

THE INTERNATIONAL HUG FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



i.HUG
Help Uganda Grow

In the slum of Kabalagala in Uganda, poverty and the AIDS epidemic have taken a heavy toll. Many families struggle to meet the daily needs of everyday life—and sadly, many children are forced to simply do without. The situation has deteriorated, creating large numbers of impoverished children who live vulnerable and unstable lives, without a safe place to go each day, and without knowing where their next meal is coming from. Beyond that, they have little hope of improvement, mostly because school fees put education out of reach.



Our Mission

The i.HUG (I Help Uganda Grow) Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to reach out to disadvantaged and orphaned children in Uganda by providing them with an education, access to health-care, and an environment that fosters their physical, social, and emotional development. To ensure the sustainability of our mission, i.HUG strives to use local resources and to leverage our successes to benefit the entire community.

i.HUG aims to:

- Raise sponsorships for needy children so they can go to school.
- Establish a school of the highest quality.
- Institute a training program for teachers and volunteers
- Increase access to medical treatment.
- Form income-generating projects that contribute to the sustainability of the program.

Dear Friends,

What a meaningful year it's been.

In 2007, i.HUG took a very big step by opening the Kabalagala Community Academy, a nonprofit primary school for under-privileged children in the area. As a grassroots organization that was first established in 2006, we feel proud and excited about this achievement, while at the same time, we face the massive struggle of helping children living in extreme poverty.

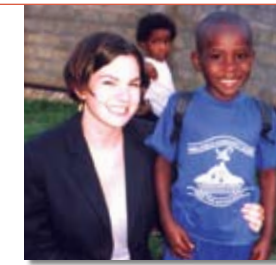
On a macro level, our first year has been stellar. We have been able to successfully improve the lives of nearly 70 children, and make a significant impact on their families and their community. This is particularly impressive because all of i.HUG's fundraising is done by volunteers. In 2007, we spent only 1 percent of funds raised on administration. It is not unusual for other respected organizations to have as much as 30 percent of funds going toward administrative costs.

On a micro level, the results are even more meaningful. We have been able to help children like Dembe,* who was abandoned as a child and has lived both on the streets and in a video store where he was allowed to sleep on the floor in exchange for sweeping and other work.

Through i.HUG's sponsorship program, Dembe came to live with a family and began attending school. At first, he was fueled by what he had learned on the street—hunger and violence. He had a hard time conveying his emotions and directing them in a healthy way. He didn't know how to read or write. But over the past year, there's been a remarkable change. He feels safe, and has grown both emotionally and physically. He no longer fights in school, but rather talks out his problems with the other children and adults.

He likes math. He plays soccer. He will offer to clean your bicycle if you'll let him ride it. In short, he is now living out a childhood.

In Uganda, we are able to help children like Dembe because of the truly skilled, compassionate, motivated,



and dedicated staff and volunteers, headed by Paddy Luzige and Jane Dicker. Of course, we are powered by the compassion of our new and growing donor base and the sweat equity of our US volunteers, who are building the infrastructure that allows i.HUG to carry out its work in Uganda.

I've had the particular pleasure to see the support galvanize for this project and watch how that translates into providing direct aid for the children in Kabalagala who need it most. In the following pages you will read about our 2007 year including:

- The 68 children directly benefiting from i.HUG's care in our sponsorship program
- The establishment and operation of the Kabalagala Community Academy, a nonprofit school to serve needy children
- Additional programs to empower the community
- Our financial performance
- Our dream for the future.

I like the phrase “Tewali muntu abera yekka”—which means “no man is an island” in Luganda, the mother-tongue of the majority of the children i.HUG help. Thanks to you, we are not an island, but are actually laying a foundation for a stronger community to support and nourish the next generation in Kabalagala. We appreciate your connecting with our project. We are always happy to answer any questions or arrange a meeting to further discuss this important work in Kabalagala.

Webeyle Nyo (thank you!)

Joanna Breitstein
President, Co-Founder
i.HUG

*children's names have been changed to protect their privacy in accordance with our confidentiality policy.



Project Manager Report

Kabalagala is located in Makindye East, and is a place populated by bars and recognized for prostitution. But now, by the grace of God—especially through the work of i.HUG,—a tremendous change is happening.

Before, the children were malnourished, but now the work of i.HUG has touched our hearts. In the beginning, people thought it was another joke of a project starting in the area, but i.HUG has prevailed and the children have exhibited a high level of change and excellence that has touched people.

Also, the high level of creativity at the school has touched people in the community. Our prayer is that we continue to touch as many needy children in the community as we can through i.HUG's sponsors. The biggest impact comes when a child in need gets help, then the whole family is blessed and has frequent visits from the i.HUG Uganda team, in which many people have been advised on their health status, hygiene and how to live together in harmony in a community.

Right now, we are targeting only small children, but we pray that, as we grow, we will help all children that are in need.

Pastor Paddy Luzige

Head Teacher Report



Our school is a magical place. A place where people are valued: children, staff, parents, volunteers. Their life experiences, their thoughts, skills and opinions are all precious and treated as such. Throughout our first year we have discovered that actively living out our belief that people are the most precious of all resources has led to limitless possibilities for development—individually and collectively.

The children have shown us that they are incredibly resourceful and are bubbling with potential. They have opportunities to learn and surpassed our hopes. They are independent learners who have also become teachers to each other and to us. Recently we had some pieces of wood of various sizes left over from the carpenter who made the desks for the school. I was sitting in my office and could hear an incredible intricate melody. I had no idea what it was and went out into the playground to find 5 children who had made their own xylophone from pieces of wood. They were playing a beautiful tune accompanied by 3 children beating a rhythm on some old paint tins. To my eyes the wood and paint tins were rubbish that were ready to be disposed of. But in the eyes of the children, they were the beginning of an orchestra. Awe-inspiring creativity.

Our school is a special place where all who come can choose to take the opportunity to learn. I, along with the other staff and children have taken this opportunity and have fallen in love with learning afresh. I am filled with awe and excitement at the possibilities that await us this academic year.

Jane Dicker
Co-Founder
Head Teacher, Kabalagala Community Academy



On February 5th, 2007 this became the home of the first Kabalagala Community Academy.

Kabalagala Community Academy

In February 2007, i.HUG and its partners opened the doors to the Kabalagala Community Academy (KCA). This school is our hopes and dreams—we see it as the place through which children in need can access basic necessities, quality education, love, and care.

Co-Founders Jane Dicker and Paddy Luzige did the hard work of getting it off the ground. Interviews were held and employees hired; equipment was purchased and school uniforms made. It was an intense process and much was learned on a daily basis.

Our school has the dual mission of providing quality education and basic necessities. In 2007, we delivered on this mission through:

- Offering quality education for 30 children in 2007 who otherwise would not have been able to gain an education (this grew to 42 in 2008)
- Offering a robust lunch and snack program—for many children, the only meal they eat all day
- Hiring and paying eight members of staff, including teachers and support staff
- Instituting a volunteer program, where parents and members of the community contribute to the development of the school.

The pupils in KCA are all children in i.HUG's

sponsorship program, and are among the most poor and needy in the area. Most of our students have undergone a degree of trauma due to factors such as instability at home, death of parents and/or other family members, and the daily reality of poverty. We believe KCA should be, above all else, a safe environment, and a place where children can go to just be children. In Uganda, while corporal punishment is outlawed, it is an all too frequent occurrence for children. At the Kabalagala Community Academy, children are never beaten. The absence of physical punishment has resulted in the children being increasingly intrinsically motivated to become self-regulators of their behavior.

To help children get the education and opportunities they need, we took some important steps when developing the school. We established:

- Small classroom sizes, where teachers can resource learning and plan instruction accordingly.
- A counseling program, founded by Board Member Mary Dicker, a qualified child and family counselor. Mary supervises James Eguma, a Ugandan studying counseling at a local university, who interns at KCA.
- Extensive training of all staff members (including non-teaching staff) on issues of child development.

'I am happy when I come to school because I am not hungry anymore.'

- Child-centered learning using constructivist educational theories to ensure a strong foundation. i.HUG has an advisory board of professors in the fields of education and early childhood development to guide staff on how to enhance their teaching styles and methods.

A highly-qualified staff focuses on providing a holistic education for children by incorporating into the curriculum elements that encourage physical, social, emotional, and academic development including:

- Activities that conserve our resources, reduce our costs, and respect our environment. For instance, a compost heap was created so that all biodegradable foodstuffs could be broken down and reused as fertilizer, which is then used in agriculture lessons; labels and other paper are saved and cut up to use in collage and other art projects.
- Organizing (what we believe) is the first children's art exhibition in Uganda.
- Additional activities like drama, circle time, mental maths activities, sharing news, story time, and one-on-one tutoring by volunteers.

The school is working. Kabalagala Community Academy has had and continues to have a profound effect on the lives of its students, their families, and the staff. The children have discovered that KCA is an environment in which they are provided with the opportunity to explore their world and the world's of others. This is possible because, i.HUG ensures their basic needs are met. Children are able to concentrate in class because they have food and access to safe drinking water. The pain of hunger is overcome—leaving them free to think, play, and explore the world around them. In a recent conversation with the children they told me:

'I am happy when I come to school because I am not hungry anymore.'

'School makes me happy because I know my teachers love me and they make me enjoy school because we get to play with balls and even dolls.'

Our staff is strong. We have a strong staff, who demonstrate that they are keenly aware that they are valued—as is their work. Much emphasis is placed on teamwork

and every staff member contributes more to the lives of the children and the overall development of the school than his job title suggests. For instance, our cleaner was the first person to identify a serious case of neglect in one of our students.

The staff have developed as a team and regular appraisals have resulted in the identifying of strengths and areas that can be improved. Throughout the year, the staff have been central in working through such issues as conflict resolution, defining what a good working environment is, and how it can be achieved.

i.HUG Staff

i.HUG staff: Sponsorship Program

Project Manager: Pastor Paddy Luzige
Home-School Liaison Officer: Ronald Lubali

Kabalagala Community Academy

Teaching Staff

Head Teacher: Jane Dicker
Teacher: Rachael Mwima
Teacher: Irene Mukomeza
Teaching Assistant: Joel Kasozi
Premises and Catering Staff
Head Cook: Phoebe Asirikaalaba Kinsadde
Assistant Cook: Jessica
Assistant Cook & Cleaner: Alice Nyanzi
Day Guard: Moses Mulenzi
Night Guard: Baptist Onira-Amayo

About Our Project Manager: Paddy Luzige
Paddy's work involves building the bridge between i.HUG in the United States, the project in Uganda, and the overall Kabalagala community that our organization serves. Paddy has long been active in the community, organizing people and helping children in need. In 2008, Paddy will undertake the task of registering the school and i.HUG as an independent non-governmental organization in Uganda to position the organization for sustainability.

Nurse Jacky with two KCA students and their guardian discussing basic healthcare.



OUR SCHOOL MISSION:

At Kabalagala Community Academy, we live out our belief that all children are entitled to develop to their fullest potential—academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. We provide a caring and stimulating environment that maximizes academic potential, self-esteem, and confidence and promotes emotional intelligence and a life-long love of learning.

Students, staff, parents and the wider community work hand-in-hand toward common goals. Through ongoing reflection, documentation, and assessment, we strive to continually enhance our efforts at providing the best learning experience and environment for our pupils.

‘...they are grateful for the medication and the treatment for their wounds and other problems,’ says Jacky....

Healthcare

To help them heal...

Many of the children in i.HUG’s project live in unhygienic and crowded conditions. The children are frequently afflicted with worms, fungus, and skin infections of different kinds—which spread easily—and also suffer high rates of malaria.

We were very fortunate that Nurse Jacky Tumusiime volunteers at Kabalagala Community Academy. She has provided much of the direction and resources for caring for the children. She has donated the equipment for a sick bay at KCA, including an examining table, a desk and chair, a metal locking cabinet and the supplies to care for the children.

On clinic days, the children line up to see Nurse Jacky. She has also given home visits. “This has helped the parents have more confidence in what is being done for the kids at school in the clinic and they are grateful for the medication and the treatment for their wounds and other problems,” says Jacky. “Often neighbors come with their own problems too.”

Many of the families in Kabalagala have no formal education, which is reflected in poor hygiene and health literacy. Parents and guardians meet in small groups with our volunteer nurse to learn about important health issues. Nurse Jacky has given several seminars to the parents and guardians of the children at Kabalagala Community Academy on hygiene, safe drinking water, and treating children’s wounds.

But we need your help...

Without supplies and at least one hired employee, we fall short of serving the children's health needs. On a regular basis, we must take the students to nearby clinics, which can practice substandard medicine.

For the health of i.HUG children and their families, we need to move toward a more structured health program. The need is there—often dangerously so. *We can help stop children from dying of conditions that are completely preventable, as well as stop painful and often debilitating conditions.*

In addition to responding to the immediate aid and care of the people in Kabalagala, we see this health project as an income-generating tool of the future. The slum area is in need of high quality care, and under Nurse Jacky's training, we believe this is a service we can provide.

Here's how

For one year, please:

Sponsor a nurse	\$2,340
Supply medical supplies and equipment	\$3,000
Establish a mobile nursing service	\$9,000
Establish a health clinic	\$25,000



Financial Report

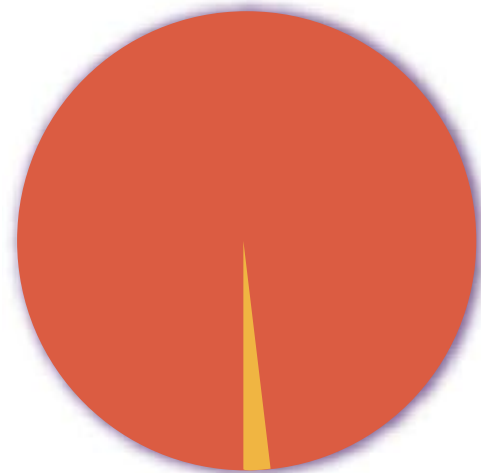
In 2007, i.HUG scaled its organization to meet its new funding needs due to the establishment and operation of the Kabalagala Community Academy and growing number of children in i.HUG's sponsorship program.

i.HUG raised more than \$80,000—a huge achievement, particularly because i.HUG is a grassroots volunteer-led organization. This shows a marked increase from 2006, and reflects the real momentum i.HUG is experiencing. We spent most of what we raised, 99 percent of which went directly to serving our program in Uganda, with only 1 percent going toward administration costs.

We understand that we will need to build our support system in the United States to better sustain our program in Uganda and, to that end, we expect in 2008 to spend more on administration—but not dramatically more.

	Amount raised	Amount spent
2007	\$80,195	\$71,419
2006	\$55,117	\$15,135
2007 Net Income: \$8,776		

Program Expenses **99%**



Administration Costs **1%**



Living in Community, Sustaining Our Work

Partnership...

The community of Kabalagala is in desperate need. Paddy Luzige, i.HUG co-founder, and Pastor of the New Life Church, has worked tirelessly for years to help the poor and needy children living in the slum area. Because of his work in the community, we are building on a foundation, rather than starting from scratch.

Development and Training...

The development and sharing of skills and knowledge is essential to i.HUG's future. In 2007, we conducted workshops and other educational events for guardians, staff, and other members of the community. These included groups led by Board Member Mary Dicker, such as:

- Groups to develop emotional intelligence in children. This included training for parents and guardians (who learned about their own unmet needs and how better to help their children), school staff, and students.
- In addition, the school staff committed to a full week of training, during which they wrote a vision statement for the school that included the desire to see themselves working as a strong team, totally dedicated to enabling children to be creative, confident and critical thinkers.
- Ongoing mentoring to James, who is a counseling student at Makerere University, and is doing an internship at KCA; he provides counseling and emotional support to some of the children through play and other kinds of therapy.

Health Activities

- Seminars on health topics such as hygiene and wound care, led by Nurse Jacky Tumusiime.
- Our first HIV Awareness Day, in partnership with the Hope Clinic, which provided education, testing, and treatment services.
- Home care visits to children.

Sustainability...

i.HUG is committed to sustainability and local ownership of the project. In our first year of the school project, we took steps along this path by establishing:

- Investment by the parents and guardians, and expansion of programs, like the Parents' Club, where guardians contribute either by helping make school resources or assisting in other tasks to reduce costs for the school.
- Development of staff skills, such as computer lessons started in 2007.
- An income-generating project in the United States, where volunteers sold greeting cards featuring art made by children in Uganda.



“...much more than just the space between birth and the attainment of adulthood, childhood refers to the state and condition of a child's life: to the quality of those years. Children living in abject poverty without adequate food, access to education, safe water, sanitation facilities and shelter are also denied their childhood.”

—Unicef, *State of the World's Children: 2005*

CHILDHOOD IS...

What We Need: A Permanent Home

We plan strong and steady growth for i.HUG and the Kabalagala Community Academy. In 2007, we opened our school with Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes. In 2008, we added a Primary 3 class. Going forward, we plan to continue to expand by one grade every year.

We will soon need to move out of our current premises and into a larger property. Already, KCA—essentially, a residence that we converted into a school—has become very crowded, and some classes must be taught outside (which can be difficult when it rains.) We have just two pit latrine toilets. These are unhygienic and the smell of them is troubling. In the short-term, we need to raise

funds so that we can move into a larger building and offer the children a safe, clean environment in which to learn. However, the very act of renting is risky: There is always the danger of being thrown out by the landlord, even with a renter's agreement.

For the long-term sustainability and safety of the project, the Kabalagala Community Academy needs a permanent home. This includes buying land and building a school. Once i.HUG has a permanent home in Uganda, we can begin working to ensure that the community can take over the operational costs of running KCA.

i.HUG's Board of Directors

Joanna Breitstein

Co-Founder, President and Executive Director
Member, Board of Directors

Jane Dicker

Co-Founder, Head Teacher
Member, Board of Directors

Paddy Luzige

Co-Founder, Project Manager
Member, Board of Directors

Jeani Fink

Vice-President, Member, Board of Directors

Audrey McGhee

Treasurer, Member, Board of Directors

Bethlehem Gregory

Secretary, Member, Board of Directors

Rwebiita Atucungwiire

Member, Board of Directors

Anne Devereux

Member, Board of Directors

Mary Dicker

Member, Board of Directors

Marita Gomez

Member, Board of Directors

Alyssa Koral

Member, Board of Directors

Klaus Leisinger

Member, Board of Directors

Ronald Lubali

Member, Board of Directors

Michael Ruhlman

Member, Board of Directors

Lesley Waller

Member, Board of Directors

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Sponsor a Child
2. Sponsor a Nurse
3. Support the Kabalagala Community Academy through any amount of donations
4. Donate airmiles to send much-needed volunteers to Uganda
5. Help raise funds so i.HUG can have a permanent home



Local Volunteers Create Children's Art Gallery

One day in class, I wanted to introduce the topic of oral history and storytelling. I began by asking the children, "What are Americans good at?" They answered, "Making films and music." Then I asked, "What are Europeans good at?" They answered, "Making buildings." They also told me the Chinese were good at medicine. Then I asked, "So what are Africans good at?" Silence. Finally one child piped up, "Nothing." I asked him to explain. He said, "Teacher Jane, Africans just can't do anything good at all." I looked around the classroom. There were only heads nodding. Such a lack of self-esteem was crushing. Something had to be done.

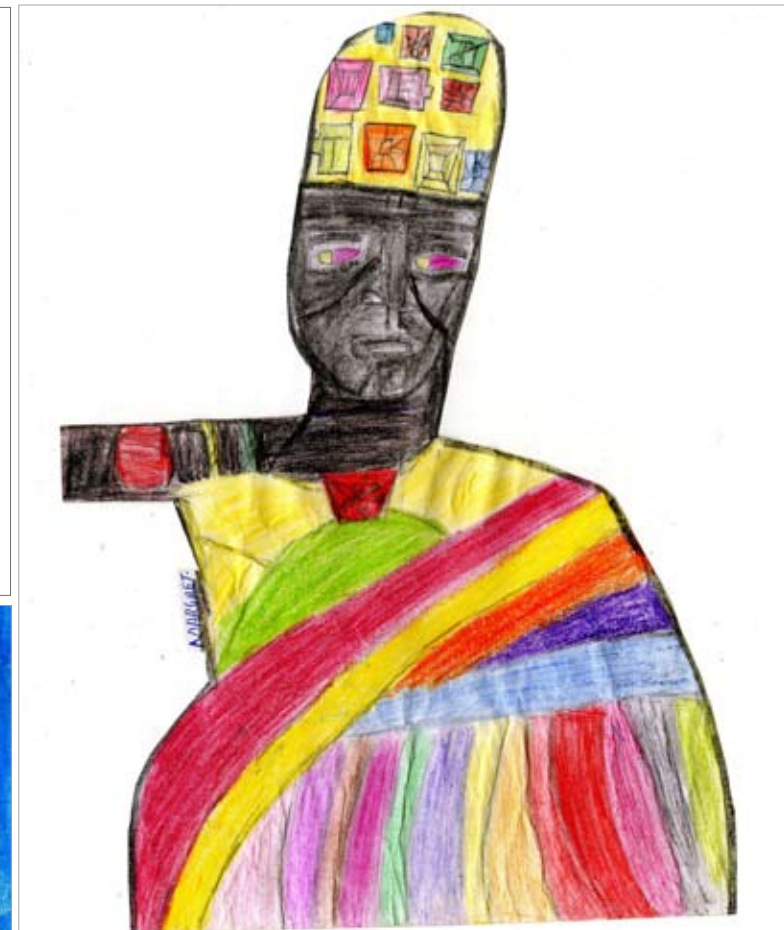
Help came in the form of two local Ugandan artists named Ivan and Patricia. Although they struggle to make a living from their art, they took on the commitment and challenge of showing the children something Africans are great at—art. They donated their time, skills, and enthusiasm to help the children create original and quite beautiful work.


In December 2007, the Kabalagala Community Academy unveiled the first ever child art exhibition (that we know of) in Uganda. It was called "Explore and Discover." The goal was for students to use art to investigate themselves and their culture. Some that attended saw the event as groundbreaking. And indeed it was: Something inside the children had changed. They had begun to know just one of the things in life that they were good at.

—Jane Dicker, Head Teacher

Children in i.HUG programs come from homes where families live on less than the equivalent of a \$1 a day.

FACT





In 2007, Head Teacher Jane Dicker introduced a toothbrushing program, where pupils of the Kabalagala Community Academy receive a toothbrush and toothpaste, and every day after lunch they brush their teeth.

A Teacher's Thoughts, During "Circle Time"

There is a verse in the Bible that talks about 'mourning with those who mourn' and 'weeping with those who weep' and 'dancing with those who dance.' In essence that is what I feel my job involves. My job at its best, that is. After the children came back from their break, they had lost weight, were sick and were so, so sad. It was totally depressing to be around them. They were dejected. So, we talked about it. What made them sad? Some were sick, one student's sister had been badly burnt, one student had been burnt. We talked and talked and then after acknowledging and allowing them to feel the way they felt, we could make room for other feelings. Some were still sad the whole day but some of them had some space to feel something else. So, we all hugged. Stupid isn't it. But we hugged each other and said 'I am so glad to see you.' And then there were a few smiles. They knew. They knew that I really am glad to see them. And that their friends are really glad to see them. No matter how sad they are, no matter how sick they are, there is a place that has people in it who want to hug them, who want to hear about their pain, who want to share their joy and who are glad to see them.

—Jane Dicker, Head Teacher

The school motto of The Kabalagala Community Academy is "Here for Excellence."

DID YOU KNOW?

‘...No matter how sad they are, no matter how sick they are, there is a place that has people in it who want to hug them, who want to hear about their pain, who want to share their joy and who are glad to see them....’

How It Started...

First there was Paddy...

Paddy Luzige has experienced firsthand the destructive effects of poverty. As an on-and-off-again street kid in Uganda, Paddy's own traumatic life experiences fostered a deep passion in him to do whatever he could to ensure that other Ugandan children did not have to suffer in the way that he did.

His work led him to Kabalagala, a slum hard hit with poverty and the AIDS epidemic, where children and street kids struggle to stay alive. There, he is a community leader, founder and pastor of New Life Church. About 80 percent of the church's members are under the age of 18, so much of Paddy's focus has been on working with children, many whose parents have died of AIDS. He has instituted several children's programs to keep them off the street and works closely with the local community to help place orphaned children with extended families.

Paddy says that he founded New Life because, rather than focus on the theory of religion, he wanted to use faith to reach out to the poor and organize projects that help them—and teach them how to help themselves. Over the years, those projects have grown in scope, and range from after school programs with computer and drama classes. In addition, Paddy also set up a school at the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Karambi, a place where many children are left disadvantaged because of the rebel groups that have waged war there.

Then there was Jane...

Jane Dicker grew up in a children's home in England that was run by her parents. Her deep attachment to Uganda started at the age of four when she first began living with children who had fled from northern Uganda to escape the conflict there. Jane first visited Uganda in 2000, then again in 2001. In 2003, she moved to Uganda for a year to teach. For five months, she lived in a village with a Ugandan family and experienced first hand what life without electricity or running water was like. Jane's time in Uganda was paramount in enabling her to empathize with the daily and ongoing struggle for survival that the majority of Ugandans face every day.

For the remaining time Jane was in Uganda, she lived with Pastor Paddy and his family. She taught teachers how to teach literacy, she taught adult literacy, she taught children English and Art, but more importantly, she continued her steep learning curve. What consistently struck her was how hard life was for so many people in Uganda. Death was a weekly event. It was not reserved for the elderly but rather swept through all sectors of the community, killing indiscriminately. When she left Uganda, she knew that she would return again.

Another beginning...

In 2001, Joanna Breistein, a healthcare reporter working in New York, began to write about AIDS issues. In particular, she began to examine the issue of how antiretroviral drugs got—or in many cases, didn't get—from companies to patients in Africa. It was during that time that Paddy Luzige began e-mailing people looking for AIDS information to distribute in his community. He sent one of his e-mails to the general inbox of the magazine where Joanna works. It was a shot in the dark—this pastor in Uganda reaching out to a reporter that he had never met. But his words resonated with Joanna, and she wrote back to him.

Joanna and Paddy continued to keep in touch, e-mailing each other quite often. In 2004, Joanna applied for and was one of 10 journalists in the world to win a Kaiser Family Foundation media fellowship, designed to encourage reporting on AIDS. With that backing, she traveled to Uganda, and past the tarmac road into Kabalagala. After so long, she finally met Paddy in person, along with many of the children and community members she had heard so much about. She had the opportunity to listen to their story, as well as the story of AIDS in Africa. When Joanna got back to New York City, she couldn't forget the faces of the children she had met in Uganda, a multitude of them AIDS orphans. She couldn't get away from the fact that it seemed possible to help them—and yet, she felt powerless to do anything on her own.

But time went by...

In 2005, Jane began working on her masters project on AIDS in Uganda at the University of Cincinnati.

Looking for some contacts, Paddy put Jane and Joanna in touch. While their initial e-mails were filled with advice about Jane's project, these two women began to realize that they both had a deep passion for helping the people of Kabalagala. Was there anything they could do? Jane and Joanna met in New York, stayed up all night talking, and realized they shared a few beliefs that could enable a project:

In Kabalagala, a little bit goes a long way. Joanna and Jane saw how little it took to change children's lives in Kabalagala. For just a few dollars, children could go from living out on the street, malnourished, without schooling, to having the opportunity of a productive future.

They felt dissatisfied with current giving options. Joanna and Jane supported other philanthropies, but often felt disconnected from their contribution. They didn't know if their donation was reaching the people that needed it, and never knew how it made a difference. They felt with e-mail, digital cameras, and other technology, it would be possible to more closely connect the donor community with how their dollars were being put to work on the ground—and that the feedback loop would benefit all stakeholders.

There was benefit in starting small. So many people are overwhelmed with the need for aid in Africa. One common response is to shut off from the issue, figuring that there is nothing that person can do to help. Instead, Jane and Joanna knew they couldn't help all of Africa, but they couldn't ignore how it was possible to help one child at a time.

There was a moral/ethical obligation to help. Media reports widely cite Uganda as an AIDS “success story.” Many global NGOs have offices in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, and white SUVs touting the names of these groups fill parking lots in town. However, when Joanna and Jane arrived in Kabalagala, a slum just outside Kampala, there was no evidence of that success story they read so much about, or the presence of the aid organizations residing in Kampala. Though Kabalagala has epidemic rates of the HIV/AIDS, no patients were on treatment, and they simply suffered through the virus, and died. This also created a

dangerous situation, since it left the youngest children without a parent or both parents, who were often left to fend for themselves after their parents died. Having seen the reality of the situation through their own eyes, they decided it was time to do their part to make a difference. They realized they could do more together, than apart, and began to formulate the plans for a project. They knew they had one key advantage in helping create a project that would help the people in Kabalagala—strong partners and experience in that community. Paddy's vision for a primary school in Kabalagala offered a starting point. Since the other schools in this community were being run as for-profit businesses, a sizable percentage of the school fees were lining the pockets of the affluent businessmen who owned them—and in effect, blocking the children who needed it most from attending school. Paddy dreamed of running a school which was not-for-profit—one in which every penny would be directed toward the people most in need.

In 2006 Paddy, Jane and Joanna formed i.HUG, a non-profit whose mission is to reach out to disadvantaged and orphaned children in Uganda by providing them with an education, access to healthcare, and an environment that fosters their physical, social and emotional development. In order to ensure the sustainability of our mission, i.HUG strives to use local resources and to leverage our successes to benefit the entire community.

For more information please contact:
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