



Farm, Vocational Training Center, & Community Library

The Farm and vocational Training Center

Our next major initiative is the establishment of *The Farm and Vocational Training Center*. The Farm is part of the Nyaka AIDS Foundation's model and is key to the sustainability of both schools. It will be an income producing enterprise and a center for the vocational training of graduates of Nyaka and Kutamba who do not attend secondary school. Other residents of the surrounding communities will have access to training and services for a fee. Given that 50% of the Ugandan population is under the age of 20, the need for vocational training is urgent and opportunities are severely lacking for those who do not have marketable skills. Each year that passes we lose thousands of youth and their potential because they lack educational and training opportunities in order to acquire gainful employment. So, orphans and poor youth who cannot afford to attend school after their primary education will be able to attend the vocational center for free or at a subsidized rate. Those who can afford training will pay a small fee to sustain The Farm's operations.

Fifteen acres of farmland located close to the Nyaka School have already been purchased and the seller is willing to sell more should we need it. The owner of the property has offered to sell the land at below market rate as a way to support the work of STSAD, Inc.

The Farm will produce enough grain, vegetables, meat, and milk to at least provide for the children at Nyaka and their immediate families. A milling machine will be used to process maize, millet, and cassava flour. Dairy cows will provide the milk. Once the school's milk needs are met, we will sell the surplus product to sustain the dairy operations. We will sell most of the surplus product to civil servants at the district headquarters, Kambuga Hospital, to our employees, and our guest house visitors.

The meat slaughtering process along with the harvesting of tomatoes and onions will be timed to coincide with Christmas when the village is flooded with family members coming home for the holidays. The manure needed for the food crops will come from the cattle and poultry. When the farm is at full capacity we will be able to employ 60 paid community residents. Hiring needs will include a farm manager and individuals who have specialized knowledge for each production area.

The tailoring, wood working, and brick making programs will procure apprenticeships that will teach the skills needed to produce goods for local schools and churches. These enterprises will be able to competitively secure local contracts with institutions. A micro-lending program will be available to vocational graduates after two years of apprenticeship.

As for future contracts to purchase food produced by the farm, we are confident that local schools and churches in the district will become our customers, as well as the government which operates a correctional facility in the district. They need professionally made uniforms, food, and furniture. Local schools require uniforms for their students. All buildings in the area are constructed from bricks that can be made at the farm facility.

Infrastructure needs:

Large (100 ft x 200 ft estimate) *multi-purpose teaching facility* for tailoring, brick-making, carpentry, agriculture, and financial (a micro-lending program will be developed); *Offices; Outdoor toilets; Cow shelter; Hen house; Barn* for milking and storing cow food; *Milling area*

Usage of the acreage:

- 3 acres for Food crops (corn, beans, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and onions)
- 2 acres for a Banana Farm (income-generating)
- 1/2 acres for a Brick making area
- 4 1/2 acres for Buildings (plans include: carpentry shop, brick making shed, tailoring building, and offices)
- 5 acres for Cattle (milking cows, paddock for calf bulls for meat slaughtering annually in December)
- 1 acre for a Poultry farm in year two.

Timeline: 2008-2011

- 2008: Land purchase and farm design; Preparation of the fields; Construction of the buildings
- 2009: First class of students; Planting of fields; Purchase of cows; Implementation of tailoring, brick making, wood working and flour production
- 2010: Purchase of poultry; Harvesting of produce, milk and meat for Nyaka and Kutamba; Uniforms, furniture for all STSAD projects
- 2011: Income producing level of production of farm

Value to the Community

The Farm and vocational center will benefit the entire district of 250,000 individuals as: Major employer (once complete 60 annually); Vocational training for Nyaka and Kutamba graduates as well as local residents; Agricultural extension services through demonstration gardens and farm; Community education center on sustainable agriculture and clean water systems; A commerce center for the community; Opportunity for volunteerism; Source of protein and calcium for Nyaka students (who only get meat once a week) and their immediate families (who eat meat less than once every two weeks).

The Blue Lupin Community Library

The proposed library will be the first community library in Kanungu District. This project will benefit the 330,000 residents of Kanungu District. The library is intended for all ages. Currently, access to literary materials is extremely limited. Printed materials are rare and the Internet is not available in most rural communities. Through the development of a library, a space will be created to help enhance the quality of life for the entire community. Library management will be developed and managed by Nyaka.

The project mission is to increase the level and culture of literacy within Nyakagyezi and Kanungu District, as a means to economic self-sufficiency and education.

The library structure will include five rooms and two bathrooms to accommodate women, staff, and the disabled. The public will use an outside restroom. Three children's reading rooms will be constructed and organized by reading level. The youngest reading room will include books in English and Rukiga (the local indigenous language), as well as educational toys. The second reading room will be meant for students in Primary levels 3 and 4 while the third room will benefit students in Primary levels 5, 6, and 7.

A fourth room will serve as a general lending library to the community. In addition to books and magazines, there will be computer access with appropriate software for both child and adult learners. Internet access will be made available for vocational training purposes. Library staff will be hired to manage the library's resources and to teach and access needed information. Printers and paper will be available to community users.

A fifth room will be a large, multi-purpose room, equipped with a public address system and a project and screen. Chairs and tables will be manufactured locally to accommodate groups as large as 500. Adult education classes, meetings for grandmothers and host families of children of the Nyaka School, anti-AIDS Club performances, teacher trainings, conferences, and special event rentals are envisioned for this room. Room rentals will generate income for the upkeep of the building and some of its operating expenses.

Matthew Miller, a volunteer from Architecture for Humanity will be designing the building. Matthew also designed the Kutamba School so we are confident that the library will be built quickly and efficiently, and turn out beautifully.

It is well documented that maternal education is one of the strongest predictors of a child's educational success. The Nyaka Library therefore will engage the adult population as well as the student population, so that families can reinforce each other's learning. The Library will also assure that women will be given the opportunity to learn along with their children so that subsequent populations will pass along the culture of literacy. The Library will also reinforce the use of English as the children's primary language, a necessary step towards secondary education.



Timeline: The site for the library will be on the grounds of the future vocational farm that is on the same road as Nyaka. The opportunity for rapid progress on design and construction of the library is very opportune because of Mr. Miller's experience in designing and building of Kutamba and his familiarity with local materials and procedures. Also, Mr. Miller's design focus has been on building designs that can be replicated in modules. We believe that we can complete the building by December of 2009.