



# AFRICAN HEARTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

June, 2013 NEWSLETTER

Dear friends and supporters,

I greet you all and thank you for taking the time to read this update. I am happy to report the following happenings at African Hearts.

## ► Slum Outreach



The programs are going along well. We are looking at several boys to take out of the slums to go to the Ssenge Home, and we have started their paper work. I have had several meetings with the area leaders seeking for permission to build toilets for street children, and I am glad to report that permission was given. Now we have the green light to raise the money for the project.



## ► School



The school is going on well, and the children got to elect their new leaders. This year we are encouraging child participation, and so some of the children have joined some leadership positions even with teachers. Some children are going to be on the disciplinary committee. I am happy to report that our children now have a small demonstration farm from which they can get to eat some vegetables.

We are also establishing a Creative Learning Center for girls who are out of school or at a risk of being out of school. We have had many cases of girls discontinuing their education because they conceived while attending school, and they never get any other chance in life. There are also other girls who are kept at home waiting to marry, while others marry at an early age for the bride price. In any of these cases, most of these girls are left without support systems. Our goal is to empower them so that they can live productive lives.

## ► Homes

The homes are running well, and we are in the process of adding on to the number we have currently at the younger children's home. Police and areas leaders have cleared to take one boy into our Ssenge home from the slums. Please pray that we get

the last letter that we need to complete this process legally. Also at the youth hostel most children are in school, but it is very helpful as a meeting point for the community children in Ssenge to come and learn band.

### ► New Program for Girls



In addition to the Creative Learning Center for teenage girls, there is also a program called Tabitha's Hope which is intended for women, most of whom are widows and single mothers. We discovered most of them having children and struggling to support them. We intend to empower them to support their families. Some of their children are sponsored at the African Hearts Junior School, but looking at the future, they need to take care of their families. We think that is more sustainable. These ladies are being trained in jewelry making, and we are hoping to set them up for fair trade markets, Lord willing.

### ► Success Story



Today I want you to meet Shafik who was born and raised as a street child in the slums of Kisenyi. Shafik had never been in a stable family all his life. He was one of the most notorious children even in the slums. While on the streets, he never believed there was a God and his dream was to become a gangster to revenge against police who, in his opinion, were brutal during their raids and arrests, especially towards his father. He had such a rage towards police, and his dream was to get a gun and kill as many as he could. Shafik came to our home in 2009, and I am happy to report that we have seen God work in his life here in the Ssenge Home. He gave his life to Christ, and now he has a new dream. He now wants to be a professional drummer. I remember one day after playing soccer when we were going back to the home. Shafik ran to me speaking softly and said, "Thank you, Uncle, for taking me off the street." Please pray for Shafik that he will continue to grow strong in the Lord.



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▶ **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- God's wisdom and protection for us and our children
- That we and all our children shall grow to know Jesus and get closer to Him everyday
- Funds for launching our Dormitory/Vocational Centre Phase 2 construction
- Car for office for our African Hearts staff to ease work and for safe travel. *(Many people have been robbed and killed in Uganda if thieves suspect that they are carrying money or valuables.)*
- Slum toilet, plates, cups, buckets, medical supplies, saucepans
- Growing our own food for sustainability

LUTAAYA ABDUL

Executive Director of African Hearts Community Organization

***“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”***

Philippians 4:19