

Stories worth telling, lives worth partnering with.



January, 2013



Meet Simon Waacko. When Simon was younger he would tell us that he was going to become the President of Uganda when he grew up. We didn't doubt him. Simon is one of those old souls that is able to connect with people of all ages, and he's a very gifted charismatic speaker. And oh goodness can he ever sing and dance!! Simon's father died when he was young and his mother abandoned them and disappeared, leaving 5 young boys. Simon's oldest brother tried to raise all the brothers, though he was only a child himself. He came to Ekyaro Kyaike looking for help - he loved his brothers and did not want to abandon them, but could not raise them alone, so we partnered with Simon's brother. That was over 7 years ago. Simon is now going to Secondary School (High School). Uganda has one of the lowest gross enrolment rates in secondary education (27% enrollment) in the entire world, and so Simon is already defying the odds in Uganda. Ekyaro Kyaike is currently helping 13 children attend Secondary Boarding Schools. This past term Simon received the top marks at his Secondary School and also received a certificate for being the top footballer (soccer player) at his school. To say we are proud is an understatement, Simon now says he loves teaching and wants to be a teacher. We know he will succeed. It is amazing to see what can happen when you invest in someone's life.

Thank you for the love in 2012

Oftentimes it seems like progress is happening "slowly, slowly", which is a common phrase and answer to a variety of questions in Uganda. But as we reflect, it is truly encouraging to see how far we have come. The children who are now with Our Village Uganda have known days of hunger, abandonment, and days when getting an education and dreaming of a future were far from reality. The children at Our Village prayed earnestly for uniforms, desks, school supplies, beds, mattresses, restoration of families, and land. They have seen prayers answered. Throughout the years life-saving medical treatment has been given. Children are receiving life-changing education. Hundreds of meals are being prepared each day, and now we are able to use food harvested off of our own land. We are so thankful for everyone who has partnered with us so that these necessities of life could be provided. Healthcare, education, and food are essential, but on their own not easily sustainable. These essentials must be continually strived for, but in 2013 we want to go further. Our Village Uganda's vision is to be a fully sustainable organization. We have big plans for 2013.

Have you checked out our new website?

www.ourvillageuganda.org





Our Land, Garden & Future Home

In 2011 Our Village Uganda became the owner of 23 acres of land. This was a time we had long anticipated. We have been renting a small piece of land where 80 children are staying and up to 140 children are attending our school. We are bursting at the seams and have no room to grow at our rental site. We are all excited as we see so much potential with our land and have so much hope for the future. Since a major goal is to one day be a fully sustainable & self-sufficient project, purchasing this land is a big part of achieving this.

Since purchasing the land we have already put it to use as a garden. We are happy to report that we were able to use our garden to off-set food costs and bring more variety to the children's diet. The initial start up of developing the land will take some time, as we break more land and plant more crops.

In the future we plan to not only grow

food crops for our own consumption, but also plant income-generating crops. This will help bring in more money for the project to cover our many areas of need and bring more jobs into our community.

The garden is only the first of many projects we will be doing with the aim of sustainability. With more space we can have more livestock, which will not only provide a more varied diet for the children in the form of meat and milk, but will also bring jobs and resources for our project and our community.

On our new land there is a swampy area that we are looking into how we can best use. There is potential of being able to use it to grow rice or to start a fishery. With these 23 acres of land we have so many more options for the future. Options to not only sustain our children, but also to bring resources to our community. We plan to bring

teachers in to help empower our community and we are looking forward to the day that we can teach trades (i.e. carpentry) with resources at our very own site.

It is going to take time, but we can't think of a better way to use our time. Instead of putting a quick bandaid on a problem we are going to continue to work and struggle for long-term solutions and strive for restoration. We believe in a better future and we are not going to stop fighting for it. The children and communities we partner with are eager for change and hungry to make a difference, and are empowered with the love of Jesus Christ.



A place to call our own...

After renting for many years we now have a place that we can call our own. We are planning to start building in 2013, in hopes that we can soon move and stop having to rent. We would like you to picture with us our future home. There will be a well with clean water, outhouses, Primary, Secondary and Trades School, homes for our children and staff, and a Church/Community Centre. Currently we only have a Primary School and we send our Secondary Children (similar to Jr/Sr High) to other

schools. By having our own Primary and Secondary School we will be able to cut costs and not only be a school for our own sponsored children, but also for other paying children. Helping these students will further cut costs and will also bring diversity.

We know this will take time, but we have faith that it all will come to pass. We are willing to work to make it happen and would like to invite you to work with us! We will be organizing opportunities for people work to

hand-in-hand with us in our building projects and to see and learn about Our Village Uganda on the ground and learn Ugandan life and culture. Follow our Facebook page, Ekyaro Kyaife – Our Village or contact us at, info@ourvillageuganda.org to learn more about these opportunities in 2013.

Our Primary 7 Graduates and Future Secondary Students



Education is key to empowering Uganda's youth and building up the future of Uganda. Unfortunately in Uganda there are many factors going against children that limit their opportunity to receive the education they deserve and need.

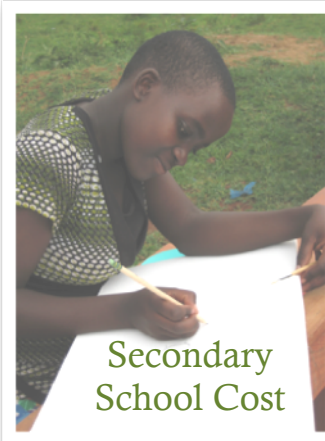
Education is a primary focus at Our Village Uganda and is an area well worth investing in. All of the children above would not be able to go to Secondary School, simply because they cannot afford the School fees. All of the children above have received an above-average primary education in Uganda (this is written with hesitation as we recognize that we still have long ways to go until we reach the education standard that we would like to provide to these children), which is not hard in a Country with such a low standard of "Public" primary education.

Uganda's Schooling system is similar to the United Kingdom's Nursery, Primary (similar to Elementary), and Secondary School (similar to Jr/Sr High). We do not have an onsite Secondary School, so we have been sending our children to other schools. This next term, starting in February, we will have another 20 children (if they pass the government

exam which they already wrote, marks will be given by Feb.) ready to start Secondary School. We already have 13 children attending Secondary School, bringing our total up to 33.

We are trusting in faith and looking for people to partner with us to ensure that these young people are able to take the next step in their education. It is a privilege in Uganda to go to Secondary School. Many children get the opportunity to attend free Primary Schools, but very few are able to go onto Secondary School. By partnering with these youth to go onto Secondary School you are giving them the opportunity to get out of poverty. We are about long-term solutions; it is these young people who are the long-term solution. They are the future of Uganda and with your help they will be leading the way as men and women of integrity - as doctors, teachers, politicians, business owners, farmers, police officers, the list goes on. Imagine what the face of Uganda could look like.

- Uganda is placed among the bottom 10 countries for gross enrolment in secondary education (27%) and tertiary education (4%)
- There are not enough Secondary Schools for all of the eligible youth in Uganda
- Aprox. 14% make it through all 4 years in Secondary School (they cannot afford fees, pregnancy, teenage marriage, loss of financial provider, etc.)
- 85% of Uganda's youth population is unemployed. Entrepreneurial minds are needed to create jobs
- Uganda has the second highest birth rate in the world



These costs are aprox. & can change with inflation and exchange rate fluctuations

For One Child

- \$256 in School Fees for one year
- \$50 for School Supplies for one year
- \$28 for School Uniform
- \$280 a year for food
- \$100 miscellaneous (medical)

For All Secondary Children

- \$4500 for building rental for one year for all secondary children
- \$160 for Electricity for one year
- \$960 for Matron and Patron for one year

Educated Youth could do so much for the future of Uganda



Smaller organizations have a smaller overhead which enables your support to go further

- \$80 per day to provide around 340 meals to the children
- \$36 for each child to go to our Primary school per year



Helping Uganda begins with Ugandans. We are supporting local business and empowering the community and our amazing staff

Our Program Director Paul Bogere was raised by his Grandmother, his parents both having passed away when he was young. When Paul first came to Our Village he was sleeping at his Church, he did not have a home. Today Paul has a home he rents, has gotten married and the children at Ekyaro Kyaife love him like a father. Uganda is the most corrupt Country in East Africa. Bribery and corruption are rampant. Paul has stood strong as a man of integrity and in doing so has been able to stand as a beacon of hope for all that work with him. Paul is such an integral part of Our Village

Strategic Partnership with The Great Commission Foundation

We are very excited to announce that this July we partnered with TGCF (The Great Commission Foundation), and now are able to work under their Canadian Charity. This enables us to give tax receipts, receive audits required by CRA and work under the auspices of their Foundation. We are very thankful for this partnership and the ability it gives us to be more transparent and accountable to those who partner with us.

With this partnership 90% of funds go directly to projects on the ground - compare this to the charitywatch.org standard of 75% for charities that receive top ratings. Because our Canadian positions and administration work are 100% volunteer, this has enabled a much higher percentage of money to go directly to projects on the ground in Uganda.

TGCF manages our accounts, does the books, sends tax receipts, approve the budgets we make, provides yearly audits, gives professional guidance and support, gives us access to specialized lawyers, and all in all makes sure that we are working as a lawful and ethical organization. We are so thankful for this partnership. As a small organization it would take most of our operating budget to have all of these specialized services on our own.

We at Our Village still make up budgets and administer the funds to their proper project and/or area. The project is still managed by the Our Village Uganda team. We have our own separate Our Village Uganda account, so there is no

worry about the money getting to us and where it is meant to go on the ground. Those of you who know us as Ekyaro Kyaife, don't worry that is still us. Ekyaro Kyaife means Our Village in the local language of lusoga in Iganga, Uganda. We are still registered as a CBO (Community Based Organization) in Iganga under Ekyaro Kyaife. We love that different 'Villages' in Uganda and Canada are coming together for the greater good. So when we registered with TGCF we decided to call ourselves 'Our Village Uganda', and as Our Village grows all projects will continue to work within it, starting with Ekyaro Kyaife in Bukaye and surrounding areas.

Through this partnership we are able to offer people more convenience and ease in donating and partnering with Our Village Uganda. We are able to give tax receipts and people have the option of signing up online via pre-authorized Debit or Credit Card agreements for monthly donations. Also, donors have the option to give by cheque, or online with Paypal and Canada helps. We are very pleased to be able to offer you these options and the security in knowing your money is safely and properly monitored and that we are working within the charity guidelines of the Canadian Revenue Agency. To learn more about TGCF you can go to their website:

www.tgcfcanada.org



We are thankful for your support throughout the years, we can truly say your partnership has saved and changed lives.

We are so encouraged by the children and the Ugandan Staff at Ekyaro Kyaife, and will make sure their stories continue to be told. The giving truly goes both ways as our cultures get to learn and engage with each other and work together for a better future.

Chad and Terra Lorenz go back to Uganda in March

Terra and Chad will be coordinating times for teams to come to Iganga to help with a variety of projects. One in particular will be construction teams to come work alongside a Ugandan building crew. Also, Terra and Chad will be putting a lot of focus on reforming our school's curriculums as we work to develop entrepreneurial minds in our children. These are two primary focus areas, but the areas of growth are vast. Chad and Terra will be keeping you posted on the ongoing projects and needs at Our Village. They also are looking forward to the day-to-day adventures in Uganda and will be sure to share the adventure with you.



How to Stay in the Loop

We are going to be sending out regular update letters, preferably by e-mail, as the cost of postage is equal to a meal in Uganda. If, however, e-mail is not an option we will be happy to mail you the letters. When donating through TGCF be sure to leave your e-mail address if you wish to receive updates that way, if not we will mail you the letter. As our partners take on many forms, from advocates to prayer warriors, you can also send us your email or mailing address to the contact info below.

Contact us @ info@ourvillageuganda.org

Or by phone @ (306) 728-2691

Like our Facebook page: [Ekyaro Kyaife – Our Village](#)

Check out our new website to learn more about our Programs, Projects, History, watch our Informational Video and more. www.ourvillageuganda.org

To Donate through TGCF you can go direct to their website, www.tgcf.org, or call them @ 1-855-488-7020.

TGCF's 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"