

Nyaka Notes

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"

September 2007

Volume 6, Issue 2



Special Interest Articles:

- Nyaka Corner
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Foundation Support News:

Through the end of 2008, Stephen Lewis Foundation will continue to provide funds for a supply of educational materials, staff salaries, Nyaka Anti-AIDS Club and general support.

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

We also thank GFC for support in 2006 and 2007.

www.globalfundforchildren.org

Special Upcoming Event

Our 1st Graduation is scheduled for Dec. 2008. Please plan to be there if you can.

Nyaka Corner - Humbled to be a Part of Nyaka

By Twesigye Jackson Kaguri

Since the launch of Nyaka Notes in December 2002, Nyaka family members new and old have heard from me, you have also heard from the board members, the children we serve, visitors and volunteers and from each other. In this issue, you will hear from many other Nyaka family members, the children we serve, the management on the ground and also will be presented some stories about our fundraising efforts. Earlier this year Gerald Busingye interviewed many students, members of the Ugandan management committee and other people in Nyakagezi village. Here are some excerpts from an article he wrote.

The Chairman of the School Management Committee, Habib Museka says the guardians' side remains a major challenge. "It is difficult enough to take care of orphans at a school, but we have found we need to look after the guardians' material, social and emotional needs as well or the kids we support will not enjoy the help.

This is why Nyaka does home visits to guardians to do healthcare sensitization and treatment, as well as general advice on how to get out of poverty." Museka says. "Apart from using the garden as a source of food for the pupils and teachers, we also give these good seed varieties to neighbors who can plant them to promote nutrition and eliminate poverty in their families," says Lydia Agaaba, Nyaka's teacher in charge of agriculture.

Arintwe Kamomo is also a member of Nyaka School management

committee. "It is a good school. We come here to plant foods to help the school help our orphans." Arinaitwee who is a subsistence farmer looks after his two brothers, Bainemogisha Isidol who is at Nyaka and Sensio Mucunguzi also in P3 here at Nyaka.

The Mukaaka Initiative is educating grandmothers on how to become self sustaining through income-generating activities and how to better take care of the children," says Freda Byaburakiraya, the head of the Mukaaka project. Mukaakas also meet to support each other.

"We also want to teach the orphans how to survive on their own efforts by working hard, worshipping God and helping in sanitation in school and in homes," she adds.

This excerpt presents some of the current views and benefits of the Nyaka School. Soon our first group of students will graduate, having successfully completed their primary education. Please turn to page 3 to meet these student pioneers. These 21 faces, those who were present on picture day, represent 26 students who will graduate in December 2008. Many will be joining secondary school. In order to assure them of a successful future, we have also established an endowment where funds will be invested and the interest will go towards scholarships for secondary school. Students may also be sponsored for the four years of secondary school by individual donors. Now, we will have graduates each year. In 2012, Kutamba will graduate its first class.

The best is yet to come! Thank you for your continued support.

Highlights in 2007 - By Sempa Baker (Nyaka In-Country Coordinator)

Primary Education

- The year began with an additional class at Nyaka Aids Orphan's School of 30 pupils
- New school Kutamba was started with 60 pupils in a new area of Nyakishenyi Rukungiri for a total of 90 new orphans
- Scholastic materials, textbooks, uniforms, shoes, pens and books were provided
- Six new teachers were recruited this year - 3 at Kutamba and 3 at Nyaka
- Regular monthly exams are being provided to improve on the standards
- Nyaka received volunteers who worked with underperforming pupils in a one-on-one program which improved their performance
- A poetry club was formed and pupils from primary five and six were trained in poetry writing skills
- Teachers had a week of training in social work by two Rotarian social workers.
- A mentorship program where children have mentors in their future career arenas started
- Training of pupils in tailoring was initiated

Medical

- Children continued to receive free medical treatment at school and the hospital
- The nurse continued to make home visits to children and guardians
- Dissemination of hygiene and sanitation information to children and guardians continued
- Counseling and guidance was continued by the school nurse and senior female community members with emphasis on girls

Nutrition and Feeding

- Nutrition education and monitoring at school continued
- All children at Nyaka continued to enjoy breakfast and also lunch for those who attend afternoon classes (P 3 to P 6).
- The children are taught to have small gardens at home which they cultivate during free time. This is expected to improve their health and household income in future.

Anti- AIDS Club

- Anti-AIDS club has remained instrumental in the lives of Nyaka child as it has made them more resilient to HIV/AIDS and its associated problems
- The club continued to pass the message of hope as they preached the Anti-AIDS message to different schools that they visited in the districts of Bushenyi, Rukungiri, and Kanungu, as well as fishing communities like Rweshama, and churches and other places of interest and social gatherings including government public gatherings like Women's Day, Hero's Day, the Day of the African Child
- The activities of the Nyaka Anti-AIDS club have influenced the community into accelerated and voluntary HIV /AIDS testing
- The Anti-AIDS club has recruited new members and this is providing additional skills to the youngsters and an opportunity to discover their talents at an early stage of their lives

Clean Water

- The gravity water scheme has continued to provide the community clean and safe water to the community.
- An extension to the neighboring community is in progress to areas of Kikombe and Zeituni Adventist church.
- This water a new source to with higher capacity to provide a big number with water has already been secured and constructed.
- 2 kilometers has already been layer with pipes and excavation is continuing.
- The community has already been sensitized over the radio about the benefits of using clean water and the need to support the program.

Radio Program

- This monthly program started in January 2007 as a voice of the voiceless in the community. For a long time, orphans and grandmothers had always been left out. But this program is highlighting the plight of orphans and grandmothers and people in the community now recognize rights of children and women in the community
- Awareness in the community has improved and community support for the project has grown. The community is having a chance to evaluate the project through giving their ideas and views by participating in the talk show through phone calls

Nyaka Grannies Project

- this project started its activities last year in August after three grannies visited Stephen Lewis Foundation in Canada. Two grannies participated in the screening of "New Generation of Orphan's" film in Toronto
- They started mobilizing fellow grannies who have children at Nyaka AIDS Orphans School.
- The groups has been mobilized and registered and has formed subgroups from the village level to the district level. Some have started putting in practice what they are learning in these groups
- In June, a Grannies training was carried out for all representatives at the subcounty level for all districts of Kanungu, Rukungiri and Bushenyi. At this meeting, the role of grannies was expressed and grannies discovered that they can live beyond the current means. Additional topics were covered, being presented mainly by grandmothers in Kanungu District. Many of the grannies in attendance expressed their happiness and having a place of belonging.

*Meet the 2008 Graduating Class
of the Nyaka School for AIDS Orphans*



Agsaba Delick



Aharizra Brendah



Aka-awasa Precious



Arithi Ronald



Abulimire Precious



Berekya Oneamus



Bahomugiera Izidolo



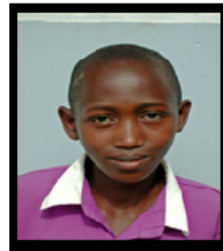
Eyemukema Harrington



Kamuhengi Irene



Kyarisima Jackline



Muhereza Jonathan



Nannanya Hollen



Natukunza Dennis



Nayobale Olivia



Niwabaine Hilary



Niwagaba Patience



Niwakola Frediana



Omujuni Shilah



T ikannushaba Annita



Tumwanzwa Maureen



Tiryamugira Dennis



Tvdanzwedan Dennis

**Congratulations and best wishes to each member of
our first graduating class!**

From Donors Like You

Sandra Olansky

Julian Olansky of Newton Massachusetts, died June 7, 2007. He devoted his life to saving lives through fire safety films, which he produced for schools, hospitals, industry, and fire departments. His first film in 1958 of a Chicago school fire was instrumental in setting fire safety codes in schools all over the country. He enjoyed gardening and model trains, which he shared with his eight grandchildren. He leaves his wife, Sandra, and three children, Justine Hebert, Jason Olansky and Jessica Arado, and their children.

Barbara Kroberger

I am constantly amazed about how the story of Nyaka gets under people's skin. Since Clare and I returned from our visit in March, we are often telling people about this very special place. More often than not, they want to help. My 87 year old father asked the family to take whatever money we would have spent on birthday presents for him and send it to Jackson for the children. He told me that he was haunted by thoughts of them coming to school without breakfast and hoped our donations would help. My church (Trinity Episcopal Church) has Vacation Bible School every summer and this year decided to donate the week's collection to Nyaka. Although there were only 25 kids attending, they collected \$382, which was then matched by a member of the congregation and added to by the church secretary! We are adding this donation to our efforts to buy flashlights and ponchos for the children. We now have enough to order these items and expect to be sending them to Sempa in Kampala by the end of the month!

Elon University (Communicated by Brandy Boone, Elon University International Studies)

During January of 2007, a class of students from Elon University raised funds to help the children of the Nyaka School. In their efforts they used donations from textbooks, money from selling Namibian CDs and beaded art work to raise funds for the children of the school. They were successful in raising \$1,046. In their efforts, they learned about the needs of the orphan population that attend Nyaka School. They donated the funds to help buy various school materials to help support education for the children. Thanks so much!!

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, VBX 2007, June 2-6

Our Vacation Bible Xperience (VBX) theme this year was "REACTION" (see pictures – learning how we should react to the fact that: 1. God made us, 2. God loves us, and 3. God saved us. Through drama, music, large group teaching, small group meetings and crafts, we learned that we were created to: Worship, Connect, Grow, Serve and Share. During assembly time, Brad Pontius, the Missions Minister, shared with us about the needs of Nyaka School. The kids, families and volunteers then REACTED with awesome generosity!



660 kids and 185 volunteers committed \$5,282 and brought in 25 boxes of books! That means money for building another classroom and a greater inventory of books for the library! The Children's Ministry is grateful for another opportunity to live out our i2U vision (see www.socc.org) by serving the needs of Nyaka School's students half a world away! 2700 E. Rogers Rd. Bloomington, IN 47401, PH. 812.334.0206.



Carol Auld

I went to Nyaka because I love working with children and wanted to "give back" a little something for all the blessings I have had in my life. However, as it turned out, the children and teachers of Nyaka were the ones giving to me. Their generosity and wonderful spirits are inspiring. The children arrive at school anxious and eager to learn. Every day was a new adventure and my 10 weeks just flew by. Now that I am home, I can no longer read about the millions of children orphaned by AIDS without seeing the faces of Nyaka's students. Each and everyone should have the opportunity for an education. Jackson is doing a huge mitzvah (good deed) and I feel lucky that I could be a part of it. (Carol and her husband Rob are raising money to buy land and build classes at Kutamba. Their target is \$85,000; they have so far raised \$35,000. Thank you Carol and Rob!!!!)

From Donors Like You Cont'd.

Greater Lansing Adventist School
(GLAS, www.glasschool.com)

We also thank the students at Greater Lansing Adventist School for raising money for Nyaka students. GLAS students worked so many hours raking yards and having a cook out at the GLAS school to raise money for their friends at Nyaka. Thanks to you all - students, parent, teachers, volunteers and GLAS principal Mr. Chad Bernard.



As we approach the end of 2007, please remember to make a special holiday gift to the orphans at Nyaka and Kutamba. Please feel free to use the pledge card below

..... Detach here



AIDS ORPHANS SCHOOL
"For our children's sake"
www.nyakaschool.org

I wish to donate \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 other

Personal Check (payable to STSAD, Inc. NYAKA Aids Orphans School)

Credit Card Visa Mastercard Discover Gift Amount _____

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____

Signature: _____

I have enclosed the matching gift form provided by my employer.

I wish to make a gift of stock. Please contact me.

I would like to include NYAKA in my estate plan. Please contact me.

Send acknowledgment of my gift to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____
(Please indicate how you would like your name(s) to be listed in donor acknowledgement publications.)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

- I make this gift in honor of: _____
- I make this gift in memory of: _____
- I wish to remain anonymous

Thank you for your thoughtful contribution. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Nyaka AIDS Orphan School

P.O. Box 339
East Lansing, MI
48826

Phone:
(517) 402-2787
tjk@nyakaschool.org

We depend upon the kindness and support of individuals like you. Please send tax-deductible donations to Nyaka School (STSAD) at P.O. Box 339 East Lansing, MI 48826

For our children's sake

We're on the Web!

See us at
www.nyakaschool.org

Endowment Corner

We have established an endowment fund with a goal of raising \$100,000 before our first class graduates in Dec. 2008. So far we have \$35,000 in cash and pledges. Make your pledge today and invest in the future of our children, we are the only hope they have. You can make a donation by cash, check, credit card, gifts of stock, gifts using your IRA and you can also make an estate gift to Nyaka. Consider including Nyaka in your will and let us know when that happens. For more detailed information about the endowment and its purposes, please see the previous volume of the newsletter (Volume 6, Issue 1) at nyakaschool.org or requested a copy at tjk@nyakaschool.org.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Recent and Upcoming Events Calendar

June 30, 2007 - Nyaka Board Meeting, Jamestown, PA
July 2007 - Presentation at Fremont SDA, Fremont, MI
August 3-5, 2007 - Presentation at Banyakigezi Convention, Denver, CO
September 30, 2007 - Presentation at Springfield, PA
November 3, 2007 - Annual Indiana Friends of Nyaka Dinner, Terry's Banquet & Catering, Bloomington, IN

Note: If you'd like to arrange a presentation by a Nyaka Ambassador or would like more information about Nyaka please contact Jackson at tjk@nyakaschool.org or (517) 402-2787 for more details.

The Nyaka School/STSAD, Inc.
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