



**EMPOWER.
EDUCATE.
EQUIP.**

OUR VILLAGE UGANDA

Meet Ester and Tony, above, with their grandmother, or Dada as they like to call her. Both of their parents passed away leaving them with their Dada. Their Dada has no income to raise them, though she has no shortage of love and desire to be a part of their lives. Not wanting to abandon her grandchildren, Dada partnered with OVU. Together we ensure that Ester and Tony receive the education, healthcare, nutrition and Dada's specialty love. In February we were thankful to be able to provide life saving treatment to Ester when she got a severe infection from a wound on her face. We at OVU are so thankful to know this family and delight in seeing Ester excel in school and Tony get the chance to play football and the drums.

Our Village Uganda works to empower vulnerable communities in Iganga and Lamwo districts through relationships rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. We believe education is key in bringing our communities out of poverty. In Iganga, we currently we have 160 children attending our primary school, and 37 children attending secondary or trades school. This means our education program has increased by almost 100% in the last 5 years! We also facilitate ongoing agricultural training to over 150 women in Lamwo. Moving forward, we believe that equipping these women and children with tools and infrastructure will move things to the next level, namely long-lasting sustainable change. We currently employ 20 Ugandans and are working to build infrastructure through our farm and other income-generating practices to bring sustainability from within so that our communities see that they possess the resources and abilities needed to bring lasting change.

**Check out our
new school
buildings and
site inside!!!**

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Miraculous Beginnings

In mid November 2013, we laid the foundation for our first dormitory on our 25 acres. Our dream was to start the next school year here, which was set to start the end of January 2014. In total, to make this possible we would need 2 dorms, latrines, and 3 school blocks compromised of 3 classrooms each and we had 2.5 months to do it. Rightfully so, Chad Lorenz said it would be a miracle if we got moved in on time.

Miraculously, on the first day of the term the cement inside the dorms had just finished setting. We brought in the dorm beds, school desks and started off the school year! It is amazing that the many years of renting our dilapidated old site under fear of being kicked off, worried about children crossing the dangerous road, the cramped sleeping quarters, is now history. Everyone at OVU has a new peace of mind and excitement as we see how this new positioning is putting us in a place where we can see dreams becoming tenable and the goal of becoming sustainable is brought closer to reality.

Investing in the long-term

We have left our old site but are bringing with us the most important aspect of OVU, which are the relationships and community we have developed over the years.

Now with the security of our very own site, we love having a new ability to invest in the long-term: our new deep water well, our buildings made to last for generations, our new fuel efficient stove for cooking 400 meals a day, and we are hoping in the near future solar electricity to help cut costs and bring in more reliable power. We are planning for long-term, not seeking a quick fix.

Better equipped for the future

One of the greatest parts of being on our own land is how we can better empower, educate and equip our community. We can develop this new “home” so that we will be a resource to our community, bringing in leaders/trainers in agriculture, business, health, faith and so on. We can develop our farm so that not only brings in more income for OVU but also create more jobs for our community and practical learning opportunities. With the ongoing improvement of our school, we are striving to raise the bar in education and creative thinking. The OVU education program is not only a refuge for orphans and vulnerable children, but also a sustainability initiative. Families who have the means to pay for their child to attend our school actually assist in covering our operating costs. With a larger school, we can therefore partner with more vulnerable children.



Esseza Ssindi

Esseza Ssindi's parents passed away when she was very young, she has been raised by her aunty. Due to extreme poverty, when Esseza's aunt first came to OVU in 2011, Esseza was extremely malnourished. Since then we were able to help her get the medical care she needed as well as dental work. She always gets the top marks in her class. When she first came to OVU, she didn't speak any English. Now she is one of our best little English translators. Esseza loves her aunt very much, we are so thankful that rather than little Esseza being abandoned to an orphanage, she still gets to stay connected with her aunt.

WE NEED HELP, PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MONTHLY PARTNER TO Fill the Gaps in Uganda

Firstly, filling the gap to help vulnerable groups in our community

Uganda has 8.1 million orphans and vulnerable children; **these are the children that fall through the gaps in society and do not receive the proper education, nutrition, healthcare and love every child deserves.**

We have seen that when you empower groups of people in Uganda, an entire community is given long-lasting tools for change. We do not want our children to look abroad for handouts and subsistence. Rather, our communities are empowered by partnerships so that they themselves possess the resources and abilities needed to change their communities.

Your monthly support enables our Ugandan staff to be the face of support and change. Our staff does this through connecting with their community; empowering them through relationships and listening to them to find real solutions that fit the realities of their community. This support takes on 5 main areas:

Health and Sanitation - We provide basic and life saving medical care and have regular health H & S training. Our implementation of improved sanitation practices resulted in a 30% savings in healthcare spending last term (3rd term of 2013).

Nutrition - We strive to bring a balanced diet for our children; when a child is malnourished they will not perform to the best of their ability. We also provide training and seeds needed so that our communities can grow their own nutritional food.

Education - This year we are working to combine our success on nation-wide exams with greater emphasis in creativity and innovative thinking. We also bring education not just to our youngsters in school but to our adult community to assist in their personal development.

Development - Our goal is to help develop our community so that they will no longer need outside support. This year we hope to develop implement plans for an income-generating farm to help meet our needs.

Local leadership empowerment - Any progress in fighting poverty needs to be fuelled by the local community. We want our children to have local leaders with integrity whom they can look up to.

Equip — investing in the future

Light for Light Challenge

The average home in Canada has 41 light bulbs. In Uganda, 85% of homes have no electricity (due to poverty and/or poor national infrastructure). We at OVU wish to send out a challenge as a means for fundraising for a reliable solar energy set-up at our site. Go around your home or business and count every light bulb. For every light in your home, we challenge you to pay the blessing forward and donate \$1 per light (or whatever works!).



Light that we often take for granted, light for light. OVU is looking to raise **\$5200** to put in phase I of our solar energy plan. The primary purpose of this phase is to implement solar electricity so that we can bring in security lights for the safety of our children at our site.

School Completion Needs

We are so thankful to have the our school blocks almost completed. The key areas needed to complete them are 45 windows, 9 doors, plaster for the walls, cement, and “water guards”. This comes to \$8,000 per school block.



➤ **\$24,000** is needed to finish all 3 school blocks



Stove for the past 7 years



Our brand new kitchen and stove

WAHOO! RECENT EQUIP IMPACT

- We are currently partnering with the families of 128 orphans and vulnerable children to ensure they receive primary and secondary education, healthcare, nutrition and love that had been lacking.
- One of the non-academic young adults under our care just finished mechanics training. Another young adult is just starting hairdressing school.
- We have built 2 dorms, a kitchen and large latrine block to enable us to begin our first 2014 school term at the new site!
- We are so thankful to have our first ever vehicle, a 1994 Toyota “Hlace” van!! This vehicle will cut our transport costs and allow for an dependable vehicle for night-time emergencies.
- Through investments in improved sanitation, we were able to cut medical spending by 30% last term.
- We are so excited to be able to show you (picture on the bottom right) our 4 brand new fuel efficient stoves. These stoves should cut our firewood consumption by 75%!

Restoration

in
Padibe East, Lamwo
District



In the 20-year rebel war that ended in 2006 in northern Uganda, 98% of the cattle that had been owned by the Acholi (the main tribe) had been raided. As well, the people were not allowed to grow gardens like they always had because they had to leave their homes and live in IDP camps and the government was trying to starve out the rebel groups. Now, as they work to start their lives again back at their homes, they face the struggle of having a generation who missed having agricultural skills passed down. In addition, many are lacking the tools they need to do the work.

We are working to equip the women of Lamwo district and help bring restoration to a community scarred by war. In November, we were blessed to be able to equip the community with 70 goats and 5 sets of oxen and ploughs. We also coordinated a 5-day training program that taught proper care for livestock. During this, the oxen for the upcoming growing season were also physically trained.

In February, three women from each village in Padibe east (43 villages in total) attended the 5-day training. In total, 129 women have benefited from the training and have received seeds to start their own nursery beds. These women are so excited to be going back to their village as leaders to share what they learned with their communities!

A big thank you to all who have helped us fill the gaps these past months, as you can see together we truly are making a long-term impact. If you have never partnered with OVU on a monthly basis, we encourage you to help us fill the gaps in Ugandan society month in and month out, as we work to empower our community from within. You choose the amount that you can commit to and we will keep you updated through our Facebook page, newsletters, and e-mail updates on the impact of your partnership.

We have seen what a helping hand can do. It can save a life, change a life, and change the face of Uganda's future.

We send out regular update letters, preferably by e-mail, as the cost of postage is equal to a meal in Uganda. Send us your email or mailing address to the contact info below or download our newsletters from our website. www.ourvillageuganda.org

Contact us @ info@ourvillageuganda.org

Phone - (306) 728-2691

Like "Our Village Uganda -Ekyaro Kyaife" on FB

To donate to OVU through TGCF you can go directly to their website at www.tgcf.org, or call them @ 1-855-488-7020.

TGCF's mailing address is:

The Great Commission Foundation
#3 T/C Plaza 1335 Trans Canada Way SE
Medicine Hat, Alberta,
Canada T1B 1J1

All Donations through TGCF are to be made out to "Our Village Uganda"