **Personnel and Administration:**

This year we introduced a finance and administration manual to streamline the reporting lines and to guide staff in execution of their duties. A new board was elected and a national coordinator hired. Currently, we have ten members on our teaching staff and six group employees at both schools. One nurse is stationed at Nyaka School while two staff members coordinate the grannies program. We look to further strengthen our schools by having a coordinating office in Kampala and an office manager stationed in this office. We would also like to recruit a professional accountant to be stationed at Nyaka and add a second nurse for Kutamba School. An increase in staff will improve the quality of service for the people we serve and will also allow us to work better with our donors and partners.

### **Infrastructure Development:**

Infrastructure development is still on track. We managed to have the guest house operational this year, and is one of the self-sustainability projects aimed at strengthening the organization's capacity to generate revenue. On the same note of trying to generate revenue locally, this year we organized a fundraising dinner by the Friends of Nyaka of Uganda. This event was incredibly successful with a total of 7,500,000/= Uganda shillings was raised. This amount was matched by Barclays Bank (U) Ltd., making the entire event hugely successful with a total of 15,000,000 raised. These funds will help towards funding the completion of the kitchen and store. The guest house will help the volunteer program to grow and make it easy for our partners, donors, and friends of Nyaka to reach us easily. The kitchen is now at roofing level and we only need to complete the brick work, plastering, cementing, shuttering, painting, and plumbing. Construction of the basketball court was also completed.



However, at Nyaka School, we are now experiencing a shortage of land for expansion. Unfortunately, this also includes the playing field for the children, which is a key element in their personal and emotional development. At

Kutamba, we are happy to have acquired the land for the development of the necessary facilities thanks to the Auld Family, who are championing our fundraising efforts to build Kutamba School facilities. In 2008, we must quickly construct a third classroom for the new students, along with a small kitchen and store.

### **Volunteer Program:**

Seven international volunteers served at the Nyaka School during 2007. Volunteers help teach in the upper level classrooms and also provide social work services. They get to know the children and develop positive relationships with them. Many of the volunteers extend special attention and love towards the children, which provides much inspiration for all the youth. By the end of 2008, we expect the number of volunteers to grow to 30. In March of 2008, fifteen volunteers have already confirmed their participation in the program and have already booked their tickets. The volunteer program has made a big impact at our schools and in the communities.

### **Water (Clean Water Gravity System):**

In 2005, we were able to raise money for the construction of a clean water gravity system. Three visiting professors from UC Davis, the Rockefeller Foundation, and UK helped with this project. This system serves the Nyaka School along with two other primary schools, two churches, and more than 120 households in the community. The number of people utilizing this clean water is estimated at 9,800. In 2007, we secured funding to expand this water system to the neighboring areas of Kikombe and Zeituni, where work is now in progress. A new water source with more pressure was identified and secured. To guarantee continued supply of this safe water, we intend to employ the services of a plumber for checking and cleaning the system, and to also provide follow-up on the different serving points.

### **Radio Program:**

The radio program is yielding some far-reaching results and has made a huge impact on the community. The educational programs aired have enlightened the community, especially in terms of education regarding orphan care, nutrition, health, and sanitation. The intended objections of community sensitization, mobilization, and education are currently being met. We have received overwhelming appeals by phone to implement similar programs in surrounding communities. Some people are willing to offer land to the organization for this cause. Sam, from Kirima sub-county in Kanungu District, is ready to part with three acres of land as a result of the sensitization programs on the radio so Nyaka can start similar programs in his community.

### **Health and Physical Education Program:**

We have been and continue to provide basic healthcare to all Nyaka students and their host families. In 2005, we provided mosquito nets to all students. During 2006, our school nurse continued home visits teaching hygiene and sanitation, and how to keep clean water and drinking water. Our major accomplishment in 2006 was testing all Nyaka students for HIV/AIDS. We are working with Kambuga Hospital in extending basic healthcare to all families that host Nyaka students. Our long term goal is to build a self-sustaining clinic to serve all people in Nyakagyezi village and surrounding communities.



In 2007, common diseases like malaria, ringworm, cough, and colds continued to occur. With the Nyaka nurse providing care and drug treatments, these conditions were dealt with. The nurse continued to do home visits and continued to educate the community on cleanliness, sanitation, and emphasizing the issue of having a balanced and nutritious diet. The neighborhood remains vulnerable to disease with many of the cases involving the grandmothers. Common complaints include: stomach ulcers, sore bones, high blood pressure, and many other issues. Our nurse is currently overwhelmed with this situation. We plan to hire another nurse and expand our healthcare program.



**Anti-AIDS Club:**

The Anti-AIDS Club continues to be the vocal voice of the children and our community in our fight against HIV/AIDS. This club continued weekly visits to various churches, schools, radio, and social gatherings in order to pass on the message of prevention and protection against HIV/AIDS to all people regardless of age through the use of dance, songs, and drama.

**Grannies Project:**

The Grannies Project commenced this year, focusing on the major issues affecting the grandmothers. We had a successful workshop for the Training of Trainers (TOT's) which took place from 17th - 21st of June, 2007. The grannies were happy to be part of this and have promised to work tirelessly in their care of the orphans. We have also completed the mobilization and sensitization program on the objectives and activities of the initiative, and this has resulted in the formation of 51 granny groups of 25-70 grannies each at the parish level in the whole of Kanungu District. The grandmothers are currently involved in handicraft making and weaving for income-generating purposes.



The grandmothers also provide a support network for each other as they encourage each other in situations of difficulty, especially mourning. While the mobilization exercise has been taking place, we have found quite a number of challenges. These challenges include:

- \* Most grandmothers are elderly, weak, and illiterate;
- \* They are poverty stricken with no source of income;
- \* Because of lack of income, many suffer from sickness and hunger (they often do not have enough food for themselves or the children they care for - they cannot grow their own food either, which results in the lack of a balanced diet leading to kwashiakor, a common tropical disease caused by malnutrition);
- \* Most grannies look after more than two children (one grandmother takes care of 12 children);
- \* Because of these stresses, the grannies often have difficulty caring for all of the children;

- \* Many pay school fees for the children with the help of relatives;
- \* Many grandmothers are taking care of children whom they are not related to;
- \* Many grandmothers live in appalling hygienic conditions where they lack even the basics: toilet, utensils, bedding, clothes, and source pans for preparing a meal. (Thanks to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the construction of pit-latrines for the grandmothers has begun. A total of eight toilets have been constructed with six other sites identified for future construction);

\* We are also grateful to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for all the support rendered to the grannies and the entire Nyaka School project. This year, Nyinebirungi Matrida had no hope of safe shelter as her house was almost falling on her. Because of assistance from the Stephen Lewis Foundation, she was able to get a new shelter constructed for her;



- \* Many of the children cared for by the grannies suffer from malaria, diarrhea, and could easily be struck by cholera and dysentery due to the impoverished living conditions (Many grannies do not boil drinking water and lack containers for keeping the water clean);
- \* Most grannies lack guidance and live in fear that the children have HIV/AIDS.

Despite these challenges, the intervention of Nyaka has brought the following outcomes:

- \* The grannies have been able to form the necessary connections and associations to help them to address some of the aforementioned issues;
- \* They have embraced agriculture as a means to fight disease and malnutrition;
- \* Each grandmother has been trained to have a kitchen garden, which will ensure constant supply of vitamins vital for their health and those of their grandchildren;
- \* In the grandmother groups, the grannies meet and share personal experiences and encourage one another to be resilient and hopeful;
- \* Some grannies have started pooling resources for development purposes (this can be evidenced in areas of Kirima, Rugeyo, and Kihhi town council where they are contributing domestic items like basins, cups, and other items for the most needy grandmothers);
- \* They have also started adult classes where the literate teach reading skills to the illiterate;
- \* They have been able to make financial succos (savings and credit societies).

While many grannies are happy to be part of these groups, our intervention has also revealed the following challenges as expressed in the Fute Biroto's story below:

*Fute Tindamanyire Biroto, 70 years of age, from Burondo village in the eastern ward of Kanungu town council, takes care of nine*



*orphans. The orphans came to her house after the death of her son, a daughter, and a son-in-law. Fute has a sad story to tell also. She sold a big part of her banana plantation to educate her son, Beine Tumwebaze, at Makerere University. After graduation, her son got a job as a teacher in the city and started supporting his mother in the village. However, after eight years, Beine died of HIV/AIDS, leaving the five children with their unemployed mother who immediately abandoned them with their grandmother and relocated again to town and remarried. A few years later, another daughter died of similar illnesses and left Fute with another grandchild. To add insult to injury, another daughter whose husband had earlier died of HIV/AIDS, came back home with three children and abandoned them with Fute and disappeared.*

*Though a miserable woman, Fute is determined to sell the remaining part of her banana plantation and invest the proceeds in her oldest grandchild's education. However, the conditions they are living in are extremely life threatening.*

There are many grandmothers with similar stories living in similar situations. The Nyaka Grannies Initiative was formed to address these challenges. We are pleased with the beginning results as many of the grannies in this program have started seeing some light at the end of the tunnel.

#### **Conclusion:**

Finally, we wish to thank all of our donors, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the Global Fund for Children, STSAD, many individuals, church communities, Barclays Bank - Uganda Ltd., for all the support that has enabled us to go through this year successfully. We also wish to thank all members of the international board, national board, staff, and our beloved children and foster families for their support and cooperation. The struggle continues (Alta continua).

# APPENDIX A

## 2007 FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2007 Financial Statement

### Revenue

Contributions, gift, grants and similar amounts	\$240,851.00
Investment income	\$122.00
Less returns and allowances	(\$115.00)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$240,858.00</b>

### Expenses

Program services	\$113,220.00
Grants and similar amounts paid	\$0.00
Occupancy, rent, utilities, maintenance	\$2,453.00
Printing, publications, postage, shipping	\$3,319.00
Other expenses	\$2,495.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$121,487.00</b>

### Net Assets

Excess or (deficit) for the year	\$119,371.00
Net assets or fund balances at the beginning of the year	\$17,421.00
<b>Net assets or fund balances at the end of the year</b>	<b>\$136,792.00</b>

### Balance Sheets

Current assets	\$77,333.00
Long-term assets	\$8,750.00
Other assets (endowment)	\$52,000.00
Total assets	\$138,083.00
Total liabilities	(\$1,292.00)
<b>Net assets or fund balances</b>	<b>\$136,791.00</b>